



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR**

April 11, 2026

Dear Friends,

I am writing to express my strong support for Good Jobs Western North Carolina and to invite you to help build what I believe will become a national model for how a region comes together to create real pathways to good jobs and long-term economic renewal.

As you may know, western North Carolina is at an inflection point. In the wake of Hurricane Helene, we have an urgent responsibility not just to rebuild what was lost but also to build something stronger and more lasting. Good Jobs WNC will help create an economy that better connects people to opportunity, strengthens our communities, and ensures our employers find the talent they need to grow.

I am proud to include a \$600,000 request in my budget to help support this effort because it offers what western North Carolina needs – a serious, locally led talent strategy aligned to employer demand. Good Jobs WNC is designed to bring together the region's 11 community colleges with employers, philanthropic partners, workforce leaders, and state and local officials around a shared goal: helping more people access good jobs in high-demand sectors like health care, manufacturing, and the skilled trades while building the long-term talent infrastructure the region needs to compete and grow.

If you want to be a part of something special that is led by bipartisan local leaders and focused on building durable pathways to economic mobility, strengthening rural communities, and helping a dynamic region recover by connecting people to good jobs, you should take a close look at what is happening in western North Carolina.

To that end, I hope you will join an in-person summit of North Carolina funders and partners interested in advancing the mission of Good Jobs Western North Carolina. There, you will be able to see this work up close, hear directly from local leaders and members of my administration, and explore how this work can be further strengthened and scaled.

In North Carolina, we are committed to working across the aisle and bringing people together to build something lasting. We know that the future will be built by all of us working together with urgency, humility, and resolve.

Thank you again for your leadership and partnership, and I invite you to help western North Carolina seize this moment and build a stronger future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Stein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Stein
Governor