

# sync<sup>®</sup> NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



(L-R) Geoff Durham, CEO, Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce; Governor Cooper; Dave Ricks, CEO, Lilly; and Wendy Jacobs, Chair, Durham County Commissioners at this afternoon's announcement at the N.C. Biotechnology Center.

## Gov. Cooper Announces Eli Lilly Bringing 462 Jobs to Durham with New Manufacturing Plant

Eli Lilly and Company, the renowned global healthcare and biopharmaceutical company, will invest over \$470 million and create more than 460 new jobs in Durham, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced earlier today (January 21).

The project will bring a new state-of-the-art pharmaceutical manufacturing facility to North Carolina's Research Triangle Park. The Governor announced the project with **Lilly's CEO David A. Ricks** at a ceremony this afternoon at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

"Life science companies like Eli Lilly continue to choose North Carolina," said **Governor Cooper**. "Our exceptional workforce draws global companies as we continue to grow North Carolina into a worldwide hub for the biotechnology industry."

Lilly, with headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, has a long heritage in discovering and making medicines. This new manufacturing site will be a state-of-the-art facility that produces injectable products and delivery devices. To operate the site, Lilly will create 462 jobs in highly skilled positions such as scientists, engineers, quality professionals and manufacturing



(L-R): Craig Bahner, CEO, Sara Lee Frozen Bakery receives a ceremonial gift from Governor Cooper at the announcement event in Tarboro January 13.

## Sara Lee Announces 108 jobs and \$19.8M investment in Edgecombe County

Sara Lee Frozen Bakery, a provider of baked desserts, treats and snacks, will create 108 jobs as it expands its food manufacturing center in Edgecombe County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced January 13. The company will invest an additional \$19.8 million in the bakery, located in Tarboro.

"Food manufacturers like Sara Lee Frozen Bakery choose communities that can help them succeed and for 30 years, Tarboro has been that place," said **Governor Cooper**. "Sara Lee has decided to expand on their decades long partnership because they know this community well, and it has the workforce they need to reach their goals."

Sara Lee Frozen Bakery was officially formed in 2018 as part of a divestiture from Tyson Foods. While the frozen bakery entity is relatively new, the Sara Lee brand has existed since the 1950's and is renowned for their iconic frozen desserts. Headquartered in Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois, the company's Tarboro bakery employs more than 650 people and produces a wide array of frozen bakery and dessert products, including croissants, biscuits, pound cake, muffins, brownies, cheesecake and more.

"Sara Lee Frozen Bakery recently celebrated

operations. Lilly currently has seven manufacturing sites located in the United States in Indiana, New Jersey and Puerto Rico.

"This next-generation manufacturing facility will allow us to expand our capacity to make the Lilly medicines that are helping people with serious illnesses today, and help us prepare for new medicines coming from our robust pipeline in the future," said **David A. Ricks, chairman and chief executive officer of Lilly**. "In the past two years, we have invested billions of capital in new U.S.-based manufacturing because the 2017 tax reform rebalanced the playing field in favor of the American worker. We're excited to be bringing more of these high-skill, high-wage advanced manufacturing jobs to North Carolina."

"North Carolina is one of the nation's leading centers for innovation in the life sciences," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "We welcome Lilly to the state's roster of biomanufacturers."

Although wages will vary depending on position, the average salary for all the new positions will exceed \$72,000, which is greater than the current average wage in Durham County of \$71,756.

Earlier today, Lilly's project was awarded a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) with a potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$8,689,500, spread over 12 years. The project is estimated to grow the state's economy by \$4.1 billion over that time.

Lilly's JDIG could also move as much as \$2,896,500 into the state's Industrial Development Fund – Utility Account. The Utility Account helps rural communities finance necessary infrastructure upgrades to attract future business.

Partnering with the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [North Carolina Biotechnology Center](#), [Durham County](#), the [Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce](#), and [Duke Energy](#).



Governor Cooper at the January 14 event at Central Piedmont Community College.

## Finish Line Grants Program Has Awarded More Than 3,000 Grants to Community College Students

the 30-year anniversary of our Tarboro bakery – a milestone that demonstrates the dedication of our employees and our commitment to the Tarboro community," said **Craig Bahner, Chief Executive Officer of Sara Lee Frozen Bakery**. "We are so pleased to be the recipient of the One North Carolina grant, which will enable the expansion of our bakery, bolster production of our irresistible foods and create more jobs in Edgecombe County."

"This is the beginning of a new and exciting chapter for Sara Lee Frozen Bakery and we're confident that Edgecombe County and North Carolina is the right place for the company to expand," said **Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "The company continues to innovate and perfect its operations and product mix and we're proud to support them in their work."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but will average \$40,266, higher than the Edgecombe County average annual salary of \$34,401.

A performance-based grant of \$500,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Sara Lee Frozen Bakery's expansion of its existing facility in North Carolina.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Carolinas Gateway Partnership](#), the [Town of Tarboro](#), and [Edgecombe County](#).



## North Carolina Gains Ground on Key Markers for Innovation, But Gains Uneven Across State

North Carolina jumps forward two places

Governor Cooper's Finish Line Grants program has issued more than 3,000 grants and \$2 million since the program was announced in July 2018.

The milestone was announced January 14 in Charlotte, with **Central Piedmont Community College President Dr. Kandji Deitemeyer** and **CharlotteWorks President and CEO Danielle Frazier** joining Governor Cooper for the announcement.

The Finish Line Grants program helps students stay on track to complete their degree or credential when they face unexpected financial emergencies that might otherwise cause them to drop out.

"As students at our community colleges work hard to get skills that will help them find a job, an unforeseen challenge like a car repair shouldn't compromise their futures," said **Governor Cooper**. "I'm proud that the Finish Line Grants program has provided more than 3,000 grants to help students find good-paying jobs to support themselves and their families for years to come."

**Governor Cooper** announced the Finish Line Grants program in July 2018 after hearing from community college leaders that relatively small financial emergencies were causing students to drop out of their degree or credential program when they otherwise could have graduated. Grants were first made available in September of 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year.

"It's hard to overstate the importance of an educated and well-trained workforce," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "The Finish Line Grants program is one more tangible way North Carolina supports and develops its future workers, and companies notice and appreciate this commitment."

All of North Carolina's 58 community colleges and 23 workforce development boards are participating in the program. Community colleges and workforce development boards collaborate to apply for funding and establish a joint process for reviewing funding requests from students who have completed 50 percent of their degree or credential. Community college students may receive a maximum of \$1,000 per semester by contacting their community colleges' financial aid office or their local NCWorks Career Center to apply.

Eligible expenses for Finish Line Grants include car repair payments, medical bills, utility bills, and child care expenses. To ensure accountability, the grants are commonly paid directly to the car repair shop, doctor's office, utility or child care provider.

"A temporary financial emergency shouldn't stop a student's momentum toward graduation and a brighter future," said **Peter Hans, president of the NC Community College System**. "Finish Line Grants are helping our students overcome barriers to success. We are so grateful for the support."

More about the [Finish Line Grant program is available online](#).

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## Six Communities from Murphy to Manteo Selected for Downtown Revitalization

The North Carolina Main Street & Rural Planning Center selected Graham, Manteo, Mebane, Murphy, Pilot Mountain and Zebulon for the Center's Downtown Associate Community Program, **Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland** announced January 17.

nationally in an overall measure of innovation capacity, according to the 2019 Tracking Innovation report released January 15 by the North Carolina Board of Science, Technology & Innovation.

The 2019 report, the seventh in a series first published in 2000, rigorously evaluates the state's standing against other states in the country on forty measures of innovation capacity and outlines ways to advance the state's economy by encouraging and harnessing innovation.

North Carolina now ranks 21st in the nation for innovation, up from its 23rd place ranking in 2017.

"Innovative economies are healthy economies," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "This report confirms the state's strengths as a business location for innovative companies and also offers suggestions for how we can strengthen and expand our ecosystem to foster more innovation in all regions of North Carolina."

The report does identify areas for improvement, particularly the need to build the state's innovation capacity beyond the state's current hotbeds, which are centered around North Carolina's major research universities or population centers.

"In North Carolina innovation thrives, and it regularly creates vibrant, new businesses and consistently generates significant, higher-wage jobs," said **Michael Cunningham, Chairman of the North Carolina Board of Science Technology & Innovation**. "As some of our state's historical industries have waned, we need to do all we can to accelerate our innovation economy and broaden its geographic reach. This report makes clear that there is much that has yet to be done. Elected officials, policymakers, economic development professionals, educators and business leaders all have a role to play in this important statewide effort."

The [full text of the new report can be found online](#).

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## Comments Still Being Accepted on State Plan for Workforce

The comment period remains open for you to offer your thoughts on a new [draft of North Carolina's State Unified Plan for implementing the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#).

The NCWorks Commission and North Carolina's workforce development system partners developed the new draft. The plan, required by federal law, will guide the implementation of the Act in North Carolina from 2020 through 2024.

The towns will receive up to three years of downtown technical assistance services from the Center. Staff will begin work with Graham and Murphy this month, Manteo and Mebane in the summer of 2020, and Pilot Mountain and Zebulon in January 2021.

The Downtown Associate Community program is the path that the Center has established for local downtowns to gain entrance into the N.C. Main Street program. These communities will receive training, technical assistance and instruction over the course of three years. If they complete the program and demonstrate that they have met the requirements of the Downtown Associate Community program, they will have the opportunity to join the Main Street program.

Launched in 2015, the Downtown Associate Community program provides communities interested in downtown revitalization with the tools to build a sustainable organizational foundation and provides communities with a comprehensive strategic plan that is ready for implementation. Towns are selected every other year through a competitive selection process.

"My team is excited to work with these communities. They all have good building stock, strong businesses, and community leadership that will help make their downtown revitalization programs successful," said **Liz Parham, director of the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center.**

As with all programming offered by the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center, the Downtown Associate Community program is based on the Main Street America™ movement established by the National Main Street Center. The Center will work with these communities to establish an asset-based economic development strategy that will transform downtown. The communities will develop a comprehensive implementation plan based on the Four-Point Approach® methodology that focuses on economic vitality, design, promotion and organization.

For more program information, [visit the N.C. Main Street & Rural Planning Center website](#) or contact Liz Parham at 919-814-4658 or [lparham@nccommerce.com](mailto:lparham@nccommerce.com).

Read the [draft plan here](#) and then [offer your comment using this online form](#).

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## On Our Radar

- [Upcoming Event]: [Brexit and Beyond Panel Discussion Featuring Her Majesty's Trade Commissioner for North America](#) ( February 6, 2020 • The Cannon Room, Raleigh • *British American Business Council, Triangle Chapter*)
- [Fintech: How to Catch Hold of a Borderless Industry](#)( *Site Selection* - January, 2020)
- [Golden LEAF initiative to address urgent workforce demands](#) ( *Golden LEAF Foundation* - January 16)
- [NC needs more workers with degrees beyond high school. This \\$25 million aims to help](#) ( *News & Observer* - January 11)
- [J.D. Vance launches VC fund for startups beyond Silicon Valley](#) ( *Axios* - January 9)
- [Companies in a 'bloodbath' for talent in 2020, say experts](#) ( *WRAL TechWire* - January 9)

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## N.C. in the News

- [Working from home in the Triangle? It's one of the top regions for it, study says](#) ( *News & Observer* - January 15)
- [Visa buying Duke University alum's fintech for \\$5.3 billion](#) ( *Triangle Business Journal* - January 14)
- [This North Carolina metro area was No. 1 in the country for growth in 2019, U-Haul says](#) ( *News & Observer* - January 13)
- [ECU program recognized with national award for entrepreneurship innovation](#) ( *ECU News Services* - January 8)
- [Report: Wilmington port named fastest growing in the US](#) ( *WWAY-TV* - January 3)

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## 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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