

Good Question in Tweet

On July 19 – in the very thick of summer – former Senator Andrew Brock asked a simple question on Twitter that got our attention: “How much money could be saved in energy costs if schools started after Labor Day?”



The Tweet got a lot of attention, with 905 Twitter users viewing it, including House Education

Chair John Torbett (R-Gaston) (photo). He replied to the Tweet, “I like the way you think. Labor day to Memorial Day.”

Of course, NCTIA “Liked” both Brock’s and Rep. Torbett’s Tweets and retweeted the entire thread.

“It was an intriguing question and one that needs to be explored,” said NCTIA Executive Director Vince Chelena.

“Running air conditions in public schools, repairing the HVAC systems, cooling off school buses – these are all costs factored into starting school in August and ending the school year end in June.”

NCTIA will dig into this question posed on Twitter over the next few months.

Raleigh Hotels Have 800 Job Openings

The article below was excerpted from a story published in WRAL on Tuesday, July 25. [Click to read the entire article.](#)

There are currently nearly 800 open hotel jobs in the Raleigh area, according to Indeed.com. Filling these positions is critical to the economic health of Raleigh and North Carolina.



Last year alone, hotel guests spent more than \$13.5 billion in destinations across the state, and North Carolina hotels generated nearly \$1.2 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue.

Amid the busy summer travel season, hotels are looking to quickly fill open positions to meet travel demand. Hoteliers are offering potential hires a host of incentives to fill vacancies, according to a national survey of hoteliers conducted by the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA).

75% of respondents are increasing wages, 64% are offering greater flexibility with hours and 36% are expanding benefits – but 87% said they are still unable to fill open positions.

82% of survey respondents indicate they are experiencing a staffing shortage, 26% severely so – meaning the shortage is impacting the hotel’s ability to operate. The most critical staffing need is housekeeping, with 40% ranking it as their top hiring need. Hotels, however, are seeking employees in a multitude of roles from entry-level through management.

These staffing challenges are resulting in historic career opportunities for hotel employees. There are nearly 100,000 hotel jobs currently open across the nation, and as of May, national average hotel wages were at a near-historic high of more than \$23.50 per hour. Since the pandemic, average hotel wages (+25%) have increased more than 47% faster than average wages throughout the general economy (+17%), and hotel benefits and flexibility are better than ever.

“The need for workers throughout the lodging industry continues to drive historic career opportunities for hotel employees, who are enjoying near-record wages and better benefits and flexibility than ever before,” said AHLA President & CEO Chip Rogers.

As of May, the United States had 9.8 million job openings, but only 6.1 million unemployed people to fill them, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.