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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Text Messaging Now Available in Martin County**

Washington, N.C. – On April 2, 2020, the Rivers East Workforce Development Board began piloting a text message system in Beaufort County to help connect residents and businesses to the services of our local NCWorks Career Center. We are happy to announce that we are now expanding this service to Martin County.

Beginning on Wednesday, May 27, residents and employers in Martin County can now TEXT the following keywords to **252.618.0606** to receive assistance:

***JOBS*** – *job seekers seeking employment assistance*

***HIRE*** – *employers that have immediate hiring needs*

***NEXTGEN*** – *for anyone 16 to 24 years old who needs assistance with obtaining a job or obtaining needed training including their high school equivalency*

***TRAIN*** – *for anyone 18 and over who needs assistance with classroom training to obtain a job*

***VET*** – *if you are a Veteran or eligible family member in need of services*

NCWorks Career Center staff will be available to field text messages and respond to inquiries from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Please be aware this is a “text only” line, so you cannot call the number to receive services. Data and message rates may apply. Users are cautioned not to send personal information.

To receive services by phone, you may call any of the local NCWorks Center numbers listed below:

Beaufort: 252.940.0900 or [ncworks.0520@nccommerce.com](mailto:ncworks.0520@nccommerce.com)

Bertie: 252.794.0799 or [ncworks.0521@nccommerce.com](mailto:ncworks.0521@nccommerce.com)

Hertford: 252.862.1257 or [ncworks.1400@nccommerce.com](mailto:ncworks.1400@nccommerce.com)

Martin: 252.792.7816 or [ncworks.9400@nccommerce.com](mailto:ncworks.9400@nccommerce.com)

Pitt: 252.355.9067 or [ncworks.4100@nccommerce.com](mailto:ncworks.4100@nccommerce.com)

Rivers East is committed to serving our job seekers and employers. While our Career Centers remain closed to the general public, services are being provided by phone and virtually for anyone who needs assistance.

Jennie Bowen, Workforce Development Director, states, "The pilot program in Beaufort County was a success. Since that time, we have expanded to Pitt County and are now excited to offer this service in Martin County. In these unprecedented times, we continue to explore new ways to serve our customers' needs, now and in the future. We hope to bring the service to Bertie and Hertford counties very soon. I encourage any job seeker or employer who needs assistance to please reach out. While the Center doors may be temporarily closed, staff are still working and ready to assist you."

The board's office is located at 1502 N. Market St., Suite A in Washington, N.C. For more information, call 252.974.1815.

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