

## **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Graham Fields, Chairman

Mission: To ensure the emerging and current workforce have the skills or opportunity to gain the skills to meet the employer needs for Henderson County.

Goals:

- Improve the quality and quantity of the local labor pool.
- Support students graduating or otherwise leaving the K-12 system and entering the workforce.
- Communicate training/educational opportunities for the current workforce and un/underemployed that improve opportunities for advancement.
- Support school administrators, teachers, students, and parents who are involved in the educational process.
- Determine higher education needs in Henderson County and assist with awareness and promotion of activities and programs that support these needs.
- Address barriers to workplace entry and expand labor pool (includes Childcare).

Action Steps:

- Coordinate and secure sponsorships for the New Teachers Event.
- Coordinate and secure sponsorships for the NC Scholars Luncheon.
- Support efforts to secure sponsors for the CTE Scholars Event.
- Coordinate, enhance and manage the Junior Leadership Class.
- Coordinate the Chamber Challenge Trivia Contest as a fundraiser for the Education Committee's activities.
- Promote and advocate for Pre-K educational needs of Henderson County.
- Assist HCPS, BRCC and other school staff with developing opportunities for shadowing, internships, and apprenticeships for students.
- Provide assistance to BRCC's high school junior Career Day.
- Assist BRCC in promoting college access programs and activities including College Planning workshops, Open Houses, and Financial Aid Workshops.
- Support professional development partnerships between HCPS schools, BRCC, and local employers.
- Communicate with local employers regarding job skill needs and future skill needs.

- Continue working with BRCC, Wingate University, Lenoir-Rhyne, Mars Hill College, WCU, UNCA, and others to encourage additional higher education opportunities in Henderson County.
- Determine if the Non-Profit Symposium for Counselors is still needed.
- Support Education Foundation's efforts to raise funding for the *Leader in Me* implementation of local schools.
- Coordinate Teacher of the Year rewards program.
- Develop programs that connect job seekers with employers.
- Collaborate with Public Policy Committee in developing legislative and collaborative needs for accessing the "Hidden" workforce.