

February 16, 2000

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Presidents

FROM: H. Martin Lancaster

SUBJECT: **MARCH 2000 “MARCH TO WORK” MONTH**

Because of the overwhelming success of last year’s efforts, Governor Hunt has once again proclaimed March 2000 “March to Work” Month. Last year many of you probably participated in one of 20 job fairs organized by local departments of social services. With the Governor’s goal of moving every able-bodied welfare recipient into a job or job training by the end of the year 2000, your participation in these job fairs is more important than ever.

“March to Work” Month is being co-sponsored by the NC Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS) and the Governor’s Work First Business Council (WFBC). Last year’s job fairs not only helped welfare recipients find employment, it exposed them to members of the business community, built visibility of employment programs statewide, and helped create collaborative relationships among public agencies, non-profits, and the business community.

The NCACDSS and the WFBC are committed to helping you to promote these events and to bring all of the critical community partners to the table – businesses, ESC, JobLink Career Centers, community colleges, WIA, Welfare-to-Work, Vocational Rehabilitation, faith groups and non-profits. Locally, we are requesting that agencies participate as employers and also as supportive employment services (training and education, child-care, transportation, substance abuse, mental health services, etc.). We hope to be able to connect Work First clients with your best current and prospective employers and supportive services in the same place, at the same time. We are encouraging organizers to open their job fairs to the general public and to employment and training customers in an effort to get the best possible attendance.

Please make every effort to support and actively participate in this important initiative to connect Work First customers with jobs.

HML/SD/bl

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