

Alamance County seeks to rejoin combined statistical area

From page 1

national figures of 6.2 percent and just above the state average of 4.8 percent.

"Right now our people are facing the same dilemma that people are facing all over the world. This is not just an Alamance recession, it's a worldwide recession," said Sonny Wilburn, president of the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce. "There have been many, many jobs lost with the flights to cheaper labor markets."

But while national leaders see progress toward a reversal of the recent economic recession with added jobs and new industries, Alamance continues to lose jobs, according to Jerome Cheek, manager of the Employment Security Commission of Alamance County.

"We have not seen the turn around," Cheek said, echoing Wilburn's concern for Alamance's current business climate. "We are still losing jobs in the county and it's just a matter of the people with the money investing it."

The ESC has served record numbers of clients in recent months, many of whom are in the fourth extension of federal funding, according to Cheek. These benefits, given to unemployed workers who are actively seeking re-employment, most likely will not see a fifth extension, he said.

"We are waiting. We are hoping with the efforts of the Economic Development [organizations] and the Chamber of Commerce that they will be able to successfully recruit new business to the area," Cheek said.

Next month, Wilburn, the

Strides toward a sustainable economy

chamber and its economic development forces will visit consulting markets in Greenville, S.C. and Atlanta, Ga. to present them with updated marketing materials about the Alamance area.

"The consulting firms are often hired by companies looking for new locations and we want to keep our name in front of the consultants," Wilburn said. "We have

targeted industrial sectors and we continue to market ourselves among those targeted industries."

The Alamance area is a viable region for business and new industry, according to Wilburn.

"We are still growing," Wilburn said. "I think most of [the local recession] will be corrected once the economy turns around." Large manufacturers or other large industries deciding to relocate to the Alamance area, will be making new investments in the local economy.

The Chamber of Commerce recently launched a successful campaign to reinstate Alamance County in the Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point combined statistical area. After being omitted this past year due to lack of voiced concern for its inclusion, Alamance risked losing federal funding given to agencies based on their statistical area and valuable marketing pull achieved by its location within one of the top markets in the state.

In addition to plant closings, textile and furniture imports and

“

Right now our people are facing the same dilemma that people are facing all over the world. This is not just an Alamance recession, it's a worldwide recession.

— Sonny Wilburn, president of the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce

”

manufacturing slow-downs, Alamance's exclusion from the Greensboro, Winston-Salem and High Point CSA could have had a huge negative impact on the local economy, according to a statement Wilburn made in June. Alamance's reinstatement to the CSA will have a huge trickle down effect for the benefit of the community, according to Wilburn.

"Being an MSA (metropolitan statistical area) on your own, a very small one, although it has some rewards because some communities don't have that status, its not nearly as beneficial as being in a combined statistical area,"

Wilburn said. He explained that a combined statistical area attracts larger advertising investments, federal funding disbursements and companies willing to locate business in that given area.

Next Issue...

Part two of the local economy update: Making Alamance a profitable investment and the economic outlook for Elon students.

Contact Jessica Patchett at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Elon receives top rankings for beautiful campus, student-teacher interaction

From page 1

published every year, information is gathered for only a third of the colleges each year, said Dan Anderson, director of University Relations at Elon. "The data set is different every year by a third," he said. "The information gathered one year from certain schools will not be gathered again for two more years."

U.S. News and World Report ranks Elon sixth among southern universities for its student retention rates and academic reputation. In the area of universities with graduate programs, Elon ranked ninth among 131 southern universities.

Nationally, Elon was honored in three of the eight categories of programs that lead to student success. The university is honored for its service learning programs, learning communities, and for students having good first year experiences with a smooth transition from high school to college.

Other schools that received honors in three or more categories include Harvard, Duke, Princeton, and Yale. Out of the 1,400 colleges and universities recognized, only twelve were named to three or more areas of excellence.

Unlike the Princeton Review, U.S. News and World Report ranks colleges based on surveys of college presidents, deans and other members of the administration, as well as institutional data such as annual alumni giving and retention rates. Schools not included in the rankings are those not accredited, specialty schools, or the military academies such as West Point or the Citadel. This is the second year Elon has been ranked by The Princeton Review and the third year Elon has been on the Southern top 10 in the U.S. News.

Contact Adam Smith at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.



Matt Belanger / Photographer

The Princeton Review recently ranked Elon second in the nation for a beautiful campus. U.S. News ranked Elon sixth among southern universities for academic reputation and retention rates. Additionally, Elon's graduate program ranked ninth.