

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



From Left: Lentz Stowe (Beaufort County Community College Small Business Center), Peter Thornton (N.C. Department of Agriculture), John Loyack (N.C. Department of Commerce), Ann Black (ImmunoReagents), Bob Heuts (Beaufort Economic Development Commission), N.C. Representative Paul Tine

Beaufort County Businesses Talk Exports

John Loyack from the N.C. Department of Commerce recently spoke to business owners in Beaufort County about the power of exporting. Loyack's remarks were part of an event held February 27 at the Beaufort County Community College that brought together a diverse group of speakers on the topic.

N.C. Representative Paul Tine hosted the event along with the Beaufort Economic Development Commission and the Beaufort County Community College Small Business Center. In addition to Loyack, Peter Thornton from the N.C. Department of Agriculture discussed the services and resources available to North Carolina businesses looking to sell their products and services outside the U.S. Also featured in the program was Ann Black, CEO of ImmunoReagents, an award-winning, Raleigh-based small business that currently sells their products in more than 25 countries.

"We have a lot of opportunities to export goods and grow jobs in eastern North Carolina," said Representative Paul Tine. "There are some fantastic resources available to N.C. businesses, both here and abroad, and I was glad to have this opportunity to shine a light on the fact that, whether you are a small business or a Fortune 500, we have the ability to help."

One of the attendees who learned more about the export assistance programs was Bill Kund from [Pacific Seacraft](#), based in Washington, N.C.

"Taking our products into international markets could be a critical part of our future success," said Kund. "Attending this seminar introduced me to some of the resources that are available to small businesses here in N.C. I look forward to following up with all of them."



The 2013 N.C. Main Street Conference in Salisbury

Registration for Rescheduled Main Street Conference Open

The 2014 N.C. Main Street Conference & Awards Program, impacted by winter weather in January, has been rescheduled for March 31-April 1 in New Bern.

Main Street is a downtown revitalization program based on economic development within the context of historic preservation. In 1980, North Carolina was one of six original states selected to launch the work of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Main Street Center. N.C. Main Street and Small Town Main Street, which provide technical assistance to smaller participating towns and cities throughout the state, are part of the Office of Urban Development in the Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division.

This year's conference, **Main Street: Two Billion Reasons to Celebrate**, will explore downtown economic development's greatest success stories. Conference attendees will learn how communities are generating investment while creating downtown destinations. With a nod to the past and an eye to the future, conference sessions will explore how downtown investment has matured through the years. Innovative tools and funding programs are spurring investment; partnerships are leveraging time and volunteer resources; healthy environments and authentic promotion and branding are building market share; and a diversified business mix is creating jobs.

[Online registration for the conference is now](#)



Registration Underway for Southeastern U.S. - Canada Conference

Registration is underway for an important business conference connecting Canadian business executives with company and economic development leaders in the Southeastern United States.

The 7th Annual Southeastern U.S. - Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS-CP) conference will take place in downtown Raleigh on May 4-6, at the Raleigh Convention Center. More than 250 Canadian and U.S. business leaders are expected to participate.

The conference offers a great opportunity to network with key global leaders. Included in the robust agenda is a Business-to-Business matchmaking program that will match delegates from across the 13 alliance jurisdictions to maximize business opportunities.

People interested in attending the meeting can [register online at the conference website](#).

[Read more.](#)

[open.](#)

BorgWarner Builds Connection with Henderson County Public Schools

Educators from Henderson County Public Schools participated in a lunch and tour of BorgWarner Thermal Systems' 170,000 square foot manufacturing facility on February 21 in partnership with [Made in Henderson County](#), a coordinated effort established to enhance connectivity between manufacturing businesses and the school system while telling the story of manufacturing. The Made in Henderson County effort was developed based on feedback and direction provided by representatives of Henderson County's manufacturing businesses and facilitated by [Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development](#).

"Our primary goal with the Made in Henderson County effort is to help change the perception of manufacturing," said Plant Manager Steve Racher. "Advanced manufacturing businesses need team members who are motivated and understand the complexities and problem-solving nature of the manufacturing sector. The education and skills required to fill available positions are highly specialized and we want students, teachers and guidance counselors to be prepared and understand, first-hand, what it takes to be successful in our company."

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 - March 10, 2014

New projects assigned:	68
Projects announced:	23
Jobs announced:	1,175
Capital investment announced:	\$105M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	119
Calls to Business Link	3,747

N.C.:

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Red Hat CEO: It's up to you to close STEM skills gap](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Mar. 10)
- [Advanced manufacturing finding a home in Charlotte region](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Mar. 10)
- [CNBC segment features TIMCO's job creation efforts, challenges](#) (*Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Mar. 7)
- [Want a job in a fast growing industry? Look to the skies](#) (*CNBC*, Mar. 7)
- [Growing North Carolina's Economy via Data. Not Political Positions](#) (*WFDD.org*, Mar. 6)
- [SAS planning massive new office building in Cary](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Mar. 5)
- [Which automakers need more manufacturing capacity and could the Triad help?](#) (*Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Mar. 6)

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