

Senior centers receive state certification

All three Brunswick County Senior Centers — The Brunswick Center at Shallotte, The Brunswick Center at Leland and The Brunswick Center at Southport — took top honors in March when they received certification by site review teams as North Carolina Certified "Senior Centers of Excellence" through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Site review team members included Leslee Breen, Division of Aging and Adult Services; Mary Ann Salmon, UNC-CARES; Jane Jones, Cape Fear AAA; Ginny Brinson, Cape Fear AAA; and Senior Tar Heel delegates Brian Flanagan and Audie

Lowrimore, as well as senior center personnel from across the state.

Certification is a voluntary process that senior centers can use to be recognized in their communities and across the state. Its purpose is to strengthen the capacity of senior centers by providing a set of measurable indicators of best practice and improve the quality of senior centers, recognize excellence that exists, and provide a guide for developing activities and services that respond to consumer needs.

To be certified as Centers of Excellence, the center must demonstrate best practices in five major operational areas: outreach and access to services;

programs and activities; planning, evaluation, and input from older adults; staffing; and operations and physical plant. Of the 163 senior centers in North Carolina, only 85, including BSRI's three senior centers, are Centers of Excellence.

Centers of Excellence provide exemplary services and opportunities to their communities and serve as mentors and models to developing centers. They receive additional general purpose funding above centers that are uncertified.

For additional information on Brunswick Senior Resources Inc. (BSRI), call 754-2300 or go to bsrinc.org.



Photo contributed

The Brunswick Center at Shallotte receives state certification by site review teams as a "Senior Center of Excellence." Anne Gass is director and Kathy Gehlhardt is assistant director at The Brunswick Center at Shallotte.



The Brunswick Center at Leland receives state certification by site review teams as a "Senior Center of Excellence." Sandra Brooks is director of The Brunswick Center at Leland.



The Brunswick Center at Southport receives state certification by site review teams as a "Senior Center of Excellence." Susan Whitley is director and Randy Gillette is assistant director at The Brunswick Center at Southport.