

The BAC serves as a "one-stop shop" to help area businesses fill workforce needs. The mission to "improve the job skills, workplace effectiveness, and work ethic of existing and future members of the Beaufort County workforce." A sub-committee of the BAC works directly with businesses to identify and solve workforce issues and create a sustainable pipeline of skilled workers especially for the Advanced Manufacturing sector. Members of this sub-committee include the county's Economic Development Director, NC Works Director, Beaufort County Schools' CTE Director, and BCCC's Customized Training and Apprenticeship Director and the Director of Rivers East Workforce Board, as needed.

The sub-committee has made remarkable strides in recruiting and placing employees in local businesses and providing work-based learning activities for teachers and students. The group has also identified workforce needs and adjusted CTE and BCCC programming to create pipelines of employees for businesses. The BAC sub-committee seeks to address both short-term needs through NC Works and customized training, and long-term needs by building pathways for students as well as those in the existing workforce. Gaps that have been identified include funding for Career Readiness Certificates, scholarships for career training, and transportation.

Businesses are beginning to be active participants in building a workforce pipeline to feed current and future job growth in the local and regional economy. We have a core of approximately fifteen businesses that actively participate with the sub-committee and support upgrading and expanding local CTE programs to not only extend programs; but strengthen connections among all facets of the education to workforce pipeline.

Collaboration has involved participation and presentations, in 2019, at the NC Business Committee for Education Bridges Event (by CTE Director for BCS), the BAC was invited by the Institute for Emerging Issues (IEI) at NCSU to participate in the Reconnect to Economic Opportunity sessions and Forum, and the sub-committee also presented at the ACT Workforce Summit on Beaufort County's Workforce Pipeline.

The momentum gained through working together and being able to present individual and corporate success stories to engage community members has served and will continue to propel future workforce pipeline development. This continued effort will increase opportunities for youth and incumbent workers to increase their skills and attain a livable wage.