



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAT McCrORY
GOVERNOR

July 31, 2015

Dear Friends,

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to North Carolina's *Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Unified State Plan Summit*. Your attendance here today demonstrates your dedication to serving the citizens of North Carolina and ensuring that our great state is second to none in terms of preparing our workforce for the opportunities of today and tomorrow.

Almost 20 years ago, the federal government enacted the *Workforce Investment Act*. In the years since, our economy, the needs of employers, and the skills demanded of job seekers have undergone drastic changes. Fortunately, in July of last year, Congress passed the *Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act*, giving North Carolina an unprecedented opportunity to address these changes with the regional and local flexibility to make sure our workforce system and its partners under *WIOA* is as efficient, responsive, and effective as possible. The importance of your work cannot be underestimated, as it relates directly to the success of North Carolina and her citizens – a most worthy goal, only achieved through collaboration and commitment to a unified plan of action.

Unity, partnership and collaboration are common themes in the *Opportunity Act*. After all, we are in this together. From the capable staff at our NCWorks Career Centers helping to connect talent with jobs, to the trainers and educators in our high schools and colleges aiming to enhance the skills of our citizens thus enabling them to successfully navigate their chosen career pathways, to the compassionate staff in health and human services dedicated to helping people overcome obstacles and contribute to the prosperity of our communities, we are all united in our quest to ensure every North Carolinian has the tools necessary to reach his or her full potential. The more we work together, the closer we come to achieving these goals.

This summit offers the chance for each of you to make a positive contribution and your input is needed to assist the cross-agency teams in the development of the best plan possible for North Carolina to implement the *Opportunity Act*.

Again, thank you for your service to the great State of North Carolina. It is my sincerest hope that you seize this opportunity to contribute to North Carolina's future.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCrory". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Governor Pat McCrory
State of North Carolina