

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** April 8, 2026  
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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hometown Heroes Career Job Fair April 16 2026

Written by SCC Public Relations intern, Jazzie Blankenship

**SYLVA** – For the past two years, Southwestern Community College has hosted the Hometown Heroes career event honoring and inspiring the individuals who protect our communities every day.



The event connects students and residents with opportunities to learn more about— even pursue— these vital professions.

The region’s hometown heroes are returning for another year from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on April 16 in the Balsam Center Parking lot at SCC’s Jackson Campus

Agency organizers and recruiters continue to expand the event each year. For the first time, the Secret

Service will be at the career fair featuring the agency’s secret service limousine—used for specialized defense and security of high-level government officials.

Hometown Heroes helps explore and honor the esteemed professions that protect citizens each and every day. SCC students and community members will have the chance to explore opportunities both within Western North Carolina and beyond. Whether rain or shine—representatives from all branches of the U.S. military, along with law enforcement, firefighters, emergency responders, and secret service agents, will be on-site displaying the tools and vehicles they use daily.

When reflecting on past events, Micheal Despeaux, SCC's Director of Career Services and Hometown Heroes coordinator, recalled a standout moment from last year when Smoky Mountain High School's junior ROTC marched in formation in front of a crowd of more than 500 attendees.

"It had to have been a rare opportunity to show what they could do. It was visually effective to everyone at the event," Despeaux said.



The junior ROTC will return this year participating in the same formation.

For more information, contact Despeaux at [m\\_despeaux@SouthwesternCC.edu](mailto:m_despeaux@SouthwesternCC.edu) or 828.339.4212.

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