

# sync<sup>TM</sup>

Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



The Next Generation Power Electronics Innovation Institute was announced Jan. 15; (l-r) President Obama with N.C. State University Chancellor Dr. Randy Woodson; Gov. Pat McCrory greeting the president at RDU airport; Dr. John Hardin from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Office of Science and Technology, who played an instrumental role in the recruitment of the federal investment.

## McCrory Hails NCSU for Next Generation Technology Center

Governor Pat McCrory made the following statement after President Barack Obama announced on Jan. 15 that N.C. State University will become the center of a university and industry consortium that will help develop the next generation of electronic chips and devices.

"The selection of N.C. State University as the center of the Next Generation Power Electronics Innovation Institute demonstrates that North Carolina has the intellectual and human capital to be a leader in the resurgence of advanced manufacturing in the United States," said McCrory. "This project also shows how the private and public sector can leverage their expertise to spur economic development. This helps further our goal since day one in office of supporting manufacturing as part of our economic revival."

McCrory has committed a minimum of \$10 million over five years to help fund the new consortium. N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker and Tony Almeida, senior advisor for jobs and economy joined the governor at last week's announcement.

John Hardin, Executive Director of Commerce's Office of Science & Technology, led the effort to secure the \$10 million cost-share commitment from the State. Working with

## Packing Manufacturer to Create 50 Jobs in Henderson County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Jan. 14 that [ASG \(AGI Shorewood\)](#) will expand its manufacturing operations in Henderson County. The company plans to create 50 new jobs and invest more than \$8.5 million in East Flat Rock. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bill Payne](#) was the developer on this project.

ASG is a global packaging company that specializes in the development of innovative solutions for the consumer products segment. The company will be adding new positions in the press room, die-cutting, gluing, digital pre-press, customer service, production planning and shipping and receiving. ASG anticipates the expansion will help the East Flat Rock facility achieve heightened production efficiencies, increase manufacturing volume and bolster existing packaging offerings to help serve customers in the entertainment, personal care, health care and pharmaceutical segments.

"This expansion signifies an optimistic future for our company and is a reflection of the extremely talented workforce here. This facility continues to demonstrate an unrivaled customer focus and drive for continuous improvement. Our work gives us tremendous pride. We have the opportunity to be involved in packaging solutions for the world's most recognizable consumer products which often include household headache medication, toothpaste containers, even specialty-embossed Blu-ray disc covers," said Bob Lennon, vice president, supply chain and general manager of ASG.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be more than \$40,000. The average annual wage in Henderson County is \$34,528.

The project was made possible in part by a \$60,000 grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#). The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the

Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker and Governor McCrory's Senior Advisor for Jobs & the Economy, Tony Almeida, he briefed the Governor and the legislative leadership on the purpose of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) initiative and its strategic importance for North Carolina. State government support, via cost-share funding, was necessary and critical for securing the core \$70 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy and the additional \$60 million in cost-sharing funding from private industry and other grant partners.

[Obama Announces Institute to Create Manufacturing Jobs](#)  
(*The New York Times*, Jan. 15)

[Obama brings national attention to Triangle's semiconductor, cleantech sectors](#) (WRAL Tech Wire, Jan. 16)

[Tech firm Vacon plans to grow energy efficiency R&D in RTP](#)  
(WRAL Tech Wire, Jan. 16)

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## Medical Financial Services Company Selects Chowan County, N.C.

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced today Standard Medical Acceptance (SMA) Corporation will locate its offices in Chowan County. The company plans to create 32 jobs and invest more than \$552,000 over the next three years in Edenton.

[Tim Ivey](#) served as the developer on the project for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

"Employers looking to expand or relocate their businesses continue to choose Eastern North Carolina for its strong job creation climate and skilled workforce," said Governor McCrory. "The North Carolina model is a blueprint for job creation, and the investment Standard Medical Acceptance is making in Edenton with more than 32 high-paying jobs opens the door to significant opportunities for Chowan County and its families."

SMA enables health care providers to realize the true current collateral value of their receivables and enables them to receive next day bank funding at attractive rates while protecting the bank against overvaluation of their collateral.

"The Department of Commerce is committed to working with existing companies to grow jobs," said Secretary Decker. "We congratulate Standard Medical Acceptance Corporation for its success and for investing in Chowan County."

Other partners that helped with this project include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Community Colleges, College of the Albemarle, North Carolina's Northeast Commission, The N.C. Support Center, Edenton Chowan Partnership, Town of Edenton and the Golden LEAF Foundation. [Read more.](#)

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## N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority Board Approves First Round of Grants

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker and Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Dr. Pat Mitchell announced on Jan. 16 that the N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority approved 18 grants totaling \$11,046,399.

The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic Development Division at the N.C. Department of Commerce to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in

state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds.

Other partners who assisted with this announcement include: N.C. Community Colleges, Henderson County and the Henderson Partnership for Economic Development. [Read more.](#)

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## N.C. Film Officials Head West Once Again for Sundance

Once again, officials from the [N.C. Film Office](#) are promoting the state as a film location at the [2014 Sundance Film Festival](#) in Park City, Utah. The annual festival has introduced global audiences to some of the most groundbreaking films of the past two decades and showcased the cinematic works of many of the industry's great artists.

While at the festival, the N.C. Film Office will be meeting with industry leaders and film professionals to discuss filming in North Carolina. Highlights of what the state has to offer to filmmakers include a 25 percent refundable tax credit, world-renowned crew, an established industry infrastructure, and a vast variety of location types. This marks the sixth consecutive year that North Carolina has actively marketed the state at the Sundance Film Festival.

In addition to various meetings, the Film Office, in conjunction with the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, also hosted a filmmakers' reception on Jan. 18. The event, which goes hand-in-hand with the state's marketing campaign of "relax," gave filmmakers and producers a chance to interact with state film officials and to learn more about the North Carolina film industry in a very laid-back and relaxing setting.

In addition, at least [10 films with connections to the UNCSCA](#) will screen at this year's festival, and five fortunate students from the School of Filmmaking will participate in the festival's Film School Program, with access to films, panels and events. Also, a film with UNCSCA connections will premiere at Slamdance, the alternative film festival. Both festivals opened last week in Park City.

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## Video and Website on Urban Design Completed

The N.C. Department of Commerce announced on Jan. 16 that a new video and website on urban design and the importance of creating walkable communities, *Designing Better Places*, is available for viewing and download on the Commerce website at [www.designingbetterplaces.com](http://www.designingbetterplaces.com).

the state. The grants-making programs of the new Division include assistance for building reuse and restoration, water and sewer infrastructure, and economic innovation in rural communities.

Community Development Block Grants that were approved include:

Town of Farmville (Pitt County): \$750,000 to loan to National Blend Vegetables Dehydration, LLC to support the reuse of a 500,000 SF building.

Pender County: \$750,000 to assist with the construction of a wastewater treatment plant that will serve a new 100,000 SF manufacturing plant being constructed by RC Creations, LLC.

Sampson County: \$780,000 to construct a rail spur to allow Chemtex International, Inc. to open a new facility at an industrial site located on NC Highway 24E.

Town of Mocksville (Davie County): \$789,000 to construct 800 LF of sewer line and 5,200 LF of water line to allow Gildan Yarns, LLC to construct a new manufacturing plant near I-40.

Rowan County: \$1 million to construct a 2,900 LF access road to allow Gildan Yarns, LLC to construct a new 601,973 SF manufacturing plant at 2120 Helig Road.

Town of Mayodan (Rockingham County): \$750,000 to loan to Sturm, Ruger & Company to support the reuse of a vacant 191,700 SF building located at 271 Cardwell Road.

Town of Wilkesboro (Wilkes County): \$750,000 to loan to PSG Custom Fabricators to support the reuse of a vacant 231,000 SF building located at 1804 River Street.

Nash County: \$750,000 to loan to Midatlantic Warehouse, LLC and Nutkao USA to support the renovation of a 96,000 SF building located near Battleboro.

Franklin County: \$300,000 to loan to DCN Cables to support the renovation of a 33,900 SF building located at 481 Airport Road near Louisburg.

Town of Southern Pines (Moore County): \$270,000 to construct a 1,000 LF public industrial access road to allow Tyr Tactical Company to begin manufacturing at a building in Southern Pines Corporate Park.

City of Trinity: \$168,000 to construct 2,060 LF of eight-inch gravity sewer lines to expand capacity at a building on Turnpike Court.

The CDBG is a U.S. Housing and Urban Development program that provides an annual allocation of funds to the State for rural economic development and residential infrastructure projects. DENR administers the rural residential infrastructure program and the N.C. Department of Commerce administers the economic development program. CDBG economic development provides grants to local governments for creating and retaining jobs. Funding for projects is based on the number of jobs to be created and the level of distress in the community applying for the funds.

Grants from the Utility Account of the Industrial Development Fund also were awarded for the following projects:

Town of Nashville (Nash County): \$379,087 for sewer and street improvements to an industrial park that will be a critical piece of the town's job creation strategy.

*Designing Better Places* showcases numerous communities from across North Carolina that are developing public spaces where residents and visitors feel at ease. The website and video provide examples of basic design principles and building streets that work for everyone.

"The video and other information on the website will be helpful tools for communities and individuals working to create more vibrant and inviting places," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. "This is important for our economic development, health, and changing demographics."

An earlier version of the video won the 2005 Award for Excellence from the Small Town & Rural Planning Division of the American Planning Association.

For more information about the video and website, visit [www.designingbetterplaces.com](http://www.designingbetterplaces.com) or contact, Virginia Faust, Senior Planner, Western Regional Office of the N.C. Division of Community Assistance at (282) 251-6914.



(Left-right) Mooresville Mayor Miles Atkins, *Banshee* actors Antony Starr and Ivana Milicevic, Charlotte Mayor Patrick Cannon, President of HBO Miniseries and Cinemax Programming Kary Antholis, N.C. Film Office Director Aaron Syrett, and former NFL player Leonard Wheeler at the *Banshee* screening in Charlotte

## ***Banshee's* Season 2 Premieres, Special Screening Held in Charlotte**

A season two screening of the Emmy-winning series *Banshee* was held Jan. 9 in Charlotte. The Queen City-filmed series launched its second season on Jan. 10 on Cinemax. The screening was presented by Cinemax, in conjunction with [the N.C. Film Office](#), the Charlotte Regional Film Commission, and Time Warner Cable.

The series is estimated to have had a direct in-state spend in excess of \$70 million and created more than 8,000 job opportunities over the course of its first two seasons while maintaining a crew base of approximately 250 highly-skilled film professionals. *Banshee* has



Town of Troy (Montgomery County): \$470,000 to construct a new 450 GPM gallon pump station to replace the existing, but failing station.

Rutherford County: \$200,000 to install a water line that will generate enough pressure to support fire suppression for an existing company and create opportunities for future industrial growth.

Town of Wilkesboro (Wilkes County): \$1.11 million to assist in the replacement of water lines, a booster pump station and an elevated storage tank for storage and fire protection.

Rowan County: \$1.133 million to provide 2,900 LF of road construction and 4,500 LF of water main to serve a new facility for Gildan Yarns.

Wilkes County: \$178,225 to assist in the replacement of water lines, a booster pump station and an elevated storage tank for storage and fire protection.

Franklin County: \$500,000 to assist in sewer improvements in Triangle North Franklin Industrial Park.

The Utility Account of the Industrial Development Fund provides grants to units of local government of the 80 most distressed counties in the state to assist in job creation. The funds may be used for publicly-owned infrastructure and should be used for projects that are reasonably expected to result in the creation of jobs.

The RIA will meet bimonthly to review and approve grants specifically targeted to assist with economic development and job creation in the rural areas of North Carolina.



## Opportunities 2014 Returns to Asheville

The U.S. government alone spends more than \$500 billion annually for various products and services, yet each year, thousands of contracts bypass small businesses that do not know about or understand how the government buys.

[Opportunities 2014](#) is a chance for small businesses to learn how to tap into this lucrative market. It is a regional biennial "reverse" trade show that allows small businesses the opportunity to meet contracting officers from over 50 federal, state, and local government agencies and prime contractors. This year's Opportunities will return to Asheville on March 10.

Small businesses at Opportunities 2014 can:

- Market their products and services directly to over 50 federal, state, and local government agencies and large prime contractors in one day with one sales call.
- Attend a series of seminars designed to provide the latest information on doing business with and selling products and services to the government.

As a sponsor of the show, the N.C. Department of Commerce will have a counselor from its [BLNC](#) division on-hand to advise small businesses on services offered by the state. Registration

filmed throughout the Charlotte Region of the state since its infancy.

"We were thrilled to have *Banshee* continuing its production in North Carolina. Our incentive and talented crew base and established infrastructure were key factors in maintaining the production in our state," said N.C. Film Office Director Aaron Syrett. "The success of the show continues to bring acclaim to our state in the industry."

The filming of the second season of *Banshee*, which took place from March through October, was part of another successful year for the film industry in North Carolina. More than 60 productions filmed in the state in 2013, resulting in direct in-state spending estimates exceeding \$254 million and creating nearly 25,000 job opportunities, including more than 4,100 well-paying crew positions over the course of a record-breaking 5,700+ production days.

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## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [SAS ranks No. 2 on Fortune's 'Best Places to Work' list](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Jan. 16)
- [Lenovo expands again in Rock Creek Center](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Jan. 16)
- [Tax season is hiring season: 225 open jobs at Department of Revenue](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Jan. 16)
- [Statesville to buy land for business park off I-40](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Jan. 15)
- [Pharma consultancy Nuventra expands HQ in RTP](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Jan. 15)
- [InChem to buy \\$15M Charlotte plant, add 40 jobs](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Jan. 15)
- [Export-Import Bank chairman highlights U.S. export success, financing](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Jan. 15)
- [NAI Carolantic Realty predicts 'unprecedented' activity in 2014](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Jan. 15)
- [New FX series to film in Wilmington](#) (*StarNews - Wilmington*, Jan. 14)
- [Construction begins on FedEx Ground expansion in Kernersville](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Jan. 13)

is open and available [online](#).



*Fort Macon State Park*

## Record-Level Attendance at N.C. State Parks Continued in 2013

For the third straight year, attendance at North Carolina's state parks and state recreation areas hovered at a record level with 14.2 million visits in 2013, according to the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation. Among 40 state parks and state recreation areas, 19 reported increases in attendance in 2013. Fort Macon State Park in Carteret County reported the highest attendance at 1.19 million visits, followed closely by Jockey's Ridge State Park in Dare County with 1.18 million visits. Several relatively new state parks reported strong attendance, especially Carvers Creek State Park in Cumberland County with 38,740 visitors since it opened in September. Mayo River State Park in Rockingham County experienced a 69 percent jump in visitation, while Dismal Swamp State Park in Camden County reported visitation up 40 percent. A recent economic study revealed that travelers spend an average \$23.56 a day to enjoy the state parks. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

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