

**RESOLUTION OF THE KERR-TAR REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
SUPPORTING THE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD & CONSORTIUM'S
REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FROM STATE AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

WHEREAS, the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments supports the Workforce Development Board and Consortium's efforts in seeking ways to address the unacceptable drop out rate in our school systems; and

WHEREAS, the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and Kerr-Tar Interlocal Consortium for Job Training have fiduciary responsibility for the Workforce Investment Act funds administered by the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments; and has invited local governments to apply for such funding; and,

WHEREAS, the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and Kerr-Tar Interlocal Consortium have established priorities to develop a workforce to satisfy the current labor needs, as well as the targeted industry clusters being recruited for the region for the Kerr-Tar Hub; and,

WHEREAS, the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments along with the WIA Program, have funded a Labor Area Study from the UNC Center of Competitive Economies, which shows a shortage of technically task focused skilled technicians to replace an aging workforce, as well as a substantial out-commuting pattern of skilled workers in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and Kerr-Tar Interlocal Consortium, resultant of its Strategic Planning Process, have convened a task force comprised of community college presidents, local industry representatives, county commissioners, school board chairs, economic developers, and school superintendents, to discuss current and future labor market needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments that financial support and advocacy is needed from state and local governments, economic development corporations, and educational institutions to aid in accomplishing the following work to aid in transforming the workforce in the Kerr-Tar Region, as well as aiding in the recruitment of businesses to the Kerr-Tar Hub:

- To encourage the State Board of Education to retain the college tech prep track, with modifications for meeting current and future needs, and the college university prep track for high school graduation. This will improve the current dismal graduation rate while at the same time increasing the rigor and relevance and diversity in programs necessary to prepare students for the workplace and secondary education.
- To support the expansion of Governor Easley's Learn and Earn Program. Substantial additional funding is recommended for the program in order that high school graduates may earn an associate degree from a community college with one additional year of study beyond high school. This cooperative program between community colleges and public schools will focus on technical education for the workforce that is needed for business and industry.
- To provide credit bearing program opportunities for middle and high school students to develop math, science, technology, biotechnology and entrepreneurship skills acquired through hands-on applications that are required by today's business and industry. Such learning may be accelerated by summer math and science camps supported by the Kerr-Tar Workforce Development Board and local industry.

- To develop marketing strategies to educate the public about investments and jobs that follows a knowledgeable and skilled workforce having creative thinking, problem solving, team work and communication skills.
- To develop a web-based marketing plan aimed at students, teachers, advisors and parents to create a greater awareness of well-paying career opportunities in the Kerr-Tar region. This approach would be supported by an annual program initiated by the region's school systems that would include industrial needs survey, industrial plant tours, internships, and student mentoring programs.

ADOPTED this the 1 day of October 2007.

Town of Bunn

Marsha W. Strawbridge
Marsha Strawbridge, Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Jeffreys
Judy Jeffreys, Clerk