



KERR-TAR

Council of Governments
MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER



Uptown Roxboro
Photo Courtesy of Richard Long
- Photography

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Upcoming Events

- A Matter of Balance-Kittrell: **Begins Wednesday, March 1 through Tuesday, April 18 @ 12:30 pm-2:30 pm, Plank Chapel United Methodist Church**
- Kerr-Tar Grant Resource Workshop: **Wednesday, March 8, @ 2:30 pm, Vance-Granville Community College Seminar Room 1**
- Town of Stem ETJ Public Information Meeting: **Wednesday, March 15 @ 7:00 pm-9:00 pm, Town of Stem Volunteer Fire Department**
- March Reentry Roundtable: **Thursday, March 16, 2023 @ Warren County Armory Civic Center**
- Senior Tar Heel Legislature Meeting: **Tuesday-Wednesday, March 21 & 22 @ Raleigh, NC**
- KTRPO Meeting: **Thursday, March 23, @ 3:00 pm**
- Kerr-Tar COG Board Meeting: **Thursday, March 23**
- INNOVATE 2023: **Thursday, March 23 @ The Lakeland Cultural Arts Center, Littleton, 9:00 am-1:00 pm**
- KTRPO TAC Ethics Filing Deadline: **Monday, April 17, 2023**

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Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, &
Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board Present:

MARCH
23
9:00 AM-1:00 PM

INNOVATE 2023

QUESTION. DESIGN. THRIVE.

Lakeland Cultural Arts Center
411 Mosby Ave., Littleton, NC

Join us for this regional economic development summit as we foster innovation and learn how small changes can lead to big impacts. This event will include dynamic speakers, engaging workshops, panel discussions, and more!

Topics will include:

- How can failure and resilience lead to innovation?
- Challenging Bias & Creating Room for Innovation: Hiring Practices and Workplace Culture
- Redesigning Systems: Innovative Education for a More Purpose-Driven Workforce



FEATURED GUESTS & SPEAKERS



Melissa Carrier
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF SOCIAL
INNOVATION
UNC-CHAPEL HILL



Inez Rubistello
AUTHOR & ENTREPRENEUR
TARBORO BREWING
COMPANY
(JOINING VIRTUALLY)



Dan Barkin
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
BUSINESS NORTH CAROLINA
MAGAZINE



Rupen Fofaria
EQUITY & LEARNING
DIFFERENCES
REPORTER/AUTHOR
EDUCATION NC

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Franklin Co. Economic Development Commission
Granville Co. Economic Development Commission
Greater Franklin Co. Chamber of Commerce
Person Co. Economic Development Commission

Piedmont Community College
Vance-Granville Community College
Granville Co. Chamber of Commerce
Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce

Person Co. Tourism Development Authority
Henderson-Vance Economic Development Commission
Henderson-Vance Co. Chamber of Commerce
Warren Co. Economic Development Commission



REGISTER HERE!

Registration is **REQUIRED** for **ALL** attendees,
including guests!

PLEASE REGISTER BY MARCH 21.

Welcoming New Assistant County Managers to the Region

Join us in welcoming three new assistant county managers to the Kerr-Tar region! Franklin, Person, and Vance counties all welcomed new assistant county managers during the past few months. To learn more about each of them, click on the images below.



Franklin County
Ryan Preble



Person County
Brian Hart



Vance County
Chris Dillon

Franklin County Selects Economic Development Specialist



Bringing a wealth of local government experience and economic development enthusiasm, Monique Wilkins has been selected to fill the Economic Development Specialist position within Franklin County's Economic Development Department.

"I'm honored to be joining the Franklin County Government team," Wilkins said. "This exciting new opportunity will allow me to work with businesses and municipalities across the county, while also providing a great chance to expand my skill set." Read more [HERE](#).

Harry Mills Appointed to Serve on EDPNC Council

Granville County Economic Development Director Harry Mills has been appointed to serve as a member of the North Carolina Economic Development Advisory Council. This Council provides advisory direction and support to the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC). Read more [HERE](#).



North Carolina Selects 34 Communities for Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies (CORE) Program

The North Carolina Department of Commerce's **Rural Economic Development Division** has selected 34 local governments from across the state to participate in the Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies (CORE) program. The CORE program offers strategic planning and technical assistance to help rural communities leverage North Carolina's abundant outdoor recreation assets to bolster local economic vitality.

CORE Participants in the Kerr-Tar Region:

- City of Creedmoor
- Warren County
- Town of Warrenton



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE

The CORE program is a component of the Supporting and Strengthening Resiliency in North Carolina's Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Sectors Initiative that was **awarded** a \$6 million U.S. Economic Development Administration State Tourism Grant. Read more **HERE**.

Kerr-Tar Grant Resource Workshop



The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments will be hosting a Grant Resource Workshop on **Wednesday, March 8** at **Vance-Granville Community College Seminar Room 1** starting at **2:30pm**. This workshop will feature representatives from the Economic Development Administration, GoldenLeaf, and North Carolina Department of Commerce. Registration is required. **Please RSVP by March 6** to Marley Spencer by emailing mspencer@kerrtarco.org or calling (252) 436-2040.

Coming Soon:



ARPA Q&A Session with Kara Millonzi

Regional staff responsible for administering awarded ARPA funds for their municipality will be invited to attend an in person session hosted by the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments on **Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 10:00am at Vance-Granville Community College Seminar Room 1**. Kara Millonzi will be sharing insight into the process, and will be available to answer questions. Stay tuned for more information regarding time/date and registration!

2023 Kerr-Tar Family Caregiver Conference

On Tuesday, February 21, the Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging (KTAAA) hosted Teepa Snow, renowned dementia expert and innovator, for a day of her Best Practices in Dementia Care. Family and professional caregivers enjoyed a day full of stories and tips at the Vance Granville Community College Civic Center. Dementia Alliance of North Carolina partnered with us to produce an excellent program. Attendees enjoyed about a dozen vendors who specialize in goods and services for older adults. Everyone went home with a renewed sense of hope and inspiration, and many carried a nice door prize home too.



2023 Senior Games



Opening Ceremonies for the 2023 Kerr-Tar Regional Senior Games will be on **Friday, March 24 at 10:00am** at the Creedmoor Community Center. Join KTAAA for a fun community event featuring food trucks, a Fun Walk, and basketball shooting. This year's events include individual sports events, singles and doubles for table tennis, badminton, bowling, tennis, and pickleball. Events new this year include swimming and mini-golf. SilverArts will be held at the Warren County Armory on May 18. Join us as we celebrate Senior Games and all our participants!

St. Patrick's Day Fun



All of the region's Senior Centers will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with different events. Call your local Senior Center to find out what they've planned, then join the fun! See all of our Senior Centers websites for calendars of activities.

Senior Tar Heel Legislature

The NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature is made up of delegates and alternates representing all one hundred counties in NC. Each county has one delegate and one alternate (must be 60+ years of age) who meet three times a year to review local, regional, and state-wide needs and priorities. Each representative also works in their own county advocating for resources and solutions for older adults. The STHL interfaces with the NC General Assembly to support the interests of NC's older adults. **Senior Tarheel Legislators will gather in Raleigh March 21-22** to discuss the annual legislative priorities. Advocates will then visit the NC General Assembly to meet with legislators and introduce their topics of interest to gain their important support.



Supported by NCDHHS DAAS

Share Your Good News!

If you have news, events, announcements, or other items you would like included in an upcoming newsletter, please email **Kenia Gomez-Jimenez**, Kerr-Tar COG Communications & Administrative Coordinator at kgomezjimenez@kerrtarco.org

A Matter of Balance

In March, the Kerr-Tar Area Agency on Aging (KTAAA) will be launching their very first A Matter of Balance class in Kittrell. A Matter of Balance is an evidence-based health promotion program that helps participants improve their balance and skillfulness to reduce the risk of falling. Classes will be held from **12:30am-2:30pm every Wednesday from March 1, 2023 through April 18, 2023**, and will be held **at Plank Chapel United Methodist Church** in Kittrell, NC. Participants ages 60+ can register for **FREE**, all materials provided. **Register** by calling our Evidence Based program coordinator, Susan Tucker, at (252) 436-2040 or email tucker@kerrtarco.org to register!



Franklin Co. Receives Funding From the Rural Infrastructure Authority

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved a funding request from Franklin County. The County requested from the Industrial Development Fund's Utility Account funds to assist with water, sewer and road access in the mid-section of the 85-acre Triangle North Franklin Business Park. This infrastructure support will help accelerate the life science manufacturing sector in the area. The Authority previously approved \$269,529 for this project in February 2022. The Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments was pleased to assist Franklin County in submitting the grant application.



Stem ETJ Public Information Meeting



Town of Stem Officials, with assistance from the Planning Staff of the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments, will be hosting a Public Information Meeting on **Wednesday, March 15** at the **Town of Stem Volunteer Fire Department** from **7:00pm to 9:00pm**. This meeting will serve as an opportunity for residents to inquire about the proposed Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) Planning and Zoning Boundary. For questions about the meeting, please contact Ken Krulik at kkruklik@kerrtarco.org or (252) 436-2040.

Communities Awarded Sidewalk & Bike Path Feasibility Grants

Twenty-five North Carolina cities, towns and counties are receiving feasibility grants so they can determine whether a new sidewalk, bicycle path or greenway would be a good fit in their communities. This includes projects submitted by **Granville County, Person County, and Warren County**. Feasibility studies will evaluate the viability of a transportation project, complete initial stages of design and environmental review, and develop implementation strategies. Read more [HERE](#).



Applications Open for the Homegrown Leaders Training Program

The NC Rural Center is seeking applicants for their Homegrown Leaders Training from the following counties: Caswell, Chatham, Durham, **Franklin**, Johnston, **Granville**, Lee, Moore, Orange, **Person**, **Vance**, Wake, and **Warren**. Homegrown Leaders is a three-day regional leadership and community economic development training that equips existing and emerging leaders with the skills they need to lead long-term economic advancement in their community and region. The training will take place **April 18-20, 2023** at the **Chatham County Agriculture & Conference Center in Pittsboro**. The application is now open and can be found **[HERE](#)**. The application will close March 17 and applicants will be notified March 28.



HOMEGROWN LEADERS

APRIL 18-20, 2023

Caswell	Moore
Chatham	Orange
Durham	Person
Franklin	Vance
Johnston	Wake
Granville	Warren
Lee	



 Application Deadline: March 17

 Pittsboro, NC

 NC RURAL CENTER

UPLIFT Tourism Update

A new program has begun in North Carolina. Supported by the American Rescue Plan Act, UPLIFT is designed to address the impact from COVID-19 on the hospitality, tourism and outdoor recreation industries. A collaboration between NatureScapes, and Appalachian State University, this program will work to offer regional workshops, opportunities for community input, and encourage the development of regional tourism experiences authentic to their communities. Two counties in our region were selected to participate in this program, **Person** and **Granville County**. Phase one began in November 2022 and will conclude in April 2023. Details of each Phase can be accessed **[HERE](#)**.



Kerr-Tar's New NCWorks Career Center is Certified



On February 8, 2023 at the NCWorks Commission Quarterly Business Meeting, the NCWorks Career Center for the Kerr-Tar Region in Henderson, NC was certified. The certification process guarantees the center meets the highest standards of performance and service delivery. This is the first time this new location, that opened in August of 2022, has had the opportunity to go through the formal process to receive this designation. To obtain certification, every member of a center's staff must successfully

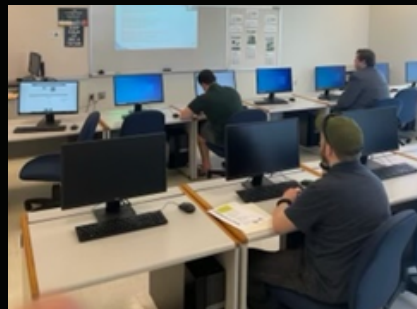
complete required training courses and the building must be evaluated on its ability to be welcoming, functional and accessible to the community for workforce preparedness activities. Congratulations to all of the NCWorks Career Center staff and leadership on this designation!

CyberHire 2023

On February 24, 2023 the NCWorks Career Center hosted an innovative event, CyberHire 2023, which allowed employers to join virtually while job-seekers attended in person. The LIVE presentation was broadcasted across five locations simultaneously, which included:

- NCWorks Career Center
- Warren County Library
- Vance-Granville Community College Franklin Campus
- Vance-Granville Community College South Campus
- Warren County Library
- Business Development & Entrepreneurship Center

Staff from NCWorks, Vance Granville Community College and Piedmont Community College were onsite to assist job-seekers following the presentation. There were ten featured employers available and all employers promoted positions paying hourly wages of more than \$16 and the great benefits they offer. There were 40 engaged job-seekers across the five counties in attendance and they all learned about opportunities they plan to pursue. The event was a huge success!



Stay updated on events!



Kerr-Tar March Reentry Roundtable

The Kerr Tar Reentry Roundtable in collaboration with NCWorks and Warren County Economic Development will facilitate a Reentry Simulation on **March 16, 2023** at the **Warren County Armory Civic Center**. The simulation will offer a hands-on experience of the challenges and barriers faced by justice-involved citizens after incarceration. Reentering society after incarceration can present several challenges from obtaining a current Identification card, obtaining transportation, securing sustainable employment and the inability of affording housing and food. For more information, contact Sharon Thomas at 252-436-2040 or visit www.kerrtarworks.com.



Success Story: *Tammy Mills*



Tammy Mills came into the NCWorks Career Center in August of 2022 seeking a career opportunity for herself and her family. She met with her career advisor and they discussed her career goals. She had an interest in being a CDL Driver and on October 3rd, Ms. Mills began her journey in the CDL program at Nash Community College through SAGE Academy. She graduated on December 16th with her CDL A License and started her job search right away. Ms. Mills was able to secure a full-time truck driving position with Variety Wholesales making \$20.00 per hour. The NCWorks Career Center is so excited and happy for Ms. Mills in her accomplishment! Way to go!

[CLICK HERE FOR KERR-TAR
LABOR MARKET UPDATE](#)





KERR-TAR

Council of Governments

COMMUNITIES SERVED

- [Franklin County](#)
- [Granville County](#)
- [Person County](#)
- [Vance County](#)
- [Warren County](#)
- [Town of Bunn](#)
- [Town of Butner](#)
- [City of Creedmoor](#)
- [Town of Franklinton](#)
- [City of Henderson](#)
- [Town of Kittrell](#)
- [Town of Louisburg](#)
- [Town of Macon](#)
- [Town of Middleburg](#)
- [Town of Norlina](#)
- [City of Oxford](#)
- [City of Roxboro](#)
- [Town of Stem](#)
- [Town of Stovall](#)
- [Town of Warrenton](#)
- [Town of Youngsville](#)

Executive Director

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MISSION STATEMENT

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments aims to promote regionalism that provides opportunities for local governments to enhance and improve the quality of life for our citizens through effective delivery of services and programs.

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments

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