As one of fifty-eight member colleges in the Small Business Center Network, the BIG strives to increase the number and the success rate of small businesses in New Hanover and Pender Counties.

Services include:

- Training - seminars, workshops and mini-courses on business management skills.
- Information - A resource center for SBA publications, pamphlets, books and videos on small business topics.
- Consulting and Referral - One-on-one confidential counseling with business management consultants.

Additionally, the BIG is the Regional Export Center for the EXPORT OUTREACH PROGRAM, a workshop covering the essentials of the export process. The course is designed as a refresher for current export staffers or to bring those new to exporting up to speed.

Telephone registration is required for BIG events; call (910) 362-7196 or Fax (910) 362-7320.

**Occupational Extension**

Single courses designed to:

- Train individuals for employment
- Upgrade the skills of those presently employed
- Retrain for employment in new occupational fields.

Also, customized programs can be developed to meet the particular training needs of the requesting business, industry or agency.

**New and Expanding Industry**

The New and Expanding Industry program is designed to:

- Assist the developing infrastructure of the area
- Develop and deliver training for the production man power of any new, relocating or expanding industry in our service area
- To encourage the development of long range training programs within industry.

**Focused Industry Training (FIT)**

FIT is intended for workers who need to update their skills and technical knowledge because of technological changes. Training can be held at CFCC, the firm's site or another appropriate location.

The FIT program provides for the:

- Assessment of your firm's training needs
- Development and delivery of customized training programs for skilled and semiskilled workers employed in industrial occupations.

The FIT program is offered in partnership with the Business and Industry Services Division, North Carolina Community College System.

**Apprenticeship Training**

Offered in partnership with the NC Dept. Of Labor, this program is designed to provide the specific skills associated with a trade. On-the-job training, combined with classroom instruction, develops the employees hands-on-skills, and results in the award of a certificate as a journeyman in the trade.
For information on Business and Industry Services, call (910) 362-7196 or (910) 362-7199.