

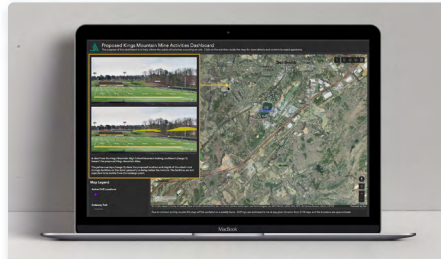
The Element

July 2024



ALBEMARLE INTERNSHIP BRINGS KINGS MOUNTAIN NATIVE HOME ►

Kings Mountain native and college senior, Vega Weston, has a unique internship with Albemarle Kings Mountain where she is supporting the company's community affairs team and assisting with the Albemarle Foundation.



MITIGATING POTENTIAL VISUAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED MINE THROUGH LANDSCAPE PLANNING AND DESIGN ►

As Albemarle prepares for redevelopment of the proposed Kings Mountain Mine, ensuring that all proposed features are compatible with the existing landscape is crucial for maintaining visual harmony in the area.



CLEVELAND COUNTY TEACHERS VISIT KINGS MOUNTAIN MINE ►

Cleveland County teachers participated in a two-day science workshop where they visited Albemarle's Kings Mountain Mine site to learn more about the proposed reopening of the mine and view the water treatment plant.



ESIA Feedback *Needed By August 12*

Albemarle is conducting voluntary in-depth studies on the proposed Kings Mountain Mine to help understand the potential impact on the community. Your feedback is vital to help us better understand and responsibly redevelop the mine.

From now until August 12, 2024, we encourage you to submit questions and topics for additional studies on the proposed mine.

Click below to access:

- [The ESIA Scoping Report Non-Technical Summary \(English\) / \(Spanish\)](#)
- [The ESIA draft Scoping Report](#)
- [The ESIA Fact Sheet \(English\) / \(Spanish\)](#)

Provide your ESIA-related comments or questions online, by phone, email or in person:

- [Provide feedback to the ESIA](#)
- Email: kmcommunity@albemarle.com
- Phone: (704) 734-2775
- Mail or in-person: 129 West Mountain Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Sign up for *future newsletters!* ►

Visit the *Albemarle Kings Mountain website* ►

Unique Internship Opportunity *Fosters a Homecoming for Kings Mountain Native*

Kings Mountain native, Vega Weston, is fulfilling an exciting opportunity to support the community through her summer internship at Albemarle.

“I was born and raised in Kings Mountain,” she said. “I graduated from Kings Mountain High School. I’ve been here my whole life, and my family has lived here for as far back as I can remember.”

As a first-generation college student at North Carolina State University, Vega adds, “Having a company like Albemarle in Kings Mountain allows me to come back and work here in my desired field when previously, that wasn’t an option.”

A business major with a minor in global leadership and team development, Vega’s interest was piqued when she visited the Albemarle Kings Mountain website to inquire about internship opportunities and found an opening with the community affairs team.

“I like working with people and finding ways to give back to the community, not only as a hobby but as a job,” she said. “This position made me gravitate toward an internship at Albemarle this summer.”

Vega’s internship is unique as she has split her time working with the community affairs team and the Albemarle Foundation. “It gives me two perspectives – one from the corporate side, and one from being on-site in the community,” she said.



“ I like working with people and finding ways to give back to the community, not only as a hobby but as a job. ”

—VEGA WESTON, (PICTURED CENTER) KINGS MOUNTAIN SUMMER INTERN

Unique Internship Opportunity Fosters a Homecoming for Kings Mountain Native (Cont.)

In her role with the community affairs team, she has had numerous opportunities to connect and reconnect with the Kings Mountain community—even participating in an event at her alma mater.

“I work with two of my former high school teachers from chemistry and natural science,” she said. “It’s cool to come back and work as a team. They’ve been able to mentor me further and show me how things operate in the workplace.”

Vega says Albemarle’s internship program has been great from a guidance standpoint. “Everyone has been teaching me so much and they support me both professionally and personally. I’m very grateful for their mentorship.”

Vega helps organize and participate in Albemarle’s community meetings and open houses, as well as sponsored events with nonprofit partners. She is currently organizing a charity kickball tournament for employees.

In her role with the Albemarle Foundation, Vega is instrumental in supporting a new tool that allows employees to find volunteer opportunities in the area. For every volunteer hour logged in the portal, Albemarle makes a \$25 donation to an organization of the employee’s choosing. If an employee chooses to donate funds as well, the Albemarle Foundation will match the donation up to \$4,000.

Vega also spends time reaching out to area non-profit organizations to potentially form partnerships with Albemarle, noting that she is helping to organize a volunteer fair for employees to connect with community organizations and volunteer opportunities.

“ The community affairs team and Albemarle have invested a lot in our community. ”



“Albemarle has opened doors to better working opportunities. With the potential opening of the mine, there is an opportunity for a significant number of well-paying and stable jobs in the community,” she added.

After graduating in May 2025, Vega says that she’d love to work for Albemarle. “Albemarle has been such an important player in Kings Mountain and this internship has given me a chance to go back and do good. I’m grateful for being able to do that,” she said.

Mitigating Potential Visual Impacts of the Proposed Mine Through Landscape Planning and Design

As Albemarle plans for the potential redevelopment of the Kings Mountain Mine, anticipating the compatibility of the proposed mine's features with the existing landscape is crucial. This process involves selecting materials, plants and designs that blend with the local environment. A team of geospatial consultants working with Albemarle are designing landscapes to improve the views surrounding the mine property through carefully planned structures and features. These proposed features are designed to limit project visibility through planted berms, native tree planting and other features compatible with the existing area's landscape.

The consultants are using a visual impact assessment to identify existing views from various locations around the mine site that may be impacted by the construction and operation of the mine. Once the existing visuals are identified, evaluations will be made on the potential

scenery changes that may occur from the construction and operation of the mine, along with their impact on the aesthetic character of the landscape. Rock storage facilities (RSF), where non-ore-bearing rock gathered from mining are planned to be stored, are the most commonly visible mine facilities. The tailings storage facility and other project structures, such as support buildings, are anticipated to be partially visible from nearby existing roads.

The natural areas around the mine site offer diverse trees, plants and landscapes that provide seasonal color and buffering from the proposed mine facilities. The proposed visual elements to be constructed would add similar elements, while also increasing the diversity of the landscape. By strategically placing and landscaping these berms with native plants, the visual impact of the mine can be significantly reduced.



Pop-up images that will be accessible on the [mine activities map](#) will allow users to see proposed views from various locations, such as this one from the Kings Mountain High School bleachers.

Community Events



Albemarle Joins First Baptist Senior Lunch

On July 9, Albemarle's community relations team was invited to attend the First Baptist Church Kings Mountain senior lunch. Community Affairs Manager Kirsten Martin presented the mine's project plan and other members of Albemarle's Kings Mountain community relations team spoke with residents, answered their questions and shared information about the proposed mine site. There were 37 community members in attendance, and after the presentation and lunch, they expressed their desire to tour the site.

Cleveland County Schools Teachers Participate in Science Workshop

A big thank you to the Cleveland County Schools teachers who were able to participate in last month's secondary science teacher workshop with Albemarle. Over two days, the teachers were able to visit the Kings Mountain Mine, take a tour of the site's research and development lab and participate in mining and battery-related lab activities at Cleveland Community College (CCC). Teachers were excited to learn about these relatable labs and field trip opportunities for their students.

Margot Plonk, Albemarle Community Education Specialist, highlighted the social investments Albemarle is making in the community, and discussed economic development and potential local job opportunities.



We appreciate the teachers who took the time *to learn more about Albemarle and the lithium mining industry.*

Community Events (Cont.)



Sustainability Scholars Take Kings Mountain Mine Tour

On Friday, July 12, Albemarle Kings Mountain hosted the Davidson College Sustainability Scholars internship group for a mine tour. This group of students visits different organizations across the Charlotte region to learn about their sustainability efforts and careers in each field.

Albemarle to Join NC MedAssist in Mobile Free Pharmacy Program

On Friday, August 9, Albemarle will join NC MedAssist at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church (220 N. Watterson Street, Kings Mountain), for the Mobile Free Pharmacy Program.

The Mobile Free Pharmacy provides free, over-the-counter medications to individuals and families that could not otherwise afford basic medications, such as vitamins, allergy medicine and pain relievers.

Online ordering is available from July 9 through August 2, or until 400 pre-orders are reached. You can order online by visiting www.medassist.org/mobile.

The primary purpose of the event is to identify participants who may qualify for the NC MedAssist Free Prescription Pharmacy Program, a statewide program for uninsured North Carolina residents who fall at or below the federal poverty level.

NC MedAssist collaborates with community partners to organize free mobile events throughout the state. This event is open to everyone, and no appointment or registration is required. You must be 18 or older to receive medication.

MOBILE FREE PHARMACY PROGRAM
GIVES AWAY FREE OTC MEDICINE

NC MedAssist

Friday, August 9, 2024, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 220 N. Watterson Street, Kings Mountain, NC 28086

Take home free over-the-counter medicine items such as allergy, cough and cold, pain relief, vitamins, children's medicine, and more!
Order at www.medassist.org/mobile or scan the QR code.

This program has been brought to your community in partnership with:

Albemarle

DA

Mt. Zion Baptist Church

NC MedAssist is a statewide, nonprofit pharmacy that provides free prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications through various programs. Learn more at www.medassist.org.

Join Albemarle on August 6 for National Night Out

On August 6 from 6:00–9:00 p.m., Albemarle Kings Mountain will participate in National Night Out at Patriot's Park. This nationally recognized event is held annually the first Tuesday of each August to promote the partnership between law enforcement and the community. We look forward to joining millions of people around the U.S. in uniting our neighborhoods across the city to rediscover our own communities.



Help Shape the Strategic Direction of The Davidson Association

The Davidson Association, formerly known as the Davidson Alumni Association, has a mission to “build on the past, invest in the present and secure the future,” encouraging residents to achieve their goals. The organization continues to build upon their goals and infrastructure while building out their strategic and operational plan.

To assist with this directional approach and ensure that programs and partnerships address the needs of the Kings Mountain community, they want to hear from you. Please complete this [brief survey](#) by Wednesday, August 28, and share your vision for the Kings Mountain community.

Upcoming Events *Calendar* ▶

KINGS MOUNTAIN MINE TOUR: AUGUST 13, 21 AND 27

The 45-minute tour includes history, geology and current information on the pre-feasibility studies that have been completed, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions. Tour attendees will meet at the Albemarle Project Center (129 W. Mountain Street), and travel together by van to the mine site. Times vary and registration is required, contact Cindy Estridge at cynthia.estridge@albemarle.com. Be sure to check out [our website](#) to get the latest tour dates and times!



Visit the Albemarle Kings Mountain website ▶

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Albemarle leads the world in transforming essential resources into critical ingredients for mobility, energy, connectivity and health. We partner to pioneer new ways to move, power, connect and protect with people and planet in mind, enabling a more resilient world. Our global headquarters is approximately 35 miles from Kings Mountain in Charlotte, NC.

For more information visit albemarlekingmountain.com

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