



PRESS RELEASE

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Wayne County Development Alliance Annual Report Focuses on Growth in Industry and Workforce

Wayne County, NC- Wayne County Development Alliance President Crystal Gettys recently released the organization's Annual Report, showcasing the efforts of the 'I 3' Initiative. 'I 3' stands for "Industry Ignites Instruction", which focuses on educating educators to enhance the future workforce in Wayne County. The WCDA incorporated Wayne County Public Schools and Wayne Community College in their efforts.

To further boost the workforce, an NC4ME hiring event, assisting military spouses in finding employment, was held. NC4ME 2017 results included: participation from 25 companies; 32 registered job seekers and 22 walk-ins; 3 on-the-spot job offers; and 33 second interview requests. This innovative program will be repeated for the base community that has an economic impact of more than \$700 million dollars.

The attention to existing industry is also a top priority President Gettys said. When asked why local companies invest financially in the Wayne County Development Alliance, Gettys said, "They have a vested interest. The more the WCDA does for the county, the more their businesses grow as well. And it makes the workforce stronger." Gettys explained only salaries and actual operations of the office structure are paid from county taxpayer funds; whereas, private sector monies are used for all trips, recruitment, existing industry programs, engineering studies and design, and even the organization's website.

The report ended with Gettys' vision of the county serving as the hub of four specified corridors originating from Eastern North Carolina, and leaving Wayne County well positioned to attract and address the needs of new industry. Gettys said promoting the county's assets is just one way the Wayne County Development Alliance is 'Putting Wayne to Work'.

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