



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.

Action Steps:

- Coordinate and secure sponsorships for the New Teachers Event.
- Coordinate and secure sponsorships for the NC Scholars Luncheon.
- Advocate for higher education in Henderson County by promoting college access activities, including:
 1. BRCC Open House
 2. College Planning
 3. Financial Aid workshops
 4. CTE
- Coordinate 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 the life long educational needs of Henderson County. Look at goals of Children and Family Services, United Way Agenda, and JobLink to promote.
- Assist HCPS and other school staff with developing opportunities for shadowing, internships, and apprenticeships for students, teachers & professionals in the community.
- Assist BRCC in coordination of the 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, local employers and high-tech companies.
- Communicate with local employers regarding job skill needs and future skill needs.
- Continue working with Wingate University, Lenoir-Rhyne, Mars Hill College, WCU, UNCA, and others to encourage higher education opportunities in Henderson County.
- Assist with and promote the Non-Profit Symposium for Counselors.
- Support Education Foundation's efforts to raise funding for the *Leader in Me* implementation of local elementary schools.
- Coordinate Teacher of the Year rewards program.
- Develop programs that connect job seekers with employers.