



Mebane Rash <mrash@ednc.org>

Regional Convenings Week 1 Recap: Johnston and Sandhills

N.C. Community Colleges <news@nccommunitycolleges.edu>
Reply-To: "N.C. Community Colleges" <news@nccommunitycolleges.edu>
To: lbell@ednc.org

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The North Carolina Community College System kicked off its series of 12 regional convenings this week, bringing together college leaders, and community partners to discuss regional priorities, workforce needs, and opportunities for the future.

Through these conversations, the System is gathering perspectives from across North Carolina to inform its priorities and strengthen its ability to serve students, employers, and communities statewide.

Week One Highlights

- **Johnston Community College:** Leaders from Johnston, Bladen, and James Sprunt community colleges gathered alongside industry partners from Novo and Vulcan Elements. The visit included a tour of [Johnston's advanced manufacturing facility](#), highlighting how colleges and employers are working together to prepare North Carolina's workforce.
- **Sandhills Community College:** Leaders from Sandhills, South Piedmont, Montgomery, and Richmond community colleges came together to discuss shared priorities and opportunities. The visit also included a stop at the [World Golf Hall of Fame](#) in Pinehurst, showcasing the region's unique offerings.



Key Takeaways

- **Local needs are shaping the system's direction.**

The visits are a chance to hear directly about each community's priorities and connect broader system outcomes to local workforce and economic needs.

- **Shared approaches help good ideas scale.**

Partnerships that connect colleges, share proven solutions, and reduce operational barriers strengthen the System's ability to serve students and employers.

- **Business partners are invested in the future of community colleges.**

Employers described strong relationships with colleges and interest in working together to accelerate education and training opportunities.

Coming Up Next

Stay tuned, the regional convenings continue next week at Wayne Community College and Gaston College.



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