



Trends to Watch: Preparing Sampson County for Tomorrow's Economy



Keynote Speaker: Ted Abernathy

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Time: 12:00 pm (Doors Open at 11:30 am)

Location: Heritage Hall, Sampson County Exposition Center
414 Warsaw Road, Clinton, NC 28328

Join us for a forward-looking discussion on the key trends shaping Sampson County's economy over the next 5-10 years, featuring Ted Abernathy, a nationally recognized expert in workforce and economic development. With decades of

experience advising business executives, industry leaders, and communities across the country, Ted will share practical, market-driven insights to help companies remain competitive, grow, and adapt in a rapidly changing economy.

This session will examine many issues shaping today's operating environment for independent businesses, industry, government, education, healthcare, and nearly every employer. Topics include workforce availability, automation and artificial intelligence, changing skill requirements, energy and infrastructure demands, industrial and site readiness, and evolving market and policy conditions. Participants will leave with practical strategies to reduce risk, capitalize on opportunity, and position their organizations for long-term success while contributing to Sampson County's economic future.

Why Attend:

- Gain timely insights to support informed business and investment decisions.
- Learn how employers and communities can align to strengthen competitiveness.
- Build awareness of workforce, technology, and infrastructure trends affecting operations and growth.
- Learn how site readiness, energy demand, and infrastructure influence growth.
- Connect with business and industry leaders from across Sampson County.

Who Should Attend: Independent business owners, CEOs, plant managers, human resource managers, entrepreneurs, industry executives, and community leaders committed to sustainable growth and long-term economic success across Sampson County.

How to Register: [**Register by CLICKING HERE or visiting www.sampsonedc.com**](#)

The registration fee is \$25.00 per person. Lunch is included. Seating is limited, please register early to ensure your seat.