

## MISSION

UNiSON improves lives by supporting community, education, and economic mobility in Anson and Union Counties.

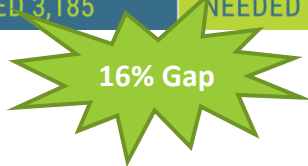
## VISION

UNiSON's vision is to create a prosperous future for all individuals and communities in Anson and Union counties.

## VALUES

- Equitable
- Innovative
- Collaborative

PROJECTED 25-44 YEAR OLDS WITH POSTSECONDARY DEGREE OR VALUED CERTIFICATION IN 2030	
ANSON COUNTY	UNION COUNTY
CURRENT 2,534	CURRENT 52,486
NEEDED 3,185	NEEDED 56,704



## GOAL

UNiSON's goal is to increase educational attainment in Anson and Union counties by 16% by 2030.

## CORE MEMBERS

Anson County Hampton B. Allen Library, Anson County Schools, South Piedmont Community College (SPCC), the Union County Chamber of Commerce, Union County Public Schools, Wingate University, and MyFutureNC.

## COLLABORATORS

Anson NC Works, Anson County Community Care, Anson County Department of Social Services, Anson County Library, Anson County Partnership for Children, Anson Economic Development, Atrium Health, Centralina Workforce Development Board, Common Heart, HOLLA! Community Development Corporation, Latin Americans Working For Achievement, The Academy of Goal Achievers, The Caraway Foundation, Union County Community Action, Union County Department of Social Services, Union County Education Foundation, Union County Human Resources Association, Union County Library, Union Diversified Industries, and United Way of Central Carolinas.

## WHAT WE ARE DOING

- Piloted the first incubator project by providing the support of experienced financial aid volunteers from UNiSON's core organizations and collaborators to guide and implement the 2023 FAFSA Sprint Project at Anson High School.
- Led the Raising a Reader Play poster contest in partnership with Anson Partnership for Children and Anson Schools. All K-5 children in Anson Schools participated in the contest. The judges were high school students recommended and selected by Anson High School teachers.
- Led Captain UNiSON costume design contest. Fifth graders from Anson Schools participating in April's career fair were given a copy of the Captain UNiSON comic book *College Misconceptions* ahead of time. During the career fair, students designed Captain UNiSON's costume. The winner was announced at the end of April.

## WHAT OUR WORKGROUPS ARE DOING

### ADULT LITERACY WORKGROUP

- Union and Anson county libraries are sharing names of volunteers interested in becoming Adult Literacy tutors with SPCC Adult Literacy Services.
- SPCC is tutoring the first Anson student in Anson as a result of this initiative at the Anson County Library.
- Added workforce literacy as a goal. It includes employability skills development and computer literacy. Union and Anson county libraries and SPCC are working together to achieve this goal.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WORKGROUP

- Enhancing UNiSON's website to include a community calendar, project incubator submissions, and job/pathway information. Anson's collaborators have been instrumental in providing feedback and participating in the conversations.

### RECRUITMENT AND CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS WORKGROUP

- Defined Career and College Readiness indicators.
- Sharing FAFSA events with members.
- Supporting the 2023 FAFSA Sprint Project.

### LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT WORKGROUP

- Created labor reports and rankings for jobs/careers in Union and Anson counties.
- Started compilation of available programs and capacity for each job/career.
- Prioritizing program areas for revision, expansion, and development.

## OUR IMPACT IN 2023

### INCREASED 2023 FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) COMPLETION RATES

#### 2023 FAFSA SPRINT PROJECT

- Providing one-on-one expert assistance with Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to Anson High School seniors.
- Assisting 25 Anson High School seniors and their parents (23% of the senior class) with FAFSA completion.
- Increased by at least 10% the number of FAFSA completers.
- Over 40 hours of expert volunteer assistance.
- 16 FAFSA expert volunteers from 8 UNiSON member organizations:
  - Anson County Schools
  - Anson High School
  - Our Future in UNiSON
  - South Piedmont Community College
  - The Academy of Goal Achievers
  - The Caraway Foundation
  - Union County Public Schools
  - Wingate University

### ENHANCED COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### RAISING A READER PLAY POSTER CONTEST

- Enhanced participation from family and young children in Raising a Reader Play sponsored by Anson Partnership for Children by adding a poster contest.
- Over 95 attended the event, including elementary school children and their families.
- Over 800 K-5 children from 6 Anson Elementary Schools participated in the poster contest.
- 30 school winners and 6 district winners were selected.
- 14 judge applications from Anson High School students were received, and 6 were selected.
- 30 hours organizing and implementing the event provided by UNiSON.
- 14 UNiSON member organizations and businesses participated by providing resources and prizes:
  - Anson County Hampton B. Allen Library
  - Anson High School
  - Anson Partnership for Children
  - Anson Schools Administration
  - Ansonville Elementary
  - Lilesville Elementary
  - Morven Elementary
  - Our Future in UNiSON
  - Peaches and Cream
  - Peachland-Polkton Elementary
  - South Piedmont Community College
  - Wadesboro Elementary
  - Wadesboro Primary
  - Wingate University

### INCREASED COMMUNITY AWARENESS

#### CAPTAIN UNiSON COSTUME DESIGN CONTEST

- Informed families of learning resources and opportunities through the Captain UNiSON comic book *College Misconceptions*.
- 136 comic books were distributed to 5<sup>th</sup> graders participating in the Anson High School career fair.
- 95 entries received for the contest.
- In-kind donations totaling approximately \$1,500.
- 25 hours organizing and implementing events by UNiSON.
- 9 UNiSON member organizations participated:
  - Anson High School
  - Anson Schools Administration
  - Lilesville Elementary
  - Morven Elementary
  - Our Future in UNiSON
  - Wadesboro Elementary
  - Wadesboro Primary
  - Wingate University