



Employment Security
COMMERCE

News Release

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DES Employee Honored with Governor's Award of Excellence

RALEIGH — Tarsha Crisp, an adjudicator with the Division of Employment Security (DES) was honored with the prestigious Governor's Award for Excellence in 2015. The North Carolina Office of State Human Resources made the presentation yesterday at the North Carolina Museum of History.

DES Assistant Secretary Dale Folwell nominated Crisp in the Efficiency and Innovation category.

“Tarsha’s suggestion of adding an administrative wait week on unemployment benefits has been monumental in how DES does business,” said DES Assistant Secretary Dale Folwell. “Her suggestion led to the passage of House Bill 743 and it saved the Division and the unemployment insurance trust fund an estimated tens of millions of dollars of overpayments to claimants who were not eligible for them.”

Prior to June 30, 2013, if a claimant claimed “lack of work” as the reason for their separation from employment, and the claimant raised no other issues, then payment would be released as soon as the claimant served a waiting week. In many cases, the payments were disbursed even before former employers could respond and, possibly, contest the awarding of unemployment insurance benefits. This was a serious problem that caused decades of overpayments. In addition, her idea has had a positive unintended consequence of stopping payments associated with identity theft.

“Tarsha’s courage and insight were the catalyst for the Division and the North Carolina General Assembly to make a change,” said Folwell. “The new law better meets the needs of both claimants and employers.”

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This information may be accessed on the DES World Wide Web page, at <http://www.ncesc.com>