

Trade Jobs for Success Initiative Annual Report

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The Department of Commerce

Report On

Trade Jobs for Success

To The

North Carolina General Assembly

December 2013

Background

This report, prepared by the N.C. Department of Commerce for the N.C. General Assembly, details the current status of the Trade Jobs for Success program. In March 2011, the Trade Jobs for Success initiative was reworked into Opportunity North Carolina in conjunction with passage of the Tar Heel Works legislation of spring 2010.

Overview

Opportunity North Carolina was modeled after a similar program in Georgia, titled Georgia Work\$. It was designed to assist UI claimants in gaining work-based learning experience leading to a quicker return to full employment. Candidates for the program were placed with N.C. businesses for up to six weeks to learn a particular set of job duties through one-on-one training, job shadowing, and mentoring. During the course of the program candidates continued to collect unemployment insurance benefits and were exempt from requirements to seek work. They were also paid a stipend from Opportunity N.C. program funds to help with the costs of transportation, required work clothing, and equipment. At the end of the training period, the training employer had the option of offering a position to the individual participant. The program was provided at no cost to the employer, and it was offered as part of a partnership between the N.C. Division of Workforce Solutions and the Employer Engagement Initiative of the Division of Employment Security.

The best outcome for program participants was to be hired by the company where they received the work-based training. Short of that, participants gained valuable job experience and skills, making them more employable. Special state funding for this program ended on June 30, 2013 and the program was discontinued at that time.

Update

As of June 28, 2013, there were 4,316 participants in the Opportunity North Carolina program. Among that group, 193 entered training and 105 ended their training. Of the total participants, 81 were hired and 21 were in the process of obtaining employment. There

were 138 businesses involved in the program, 89 of which had a trainee. Participants completed 736 weeks of training.

The ONC Program ended on June 30, 2013. This report will be the final report detailing the activities and results of the program.