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## Highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



## Ecolab Inc. to Add 45 New Jobs in Greensboro

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla III and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. announced January 28 that Ecolab Inc. will expand its Kay Chemical Company operations in Greensboro and create 45 new jobs over the next three years. The company plans to build a new 37,000 square foot office building and invest \$10 million in Guilford County.

"Kay Chemical Company has had a great corporate presence in Greensboro for years," said Governor McCrory. "By building this new facility and adding these new jobs, the company is strengthening its continued commitment to North Carolina and to the city of Greensboro."

Located in Greensboro, Kay Chemical Company is a division of Ecolab Inc. The Kay business specializes in delivering customized programs to meet the unique food safety and sanitation requirements of the quick serve restaurants and retail food markets. It currently has more than 490 employees in North Carolina.

"North Carolina continues to be a great place for our existing businesses to expand," said Secretary Skvarla. "It is vital that we continue to work with companies such as Kay Chemical with a long history of doing business in North Carolina to strengthen our state's economy."

In addition to the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C., other partners that helped with this project include: North Carolina Community College System, Greensboro Partnership Economic



*Gov. Pat McCrory cuts the ribbon on the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC). Joining the governor at the Jan. 22 ceremony were (left-right) John Lassiter, EDPNC Board Chair; N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla; N.C. Lt. Governor Dan Forest and Christopher Chung, EDPNC CEO*

## New Era for Economic Development Begins as EDPNC Celebrates Opening

Governor Pat McCrory marked the headquarters grand opening for the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) on January 22 with a ribbon cutting ceremony and press conference. The governor also introduced Christopher Chung, the new CEO of the organization. North Carolina Commerce Secretary John Skvarla was on hand along with other dignitaries to discuss the state's new approach to recruiting jobs, new business and marketing opportunities.

"Although the Partnership has been hard at work, Thursday is a moment for us to stop and recognize the significant shift we're making in North Carolina toward more aggressive and collaborative recruitment efforts," said Governor McCrory. "The Partnership is already helping us create jobs across the state, and that will only gain steam under the leadership of our new and accomplished CEO Christopher Chung."

Chung joined the EDPNC last month and is widely known and experienced in the industry, most recently serving as CEO of the

Development, and the City of Greensboro.

[Read more.](#)



*Donna Ross, librarian at the N.C. School for the Deaf, holds her prize turkey for logging the most minutes spent in the fitness room in November 2014. Congratulating her is Nurse Supervisor Joy Cook, who has spearheaded the school's wellness efforts.*

## Embracing Wellness on a Shoestring

To see how much progress the North Carolina School for the Deaf has made on staff health and wellness issues, a visit to a recent staff meeting would tell you a lot. Six employees wearing "Happy Happy Happy" t-shirts opened the meeting by gathering up front and dancing to "Happy," the catchy Pharrell Williams song, as it blasted across the room. Soon all 150 employees were on their feet, dancing and laughing.

"Even the maintenance men were dancing, I couldn't believe it," laughs Nurse Supervisor Joy Cook, who has been leading the staff health and wellness efforts at the state facility. After "Happy" came Latino music, a line-dance lesson and later a celebration of all that School for the Deaf's Wellness Committee has achieved over a two year period - including signing up two-thirds of fellow staff members to exercise in the new fitness room.

Previously, the fitness room was a staff development room. Like most of its work, the Wellness Committee converted the space into a Wellness Center with no budget. Staff and their families donated exercise equipment and workout videos. They've developed monthly challenges, with prizes often donated personally by Director Audrey Garvin, to draw and maintain fitness interest. Other accomplishments have included new healthy vending options, healthy catering policies, and a "zen" room for meditation or relaxing.

"We have learned that through focusing on our own well-being, we are better role models for our students, our families and co-workers." said Garvin, who lost more than 20 pounds in the process of championing the healthy changes at the school.

*Healthy Places Change Lives is a partnership between the N.C. Department of Commerce and Prevention Partners, a nonprofit based in Chapel Hill. Prevention Partners guides schools, workplaces, hospitals and clinics to address the leading causes of preventable disease. The non-profit's Healthy Together NC initiative aims to reach at least 10 organizations*

Missouri Partnership. He launched and led Missouri's public-private partnership to be recognized as one of the country's best economic development programs.

"I am happy to be here in North Carolina, a state everybody knows is among the most formidable in the country when it comes to attracting visitors and bringing home business," said Chung. "In a state with so much to offer, our job is to get our story out around the world."

EDPNC is a private, non-profit corporation that works collaboratively with the N.C. Department of Commerce and is focused on making the state more competitive at recruiting new business, helping existing companies expand and creating jobs. It was created to consolidate and enhance North Carolina's marketing and recruitment functions, and oversees the state's efforts in business and job recruitment and retention, international trade, and tourism, film and sports development.

[Read more at ThriveNC.com](#), the state's business recruitment website.



*(Left-right) ARC Executive Director Scott Hamilton, Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Dr. Pat Mitchell and Craftmaster CEO Roy Calcagne tour Craftmaster's facility in Taylorsville*

## Appalachian Regional Commission Chief Visits N.C.

North Carolina Commerce Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Dr. Pat Mitchell hosted Scott Hamilton, the new Executive Director of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for a series of site visits in western North Carolina January 22. The focus of Hamilton's tour was North Carolina projects funded by ARC, the regional economic development agency established by the U.S. Congress in 1965. 29 counties in North Carolina fall within ARC's boundaries.

During Hamilton's visit, ARC-funded projects with a focus on job creation and retention were highlighted. Stops included the Universal Pathways Skill Center in Marion, Altec in Burnsville, Pittsburg Glassworks in Elkin, the Mount Airy/Surry County Airport in

in all 100 counties of the state by 2025. Learn more at [ForPrevention.org/HealthyTogetherNC](http://ForPrevention.org/HealthyTogetherNC)

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The January 2015 issue of the North Carolina Medical Journal

## Mitchell Commentary on Rural Health Published in N.C. Medical Journal

The importance of building capacity in rural communities, including capacities associated with accessing health care is the focus of a commentary published in the January issue of the North Carolina Medical Journal. The article, written by Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Dr. Pat Mitchell and Olivia Collier, North Carolina's Program Manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission outlines the many ways the North Carolina Department of Commerce works to increase community capacity throughout the state.

The January issue of the Journal discusses factors that influence the well-being of residents in rural communities in North Carolina. These include factors related to health care, such as physician recruitment and retention, the effects of hospital closures, and the need for behavioral health services, and factors beyond the health care sphere, such as child care, health behaviors, economic development, and access to health services.

The entire article may be read online at the [North Carolina Medical Journal's website](http://NorthCarolinaMedicalJournal.com).



Mount Airy, ERD Ltd. Inc. in Kernersville, Craftmaster Furniture and the Alexander County Applied Technologies Center in Taylorsville, and the West Caldwell Health Council Inc. in Happy Valley.

While touring Craftmaster Furniture, Mitchell and Hamilton had the opportunity to meet with Roy Calcagne, President and CEO for the company. During the visit, Calcagne emphasized there are job opportunities available at Craftmaster and other furniture manufacturers in the region and noted the support provided by the N.C. Department of Commerce and ARC is critical to ensuring the company's success.

Hamilton's visit was a homecoming of sorts. While he's now based in Washington D.C., Hamilton previously served as president and CEO of Advantage West, the regional economic development organization headquartered in Fletcher.

More information about the North Carolina ARC program can be found at [nccommerce.com/rd/arc](http://nccommerce.com/rd/arc)

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## New Slate of Deputy Commissioners Appointed

North Carolina Industrial Commission Chairman Andrew T. Heath announced the appointment of seven deputy commissioners on January 26.

The new appointments include Lori W. Gaines, Melanie Wade Goodwin, Sumit Gupta, Robert Harris, Christopher Loutit, William "Bill" Shipley and Michael Silver. All appointments are for six-year terms.

Deputy commissioners function as the Industrial Commission's trial-level judges and hold hearings in contested workers' compensation cases, state tort claims, and other matters.

[Read more](#), including short bios of each new appointee.

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## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [North Carolina's new pitchman ready to sell state](#) (Charlotte Observer - January 30)
- [N.C. State Industrial Extension Service Opens New Hanover Office](#) (WilmingtonBiz.com - January 29)
- [Google Fiber coming to Charlotte, major utility work to follow](#) (Charlotte Business Journal - January 27)
- [It's coming: Google Fiber unveils plans for the Triangle](#) (Triangle Business Journal - January 27)

Students explore a problem together during the 2014 edition of the Summer Science Academy and Institute

## Students and Teachers Can Apply for Oak Ridge Lab Summer Study Opportunity

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) in Oak Ridge, Tennessee is offering two residential, hands-on learning institutes focusing on math, science, and technology this summer.

The institute for high school students and teachers will be held July 11-24 and one for middle school students will be conducted July 19-24.

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.

Applications must be submitted to [Olivia Collier](#), the North Carolina ARC State Program Manager, on or before March 13, 2015.

Applications and additional information are available [online](#).

- [NC unemployment rate dips below national average in December](#) (WRAL.com - January 27)
- [North Carolina has the lowest union membership in the U.S. - again](#) (Charlotte Business Journal - January 27)
- [Cree lights to illuminate the Super Bowl](#) (News&Observer - January 27)
- [UNC-CH names Judith Cone Interim Vice Chancellor of Commercialization and Economic Development](#) (UNC News - January 26)
- [What's that sound? All the people moving to North Carolina](#) (Gaston Gazette - January 23)
- [Forbes: This is the 'Most Promising' company in N.C.](#) (Triangle Business Journal - January 23)
- [McCrorry: New economic development strategy in the works](#) (WSOC-TV - January 22)
- [Job growth powers Raleigh to No. 41 spot in world's top 300 metros](#) (WRAL Techwire - January 22)
- [NCSU-based PowerAmerica consortium names executive director](#) (Triangle Business Journal - January 20)

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