



## **Sophia McLean – Outstanding Teen**

2016 Governor's NCWorks Awards of Distinction

Sophia McLean enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act Youth Program in June 2014 at the age of 15. Her greatest obstacle was poor academic achievement and she was in danger of failing in school. Determined not to drop out of school and be another statistic, Sophia enlisted the help of her teachers and peer tutors and was able to raise her grades to a C average by the time she was a sophomore. She continued to improve and now maintains an A/B average.

With the assistance from the Youth Program, Sophia gained the confidence and abilities necessary to reach her goals. She strives to advance her leadership skills by attending workshops regularly. She also volunteers on the Youth Advisory Council, currently serving her second term as Chair. In this capacity, Sophia oversees the activities of other teens and encourages them to participate in community service projects and other events.

Participating in the WIOA Youth program has provided Sophia with valuable leadership skills. One example is her organization of the annual Christmas Cheer Program at the Emerald Health and Rehabilitation Center. She was responsible for enlisting teen participants, scheduling practices, and arranging the Christmas Program.

Sophia has grown into a dependable young adult with a positive attitude, who recently graduated from Western Harnett High School with plans to attend Wesleyan College majoring in Nursing.