

YouthVoice2014
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Wilson County

I interviewed Wilson County Manager, Mrs. Denise Stinagle in preparation for Youth Summit 2014. She is originally from Selma, Indiana and moved to North Carolina after graduating from college. When arriving in North Carolina she worked in Communications while obtaining her master's degree in education. Mrs. Stinagle's passion is to work and be part of a community, therefore when the assistant county manager position became available she was thrilled.

Mrs. Stinagle's role as county manager consists of overseeing twenty departments, some of these departments are elected and some are not. She works alongside departments such as human services, schools, board of commissioners, the community. She works on the budget cycle which spans from July 1- June 30. Positive aspects of her position are the relationships she builds with community members, she meets very interesting people, she provides needed services to the community, and she enjoys working for the people. As with all jobs there are negative aspects, Mrs. Stinagle has 80,000 bosses.....the people of Wilson County. She also states that her job comes with high expectations.

I asked how the county manager interacts and reports to the county commissioners. There are seven county commissioners that she communicates daily with through emails, phone calls, and on a one-on-one basis. She also attends monthly board meetings with county commissioners, county department heads, and appointed officials.

The annual budget process is a large part of Mrs. Stinagle's job. When drafting the budget she works very closely with the ten County Department Heads, the seven Board of Commissioners, as well as other appointed officials, such as Economic Development Council. The process begins in January by asking the department heads of their needs in the department, also if they will be making in changes in the department such as new employees. Next, she forwards the drafted proposal to the finance department in March. The finance officer and her sit down to discuss revenue, what can be afforded, and prioritize needs. In May the proposal is presented to the Board of Commissioners. At this time it again is debated, discussed, revised, and prioritized for a July 1 approved budget. While a citizen may voice his or her opinion at any monthly board meeting, there is a public hearing in June where citizens are welcome to speak on the proposed budget.

Mrs. Stinagle gave me a tour of the government that she works in daily, giving me an opportunity to meet and speak with members of different departments. I spoke to people from the water department, finance department, and other areas. Meeting with Mrs. Stinagle was a very enlightening experience, I had no idea that it took so many different departments and how crucial each one is to the unity of Wilson County, especially since it is not that large of a county.

Mrs. Stinagle praised 4-H and the benefits of the program. I am looking forward to attending the Youth Summit and meeting Board of Commissioners Thomas Lucas and Rob Boyette from Wilson County.