



2016's Top Projects

The economic development and job creation programs offered by N.C. Commerce represent a diverse portfolio of projects in 2016, leading to new jobs and capital investment across the state.

The **Job Development and Investment Grant (JDIG) Program** awarded 15 grants in 2016.

- **Largest Job Generator:** Everest Textile USA, creating 610 jobs at its new facility in Rutherford County, announced December 6.
- **Largest Capital Investment:** GKN Driveline, investing \$179 million at its facilities in Alamance, Catawba, Lee and Person counties. The company was approved for two separate JDIGs, announced on December 20.

The **One North Carolina Grant Program** awarded 35 grants in 2016.

- **Largest Job Generator:** RSI Home Products, creating 175 jobs through its expansion in Richmond County, announced March 1.

The **Rural Infrastructure Authority** awarded 120 grants in 2016.

- **Largest Job Generator:** Delaware-based poultry producer Mountaire Farms, undertaking a 700-job expansion in Chatham County. The Town of Siler City received a \$1.5 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) award to assist in improvements to its water and wastewater service to the facility.



Kaco USA to Create 100 Jobs in Lincoln County

Kaco USA Inc., a manufacturer of high-precision sealing solutions for the automotive industry, will expand its production facility in Lincoln County. The company will hire an additional 100 workers over the coming three years as it invests nearly \$8.4 million there.



Uptown Shelby, North Carolina

Keynote Speakers Named for Upcoming N.C. Main Street Conference

Two prominent experts in downtown economic development and revitalization will address attendees at the 2017 North Carolina Main Street Conference, scheduled March 14-16 in Shelby.

The theme for this year's event is *Main Street: What is Your Strategy?* The conference will explore how Main Streets use local and regional assets to create economic development strategies that help their communities thrive. Keynote speakers this year are Knox White and Kimber Lanning.

White has served as mayor of Greenville, South Carolina since December 1995. As mayor, he has pursued the goal of making the city of Greenville "the most beautiful and livable city in America," with an emphasis on neighborhood revitalization and transformational projects for downtown.

Lanning is the founder and executive director of Local First Arizona, a statewide organization implementing innovative strategies for new models of economic development that create vibrant local economies. Lanning is an entrepreneur, business leader and community development specialist who works to cultivate strong self-reliant communities and inspire a higher quality of life for people across Arizona.

The North Carolina Main Street Center was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to support the appearance of the two keynoters.

Kaco USA is part of Germany-based KACO GmbH + Co. KG, a privately held manufacturer founded in 1914. Its Lincolnton plant is one of nine locations the company maintains worldwide. Kaco is part of the Zhongding group which maintains nine operations in North America.

Kaco will add production, accounting and management personnel at its Lincolnton facility. Salaries will vary by position, but will average \$34,580 per year. Lincoln County's overall annual wages average \$34,524.

"The partnership with North Carolina and Lincoln County allows Kaco to expand operations locally, as well as open the door for future expansion of the ZD Group in the state," said **Marcio Lima, President and CEO**.

Kaco USA's expansion in North Carolina was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$100,000 from the One North Carolina Fund. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance in support of local governments in creating jobs and attracting economic investment. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for grant funds. All One NC grants require a local government match.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), [Gaston College](#), [Lincoln County](#), and the [Lincoln Economic Development Association](#).

[Read more.](#)



Students from last summer's session at Oak Ridge.

Applications to Study at Oak Ridge National Laboratory Institute Being Accepted

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is once again offering high school students and teachers an opportunity to study at the renowned Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee this summer.

ARC's collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) provides two residential, hands-on learning institutes focusing on math, science, and technology for high school students and teachers (July 8-21, 2017) and for middle school students (July 16-21, 2017). Middle and high school students and teachers from throughout Appalachia will participate in the hands-on learning program that will focus on the application of math and science principles in the world of work.

The N.C. Main Street Conference provides high quality educational sessions, tours, and networking opportunities for Main Street directors, Small Town Main Street coordinators, elected officials, municipal and non-profit staff, property and business owners, as well as other downtown revitalization professionals.

In 2016, the conference attracted more than 500 attendees from nearly 140 communities and three states. "We're pleased our roster of high-quality speakers and program content attracts so many community leaders," said Liz Parham, Director of the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center. "We hope to build upon our robust attendance for this year's conference."

Information and updates about the conference will be posted and maintained online at nccommerce.com/rd/main-street/nc-main-street-conference.

New Videos Promote Western North Carolina

A new series of videos has recently been produced and released by the Mountain West Partnership, a public private economic development partnership in the seven far western counties of North Carolina.

The counties contributing to the program include Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain. The regional marketing initiative also includes participation from the Southwestern Commission, Western Carolina University and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI).

To see the videos and review more information about the region, visit the Mountain West Partnership website, gownc.org



Happy New Year

Welcome to 2017!

The start of a new year is a great time to make sure your colleagues are receiving the news they need about economic development opportunities available from N.C. Commerce. Invite them to subscribe to SYNC!

Just forward today's newsletter and [follow this link to sign up](#).

Students work in teams on research projects during the one-week academy, with each team comprising three to six students. The team approach provides an opportunity to conduct research activities and solve problems in a group setting, which mirrors the process students will later find in work settings. Research topics and activities may include such areas as biofuels and alternative energy.

Interested parties can view examples of the research and program activities conducted during past summer science camps at the SummerSTEM website: arc.gov/summerSTEM.

Selected participants will spend most days in one of several Oak Ridge research laboratories, but field trips to nearby industries, universities, and museums also will illustrate applications of math and science in the real world and provide participants with opportunities to learn more about Appalachia and some of its unique characteristics.

For the upcoming sessions, applications must be submitted to Olivia Collier, the North Carolina ARC State Program Manager, on or before March 17, 2017. Applications and additional information are available online at nccommerce.com/rd/arc/oak-ridge-summer-institute.

N.C. in the News

- [Infrastructure investments continue at North Carolina Ports, additional cranes ordered](#) (*American Journal of Transportation* - January 9)
- [Small Johnston County airport taking on RDU when it comes to corporate jets](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - December 28)
- [CSX talks timeline for Rocky Mount hub](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - December 27)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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