

NC Strive Eastern Regional Conference
Craven Community College – New Bern Campus
800 College Court
New Bern, NC 28562
24 April 2019

Planning Committee:

Mitchell Martin – Craven Community College
Pam Diskul-Vrable – Craven Community College
Erica Jimenez – Craven Community College
Hank Hingley – Craven Community College

Sponsors:



Speaker Bios:

Mike Laird, Advisor, Career Resource Center for Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) at Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point. He enjoys working with Service members and their spouses to help them learn about finances and careers, prepare for transition, and overcome their financial difficulties. Hired as a Data Technician in 2012, Mike was selected for his current position in 2014. He previously spent over 26 years in the US Marine Corps retiring in 2012 as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 (CWO-4). Mike has a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Science in Education from Troy University (using the tuition assistance program). He is a Global Career

NC STRIVE is supported in part by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and block grant funding from the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration through the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Development Facilitator (GCDF) and Instructor, an Accredited Financial Counselor (AFC), a certified Coach through the Coach Training Alliance and a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. Outside of work, he enjoys playing tuba in the Craven Community Band and spoiling his granddaughter.

Robin Matthews, Dean of Workforce Development at Craven Community College, is a 30-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, serving from Aug 1979 until Oct 2009. During his career, he served as an Avionics Technician, Recruiter, Avionics Systems Instructor, Avionics Officer and an Avionics Training Officer. During his career, Robin attained a B.A. in History and an M.B.A. with a focus in Management.

Robin has worked at Craven Community College since Jan 2010 as an instructor, a Director of Workforce Development, Interim Dean of Workforce Development, and as Executive Director of Workforce Development. He has served as the Dean of Workforce Development since June 2016.

Sarah Sawyer - Executive Director of Career Programs at Craven Community College, began her educational journey at Craven Community College while working toward her Associate in Science Degree over 16 years ago. After earning her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration at University of Mount Olive, Mrs. Sawyer began working as an Academic Advisor while earning a Master of Science Degree in Postsecondary and Adult Education from Capella University. In 2012, Mrs. Sawyer transitioned to the role of Career/Transfer Center Coordinator and later Career & College Promise Liaison with Craven Community College. She is scheduled to complete her Doctorate in Organizational Management and Educational Policy in September of 2019 from Northcentral University.

VirLynda Cantoral - Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Specialist at Fleet Readiness Center East (FRC East), MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina, She currently serves as an EEO counselor and Complaints Manager, the Special Emphasis Program Manager, the Affirmative Employment Program Manager, and the Reasonable Accommodations Coordinator. She has worked at FRC East for over 3 years now.

Mrs. Cantoral was born and raised by her father, a U.S. Marine and mother. She married a now retired U.S. Marine, to which they have three children. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Finance and graduated summa cum Laude. Through her upbringing and close relationship to the military, Mrs. Cantoral has a unique perspective on diversity and inclusion.

Bill Butler, MS, NCC, CCMC, LPC is a Veteran and served from March 1976 – April 2006. During his final year in the Marine Corps, Bill went to Iraq and served with the Combat Stress Team in a counseling capacity. Upon retirement, Bill assumed his current position as a Readjustment Counseling Therapist for the VA. The focus of counseling deals with stress related injuries; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), and Grief Therapy with surviving families of service members killed in a war zone. Mr. Butler earned his Bachelor of Science in Social Psychology in 1997. He then went on to complete his Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from Capella University in 2004. He is a Certified Clinical Military Counselor (CCMD).

Vendors

Durham VA Health System Women Veterans Program Transition and Care Management System	Jamie Upchurch, Shelton Faircloth	www.durham.va.gov/
NC Problem Gambling Program	Alison Drain	www.morethanagamenc.com
Academic outreach, Continuing & Distance Education- ECU	Lisa Briley	www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/militaryoutreach
Onward to Opportunities O2O	Becky Ganley	ivmf.syracuse.edu
ECU (Title not provided)	Jennifer Baysden	ecu.edu/cs-acad/dcs/
NC Serves Coastal	Jerrick Vernon	https://coastal.americaserves.org/
NC Housing Finance Agency	Troy Hershberger	www.nchfa.com
KCK Inc.	Mark D'Amico	http://www.kckforvets.com/
NC Works	Reeshema Walker	www.ncworks.gov
Wounded Warrior Project	Jenna Potter	woundedwarriorproject.org
Carolina Small Business	Robert Rehder	carolinasmallbusiness.org
Craven CC SBC	Deborah Kania	www.cravencc.edu