

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker, Wireless Research Center President and CEO Gerry Hayes, Town of Wake Forest Mayor Vivian Jones, N.C. Commerce Office of Science & Technology Executive Director John Hardin, N.C. State University Director of Technology Planning and Policy Phil Emer from The Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, and Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Marla Akridge in the Satimo 64 test chamber at the Wireless Research Center of North Carolina

Decker Visits Wireless Research Center of North Carolina

The Wireless Research Center of North Carolina and Mayor Vivian Jones of the Town of Wake Forest welcomed N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker on Feb. 3, as she toured the facility and discussed the economic development impact of the wireless industry. The Wireless Center, which was created as a public asset, facilitates public private partnerships, provides CTIA-certified testing, encourages entrepreneurial endeavors, and is preparing to help address the broadband access needs of rural North Carolina.

"North Carolina can be a center of excellence in wireless and broadband technology," stated Decker. "There is great opportunity for job growth in wireless, and for that reason it becomes even more critical to increase the reach of broadband into our rural communities. We can level the



ePlus Opens New Managed Services Center in Morrisville

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced Feb. 5 that ePlus is expanding its Managed Services operations with a new center in Morrisville. The 12,000-square-foot facility, ePlus' third Managed Services Center in the United States, is expected to bring up to 50 new jobs.

"We're delighted to see innovative technology companies like ePlus reinvesting in North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "By expanding its presence in the Triangle area, ePlus is creating new jobs by leveraging the growth of tech activity in RTP and throughout the state.

ePlus is a leading integrator of technology solutions. ePlus enables organizations to optimize their IT infrastructure and supply chain processes by delivering world-class IT products from top manufacturers, managed and professional services, flexible lease financing, proprietary software, and patented business methods and systems.

"We're committed to increasing the number of jobs in North Carolina, and we know that many of these jobs will come from existing companies," said Secretary Decker. "Innovative companies like ePlus are bringing new technology that will be put to use by the talented workforce of North Carolina."

[Read more.](#)

playing field for all of our citizens, and assure that those in rural areas have equal access to high quality, high speed Internet."

Decker's visit to Wake Forest included a tour of the Wireless Research Center, its new commercialization center and entrepreneurship support hub, and an inside look at its testing facilities - specifically the Satimo 64 test chamber.

"We are honored and excited to have had Sharon Decker tour the Center," said Wireless Research Center President and CEO Gerard Hayes. "We are anxious to partner with the N.C. Department of Commerce in making North Carolina a thriving state for technical jobs and to ensure digital broadband access to all industry and citizens within our state."



N.C. Department of Commerce Existing Industry Specialist Uconda Dunn

Five Economic Developers Receive Professional Development Scholarships

Friends Underwriting Economic Development, a regional networking group in Charlotte, recognized five individuals with scholarships totaling \$4,245 to help them offset costs associated with attending professional development classes. This is the fifth year that the group has awarded scholarships, which were presented during the [Charlotte Regional Partnership's](#) Board of Directors meeting at the Gateway Conference Center in Richburg, S.C.

"FUED's support of economic development initiatives is crucial to the 16-county Charlotte region," said Charlotte Regional Partnership President and CEO Ronnie Bryant. "The scholarships enable these professionals to further develop their skills and in the process work more effectively with clients to bring jobs and investment to our region."

FUED works with the Charlotte Regional Partnership on an annual golf outing that's used as the major source of scholarship funding. The Partnership, a nonprofit, public/private economic development organization, positions and markets the 16-county, two-state area to be globally competitive, resulting in increased job creation and investment opportunities that expand the state and local tax base.



Rescheduled: The N.C. Main Street Conference

[The N.C. Main Street Conference](#), which was postponed due to inclement weather last month, has been rescheduled for March 31-April 1 in New Bern at the Riverfront Convention Center. The conference theme, "Main Street: Two Billion Reasons to Celebrate," is a nod to the state's Main Street communities surpassing the \$2 billion mark in combined downtown investment. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Office of Urban Development organizes the event each year.

Watch future issues of SYNC for more information about registration, lodging and the final agenda.

B&I Division releases 2013 Sales Report

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Business & Industry Division has released its annual Sales Report for calendar year 2013. The report summarizes announced jobs, investment statistics and several other metrics followed closely by the Division, such as project activity by industry sector and follow-up meetings with existing industries.

In total, 17,996 jobs were announced in 2013, up 7 percent from the previous year. In addition, \$2.7 billion of investment was announced. Top 10 project announcements by job level last year included MetLife's decision to locate in Mecklenburg and Wake counties, Sunstone Water Group's new facility in Franklin County, and Electrolux Home Products expansion in Mecklenburg County.

Download the [complete summary report here](#).

Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development that illustrate some of the recent activities of the Division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of

The 2014 scholarship recipients are Uconda Dunn, existing industry specialist, N.C. Department of Commerce; Stuart Hair, manager of existing industry relations, Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership; Elaine McKinney, director of business expansion, retention and grants, Lancaster County Economic Development Corp.; Michael McNally, director of existing industry services, Catawba County Economic Development Corp.; and Jessica Gaskill, marketing specialist, Rowan Works Economic Development.

FUED, a group of realtors, property developers, accountants, attorneys, bankers and other professionals from around the Charlotte region, meet the second Tuesdays of most months.



A student working on his research project in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

ARC Offers Students and Teachers Opportunity to Study at Oak Ridge National Laboratory Institute

Applications are now being accepted for students and teachers wishing to study at one of the nation's most elite centers of research. The Appalachian Regional Commission is pleased to announce that it is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education in Oak Ridge, Tenn. to provide two residential, hands-on learning institutes focusing on math, science, and technology for high school students and teachers (July 5-18) and for middle school students (July 13-18). Twenty-six students and 26 teachers from throughout Appalachia will participate in a hands-on learning program that will focus on the application of math and science principles in the world of work.

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. Research topics and activities may include such areas as biofuels and alternative energy. Interested parties can view examples of the research and other activities engaged in during previous summer science camps at the [SummerSTEM website](#).

The participants will spend most days in one of several ORNL research laboratories, but field trips to nearby industries, universities, and museums 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.

economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing industry staff had with businesses throughout the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - Feb. 10, 2014

New projects assigned:	47
Projects announced:	9
Jobs announced:	319
Capital investment announced:	\$47M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	58
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	2,177

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [East Coast Game Conference returns to Raleigh, delivers big-name keynote](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 4)
- [SchoolDude to triple its Cary headcount with up to \\$100M investment](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 3)
- [Russian ambassador talks potential business in Charlotte](#) (*Time Warner Cable News*, Jan. 31)
- [Pervier to retire as head of Rockingham County Partnership](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Jan. 31)
- [What recession? CR Laine continues to expand](#) (*Hickory Daily Record*, Jan. 31)
- [Chinese TV news focuses on Pactera Technology in Charlotte](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Jan. 31)
- [Wilmington, South Africa Ties Run Gamut](#) (*Greater Wilmington Business Journal*, Jan. 31)
- [Report: N.C. ranks No. 3 for incentives transparency](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Jan. 31)

Applications must be submitted to Olivia Collier, the N.C. ARC State Program Manager, on or before March 7. [Applications and additional information are available on the N.C. Department of Commerce's website.](#)

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