

## The NCIEDI DEVELOPER

## Economic News from Around Tribal Communities in N.C.

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### *Art Exhibit at RDU Celebrates American Indian Heritage*

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The North Carolina Indian Economic Development Initiative (NCIEDI), in conjunction with Sacred Hoop Trading, orchestrated a display of artwork at the Raleigh Durham Airport honoring NC Indian Heritage. The display showcases American Indian art as a viable part of the state's art market and serves as a business development opportunity for American Indian artists. The exhibit will be on display from November through January 2008 in Terminal A. To commemorate NC Indian Heritage Month, a reception was held officially opening the exhibit at the General Aviation Terminal. The artwork display and the opening reception are sponsored by SAS Institute Inc., Progress Energy, NC Institute of Minority Economic Development, Lumbee Guarantee Bank and the RDU Airport Authority.



The historical and contemporary pieces on display represent American Indian artists from the Southeastern United States and represents art from the Cherokee, Lumbee, Catawba, Coushatta, Choctaw and Houma tribes. Featured artists include Joel Queen, Cherokee; Senora Lynch, Haliwa Saponi; and Gloria Lowery, Lumbee. The artwork chosen for display was built around the theme that art connects us to the past as well as the future.

NC Governor Mike Easley designated American Indian Heritage Month. NCIEDI took this opportunity with the RDU Airport Authority to educate airport visitors on the cultural significance and artistry of the largest population of American Indians east of the Mississippi River.

A video clip of News 14 Carolina's media coverage of the event can be found here: [http://news14.com/content/story\\_links/589230/rdu-art-exhibit-celebrates-american-indian-heritage-month/Default.aspx](http://news14.com/content/story_links/589230/rdu-art-exhibit-celebrates-american-indian-heritage-month/Default.aspx)

### NC Indian Economic Development Initiative's Mission:

*NCIEDI's mission is to foster, enhance and promote economic development in North Carolina's urban and tribal communities through the creation and preservation of good jobs, the creation of social and capital assets, and increased capacity for individual tribal member's self development in the local, state, national and global economic sphere.*



### *A BOOST FOR SOCIAL SECURITY RECIPIENTS*

By Brian Simpson  
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist  
The New Year ushers in many changes. One important change for most people who receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments is a benefit increase in 2008.

Beginning January 2008, a 2.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be applied to all Social Security and SSI payments. As a result, the average monthly benefit for a retired worker in January 2008 will be \$1,079 (up from \$1,055) and the average monthly benefit for a disabled worker in January 2008 will be \$1,004 (up from \$981).

For people who receive SSI, the maximum federal payment amount will increase to \$637 (up from \$623).

There are other Social Security changes in 2008 that also are worth noting. For example, in 2008, a worker will pay Social Security tax on up to \$102,000 of annual earnings (up from \$97,500). The tax rates remain the same. Employees will continue to pay 6.2 percent on their wages and the self-employed will continue to pay 12.4 percent on their net earnings. The Medicare tax rate will continue to be 1.45 percent (2.90 percent for those who are

self-employed) and there is no limit on the amount of earnings subject to the Medicare tax.

A worker will earn one credit of coverage after paying taxes on \$1,050 in earnings (up from \$1,000). As always, four credits may be earned each year and a person generally needs forty credits to be eligible for retirement benefits.

To learn more about these changes that will take place in 2008 and to find other important Social Security information, visit the Social Security website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

# News From NC Tribes



## SEASON'S GREETINGS!

*I would like to take a moment and say Happy Holidays and reflect on 2007. It has been an interesting year for us here at the agency and more importantly for our Indian Businesses and Clients.*

*We have worked very diligently and diversely to accommodate the needs of all of those we could and refer*

## FROM THE DESK OF *Tony Hayes*

*those we could not to partners who could possibly help with financial needs. We have been pleased with our progress and we're working very smart and methodically to help all NC Indians that need us. As we grow and prosper so will Indian Businesses across the state. We have great challenges in 2008 as we continue positioning and repositioning our strategies to meet those most important goals.*

*I just want to say thank you to all our Supporters,*

*Partners, Contributors, Board of Directors and most of all the Staff for all the dedication and hard work this year. If you are unfamiliar with our agency, we look forward to meeting you in the New Year as we expand our outreach to Indian-owned businesses. We will continue to build on the progress we've made in 2007 and enact more positive profitable change in American Indian business in North Carolina for 2008!*



*Chairperson Ruth Revels and CEO Tony Hayes at the RDU Gallery Opening.*

*On behalf of the Chairperson, Ruth Revels, management and the staff, we wish you a very productive and prosperous 2008.*

*We look forward to seeing you soon.*

**HAPPY 2008!!!**

*Tony Hayes*

W.A. "Tony" Hayes, CEO  
NC Indian Economic Development Initiative

**American Indian buying power represents over 27% of the total money spent in Swain County NC**

*Study on Minority Buying Power ~NC IMED*

NC Museum of History and the NC Commission of Indian Affairs celebrate NC Indian Heritage Month

Small Business owner and artist Herman Oxendine, Lumbee, shared his talent with area school children during a special school day on November 16th. A Cultural celebration was held November 17th with over 200 participants.

*Photo by the NC Department of Cultural Resources*

## NCIEDI Hosts Tribal Entrepreneurial Development Focus Groups

NCIEDI held a series of focus group meetings with tribal groups to discuss economic development and community asset building within native communities across North Carolina.

The first group met at UNCP in the Lumbee community. The Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation hosted the second focus Group meeting for their tribe and the Sappony Tribe of Person County hosted the third meeting in Roxboro, NC. Christina Theodorou of NCIEDI served as facilitator for the meetings.

After introductions, the groups participated in an exercise on the impact their tribe could have within their economic region. Then, the groups began strategic planning for their tribes.

For the Lumbee tribal region, future economic plans discussed were an expansion of businesses to follow the growth of UNC-Pembroke for the Lumbee business owners.

The Occaneechi discussed the development of their tribal land—the first phase being the completion their Historic Indian Village.

The Sappony reviewed the distribution of their bottled water company to include some of the major NC-based grocery chains.

All three groups discussed a plan of action to help develop tribal youth as future entrepreneurs.

The focus groups were made possible by a Kellogg Foundation grant NCIEDI has in collaboration with the NC Rural Center.

Contact NCIEDI to host a focus group in your tribal community.



# News from the NCIEDI Board

## *Cherokee Appoints Board Member Kimlyn Lambert*

Ms. Lambert is an enrolled member of the Eastern Band Cherokee and has been employed by her tribe for 21 years, with 19 years of service in the Education and Training Department.

Lambert has administered the Department's WIA programs, and coordinated the Adult Vocational Training and Indian Health Service Professional Scholarship, Native Employment Works, and Tribal Internship Training Programs.

Lambert currently serves as the Executive Director of Vocational Opportunities of Cherokee. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and is pursuing a Masters in Educational Administration.

## **FEATURED AGENCY: The Office of Historically Underutilized Businesses**

The Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB Office) serves as an advocate for minority, women and disabled-owned businesses in their efforts to conduct business with the State of North Carolina.

Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUBs) consist of minority, women and disabled business firms that are at least fifty-one percent owner and operators of a business. Also included in this category are disabled business enterprises and non-profit work centers for the blind and severely disabled.

The HUB office works to reduce barriers for the participation of HUBs

in procuring state contracts, and encourages purchasing officers within the state agencies, departments and universities to identify and work with prospective HUB businesses.

The state HUB officers also work to educate vendors on "how to" do business with the state, and support HUB vendors seeking to do business with the state in the areas of goods, services and construction.

In order to certify your small business as a historically underutilized business, contact NCIEDI for assistance or view their website at [www.doa.state.nc.us/hub](http://www.doa.state.nc.us/hub).



## **Energizing Entrepreneurship in Rural North Carolina**

NCIEDI teamed with the NC Rural Center to create an opportunity for American Indian leaders to learn how to develop "Homegrown Jobs" through entrepreneurship in their communities.

Rural community & tribal leaders, economic & community development professionals, business service providers, educators and small business owners were a part of a 3-day institute geared towards creating vital economies via entrepreneurial training initiatives.

NCIEDI has supported the attendance of 10 native participants who represented the Haliwa

Saponi, Occaneechi, Waccamaw Siouan and Lumbee tribes to attend E<sup>2</sup> training sessions. This year, NCIEDI recruited Virgil Oxendine and Kim Pevia to attend E<sup>2</sup> Training to bolster small business growth in their Lumbee communities.

Virgil Oxendine attended the July training session in Boone, NC and says the experience enhanced his work with the Pembroke Area Chamber of Commerce. Kim Pevia recently attended the December session in Nags Head, NC and felt the training energized her job as a lifestyle coach and work in vocational rehabilitation.

The E<sup>2</sup> workshops are an intensive immersion training session that cover entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial communities, and learning about various entrepreneurship development strategies (EDS) being used in other regions around the United States.

The NC EDS has created a partnership that will enable diverse communities and state economic regions to support local entrepreneurs and establish small businesses in their areas.

To date there have been over 200 participants of the E<sup>2</sup> training program.

## **Awards and Recognitions**

**Senora Lynch  
Haliwa Saponi**  
*2007 Heritage Award  
NC Arts Council*

**Graham  
Construction**  
*Waccamaw Siouan  
2007 Minority Business  
MED Week*

**Cris Pierce  
Oneida**  
*New Project Director  
NC NABC ~ NCAIED  
Pembroke NC*

## NC Native Attends Financial Education Forum

NCIEDI board member Brice Watkins represented the agency's youth financial literacy program at the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education Conference held in Charleston, SC, November 2-4, 2007. Brice, Occaneechi Saponi, received a scholarship to attend enabling him to represent American Indian communities in NC on behalf of NCIEDI.

Grassroots Educators and program developers for entrepreneurship education from across the United States, Canada and Europe attended the conference. The state of North Carolina's interest in entrepreneurship education was evident by having the largest representation in attendance.

The conference was a networking event that showcased financial literacy advancements from various regions in the US. USA Today's "Passive Voice" taught how to promote financial education in a classroom setting. In other sessions, attendees learned about creative youth enterprises that have developed out of classroom activities uses for teaching entrepreneurship.


Other highlights of the event included a speech by Sam Leiken, from the Council on Competitiveness, entitled "Entrepreneurship and US Competitiveness" and a private showing of "These Kids Mean Business" by Zach Richter, Executive Director of Corporation for Educational Radio and TV.

NCIEDI board member Leslie Scott, NC Rural Center, and

NC REAL's Malinda Todd facilitated "Beyond the Lemonade Stand... Involving Your Community"- a segment covering how each community can use their own resources for entrepreneurship training. NCIEDI received accolades for its Youth Financial Literacy program for NC Indian youth.



NCIEDI, with help from NC REAL and the NC Rural Center, will deliver its financial literacy program in Spring 2008 to Indian communities across the state.

	<b>NC Indian Economic Development Initiative</b>
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## Fall Construction Symposium Held at St. Andrews College

NCIEDI held a two day symposium for American Indian owned construction companies in St. Andrews College in Laurinburg, NC. The event brought together major players in the construction industry for business development, certification education and networking opportunities. Marvin Butler, NC DOT Contractual Services, was the keynote speaker during dinner. Native construction owners met with representatives from SKANSKA USA, NC DOT, the United States GSA Program, NC PTAC, the NC State HUB Office and SAS Institute Inc. to broker relationships and foster job opportunities to grow their businesses. The symposium was made possible by a grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation of NC.

### **Small Business Opportunities:** *The Business Servicer- North Carolina Department of Commerce*

The *Business Servicer* has been established for your convenience as a one-stop portal that provides basic information on North Carolina state business licensing, as well as federal and local agencies' requirements.

North Carolina has no single "business license" that will ensure compliance with the numerous state licenses, permits and regulatory requirements. Utilizing the *Business ServiCenter* makes it easier for businesses to identify and comply with any license requirements for the state of North Carolina.

To access the *Business Servicer*, you can call (800) 228-844 or log on to [www.nccommerce.com/servicer](http://www.nccommerce.com/servicer), or call NCIEDI for an economic development specialist to assist you with licensing information.

### **Upcoming SBA Opportunities:** *Contact your local SBA or SBTDC for classes to improve your business!*

01/08/2008	GTCC: Guilford Technical Community College Instructor: Greensboro/High Point Public Library
01/14/2008	FTCC: Fayetteville Technical Community College Instructor: Mike Collins
01/15/2008	GTCC: Guilford Technical Community College Instructor: Guilford County Library
01/22/2008	GTCC: Guilford Technical Community College Instructor: Greensboro Public Library
01/29/2008	HCCC: Halifax County Community College Instructor: Collins
02/19/2008	HCCC: Halifax County Community College Instructor: Collins
02/28/2008	FTCC: Fayetteville Technical Community College Instructor: Valerie Gallagher
03/05/2008	FTCC: Fayetteville Technical Community College Instructor: Barbara Armstrong-White
03/10/2008	HCCC: Halifax County Community College Instructor: Bayse

Thinking of Starting a Small Business? Fee: FREE 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.
Exploring Business Ownership and Franchises Fee: FREE 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.
Fast Facts on Starting a Business Fee: FREE 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.
Financing Your Small Business Fee: FREE 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.
EZ Money: Extra Income to Start a Business Fee: FREE 6:30p.m. to 9:30p.m.
How To Write a Winning Business Plan Fee: FREE 6:30p.m to 9:30p.m.
The Best Small Businesses to Start Right Now Fee: FREE 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.
Employee Wage and Hour Standards Fee: FREE 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.
How to Fix Your Credit Fee: FREE 6:30p.m. to 9:30p.m.

Check out our web site for announcements and event information in the Spring!