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Thursday, October 27, 2005

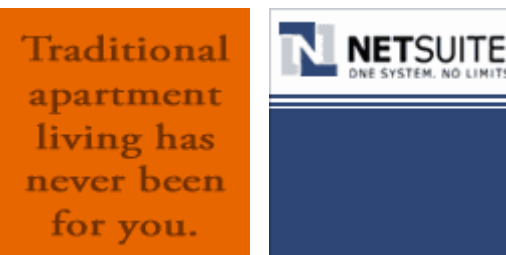
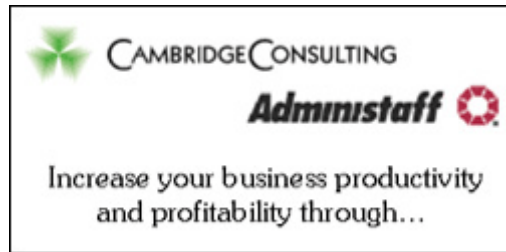
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NORTH CAROLINA MEETS WORKER TRAINING GOALS FOR 3rd CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Triangle -

RALEIGH – The N.C. Commerce Department’s Division of Employment and Training (DET) is serving the people of North Carolina well, according to the latest assessment by the federal government.

For the third consecutive year, DET met all of the 17 performance goals set by the U.S. Department of Labor in 2004, according to the Division’s newly released annual report. A year before, North Carolina was one of only two states to exceed all the federal performance measures, and in 2002, North Carolina was one of only five states to do so.

The performance standards assess how well the N.C. Commerce Department’s DET is fulfilling its mission of serving the needs of youth, adults and dislocated workers (the three categories set by the federal Workforce Investment Act), who must overcome substantial barriers, such as economic disadvantage or lack of education, to find jobs.

Commerce Sec. Jim Fain said the program is thriving because all of the partners involved are deeply committed to its success. “This is a testament to the performance of our local Workforce Development boards, job seekers and area employers,” Fain said.

The criteria set by the federal government include rating the DET and its statewide network of 24 local boards in such areas as enrollment and retention of participants in skill-enhancing programs, the average wage earned by participants when they enter the workforce, and the customer satisfaction of both participants and employers.

DET Director Thomas White said he is proud of his division’s track record and the successful partnerships forged in communities throughout the state. “We’ve met the performance measures for three years in a row and we congratulate our 24 local area boards, administrators and program operators on this terrific collective achievement,” White said.

To view North Carolina’s Workforce Investment Act Annual Report for Program Year 2004, visit

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<http://www.ncdet.com/wia.asp> and click on 2004 Annual Report. For more information about the Division of Employment and Training, visit <http://www.ncdet.com>.

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