

## Program Focus Area

Existing Business Activity — Business Recruitment — Real Estate Development

### Project Averages

Active and Missed

60 Missed Project Over 12 Months



**34**

**JOBS**  
267



**13**

**THOUSAND**  
**SQUARE FEET**  
172K



**5**

**ACRES**  
44



**\$21**

**MILLION**  
**INVESTMENT**  
\$133M

### September Unemployment Rate

**3.6%** ↓ from 3.9% in August.  
Regional September Rate is 3.1%  
State September Rate is 3.4%

To learn more, visit the link below.  
[High Country WDB Overview | LEAD Analytics \(nccommerce.com\)](#)

### Project Activity Stats



**Inquiries**



**Responded**



**Missed**



**Inactive**



**Announced**



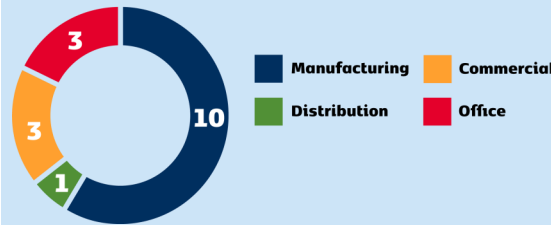
**Site Visits**

### Active Projects

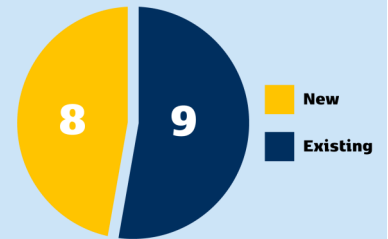
Seven projects were on-the-move during October.

**17**

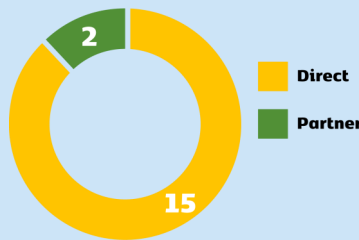
#### Project Industries



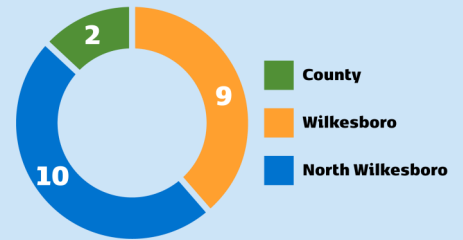
#### Projects by Type



#### Projects by Source



#### Projects by Location



### Existing Business

Current and YTD Total  
Activity since July 1, 2023



**3**

**UNIQUE VISITS**  
34



**8**

**FOLLOW UP VISITS**  
16

### Program Stats



**14**

**PARTNER**  
**MEETINGS**  
53



**8**

**REAL ESTATE**  
**DEVELOPMENT**  
31



**23**

**SOLUTIONS**  
**PROVIDED**  
133

## Wilkes EDC Hosts Human Resource Meeting

Wilkes EDC held a Human Resource meeting to assist in sharing information about a STEAM Expo being held by Wilkes County Schools and the North Wilkesboro Speedway. The STEAM event encourages businesses to create interactive displays based on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math relating to their businesses for Wilkes County Middle School students. The Expo will take place at the North Wilkesboro Speedway on March 27, 2024, from 9 AM to 1 PM. There is no fee to set up as a vendor.



Wilkes EDC President LeeAnn Nixon opened the meeting and introduced event coordinators, Dr. Joe Bullis, Executive Director of Federal Programs/Career and Technical Education (CTE), Mr. Alexander Baucom, Principal Fellow and Administrative Intern, and Ms. Melissa Stirewalt, STEAM & Event Coordinator of the Charlotte Motor Speedway (CMS). Dr. Bullis shared the benefits of the STEAM Expo and the experience it would provide for students to creatively learn and become aware of career opportunities at local businesses. Mr. Baucom talked about the background of this initiative and coordinated efforts in bringing the STEAM Expo to the North Wilkesboro Speedway. Ms. Stirewalt communicated the success and outcomes of previous STEAM Expos at CMS and went over the next steps to invite businesses to participate as vendors to create an immersive experience for students. Dr. Bullis explained Middle School is when students begin choosing their career pathway. Discovering their career pathway early on assists in developing an interest in CTE courses in High School. Baucom shared the high level of interest from all Wilkes Middle School principals and added that parents can attend this event with their children. Ms. Stirewalt closed the meeting with examples of interactions from last year's CMS event.

Businesses, consider registering to be a vendor to create awareness of your company and strengthen your future talent pipeline. Contact information is listed below for Alexander Baucom and Melissa Stirewalt. To register for the STEAM Expo visit the link or scan the QR Code: [STEAM Expo | About](#)

Alexander Baucom  
Principal Fellow  
& Administrative Intern  
[BaucomA@Wilkes.k12.nc.us](mailto:BaucomA@Wilkes.k12.nc.us)

Melissa Stirewalt  
Event Coordinator  
[MStirewalt@CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com](mailto:MStirewalt@CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com)



## Wilkesboro TDA Hosts EDPNC Tourism Team

Wilkes EDC was a proud sponsor of a portion of the Wilkesboro TDA's event. TDA Director Thomas Salley hosted members of Visit North Carolina with EDPNC on October 18th. The team had the opportunity to visit Crooked Creek Highlands, Northwest North Carolina Visitor Center, North Wilkesboro Speedway, and Piccione Vineyards. Wilkes EDC had the pleasure of meeting and having dinner with the team during their last stop visit. Luffman Farms Photography captured the moments and offered complimentary headshots for Visit NC team and partners at Piccones Vineyards.

The following day, a complementary Tourism Resource Assistance event was held at the Wilkes Heritage Museum. This allowed local businesses to drop by and talk with the Visit NC team to learn about the state resources available and more. The event drew in 30 visitors, which was the most of Visit NC's four resource events (Old Fort, Concord, Statesville, and Wilkesboro).

Wilkes EDC thanks Thomas Salley for giving the state tourism team a Wilkes Warm Welcome and allowing our community to connect with them.



## PTP State of Union/Carolina Core

LeeAnn Nixon attended the Piedmont Triad Partnership and NC Carolina Core's "State of Region" forum. The group consisted of Economic Developers from organizations that are part of the Carolina Core and a large attendance of regional businesses.

Carolina Core gave a presentation on the progress of the corridor's job growth followed by an economic overview of counties in the Triad and located along the Core. Metrics on population growth and employment were reviewed. Members learned about the advantages of having a talent pipeline and how marketing efforts of the Carolina Core plays a role in economic development.

Click the link or scan the QR Code to learn more about [NC Carolina Core](#).



## Contentment Groundbreaking Open House

Wilkes EDC President LeeAnn Nixon and representatives from the Wilkes EDC Board attended an open house in celebration of Contentment Golf Club's recent groundbreaking. Curt Sidden, owner of Contentment, and his father, Dr. Curtis Sidden, shared their vision of providing a quiet, happy place to getaway and the history of the family-owned land. Attendees also learned more about plans for housing, outdoor gathering spaces, a lake, hiking trails, and other amenities for club members. Guests received a tour of the planned golf course, and the event concluded with a dinner.

Click the link or scan the QR Code to learn more about Contentment Golf Club: [New private golf club in Traphill announced | News | journalpatriot.com](#)



## Wilkes EDC Fall Entrepreneur Grant Program

20 completed applications were received for the Fall 2023 Entrepreneur Grant competition. This was the most interest we've received in several years. The judges have met and provided feedback for the first round. Selected applicants will return to give a presentation to judges along with an opportunity for Q & A the following week.

Winners of the Fall 2023 Entrepreneur Grant Program will be announced at the next Wilkes EDC Board Meeting, Friday, December 8th.

Wilkes EDC is grateful to utilize LEAP Funds along with sponsorships to encourage small business growth. The Small Business Center is a sponsor of the Fall 2023 Entrepreneurial Grant Program, where director Laurie Brintle-Jarvis is engaged in the program with the EDC team.

Visit our website today to learn more about the program and to see past winners.

[Wilkes EDC Entrepreneurial Grant Program | Wilkes EDC](#)

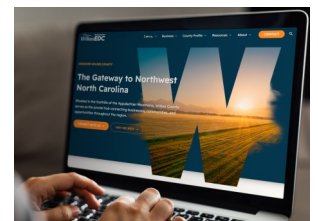


### Have You Visited Wilkes EDC's New Website?

Wilkes EDC had the pleasure of working with Logan Provisions on our website redesign. See our new layout and newly assorted content today!

Click the link or scan the QR code to visit our website.

[Wilkes EDC | Start Your Adventure In Wilkes County](#)



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**Mary Ann Hauser**



**Karen Barnes**

**Tuesday, Nov. 14th**

**4-6pm**

**The Lost Wombat**

810 Main St.,

North Wilkesboro, NC 28659

