

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce

## Pharmaceutical manufacturer to create 123 jobs in Guilford County

On Feb. 22, Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that Qualicaps Inc., a manufacturer of gelatin capsules, will expand its facility in Guilford County. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bernard Torain](#) was the developer on this project.

The company plans to create 123 jobs and invest more than \$26 million over the next three years in Whitsett. The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$235,000. The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match.

Qualicaps is a wholly owned subsidiary of Qualicaps Group. Qualicaps is a leading manufacturer and supplier of two-piece medical and nutrition grade gelatin capsules. The company currently employs more than 150 people at its Whitsett facility, which serves as the North American headquarters and North American manufacturing hub.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Greensboro Economic Development Alliance and Guilford County. [Read more.](#)

[Qualicaps to invest \\$26M, create 123 jobs in Whitsett](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Feb. 22)



## Refrigeration systems manufacturer to create 85 jobs in Davie County

On Feb. 20, Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced that Pro Refrigeration Inc., a manufacturer of refrigeration systems, will expand its operations by locating a new East Coast production facility in Davie County. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bernard Torain](#) was the developer on this project.

Pro Refrigeration plans to create as many as 85 jobs over five years and invest \$4.9 million to gain maximum benefits from performance-based incentives approved by the Davie County Economic Development Commission.

The project was also made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$75,000. The state grant will be based on the company creating 58 jobs and investing \$3.6 million over the first three years of the project.

Pro Refrigeration is a privately-held company that designs, manufactures and distributes state-of-the-art refrigeration systems for the dairy, winery, food processing, medical, and craft brewing industries. The company currently has more than 50 employees operating from its headquarters in the state of Washington and sales office in Georgia.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Davie County Economic Development Commission, Davie County, and the Town of Mocksville. [Read more.](#)

[Where is Pro Refrigeration locating in Davie County?](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Feb. 20)



### Decker to keynote state of the eastern region event

North Carolina's Eastern Region will hold its 2012 State of the Region in Greenville on March 14. As a leader in regional economic development, NCER will report the past year's growth, accolades and challenges. Additionally, NCER highlights valuable initiatives which have seen significant growth or accomplishments in the previous year. This annual event hosts about 400 leaders in business, economic development, education, and elected officials from across the 13-county region.

The 2012 State of the Region will focus on two main themes: logistics and transformative education. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker will be the keynote speaker at the event.



### Film crews gear up for productions across the state

Film crews are gearing up across the state for a number of productions even as the NBC series "Revolution" resumed filming in Wilmington and surrounding communities.

Crews are gearing up for CBS' "Under the Dome," a miniseries based on Stephen King's best-selling 2009 book that's expected to begin filming in early March in the Wilmington area. The drama will follow the inhabitants of a small New England town, who wake up one day to find themselves shut off from the world under a mysterious transparent dome.



Part of the N.C. delegation at Travel South Showcase

### N.C. focuses on driving group travel to state during Travel South Showcase

Fourteen tourism industry partners joined the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development at the 31st annual [Travel South Showcase](#), Feb. 17-20 in Little Rock, Ark., to promote group travel to North Carolina. Travel South Showcase draws 600 tourism professionals, including tour operators and journalists interested in learning about group travel opportunities to and within the South. The only regional marketplace focused solely on the South, Showcase highlights Southern cultural, musical, artistic, and culinary heritage.

On Feb. 17, Director of Tourism Marketing Wit Tuttell provided a briefing for tour operators and media on "What's New in North Carolina." Group Travel Manager Kristi Driver had 24 pre-scheduled appointments with tour operators throughout Showcase. Public Relations Representative Suzanne Brown had appointments with 29 editors and writers from U.S. and Canadian newspapers, news services, magazines, and trade publications. Several commented on the diversity of the state's tourism offerings, such as its many fascinating stories and destinations.

Film crews were in Gastonia earlier this month for a movie that could hit theaters by Thanksgiving. Filming for "An Evergreen Christmas" uses Gaston, Lincoln and Mecklenburg counties as its backdrop. The movie tells the story of a country girl, Evergreen "Evie" Lee who left the farm for city life but returns home for a funeral and finds the family homestead in jeopardy of foreclosure.

"The Remaining" began filming last week in Southeastern North Carolina. The independent film follows a group of friends as they scramble to survive a Rapture-like phenomenon.

The [N.C. Film Office](#) has been working with several projects, including these, to assist them with their filming needs while in North Carolina while also aiding them to better understand the 25 percent film incentive offered by the state, a major contributing factor for most productions in deciding to shoot in North Carolina. The Film Office expects at least five more productions to open offices in North Carolina within the next two months.

['The Remaining' begins filming locally](#) (*StarNews* – Wilmington, Feb. 18)

[Hollywood stars visit Gaston for movie shoot](#) (*Gaston Gazette*, Feb. 13)

---

## Wayne County earns first WorkReady designation

North Carolina's Eastern Region has announced that Wayne County has become the first [Certified WorkReady Community in North Carolina](#). Additional counties will be announced next month. The initiative, under leadership and direction from NCER, was funded by the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center.

As a WorkReady Community, Wayne County has demonstrated a commitment to workforce excellence which is a testament to a comprehensive and collaborative approach to workforce development.

Communities are required to meet or exceed standards outlined at the start of the project. In addition to increasing the number of Career Readiness Certificates, a WorkReady Community increases its high school graduation rate, shows commitment from employers, and fosters collaboration between community representatives in business and education.

Such a designation will have real and immediate impact to the overall economy of Wayne County.

"The retention and recruitment of industry is extremely competitive, even more so today than in decades past. The communities that set themselves apart in the areas most important to the decision making process will win the day," said Wayne County Development Alliance President Joanna Helms. "Workforce is a huge deal in economic development and Wayne County gets that. To be formally recognized as a 'WorkReady Community' and the first in the state is going to keep Wayne County on the leading edge. It's a recognition that we believe will result in more jobs and more investment for Wayne County," remarked Helms.

Wayne County credits its success to its innovative WORKS (Wayne Occupational Readiness Keys for Success) program.

## New report shows clean energy's positive impact on N.C.'s economy and utility rates

On Feb. 18, two leading national research institutes, RTI International and La Capra Associates Inc., released a new study, "[The Economic, Utility Portfolio, and Rate Impact of Clean Energy Development in North Carolina](#)," which is an economic analysis focused on the impacts of clean energy policy in the state.

The N.C. Sustainable Energy Association commissioned the two research groups to conduct an independent and objective analysis focused on key policy drivers and the economic and fiscal impacts of clean energy development, and the ratepayer impacts associated with this development. The study found that the key policy drivers of clean energy development in North Carolina include the Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard, renewable energy investment tax credit and Utility Savings Initiative.

The study's key findings include:

- Clean energy policies are costing electricity ratepayers less than they would have paid without these policies. By 2026, this switch to clean energy will lead to \$173 million in cost savings for electricity customers.
- While the broader North Carolina economy lost more than 100,000 jobs from 2007-2012, the state experienced a net gain in employment of 21,162 job years from 2007-2012 resulting from clean energy development.
- Tax credits taken by renewable energy projects developed between 2007 and 2012 generated a return of \$1.87 in state or local revenue for every \$1.00 of incentive. Since 2007, the state's clean energy policies have been a net revenue generator of \$113 million for the state.
- Between 2007 and 2012, clean energy investment in the state increased 13-fold and generated or saved an estimated 8.2 million MWh of energy through a combination of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, roughly equivalent to the amount of electricity consumed by all the households in the cities of Charlotte, Raleigh and Fayetteville for one year. In addition, state government energy efficiency programs saved the government an estimated \$427 million of taxpayer money.
- From 2007-2012, the total economic benefit of clean energy development in North Carolina was \$1.7 billion and generated \$2.56 billion in associated spending in the state economy. Rural counties have benefited greatly, including more than \$100 million of new clean energy investment in each of three

WayneWORKS is a collaborative initiative led by business training experts at Wayne Community College whose goal is to strengthen the region's workforce through skills training and assessment.



## Asheville, Durham in running for *Southern Living's* the South's Tastiest Town

*Southern Living* is hosting an online voting competition to find the [South's Tastiest Town](#) - and both Asheville and Durham are finalists.

At last report, Durham was battling it out with Memphis for the lead and doing its best to "get out the vote." Durham has even created a [Harlem Shake video](#) to encourage voters in the competition, which ends February 28.

counties - Davidson, Robeson and Person.

[Read more.](#)

## 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 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. 25, 2013

<b>New projects assigned:</b>	70
<b>Projects announced:</b>	12
<b>Jobs announced:</b>	923
<b>Capital investment announced:</b>	\$270M
<b>Industry visits by existing industry staff:</b>	173
<b>Calls to Business Link N.C.:</b>	3,279

## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [TCC's \\$10M aviation building to support demand as enrollment grows](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Feb. 21)
- [AT&T invests \\$1.5B over 3 years to upgrade N.C. networks](#) (*WRAL Tech Wire*, Feb. 21)
- [Charlotte leaders discuss community services at Global Competitiveness Summit](#) (*News 14 Carolina*, Feb. 21)
- [Garner getting 50 new jobs with UltraPure](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 20)
- [Convergys to create 1,600 jobs at two call centers](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Feb. 20)
- [Why Siemens is expanding U.S. manufacturing](#) (Reuters, Feb. 19)
- [UnitedHealthcare to add 600 new jobs in North Carolina](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 19)
- [Solar farm will be built between Star and Biscoe](#) (*The Courier-Tribune - Asheboro*, Feb. 19)
- [Silicon Valley firm thrusts into RTP, creating 100 jobs](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 19)
- [SBA tallies small-business activity in N.C.](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Feb. 19)
- [Israeli manufacturer expanding in Louisburg](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Feb. 19)

---

**(919) 733-4151**

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)  
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

**Building Location:**  
301 North Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

**Mailing Address:**  
4301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

---

[Invite a Friend](#)   [Unsubscribe](#)   [Subscribe](#)   [feedback@nc-sync.com](mailto:feedback@nc-sync.com)   [SYNC archive](#)

---

© 2013 North Carolina Department of Commerce | SYNC™ is a trademark of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

---

---