

# Orientation to Labor Market Information

A guide to understanding the importance of labor market information in researching, planning and career development

# What is labor market information and what do I need to know?

- Labor market information is statistical data compiled by the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics through a variety of resources such as the Census in order to conduct an analysis of job trends, wages, unemployment, and changes in the economy pertaining to workforce development
- Labor market information at the very least provides you with data to help identify careers that are projected to be in demand within a particular time frame as well as to help you find information about wages by geographic and occupational area

# How do I find Labor Market information to see if my career path is in demand?

- The Career Center houses local and state labor market data on our front board
- We have identified the high growth occupations in the local workforce development area, coastal region and across the state of North Carolina and posted the information for our customers along with the number of annual anticipated openings and wages for most of our college training programs

# What other resources should I know about?

- The Employment Security Commission of North Carolina publishes information on job availability and projected growth and declining careers for all regions in North Carolina
- The labor market information for all regions in North Carolina is organized by workforce regions on the ESC's website at [www.ncesc.gov](http://www.ncesc.gov)

# How is labor market information used in career planning?

- Labor market information helps to connect your career interests to employment opportunities across a variety of occupations in and in a meaningful way
- Knowing what job projection data shows keeps you from making uninformed decisions about your training and your future
- Using data can also help you to develop a long-term career ladder for your chosen profession

# What is a Career Ladder?

- A career ladder is a defined plan for matching your educational priorities with specific employment that attempts to provide a strategy for ensuring that you move progressively within your chosen career pathway
- Simply put, someone who wants to have a life-long career in the medical field, for example, may decide that they would prefer direct patient care over working in an office doing paperwork. The person might plan to enroll as a Nursing Assistant I, get out and work for a year, and later return to complete a Nursing Assistant II to better develop his/her skills. Then the person may set a goal of taking courses to prepare him/her for application to a Nursing program a year or so down the road and work towards obtaining an LPN or even an RN.

## Identifying what jobs are available and what training you will need to compete for positions is part of the career development process

- Doing your research before you choose a training program is very important
- Many programs have strict entrance requirements and are highly competitive so the sooner you begin your research and planning for your career the more time you will have to spend developing your career ladder
- Meet with your career advisor, counselor, instructors
- Talk with family, friends and professionals who can help you think through various aspects of your career development-career planning involves a great deal of time, patience and information

# What the data shows\*

\*based on occupational projections

by BLS and NC ESC from 2006-2016

## Top growth occupations in North Carolina through 2016

- **Top occupations include:** Nurses, Dental Hygienists, Engineers, Computers, Education, Social Workers, Financial, Funeral Directors, Maintenance and Repair, Medical Technicians/Technologists and Therapists and Assistants, Welders, Security, Paralegals, EMTs/Paramedics, Law Enforcement

## Top growth occupations in Eastern Carolina through 2016

- **Top occupations include:** Education, Engineers, Computers, Financial, Medical Technicians/Technologists and Therapists, Nurses, Maintenance and Repair Technicians, Welders and Fitness Trainers, Paralegals, EMTs/Paramedics