

Updates on the Economic Development Committee

Dimple Ajmera [dimpletajmera@gmail.com@mail28.atl1111.rsgsv.net] on behalf of Dimple Ajmera [dimpletajmera@gmail.com]

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To: [Steve Johnston](#)



Dear Charlotteans,

Here is the report on recent updates from the Economic Development Committee, which I am a member of.

Note: For all constituency related questions please reach out to me at my City Council email at: dimple.ajmera@charlottenc.gov. Thanks for your support!

Small Business Focus Groups

All business owners of Mecklenburg County are encouraged to participate in focus groups that will be held throughout February and March. The purpose of the focus groups is to assess the needs of the small business community and use this information to improve the website www.CharlotteBusinessResources.com and to inform Economic Development's work. The registration is available at <https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1835003/32557/>.

Charlotte Regional Fund for Entrepreneurship (CRFE)

In November 2012 City council adopted a High Growth Entrepreneurship Strategy that poses a goal to attract and retain high growth enterprises and entrepreneurs in Charlotte, attract more venture capital investment into Charlotte based enterprise, and to increase the amount of federal research dollars to our local universities. The CRFE was established as the Charlotte region's public-private partnership to

strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem, support increased innovation, improve development of High Growth Entrepreneurship, and increase job creation. Today the CERF is in its second stage of development, which will include engaging the community and forming working groups. Among its accomplishments to this date are mapping of Charlotte's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, Charlotte Entrepreneurship Growth Report (CEGR), and engaging over 40 entrepreneurs and stakeholders in solution-building for the CEGR findings.

Equitable Economic Development (EED) – Workforce Development

Economic Development Committee presented a report on economic mobility and EED in Charlotte. Current plan goals for Workforce Development include introduction of Partnership for Inclusive Employment and Career Excellence (P.I.E.C.E.) for 2017 – 2021 that will engage 500 adults, youth workforce development aimed at engaging 4,500 youth annually from 31 Charlotte schools, and Focus Area Plan to provide access to job training and employment opportunities for youth and adults. All programs will be catered to needs of and with input from businesses. As of today, 46 individuals enrolled in Project P.I.E.C.E. training, 939 students from 19 high schools received job readiness training in October and November 2016, approximately 65 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police officers have been trained in mentoring, approximately 486 youth have participated in mock interviews to prepare for summer internships, NewTech Charlotte initiative launched.

Project P.I.E.C.E. (Partners for Inclusive Employment and Career Excellence)

Project P.I.E.C.E. is a workforce development program to address labor market shortages and increase employment opportunities for individuals who may face barriers to employment. The program offers career-related training in residential and commercial construction, highway related construction and broadband training.

How to get involved:

- Individuals wishing to participate in the program can attend an information session. For dates and location, please contact vmosley@charlottenc.gov.
- Business owners in the related training may serve on one of the three corporate advisory councils to advise on curriculum, mentor participants and possibly hire program participants. For more details, please contact vmosley@charlottenc.gov.

Mayor's Mentoring Alliance

The purpose of the program is to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of mentoring, helps connect mentors to mentoring agencies and opportunities, educates mentors about best practices to help create impactful and enduring mentor-mentee relationships, and connect Charlotte's mentoring community.

How to get involved:

- Individuals and community groups interested in mentoring can attend bi-monthly Mentor 101 and other training workshops. A schedule of workshops is available at <http://mentor.charlottenc.gov>.
- Businesses can encourage their employees to mentor children and youth through the various mentoring agencies available in Charlotte. For a list of such agencies contact acafee@charlottenc.gov.

Charlotte Career Discovery Day

The 2017 Charlotte Career Discovery Day (CCDD) will take place on April 20, 2017 at The Park Expo and Conference Center. CCDD is a partnership between the City of Charlotte and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, with support from various community partners. CCDD provides local high school youth an opportunity to learn more about opportunities in career fields ranging from Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math (STEAM), to human Services, Local Government and more. Additional information is available at <http://charlottenc.gov/myep>.

How to get involved:

- Businesses can showcase their industry and help shape Charlotte's future workforce by becoming a CCDD vendor. Email myep@charlottenc.gov for more information.
- The CCDD event is open to all Charlotte high schools. Students interested in participating should talk to their school's career development counselor.

Mayor's Youth Employment Program (MYEP)

The MYEP partners with local employers to connect high school students to the workforce. Our goal is to help teens develop career goals, stay in school, achieve academically and hone social skills needed to succeed in work and life. For more information visit <http://charlottenc.gov/myep>.

How to get involved:

- High school students interested in participating in the program, including participation in career and job readiness training, should talk to their high school career development counselor.
- Businesses can participate in this important work and help shape the Charlotte's future workforce by:
 - Providing a paid 8-week summer internship for one or more high-school youth
 - Hosting a tour of their company to expose youth to the world of work
 - Host a vendor table or exhibit at the Charlotte Career Discovery Day

- Become a Charlotte Career Discovery Day Sponsor

Thanks for your support!

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Dimple Ajmera, CPA
Charlotte City Council
dimpletajmera@gmail.com

"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world."

– Howard Zinn



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Our Mailing Address:

6528 Matlea Ct,
Charlotte, NC 28215

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