

Perry L. Harker-Bio

Perry Harker is the Vice-President for Corporate and Community Education at Carteret Community College where he oversees the college's non-credit training programs. Perry was born and raised in Beaufort, NC and graduated from East Carteret High School. He attended and graduated from East Carolina University's School of Business and post graduate work at NC State and ECU.

He is very involved in the community in several voluntary roles as well as serving on the boards of the Wells Fargo, Core Sound Waterfowl Museum, Board Chair North Carolina Rural Entrepreneurship through Action Learning (NC REAL), East Carolina Community Development, Inc. and Board Chair of The Learning Resources Network (LERN), a national association for continuing education professionals.

He was the first and only African-American to serve on the Carteret County Board of Education. He worked to increase minority hires and minorities in leadership roles across the district. In addition, working with the community college he started a recognition during Black History Month for those minority students (8th and 12th grades) excelling academically. All students are presented certificates and individually recognized.

Youth Development –Perry served on the Board of the Carteret County Boys and Girls Club where we developed an array of youth development programs. Of significance was the partnership with the local Elementary Schools to develop an after school program. The focus was on reading enhancement, where they saw a significant increase in the reading levels of African-American males.

Through work with the Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board he served on their Youth Council which represents nine counties. He Works with the team to develop several programs that enhance learning and earning opportunities for our youth. Including a summer youth employment program, several visits to HBCU campuses, an annual Youth Leadership Summit and several programs that focus on job obtainment, financial literacy and career exploration.

Youth Council – Eastern Carolina Workforce Development

Other Leadership Positions:

Well Fargo Advisory Board – Board Member

North Carolina State Employees Credit Union Advisory Board

Past Volunteer Board Memberships:

North Carolina Business incubation Association – Board Member

Carteret Chamber of Commerce – Business Development Committee

Downtown Morehead City Revitalization Association – Board Member

North Carolina REAL Enterprises – Board Chair
Learning Resources Network (National Workforce Board) – Board Chair
Down East Waterfowl Museum – Board Member

Past Elected Member/Chair, Carteret County Board of Education

Perry is a past elected member of the Carteret County Board of Education serving eight years and is married to Sharon Harker and they have three children.