

Contact Information:
Jennie Bowen
Workforce Development Director
(252) 974-1815
jbowen@mideastcom.org



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Workforce Development Board announces new name

Washington, N.C. – At the January 13, 2021 Rivers East Workforce Development Board meeting, three individuals/organizations were recognized for their outstanding workforce development efforts in the Rivers East region of Beaufort, Bertie, Hertford, Martin, and Pitt counties.

The *Annie W. Mobley Award for Outstanding Youth in Workforce Development Programs* was presented to Berly Soto. This award was created in 2007 to recognize Representative Mobley for her participation as Chairman of the Region Q Workforce Development Board's Youth Committee for over twelve years. Tom Leigh, Berly's Career Advisor, stated that she would be a good fit for the award "based on her willingness and desire to help anyone, her determination to be the best person she can be, and to be successful, both personally and professionally."

Berly continues to overcome the many barriers placed in her path. She stated that she was "thankful to receive the Annie W. Mobley Award for outstanding youth" and that she "greatly appreciates being a part of the NEXTGEN program."

The *Sam Carson Award* was presented to the Martin County NCWorks Career Center. This award was created in 2007, and recognizes the outstanding efforts of the NCWorks Career Center, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act program operator, or NCWorks Career Center partner who has demonstrated outstanding efforts in the marketing and promotion of the Workforce Development system. The Martin County NCWorks Career Center's award nomination highlighted their "ongoing commitment to assisting customers, finding ways to work together, and being open to go the extra mile. Their distinct mix of personalities, experience, and genuine love for the work help make staff better both personally and as workforce professionals."

Martin County NCWorks Career Center Manager, Krista Jernigan-Wood expressed gratitude and thanks for the center being selected as the Sam Carson Award recipient. "We are a small office, but we take pride in working together for the good of our

customers. We look forward to continuing our collaborations and providing services to our customers in 2021,” Wood said.

The *DuPont Davis Award* was presented to Martyn Johnson. This award was created in 2010 to recognize the outstanding efforts of an individual who has promoted and delivered workforce development activities within the local NCWorks Career Center system, other workforce development programs, and businesses. Wes Watson, Beaufort County NCWorks Career Center Manager, stated that “Martyn brings a wide scope of knowledge encompassing the vast array of services that reside in Beaufort County and as a part of his position, he has involved himself in every aspect of the county in terms of promoting, delivering, and acquiring new businesses.” He added that he “can’t think of anyone who is a bigger cheerleader for Beaufort County businesses”.

Martyn Johnson expressed gratitude for the recognition of his work and wanted to thank all of the partners that understand the vision for Beaufort County. He stated that he is “excited to continue working towards a stronger community where we are developing our labor force with the skills and talents needed by employers to continue the growth in all sectors.”

Jennie Bowen, Rivers East Workforce Development Board Director shared her congratulations to this year’s award recipients, adding “It is always an honor to recognize the hard work and achievements of individuals and groups in the region who are working so diligently towards a brighter tomorrow. After the many challenges of this past year, it was even more exciting and a reminder to celebrate the great things still happening in the region. “

The board’s office is located at 1502 N. Market St., Suite A in Washington. For more information, call (252) 974-1815.

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