



Newsletter
From
Rep. Angela Bryant

NC General Assembly
300 N Salisbury Street
Leg. Off. Bldg. Room 542
Raleigh, NC 27603

(919) 733-5878 (office)
(252) 442-4022 (home)
(919) 754-3289 (fax)

Angelab@ncleg.net
www.ncleg.net

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**THE NC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION
“LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR”**

Rep. Bryant was recognized as the Legislator of the Year by the NC Sustainable Energy Association on Friday, Oct. 9th at the NC Sustainable Energy conference in Charlotte.

She was the recipient of the Green Award.

This year NCSEA honored two legislators – Rep. Angela Bryant, (D-Nash), representing Halifax and Nash Counties, and Sen. Josh Stein (D-Wake) – for their valuable leadership and outstanding efforts during this year’s legislative session, which resulted in passage of more than a dozen sustainable energy related bills that will create jobs, expand business opportunities, and spark financial investments in communities across North Carolina. In announcing the awards, NCSEA’s Executive Director Ivan Urlaub said, “We honor and salute Rep. Angela Bryant and Sen. Josh Stein’s leadership on issues critical to making green energy solutions more accessible and affordable for all North Carolinians, their dedicated efforts in supporting policies to make our state competitive nationally in creating green jobs and attracting new investments, and furthering the House and Senate’s understanding of how to turn some of our greatest energy challenges into opportunities for our great state.” As the Chairman of the House Energy & Energy Efficiency Committee, Rep. Angela Bryant played a key leadership role in drafting and encouraging the passage of several bills including the extension of North Carolina’s 35% renewable energy tax credit, energy-related government reforms, new financing options for sustainable energy projects, an expansion of our state’s energy savings performance contracts, and requiring the state to buy more energy efficient vehicles. She also sponsored legislation to expand NC’s Green Business Fund, study offshore wind energy resources, and improve energy efficiency requirements for NC’s building code.

Constituents of District 7 and Newsletter Readers: I hope you will continue to let me know how you feel about the issues that are being debated by the North Carolina General Assembly and the challenges you and your family are facing each day. By working together, we can make District 7 and all regions of North Carolina a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Honor our Veterans

**on
November 11, 2009**

Sections Below:

- *In the District (Area Grants and Contracts Received;; Rocky Mount Named Impoverished City; Area Events)*
- *Ethics Tip – Powers and Duties of the SEC IX*
- *For Your Information (New Voter Pre-Registration Law in Effect Jan. 1; Income and Asset Eligibility Criteria for Low Income Assistance Programs; Small Business Loans Available; Johnson C. Smith University of Charlotte, NC is giving full scholarships to students; 2009 NC School Report Cards online; The NC People’s Coalition for Giving offers 2-day training; Wake Forest University has free MBA Program; Mentors Needed – Mentoring Activities Tailored for Children in Halifax (MATCH); Weatherization Assistance Program; Univ. of Maryland Young Scholars Program; Dominion Seeks Student Entries for Writing contest; Celebration in Honor of Susan Perry Cole; Governor Appoints new Director for Citizen and Faith Outreach)*
- *Job Service Bulletin (Halifax county)*
- *At the Legislature (Rep. Bryant’s Appointment to 2009 Study Committees legislative update)*
- *Moments of Gratitude (William C. Naumann, CCNCER Chairman; Together NC; Henrietta Zalkind, Executive Director, The Down East Partnership for Children; Jane Kendall, President, N.C. Center for Nonprofits; Judge Brenda G. Branch, District Court Judges and Staff, State of NC General Court of Justice 6 A Judicial District)*

In the District

Area Grants and Contract Received

\$7.2 MILLION IN GRANTS PROVIDED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCIES

RALEIGH – In recognition of Gov. Bev Perdue declaring October as [Domestic Violence Awareness Month in North Carolina](#), the [N.C. Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission](#) sent notification to 102 agencies statewide that provide domestic violence services to their community that they qualified for a total of more than \$7.2 million in grant funding.

The majority of grants are derived from a \$4,619,183.10 state appropriation. One hundred programs will receive \$45,286.10 each in quarterly installments; the two programs in Gates County will each receive \$22,643.05.

Recipients for the grant in our district include: Hannah’s Place, Inc. in Halifax County and My Sister’s House in Nash County..

THE HOUSING TRUST FUND MADE FINANACIAL AWARDS TO THE FOLLOWING APARTMENTS IN HALIFAX COUNTY.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| 1). Chapel Ridge | 50 family units | 2). Chapel Ridge Manor | 36 elderly |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------|

units

Millennium Drive
Roanoke Rapids

Old Towne Road
Roanoke Rapids

3). Enfield School Apts. 36 elderly units
700 Branch Street
Enfield

4). Windchase Apts. 43 family units
701 East Littleton Road
Roanoke Rapids

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONTRACT AWARDED TO SOUTHERN CORROSION, INC

Southern Corrosion, Inc. of Roanoke Rapids, NC, Halifax County, won a \$49,201.00 contract from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for re-painting and providing maintenance on a 55,000 gallon elevated water storage tank at the George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Colonial Beach, VA.

A STATE MATCHING GRANT HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE HALIFAX FIRE & RESCUE, INC

The Halifax Fire and Rescue, Inc. was awarded a \$5,939.64 grant through the 2009 Volunteer Fire Department Fund from the State of North Carolina. The check will be used by the Department to purchase needed equipment.

HALIFAX COUNTY/GOLDEN LEAF – COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE PROPOSALS

Halifax Golden Leaf Initiative, The next meeting is scheduled for **Thurs. Nov. 19th, at 6:00pm at Halifax Community College, Weldon.**

Project Summary

Applicant	Project Title	Total Project Cost	GLF Request Amount
<u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u>			
City of Roanoke Rapids, NC	Halifax County Main Street Revitalization Program	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00
City of Roanoke Rapids, NC	Patterson Property "Best Use" Analysis/Environmental Assessment	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Faith House of Enfield	Economic Empowerment Strategy	\$165,532.48	\$146,032.48

Halifax County	Airport Redevelopment/Reuse Study Project	\$105,000.00	\$105,000.00
Halifax County	Halifax Corporate Park Site Improvements	\$1,290,000.00	\$400,000.00
Halifax County Tourism Development Authority	Roanoke River Low Country Tour	\$133,844.00	\$133,844.00
Halifax Horizons	Implementation of the National Main Street Model to Revitalize the Economy and Preserve the History of Halifax County	\$261,500.00	\$35,000.00
Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe	Haliwa-Saponi Economic Development Study	\$175,000.00	\$150,000.00
Historical Halifax Restoration Association, Inc.	Bradford-Denton House Museum	\$486,070.00	\$300,000.00
NOW-CDC, Inc.	Economic Development for Hollister	\$100,000.00	\$80,000.00
Preservation Halifax, Inc.	Heritage Arts Education Center	\$260,297.00	\$260,297.00
Town of Enfield	Enfield Partnership for Tomorrow - A Master Economic Development Plan	\$120,000.00	\$75,000.00
Total: 12 Projects		\$3,557,243.48	\$2,145,173.48
EDUCATION			
COMPASS <i>*501c3 applied for, but not yet received</i>	COMPASS: Community Outreach Mentoring Program Assisting Socially Suppressed	\$1,405,754.00	\$702,878.00
COMPASS <i>*501c3 applied for, but not yet received</i>	Earthwatch Career Exploration Program	\$500,000.00	\$400,000.00
Halifax Community College	Roanoke Valley Early College Enhancement Plan	\$1,929,305.00	\$246,820.00

Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe	School Multipurpose Building	\$2,468,330.00	\$1,000,000.00
Methodist Home for Children	Halifax County Parent Connectedness Initiative	\$103,615.00	\$95,110.00
Roanoke Rapids Graded School District (with Weldon City Schools and Halifax County Schools)	Three Districts - One Goal: Student Achievement	\$1,130,000.00	\$975,000.00
Stepping Up Consultants <i>*awaiting verification of 501c3 status</i>	Empowering Parents to Empower their Children	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Total: 7 Projects		\$7,557,004.00	\$3,439,808.00
INFRASTRUCTURE			
Total: 0 Projects		\$0.00	\$0.00
OUTSIDE OF PRIORITY ISSUE AREAS			
Eartie C. Jones	Eartie Jones' Residence		
Total: 1 Project		\$0.00	\$0.00
Grand Total: 20 Projects		\$11,114,247.48	\$5,584,981.48

According to Forbes.com Rocky Mount has been named one of America's Most Impoverished Cities

by [Joshua Zumbrun](#)

The Great Recession is rewriting the rules of American poverty.

[In Depth: America's 10 Most Impoverished Cities](#)

WASHINGTON -- The Great Recession is rewriting the rules of American poverty. Data from the Census Bureau, released in September, show that during the first year of the recession, incomes fell farther and poverty leaped higher than during almost any other time in a generation. In 2008, U.S. median income fell to \$50,303 from \$52,163 in 2007. That 3.6% decline is the largest one-year drop since records begin. The poverty rate increased to 13.2% from 12.5%, meaning the recession has brought 2.6 million more Americans into poverty. The [Economic Policy Institute](#) projects that in the next two years, incomes could decline by another \$3,000 and

poverty could increase by 1.9 percentage points.

Just as the recession has changed the map of unemployment (see "[Stars and Jobless Stripes](#)"), it has redrawn the contours of poverty.

[In Depth: America's 10 Most Impoverished Cities](#)

To find out who is being hit worst, we used new data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey. Although the Census Bureau defines poverty simply as people earning below a certain income level, (which varies based on family size) we also looked at per capita incomes for a region, the percentage of food stamp recipients, the percentage of people under age 65 receiving public [health care](#) and the [unemployment rate](#).

Poverty may once have been worst in the Deep South. And cities on the border with Mexico are plagued with poverty. But the recession--and the decline of American manufacturing--has left Rust Belt cities with comparable levels of poverty. The problem is concentrated in these three regions. All 10 cities on our list are southern cities, border cities or declining manufacturing centers.

Four southern cities make the list: Pine Bluff, Ark.; Albany and Macon, Ga.; and Rocky Mount, N.C. In these cities, per capita incomes are between \$18,000 and \$23,000, but the bottom 20% are bringing in between \$7,500 and \$8,500.

The most impoverished region is at the southern tip of Texas. The metropolitan statistical areas for McAllen and Brownsville, Texas, have the lowest incomes and most food stamp recipients of any in America.

"When looking at the entire [metro area] we have a lot of communities that do have large pockets of poverty," says Mike Perez, the city manager of McAllen, Texas. "A lot are recent immigrants--that's part of it. There's a language barrier. And because they're recent immigrants, they don't have the education. That's tied to having jobs that pay well. It's a bit of a vicious cycle."

Despite the discouraging statistics, McAllen has been adding jobs rapidly--Forbes rated McAllen the best medium-size city for job growth earlier this year. (See "[Best Mid-Sized Cities For Jobs](#).") Perez and other city leaders are quick to point out that they don't have control over their entire regions or local economies. Metropolitan statistical areas include counties that are tied to a central city economically, but are oftentimes beyond the control of the mayor. As well, the regions on this list are usually subject to national economic trends that even the best of local governments may be unable to fight.

"We just got our rating upgraded to AA by [Standard & Poor's](#)," says Perez. "Sometimes when you look at an entire region, you paint the entire region with the same brush. I think sometimes that's not quite fair. There are areas in the MSA that are very strong and doing very well." The same could be said of any of the regions on the list.

Further west, in El Centro, Calif., and Yuma, Ariz., incomes are higher, but Yuma and El Centro have the highest unemployment rates of any cities in the country.

Cathy Kennerson, CEO of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce, says a host of alternative energy companies--in geothermal, wind, biomass and solar--are looking to invest in the region, but she says Uncle Sam is holding things up with a slow approvals process. "It's such a great area here in the desert for renewable energy manufacturing," says Kennerson, who notes that one sector that continues to grow in the county is the federal government.

Finally, the industrial Midwest is creeping onto the list. The metropolitan areas around Saginaw, Mich., and Flint, Mich., have some of the worst poverty in the nation. Although per capita incomes are higher, the percentage of the population living below half of the poverty line is near 10% in both cities, and 15% of the populations are on food stamps. Other cities in the region are

not far behind as manufacturing jobs continue to disappear. In the 1990s, there were nearly 18 million manufacturing jobs in the United States. The recession in 2001 lowered that number to about 14 million, and the current recession to 12 million. The result: a once-great production engine is collapsing into one of the most impoverished regions of America.

Area Events

- **Second Chance Support Group - Aray of Hope House** The groups are held weekly on Mondays-Tuesdays from 4:30-6:00p.m., at 505 Sunset Street, Rocky Mount. The ages range from 13 - 21.

For questions please call: 252-469-9463. Topics that are covered each week are:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| * Academic Education | * Awareness & Sensitive |
| * College Referral Program Information | * Socialization Skills |
| * Office Interviewing Skill | * Substance Abuse |
| * Health & Sexual Awareness | * Gang Awareness |

Topics are subject to change.

- **Youth Violence Prevention Month** - The Rocky Mount City Council adopted the GRASPP Peace Initiative and proclaimed the month of November as Youth Violence Prevention Month. The Youth Violence Prevention Expo will be, Sat., Nov. 7, 2009 from 1:00-6:00pm, at the Golden East Crossing Mall. Children, 12th grade and below can submit art projects, poetry or spoken word pieces to be on display at the mall throughout the month of November. At some time during the Expo selected art work will be recognized and the children or teens will have an opportunity to share their vision of a world free of violence. For more information contact: Cynthia L. Jackson, MA, MFTI at 252 937-2213 ext. 108 or email: graspp@rockymountnc.com or visit the website at www.grasppforpeace.org for upcoming events and other information.
- **Halifax Golden Leaf Initiative,** The next meeting is scheduled for Thurs. Nov. 19th, at 6:00pm at Halifax Community College, Weldon. The purpose of the meeting will be to continue the grant review and decision process.

Ethics Tip

The State Ethics Commission shall conduct a continuing study of governmental ethics in the State and propose changes to the General Assembly in the government process and the law as are conducive to promoting and continuing high ethical behavior by governmental officers and employees. G.S. 138A-10(a)(9).

Please contact the State Ethics Commission at 715-2071 if there are any questions.

**Rep. Bryant and Local Officials attended the Peanut Festival In Enfield
Saturday, October 3, 2009**



Rep. Bryant with Keenyn Epps Public Works Director for Enfield; Rep. Bryant pictured with Yvette and Justice Wiggins and Enfield Mayor Warnie Bishop.

For Your Information

NEW VOTER PRE-REGISTRATION LAW IN EFFECT IN JAN. 1 FOR 16-17 YEAR OLDS

The 16-17 year old voter pre-registration law goes into effect on January 1. The North Carolina Board of Elections is developing a new voter registration form that will include a check-off box for 16-17 year olds to designate that they are pre-registering to vote. That form should be up and ready to go well before January 1. There are other government agencies and moving parts that will be key in implementing this legislation, including the DMV.

The NC Civic Education Consortium is working on curriculum models for North Carolina teachers to be ready for the 2010 Spring semester. Kids Voting NC is working on models for how pre-registration can be used by student groups and in other extra-curricular activities. Once the models for teaching about voter pre-registration are ready and the law has been put into effect, help will be needed to get the word out to raise awareness of this new law. If certain high schools already have regularly scheduled voter registration drives, we will want to make sure that "voter pre-registration" is included in their plan.

- **NEEDED NOW:** If you know a local high school social studies teacher or principal or student, please share this exciting new opportunity with them and ask them how they would envision their school taking advantage of this, specifically with students in the 10th grade Civics and Economics courses. One of the curriculum goals for that class states that "the learner will explore active roles as a citizen at the local, state, and national levels of government." North Carolina will now have a unique opportunity to allow students taking civics to put learning into action; we are one of only three states that allow pre-registration.

INCOME AND ASSET ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR LOW INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, 2008 (Diebold, Dorrance, and Gitterman, 2009)

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	Monthly Income Thresholds	Annual Assets/Resource Limits
EITC	\$3,220 with two or more qualifying children \$2,832 with one qualifying child \$1,073 with no qualifying children*	No more than \$2,950 in investment income
SNAP/Food Stamps	\$1,907 for a family of three	No more than \$2,000 in countable resources (\$3,000 if there is at least one adult over age 60 or disabled)
Medicaid for Children (Health Check)	\$2,934 for a family of three (with children under the age of 6) \$1,467 for a family of three (with children between the ages of 6 and 18)	No asset limits
SCHIP (Health Choice)	\$2,934 for a family of three (200% FPL)	No asset limits
Work First/TANF	\$544 for a family of three	No more than \$3,000 in assets that can be converted to cash in 5 days
Child Care Subsidies	\$3,057 for a family of 3	No asset limits
LIHEAP	\$2,579 for a family of 3**	No more than \$2,200 in assets
School Nutrition Programs – School Breakfast, School Lunch, Special Milk Program and Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program	\$2,714 for a family of 3 for reduced price meals \$1,907 for a family of 3 for free meals	No asset limits

*Monthly limits are calculated using the annual income threshold divided by 12. Annual income limits are \$38,646 with two or more qualifying children (\$41,646 married filing jointly); \$33,995 with one qualifying child (\$36,995 married filing jointly); \$12,880 with no qualifying children (\$15,880 married filing jointly).

**Monthly limits are calculated using 60% of estimated state median income (as recently required by LIHEAP grantees to determine eligibility). For a family of 4, 60% of estimated state median income in NC is \$36,852. Per the Administration for Children and Families guidance, to determine the amount for a family of 3 this figure is multiplied by 84%, which is equal to \$30,955. This is divided by 12 to get the monthly income limits.

- **Business Loans Available** Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton has joined Golden LEAF, the N. C. Rural Economic Development Center and the Center for Community Self-Help in announcing the creation of the Golden LEAF Loan Program and the Rural Center Loan

Program. These programs will be administered through Self-Help to leverage over \$27.5 million in loans to help North Carolina's small businesses. For more information about how to apply for a Golden LEAF loan, contact Self-Help Senior Loan Officer Jane Hatley at 828-771-2817 or by e-mail at jane.hatley@self-help.org.

- **Johnson C. Smith University of Charlotte, NC is giving full scholarships to students** Johnson C. Smith Univ. is looking for scholars for the Golden Scholar Program. Students must have a GPA of 3.5 and above or be a high school graduate needing assistance. They want these students NOW!! Contact: Mrs. Carolyn Scipio Glover, 301-877-5130 (H), 301-342-0140 (W) 240-393-6955.
- **2009 North Carolina School Report Cards Now Online.** The data has been compiled, the grades are in and the 2009 North Carolina School Report Cards are now online at www.ncreportcards.org. This Web site features the state's largest collection of information about student performance and attendance, class size, school safety, teacher quality and classroom technology at the state, district and school levels. For more information, please visit the NCDPI Web site at www.ncpublicschools.org and click on the appropriate link under "News."
- **The NC People's Coalition for Giving is pleased to offer a two-day training session, "From Structural Racism to Racial Equity: Philanthropy as a Pathway to Social Change,"** on Tues. Dec. 15 - Wed. 16, at The Stone House in Mebane, NC. Especially in tight economic times, social change agents need to maximize their impact. Philanthropic institutions can bring a "racial equity lens" to all of their investments and community leadership efforts to advance social change no matter what issues they fund. This session is open to staff and trustees of grantmaking institutions as well as their grantee-partners. Please share the registration materials with others in your network. Register by November, Mon. 16th.
- **Wake Forest University has an opportunity for minority students to attend its MBA program for FREE** The Master of Art in Management program is designed specifically for liberal arts majors only. The program is a 10 month intense study of the basic functional areas of Business. After graduation and working for approximately two years, all MA graduates are eligible to apply to Wake Forest as part of the MA/MBA joint degree program and get the MBA in one year. The new Dean, Steve Reinemund, has created a new scholarship for diverse students pursuing the MA degree called the Corporate Fellowship, which full tuition and a \$21,000 stipend to cover living expenses. Each Corporate Fellow will participate in a practicum. The practicum has two components, educational and professional development. Each student will be assigned a mentor that is a high level executive with their sponsor corporation. The mentor will oversee an educational project covering 4 of the functional areas of business using their own corporation as the subject. For more information contact, Derrick S. Boone, Ph.D. , (336) 758.4475 or (866) 925-3622 or visit the website at <http://mba.wfu.edu>.
- **Mentors Needed – Mentoring Activities Tailored for Children in Halifax (MATCH),**
- MATCH is seeking loving, caring, positive role models to make a difference in the lives

of boys and girls in Halifax County. Volunteers are asked to do complete an application, pass a background check and attend Mentor's Training. Contact: 252-445-5455 ext. 225.

- **Weatherization Assistance Program** – is a program to assist people with weatherizing their homes, is accepting applications. Applications can be picked up Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at St. Mark AME Church, 1150 Tarboro St. between the hours of 10:00am – 3:00pm. Applications may be picked up on Thursdays at the Nash County Extension Center. For information call 252-977-7941. For information on the Halifax Weatherization Program please contact Gail Walker at (252) 537-1111.
- **University of Maryland Young Scholars Program** targets rising juniors and seniors who have a strong academic record and a desire to excel to experience college life while earning three academic credits. Fourteen courses are offered for three weeks. Visit www.ysp.umd.edu/pr.
- **Dominion Seeks Student Entries for Writing Contest Focused on African-American Leaders** Energy company [Dominion](http://www.dominion.com) is inviting high school juniors and seniors in its service area to participate in an essay-writing contest focused on the achievements of outstanding African-Americans as part of Dominion's 2009 "Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership" series. Dominion's Strong Men & Women series annually recognizes African-American state and national leaders. High school juniors and seniors from schools in Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Nash, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Warren, Washington, and Wilson counties are eligible to participate. Winning students will each receive a laptop computer and their schools will each receive a cash award of \$1,000. Deadline Nov. 9, 2009. Contest guidelines and entry forms are available at: www.dom.com/about/education/strong/student-writing-contest.jsp.
- **Celebration in Honor of Susan Perry Cole** Please join the staff and the board of directors of the North Carolina Association of Community Development Corporations in a celebratory fundraising event to honor the leadership and many contributions of Susan Perry Cole in her dedication to Social Justice and Community Economic Development. The event will be held on Friday, November 13th, from 5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m., at the Raleigh Elks Lodge #735, 5538 Leadmine Road in Raleigh. A \$50 Donation Per Person is required. Food will be provided and entertainment by the band, Sweet Dreams. Food will be provided.

Gov. Perdue Appoints Angella Dunston as Director of the Office of Citizen and Faith Outreach

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that she has appointed Angella Dunston as the director of the Office of Citizen and Faith Outreach. Dunston will oversee public outreach to constituent groups and the faith-based community. As a senior staff member, she will serve as the H.U.B. liaison to government agencies, help ensure there is a diverse pool of applicants for boards and commissions, and work closely with the policy department.

“Angella will be a great asset to this administration and to communities across North Carolina,” Perdue said. “As director, Angella will make sure that we continue reaching out and listening to the ideas and concerns of as many North Carolinians as possible.”

For the past nine years, Dunston has worked at the North Carolina Justice Center’s Education and Law Project. In her role at the center, Dunston has experience working with the education advocacy community and state policymakers. Dunston also has worked as an advocate in early childhood and youth development. She also is the education chair of the N.C. State Conference of the NAACP and serves on the N.C. Dropout Prevention Grant Committee.

Dunston is a former school board member in Warren County and vice chair of the Warren County Democratic Party. In her spare time, she volunteers with various civic organizations and serves on numerous boards. She also mentors at-risk youth and is creating a youth leadership development initiative to empower and train students to advocate for themselves in the local, state and national political arena.

“I am honored to be helping Gov. Perdue in her outreach and am looking forward to the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of North Carolina families across the state,” Dunston said.

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Job Service Bulletin (Halifax County) Employment Security Commission/JobLink

Unemployment Insurance (UI) is a nationwide program administered by Employment Security agencies in each state. The program provides temporary weekly benefits for workers who have become unemployed through no fault of their own, have earned sufficient base period wages in covered employment to qualify for benefits, and meet the eligibility requirements of the law. The cost of these benefits is financed through an unemployment tax paid by employers. These funds are deposited into a trust fund and cannot be used for any purpose other than to pay unemployment insurance benefits.

Current job openings on file at the Halifax-Northampton ESC/JobLink Career Center include: quality lab technician, qualified professionals, quality assurance coordinator, lead daycare teacher, sales recruiter, insurance agent, retail managers and assistants, bookkeeper, bank teller, merchandiser, nanny, tour guide, habilitation technician, certified nurse aides, farm equipment operators, trailer mechanic, small-engine mechanic, duct installers, propane service technician, and tile installer.

For more information about these jobs and others, visit the Employment Security Commission/JobLink from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. Employers may call 537-4188 or fax 535-7943 to list job openings. Registered applicants may call the JOBS line at 535-9001 to inquire about job openings. ESC’s Internet address, which contains both job listings and applicant listings, is www.ncesc.com. Contact Tommy McKnight, ESC/JobLink Manager, at 537-4188 for further information

At the Legislature

Rep. Bryant's 2009-2011 Study Committees

- Legislative Study Commission on Poverty Reduction and Economic Recovery
- Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation
- House Select Committee on High Speed Internet Access in Rural and Urban Areas
- Joint Oversight Committee on Public Utilities (Check for Exact Name)
- Energy Policy Council

Budget Issues

_This year's budget appropriated \$12 million for additional local inpatient beds for the mentally ill to treat people closer to their homes and relieve state hospitals. Last session we funded more than 100 local inpatient beds across the state and we are already seeing the positive effects of reduced admission rates at our state hospitals. Access to local crisis services and local inpatient beds will help us build our local provider networks.

_ We now require all provider agencies to deliver a continuum of services rather than only one service. This change is expected to save money and improve services. We have found that comprehensive providers allow consumers more stability as they step down from intensive services to maintenance services. This move will eliminate the providers who provide only one service and are reluctant to refer a consumer to another, more appropriate provider who delivers lower or higher level of services.

Transparency

_State facilities that provide mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services are now required to disclose certain information about death reports, facility police reports, and incident reports under a new state law ([S.B. 799 – S.L. 2009-299](#)). The intent of the legislation is to improve transparency.

_More local mental health agencies are required to report twice a year how they are spending money under a new state law ([H.B. 672 – S.L. 2009-191](#)). The law requires Local Management Entities (LMEs) that use single stream funding to issue a public report on their use of service dollars and receive public comment during a regularly scheduled board of directors meeting. The intent of the legislation is to require more transparency and accountability for state-funded mental health providers.

Crime/Safety

_A new state law clarifies the responsibility of payment of witness fees and guardian ad litem fees in incompetency proceedings ([H.B. 506 – S.L. 2009-387](#)). The legislation also authorizes

the appointment of a guardian ad litem for a person who is adjudicated incompetent, provides for appointment of counsel for an indigent person in certain proceedings, provides for representation for the Department of Correction and appointment of counsel for offenders in satellite-based monitoring proceedings, and provides for appointment of counsel by the Office of Indigent Services in capital cases.

_A new state law clarifies that a Silver Alert may be issued for a person of any age ([H.B. 1129 - S.L. 2009-143](#)). The Silver Alert System is a statewide system used to notify people about missing persons believed to be suffering from cognitive impairments.

_A new state law directs Division of Health Service Regulation within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish a pilot program to study alternative staffing requirements for facilities that use electronic supervision devices ([S.B. 884 – S.L. 2009-490](#)). The law directs the Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services to adopt rules establishing acceptable electronic supervision standards and personnel requirements at facilities for children and adolescents who have a primary diagnosis of mental illness and/or emotional disturbance.

Involuntary Commitment

_A new state law provides that if inpatient treatment is warranted and a 24-hour facility is not immediately available or appropriate, the a person who is being involuntarily committed for mental treatment may be detained at the site of the first examination. The law also provides a process for required release after seven days ([H.B. 243 – S.L. 2009-340](#)). In addition, the law expands the Involuntary Commitment Pilot program to allow a licensed clinical social worker, a master’s level psychiatric nurse, or a Master’s level certified clinical addictions specialist to conduct the initial (first-level) examinations of individuals.

_A new state law requires a physician or eligible psychologist to contact the Local Management Entity (LME) when a respondent has been scheduled for an appointment with an outpatient treatment center ([H.B. 1189 – S.L. 2009-315](#)). The act also allows first examinations for involuntary commitment for mental illness to be conducted by telemedicine.

Miscellaneous

_A new state law establishes a statewide data collection system that reflects how many people with developmental disabilities are currently waiting for services ([H.B. 673 – S.L. 2009-186](#)). This list will provide the data needed to effectively serve people with developmental disabilities. The law also permits the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that state-funded developmental disability services are authorized on an annual or semi-annual basis depending on the services, and will also give direction to the department to develop developmental disability service definitions that allow for funding of a person-centered plan rather than funding each service within a plan separately.

_A new state law known as “People First” directs legislative drafting offices and state agencies to use respectful references to people with disabilities in the preparation of legislation and rules.

[\(S.B. 208 – S.L. 2009-264\)](#). More specifically, the law directs the Legislative Services Office to incorporate into its training of legislative drafters the preference to avoid language that implies that a person as a whole is disabled, that equates a person with his or her condition, or that may be derogatory or demeaning.

_A new state law amends the state purchase and contract laws to exempt group purchases made by developmental centers, neuromedical treatment centers, and alcohol and drug abuse treatment centers from a competitive bidding purchasing program [\(H.B. 1088 – S.L. 2009-184\)](#).

_The Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services will be directed to adopt rules providing for the licensure and accreditation of residential treatment facilities for persons with traumatic brain injury (TBI) under a new state law [\(H.B. 1309 – S.L. 2009-361\)](#).

Bills of Interest

HB137 - Capital Procedure/Severe Mental Disability - An act to amend the capital trial, sentencing, and post-conviction procedures for a person with a severe mental disability and to authorize the use of certain funds to provide judicial training with regard to the legal requirements of these procedures.

HB594 - Increase Disabled Vet Property Tax Exclusion - An act to increase the disabled veteran property tax homestead exclusion.

H804 - Amend Law Regarding Personal Education Plans - An act to amend the law regarding personal education plans for students at risk of academic failure.

HB1078 - Report School Violence to Superintendent/Required Notification Policy - An act to ensure that acts of violence in schools are reported to the local Superintendent or the Superintendents designee and to require local boards of education to adopt a policy on notification to the parents or legal guardians of students alleged to be victims of any act required to be reported to law enforcement and the superintendent.

HB1166 - Insurance Law Changes - An act to make various changes in the laws governing insurance producers and brokers, bail bondsmen, motor clubs, premium finance companies, and collection agencies, and to delete obsolete references to assignments of error.

HB1296 - Establish Drug and Medical Device Repository/BOP - An act to establish the drug, supplies, and medical device repository program in the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy.

S167 - No Smoking/Cell Phones on Prison Grounds - An act to prohibit smoking on the premises of correctional institutions, to prohibit the possession of tobacco products or cell phones outside of a locked vehicle on the premises of correctional institutions, to make it a criminal offense to provide tobacco products or cell phones to inmates in the custody of the department of correction or a local confinement facility, and to make it a criminal offense for inmates of a local confinement facility to possess tobacco products or cell phones.

SB464 - Prevent Racial Profiling - An act to amend the law requiring the collection of traffic law enforcement statistics in order to prevent racial profiling and to provide for the care of minor children when present at the arrest of certain adults.

SB618 - Urban Revitalization Made Uniform - An act to allow all municipalities to participate in urban area revitalization projects under the municipal service district act of 1973.

SB660 - Auto Insurance/Diminution in Value - An Act to provide an alternative method of determining property damages as a part of motor vehicle liability insurance.

S726 - Amend House Arrest Laws/Adult/Juvenile - An act to provide that house arrest may be imposed as a condition of pretrial release; to provide that the court may authorize an offender under electronic house arrest to leave the offender's residence for specific purposes and the court or probation officer may modify those conditions; and to amend the definition of house arrest under juvenile law to state the specific purpose for which a juvenile may be authorized to leave the juvenile's residence.

SB955 - Bicycle Lights at Night - An act to require that bicycles have visible lights on the front and rear of the bicycle, or on the person operating the bicycle, when operated during the period from sunset to sunrise on a street, highway, or public vehicular area, and to require the report of a crash involving a motor vehicle and a bicycle where the total property damage exceeds five hundred dollars.

SB1006 - Withholding on Contractors Identified by ITIN - An act to require withholding on contractors identified by an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN).

Public Safety

_State lawmakers have approved legislation that will reform probation in North Carolina by giving probation officers more tools to keep offenders from getting into further trouble ([SB 920](#)). If enacted, probation officers would be added to the list of persons who are allowed to access the juvenile records of certain offenders. The legislation would also make warrantless searches and drug screening regular conditions of supervised parole and would add additional controlling measures for offenders subject to intermediate punishment. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_State lawmakers have passed a bill intended to help prevent racial profiling by law officers by changing how they collect traffic statistics ([SB 464](#)). The legislation also provides that when a law enforcement officer arrests an adult who is supervising minor children, the minors must be placed with a responsible adult approved by the parent or guardian. If it is not possible to place the minor children with a responsible adult within a reasonable period of time, the officer shall contact the county department of social services. The bill now returns to the Senate for a concurrence motion.

_The General Assembly has ratified legislation that clarifies that people who use defibrillators in emergencies aren't liable for damages unless they displayed gross negligence ([HB 1433](#)). The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_The General Assembly has ratified legislation that would strengthen domestic violence laws by providing protection for the pets of abused persons. ([SB 1062](#)). Opponents of the bill say that the legislation is evidence of political correctness going too far. However, proponents of the legislation contend that the bill is meant to protect human beings more than animals. In domestic violence cases, there have been some instances in which abusers threaten violence toward a family pet as a means of manipulating their victims. In extreme cases, abusers have tortured or killed pets. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

Protecting Homeowners

_The Statutory Homestead Exemption would be significantly increased under a bill that has been ratified by the General Assembly and sent to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law ([HB 1058](#)). The legislation increases the exemption from \$18,500 to \$35,000.

Improving Government

_The General Assembly has ratified legislation that will require all cities, counties and other local units of government to adopt a code of ethics for their governing boards ([HB 1452](#)). The legislation would also require members of those boards to receive education on ethics laws applicable to local government officials. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_A bill that would improve North Carolina's absentee voting laws, especially the ability of military and overseas voters to cast timely ballots, has been approved by the House ([SB 253](#)). If enacted, the bill would open up absentee voting 10 days earlier in even-numbered years to 60 days and not later than 50 days before the primary or any other election. In the case of municipal elections, voting would open no later than 30 days before an election. The bill will now return to the Senate for a concurrence motion.

Miscellaneous

_Legislation that would establish requirements for certification of persons performing lead-based paint renovation work in certain residential housing and child-occupied facilities has passed the House and is now pending in the Senate ([HB 1151](#)). If enacted, the legislation would also require accreditation of renovation trainers and renovation training courses.
(Rep. Farmer-Butterfield)

_The General Assembly has ratified legislation that would establish the Drug, Supplies, and Medical Device Repository Program in the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy ([HB 1296](#)). The program would allow donations of unused drugs, supplies, and medical devices to uninsured and underinsured patients in this state. The donations would go to a free clinic or pharmacy and be redistributed. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law. (Rep. Randy Stewart).

_State lawmakers have passed a bill that will provide the same protections to search and rescue animals as those provided to law enforcement agency animals and animals that assist the disabled ([HB 1098](#)). Under the legislation, any person who knows or has reason to know that an animal is a search and rescue animal and who willfully kills that animal will be guilty of a Class H felony. The bill will now be presented to Gov. Perdue to be signed into law.

_North Carolina residents over age 18 would be allowed to get a motorcycle learner's permit without taking a rider safety course under a bill that has been approved by both bodies of the Legislature ([SB 64](#)). Under the bill, the learner's permit would be valid for 12 months and could

be renewed for one additional six-month period. The bill will now return to the Senate for a concurrence motion.

A Moment of Gratitude

On behalf the Chambers of Commerce of North Carolina's Eastern Region (CCNCER), I want to personally thank you for your dedication and hard work during this challenging legislative session. We recognize the economic issues faced by the state required you to make difficult funding decisions. Despite these challenging times, through your advocacy for our legislative agenda SB 423 was enacted into law, the Smart Start and More-at-Four Programs remained intact, and needed financial support was provided to the Community College System for its "Creating Success" Campaign.

William C. Naumann
Chair, CCNCER
Chairman, Hatteras & Cabo Yachts

On behalf of the 100+ members of the Together NC coalition, thank you for taking a balanced approach to the 2009-2011 state General Fund budget. We understand that you had to make extremely tough decisions due to the unprecedented decline in state revenues. We are grateful that you chose to raise revenue to mitigate the most devastating cuts to public investments in education, health and human services, and public safety. Your actions resulted in the preservation of much of what makes North Carolina a wonderful place to work, play, grow up and grow old. By raising revenue, you ensured that more children will have access to health care and that students will continue to enjoy a quality education system. Of course, we know you had to make some cuts that will be harmful to the state and its residents – cuts to mental health, juvenile justice and other vital public systems. Those cuts could have been much deeper, and we appreciate the courage you displayed by raising significant revenues.

The 100+ Organizations Together NC

On behalf of the more than 24,000 children and families who benefitted last year from services provided through Down East Partnership for Children, I would like to thank you for your determination and efforts during this difficult legislative session. Despite so many needs and so few dollars, you fought to continue North Carolina's investment in young children. The cuts taken by early childhood programs, \$15 million Smart Start, \$5 million More at Four, will affect this work across the state. In Nash & Edgecombe counties, these cuts translate into more than \$600,000 in loss of services to local families and agencies including our elementary schools, local library, and other nonprofit agencies. However, crisis brings opportunity.

Henrietta Zalkind, Executive Director
Haywood Parker, Board Chair
The Down East Partnership for Children

Way to go, Woman! Warm congratulations on this well-deserved honor from the N.C. Sustainable Energy Association. We've worked with the Association for years as an N.C. Center member, so I know they're a great organization. Obviously, they are wise too! Thank you for your public service and for your understanding of the value of the nonprofit sector in North

Carolina.

Jane Kendall,
President
N.C. Center for Nonprofits

We understand that the state budget has been finalized. While it may not be the resolution everyone wanted, it is better than some of us had hoped for. We know this was not an easy task. Therefore, please accept this letter of appreciation on behalf of our District and Family Courts. We are aware of the direct impact that our court programs have on the participants and the community, especially in tough economic times such as these. Let us assure you, we will continue to strive to maintain, with high standards, the programs you have worked so hard to protect.

Brenda G. Branch,
Chief District Court Judge
W. Turner Stephenson, III, Teresa R. Freeman
District Court Judges
Penney T. Aycock,
Trial Court Coordinator,
Susan W. Horrell
Family Court Administrator
Shirley L. Webb-Owens,
Juvenile Case Coordinator
Levernard A. Speight,
Access and Visitation Coordinator
State of NC General Court of Justice 6 A Judicial District