

FIRE MARSHALL USES CREDIT UNION TO IGNITE INTEREST.

“ I help them understand the full benefit package of becoming a volunteer.”

Brian K. / Member since 2011
 Onslow County, Fire Marshall

Brian K., Onslow County’s Fire Marshall, knows that one of the perks of being a firefighter is his LGFCU membership. In a military community where many candidates don’t have roots, it’s not always easy to recruit volunteer firefighters.

So, to spark interest, Brian touts the many benefits LGFCU offers prospects and their families when they become a part of the fire community. For this Fire Marshall, the Credit Union is a surefire way to attract volunteers.

To see why we’re the Credit Union dedicated to North Carolina’s bravest, check out lgfcu.org/firefighters.



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PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE



KEVIN AUSTIN
 NCACC's 103rd President

Since announcing my Presidential Initiative at Annual Conference, I have heard from several county commissioners and other community leaders, who are eager to find new and better ways to engage our youth and set them up for long-term career success. I appreciate the feedback and agree that young people need a sense of belonging to achieve success and fulfill their potential.

From our vantage point as commissioners, we can see that when youth become disconnected and fall out of contact with their community, it inflicts multiple pain points. When kids drop out of school or delay entry into the workforce, it disrupts their social and professional development. And, if they remain out of the workforce very long, they may never be able to recover their lost earning potential as adults. Youth disconnection also affects the social and economic fabric of the entire community.

First, it holds back business growth. Throughout North Carolina, we have businesses chomping at the bit to get ahead, but they cannot find qualified people to help them. Youth disconnection also leads to increased costs for counties in lost revenue and increased spending on social services and public safety. According to a recent report by Opportunity Nation - a coalition of non-profits focused on closing the opportunity gap in the U.S. - young adults who are not in school or working cost taxpayers \$93 billion annually and \$1.6 trillion over their lifetimes in lost revenues and increased social services. Research also shows that youth disconnection is becoming more prominent in rural communities, furthering economic disparities in places like North Carolina.

Each county plays a key role in engaging youth and creating pathways to success and community inclusion. As commissioners, you know your community – its unique assets and challenges – so my Task Force and I would like to hear from you about your county’s efforts to inspire and support youth engagement.

Youth delegates gathered at the 2019 NCACC Annual Conference to participate in the YouthVoice program which promotes interaction between youth and county leaders.

