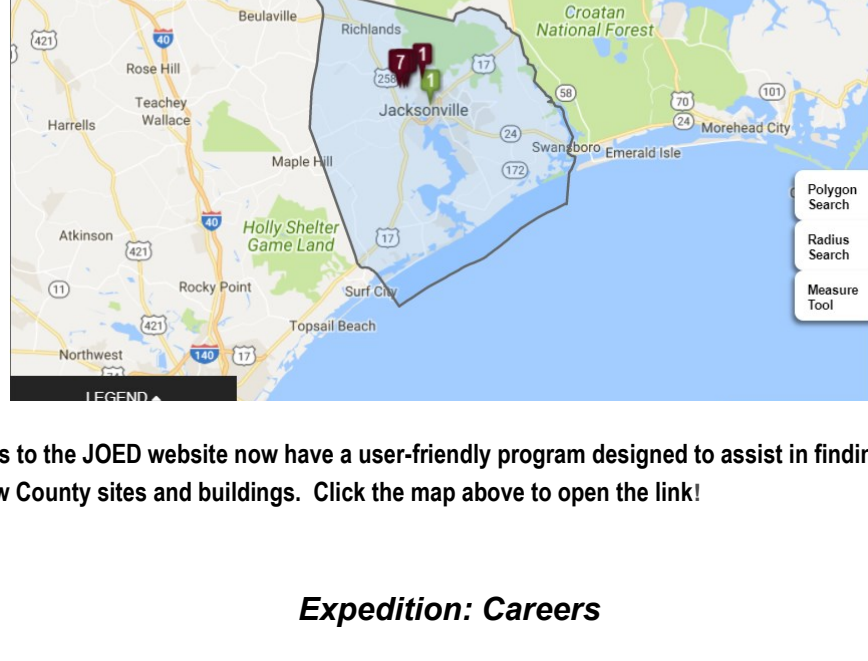


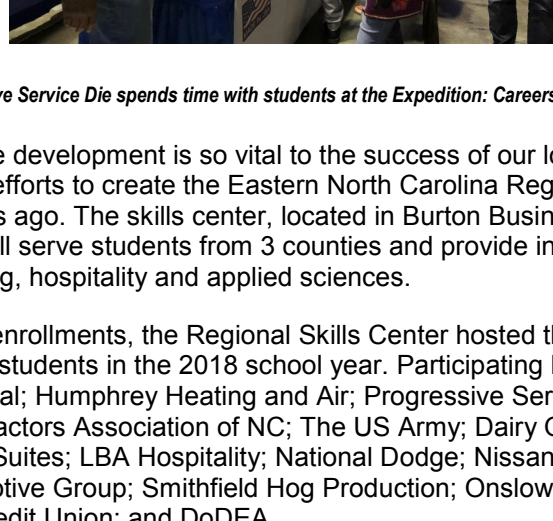
December 2017

Interactive search capability added to JOED website



Visitors to the JOED website now have a user-friendly program designed to assist in finding available Onslow County sites and buildings. Click the map above to open the link!

Expedition: Careers



Brian France of Progressive Service Die spends time with students at the Expedition: Careers event on December 7.

Because workforce development is so vital to the success of our local industries, JOED has been part of local efforts to create the Eastern North Carolina Regional Skills Center since its inception two years ago. The skills center, located in Burton Business and Industrial Park in Onslow County, will serve students from 3 counties and provide instruction in construction, automotive, welding, hospitality and applied sciences.

In preparation for enrollments, the Regional Skills Center hosted the **Expedition: Careers** event for potential students in the 2018 school year. Participating businesses included East Carolina Mechanical; Humphrey Heating and Air; Progressive Service Die; Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors Association of NC; The US Army; Dairy Queen of Swansboro; Hampton Inn and Suites; LBA Hospitality; National Dodge; Nissan; Excel Body Shop; Stevenson Automotive Group; Smithfield Hog Production; Onslow County Government; Marine Federal Credit Union; and DoDEA.

Why it matters:

A 2016 survey of North Carolina employers identified workforce challenges as very significant concerns.

JOED is committed to efforts that address the skills gap and assist our local businesses in meeting their workforce needs.

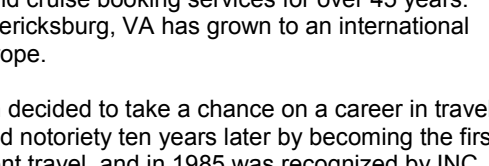
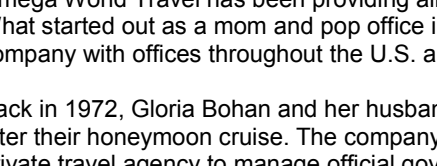
Please contact JOED if you'd like a digital copy of the report: joed@JOEDNC.com

Source: Labor & Economic Analysis Div., NC Dept. of Commerce

KEY FINDINGS

- 4 out of 10 employers who tried to hire in the past year had difficulty filling at least one position
- Manufacturing and Construction had more difficulty filling positions
- ✂ A lack of work experience, education, technical skills and soft skills were the top reasons given by over 50% of employers with hiring difficulties
- 💡 "Experience gap?": among Manufacturing, Construction, Health Care, and STEM, more than half of positions requiring 5 years or more of experience were rated "very difficult to fill"

Existing Industry Spotlight:



Omega World Travel has been providing airline and cruise booking services for over 45 years. What started out as a mom and pop office in Fredericksburg, VA has grown to an international company with offices throughout the U.S. and Europe.

Back in 1972, Gloria Bohan and her husband Dan decided to take a chance on a career in travel after their honeymoon cruise. The company gained notoriety ten years later by becoming the first private travel agency to manage official government travel, and in 1985 was recognized by INC. Magazine as one of the fastest growing companies in the U.S.

The massive growth from the government travel businesses led to Omega World Travel's expansion across the country. Omega World Travel continued to also expand its leisure travel by introducing Cruise.com. Between the government travel and the \$117 billion cruise industry, Omega World Travel needed to expand. Along with opening Customer Service Centers in New York and Florida, Omega World Travel decided to move into one of Jacksonville Onslow's shell buildings in the industrial area along White St. Omega World Travel purchased the 325 White Street building from Y.O.U. Inc. (known today as Jacksonville Onslow Economic Development) in 1999.

Practicing corporate responsibility, Omega World Travel is a Green certified travel management company offering various state-of-the-art reporting capabilities and tools that track CO₂ footprints for clients. They are also very involved in community based projects and activities that educate our youth and fund noble causes. There are too many to list, however here a few:

- North Carolina Wounded Veteran Run
- Wounded Warriors Project
- Fisher House
- Habitat for Humanity
- The Dan and Gloria Bohan Foundation offers grants that support high school and college level entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability, and advancements in medical sciences

Today, the local office offers a full range of travel services from plane to cruise bookings, travel packages, and more. Omega World Travel is excited about its recent successes including owner and founder Gloria Bohan being named Entrepreneur of the Year by Million Women Mentors in 2016 and is eager for new opportunities in 2018.

For more information, visit <http://www.omegatravel.com/>

Economic Development is a TEAM EFFORT!

At JOED, we know that economic growth requires strong partnerships and many complimentary efforts, so we celebrate the success of others who are also making valuable contributions to our county's future!

2017 was a year of accomplishments for many entities, all of which contribute to Onslow County's economic growth and "quality of life".

Ground breaking ceremonies were held for

- Shell Building #2 at Burton Business and Industrial Park
- Eastern North Carolina Regional Skills Center
- Sturgeon City Environmental Education Center
- Ellis Airport (Onslow County) Control Tower

Ten Onslow County businesses participated in October Manufacturing Day tours for area high school students. This provided students an opportunity to meet local business people and to learn about potential career paths and future job opportunities.

STEM EAST introduced "virtual tours" to businesses and area schools, as a unique component to engage students with local businesses. JOED and STEM EAST visited with MSA (Mine Safety Appliances), which is excited to use technology to enhance Onslow County's workforce.

US Workboats (formerly Armstrong Marine) was awarded a contract for the state's first passenger ferry.

In this issue:

- JOED's website interactive search capability
- Expedition: Careers
- Existing Industry Spotlight: Omega World Travel
- Team Effort!
- Ribbon Cutting

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From all of us at JOED:
We wish you a Happy and Prosperous 2018!



The Onslow County Board of Commissioners cordially invites you to attend the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the new

Shell Building #2

Tuesday, January 16th, 2018 at 9:30am

Burton Business Industrial Park
723 Luther Midgett Road
Jacksonville, NC 28540

