

The Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County

Update for Buncombe County Board of Commissioners 2023



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



About Us



**ACCREDITED
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION**

International Economic Development Council

*The EDC is a 29 year, public-private partnership of **Buncombe County, the City of Asheville and the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce** advancing opportunity, quality of life and economic sustainability in Buncombe County through workforce investment, high-wage job creation & economic diversification*



The EDC Team



Clark Duncan



Keevon Baten

Leading Business Retention, Industry Expansion & New Business Recruitment



Samantha Cole



Tiarra Wilkie

Growing Workforce Partnerships That Advance Equity & Skills Attainment



Jeff Kaplan



Desiree Monstrola

Building Resilient Entrepreneurs & Getting Startups Funded



Heidi Reiber



Maggie Smith

Leveraging Data Analytics for Better Public & Private Sector Decision Making



FY23 Activities & Accomplishments: Local Industry Expansion & Recruitment



HQ JOBS: 50
CAPEX: \$2.85M



MFG JOBS: 37
CAPEX: \$8M



HQ + MFG JOBS: 66
CAPEX: \$4.3M



Activities & Accomplishments: Strengthening Manufacturing, Sustainability & Job Growth

MFG DAY

 **SUSTAINABILITY
COUNCIL**




**MANUFACTURING
MORNINGS**

WNC CAREER EXPO

“Collaborating with our area’s manufacturers, whether they are local or multi-national, is a great way to continue learning and improving. The sharing of innovative ideas across all manufacturers has been key to manufacturing success in Asheville.”

— Jael Skeffington
Co-Founder, French Broad Chocolates



BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Activities & Accomplishments: Entrepreneurial Development

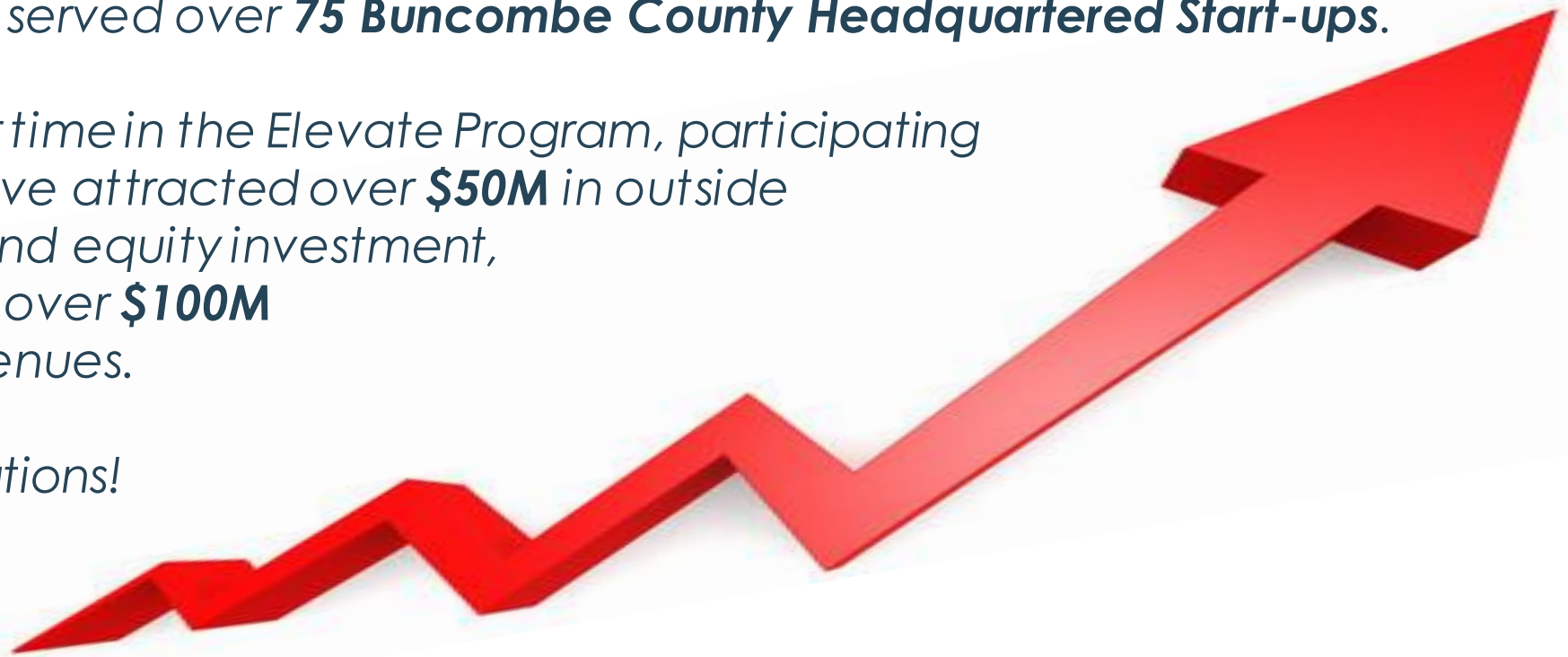


Activities & Accomplishments: Venture Asheville – Major Milestones

Since its founding in 2014, The **Venture Asheville Elevate** Team Mentoring Service has served over **75 Buncombe County Headquartered Start-ups**.

During their time in the Elevate Program, participating start-ups have attracted over **\$50M** in outside financing and equity investment, generating over **\$100M** in sales revenues.

Congratulations!



Activities & Accomplishments: Workforce Partnerships & Economic Mobility



WHERE YOU WANT TO BE



"I think that professional development is one of the most valuable skills I can hone during my academic career and the NEXT AVL program has assisted in building my confidence and curiosity in this area."

STUDENT MENTEE, Western Carolina University



9 Month
Mentorship

4 Pilot
Years

6 Colleges &
Universities

81 Students
Served

51 FY24
Enrollment



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



Activities & Accomplishments: Workforce Partnerships & Economic Mobility

Overcoming Barriers To Employment

Case management
& support services

Greater access
to economic opportunity

Work-based
learning



**INCLUSIVE
HIRING PARTNERS**

Building Better Workplaces Today

Front-line training from
Lenoir-Rhyne Diversity Institute

Guaranteed interviews

Case manager support
during onboarding

273

Reached

97

In Process

26

Placed



Activities & Accomplishments: Recognition of Workforce Partnerships



Community Action Opportunities
HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES.



Activities & Accomplishments: Workforce Partnerships & Economic Mobility

Program Benefits & Innovations

45 County residents to earn
Post-secondary credentials

Advancing mobility in high-wage
& high-growth careers

Providing income continuity
With educational stipends

ACCELERATE
BUNCOMBE 

NEW 2023 Pilot Initiative



Program Funders & Partners

Funded by
the Buncombe County
Board of Commissioners

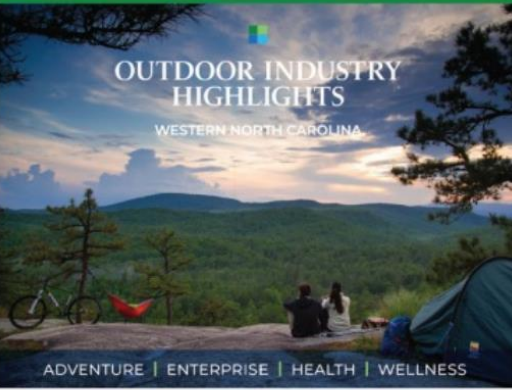
Funded new Community
Health Workers for:
Asheville Housing Authority
Land of Sky
& The YMI



Activities & Accomplishments: Data Driven Strategies and Decision Making



ASHEVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



OUTDOOR INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

ADVENTURE | ENTERPRISE | HEALTH | WELLNESS

From the Great Smoky Mountains' 800 miles of hiking trails and the Appalachian Trail to the scenic Blue Ridge Parkway, which attracts millions of annual visitors, Western North Carolina (WNC) is consistently acclaimed as a top outdoor recreation destination.


Popular areas close to Asheville, like Pisgah National Forest, Bent Creek Experimental Forest, DuPont State Forest, and Nantahala National Forest attract everyone from casual day trippers to ultra-athletes for outdoor recreation – ultimately making Asheville the ideal location for companies focused on outdoor manufacturing to innovate and test new gear in the field.

Thanks to these abundant natural resources and a skilled regional workforce, the outdoor industries and economy are continuing to grow in the Asheville area.

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ASHEVILLE METRO

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina ranked #1 among the "Best States for Business" 4 years in a row — *Forbes*, 2019-2021

As a dynamic urban center located in the fast-growing Southeast, Asheville provides the talent, economic value, quality of life, and convenient access rarely found in one city.

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ASHEVILLE METRO AREA



AEROSPACE INDUSTRY


570+ companies manufacture products in the four-county Asheville MSA, including a diversity of aerospace products, like engine components, engine composites, avionics, and more.

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SCAN QR CODE for more on the Aerospace Industry in Asheville, NC



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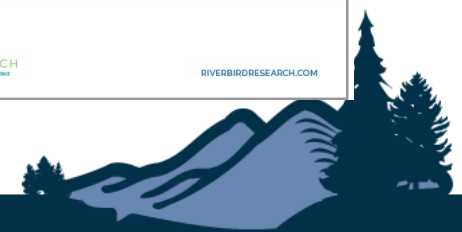
EDUCATION

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

In the Asheville area, the education and business community work closely together to build the elements necessary to support a vibrant economy.

RIVERBIRD RESEARCH
A MEMBER OF THE ASHEVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RIVERBIRDRESEARCH.COM



Financial Update

FY2024 Operating Budget \$1,384,098



- Staff Earned Income
- The AVL 5X5 Campaign 501(c)(3)

