

syncTM

Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco presents a North Carolina flag to Bluestar U.S. President Chris York.

Bluestar Silicones to bring 125 jobs to Mecklenburg County

Governor Bev Perdue on Feb. 25 announced that Bluestar Silicones, a fully integrated global silicones manufacturer, will locate a new facility in Mecklenburg County. The company plans to create 125 jobs and invest \$19.8 million during the next three years in Charlotte. The project was made possible in part by a \$340,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Ron Leitch was the developer on this project.

"North Carolina's reputation for a top-ranked business climate continues to attract high-tech manufacturers like Bluestar," said Perdue. "The creation of these high-paying jobs is terrific news for the Charlotte community and underscores the value of the region's -- and the state's -- highly skilled workers."

Bluestar Silicones provides specialty silicone products to the automotive, paper and packaging, aerospace, personal care, healthcare, tire and rubber, textile coatings, mold making, and energy industries. Headquartered in China, Bluestar maintains operations in China, Europe, Latin America and the United States. The company plans to consolidate manufacturing operations in other states into a single facility at the former Virkler Chemical site in Charlotte.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$62,040 plus benefits. The Mecklenburg County average annual wage is \$51,584. [Learn more.](#)

Roundtable promotes small business

UNC-Wilmington's Cameron School of Business held a roundtable Feb. 21 focused on helping small business. Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Small Business Commissioner Scott Daugherty participated in the discussion.

The roundtable addressed on ways that the state can focus on small business while wrestling with a budget gap.

"There are a lot of holes (in the budget), but we are going in the right direction," Perdue said.

[Governor touts efforts to help small businesses](#) (The Star-News - Wilmington, Feb. 21)

Fairmont Designs to create 200 jobs in Hickory

Fairmont Designs, a California furniture manufacturer, announced Feb. 18 that it will establish an upholstery furniture manufacturing and distribution facility in Hickory which will create 200 jobs over the next four years. The company has purchased a former Thomasville Furniture building and will spend some \$1.5 million on upfitting the facility. N.C. Department of Commerce Developers Ron Leitch of the Charlotte Regional office and Melissa Smith of the Triad office assisted the company in their location efforts.

The company maintains a showroom in High Point during the International Furniture Market. Other partners in the project were the N.C. Community College System, the N.C. Employment Security Commission and the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation.

CCNCER unveils legislative agenda

The Chambers of Commerce of North Carolina's Eastern Region unveiled its 2011

Eco-friendly pest solutions company to bring 105 jobs to Wake County

Governor Bev Perdue today announced that TyraTech, a Florida-based eco-technology company, will relocate its headquarters to Morrisville. TyraTech has chosen to bring 105 jobs to Wake County because of the talented workforce available in North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Vivian Powell was the developer on this project.

"TyraTech is an excellent example of North Carolina's successful efforts to attract high-tech and green industries. In this case, we got both," Perdue said. "Like so many other companies, TyraTech recognizes that we have a highly-skilled workforce and top-ranked business climate thanks to our investments in education and worker training."

TyraTech is an emerging eco-technology company with proprietary technology that allows it to produce highly effective plant based pest and parasite solutions that are potent yet safe for humans, animals and the environment. TyraTech is entering a period of rapid expansion which requires a highly qualified and innovative team. Ongoing research supports TyraTech's efforts to develop unique foods that control intestinal parasites in humans, control pests found in homes and businesses, and control parasites found in or on companion animals. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) N.C.'s Northeast Commission CEO Vann Rogerson and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll

N.C.'s Northeast holds "State of the Region" event

On Feb. 25 N.C.'s Northeast Commission held a "State of the Region" event in Williamston. The highlight of the meeting occurred when an executive with Iberdrola Renewables announced the company is pursuing plans with landowners and regulators to install 150 commercial-scale wind turbines in the region. The event concluded with Commission CEO Vann Rogerson presenting the Commission's annual report followed by closing remarks by N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll.

legislative agenda at a reception on Feb. 14 at Lenoir Community College in Kinston.

CCNCER began work on its legislative agenda in August of last year and met monthly to formulate the agenda. The process included bringing in experts from various fields to present information on topics identified for possible inclusion in the agenda. As a result of this process, this year's agenda focuses on issues that have regional impact and that are critical to the sustained economic growth of the region such as transportation, infrastructure, burdensome small business legislation, retroactive environmental regulation, coastal insurance rates, education and public health. [Learn more.](#)

Governor's Conference online registration ends March 4

With 400 travel industry leaders and marketing partners already registered, there is still time to confirm a place at the [2011 N.C. Governor's Conference on Hospitality & Tourism](#) at The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa in Asheville, March 13-15. The deadline for online registration is March 4.

The "Rhythm of Success" [conference agenda](#) begins with the Legislative Report on March 13 at 4 p.m. It also includes three keynote addresses, ten concurrent educational seminars, introduction of the Division's 2011-2012 strategic marketing plan and partner programs, the Winner's Circle Awards Luncheon and networking opportunities including evening events hosted by The Grove Park Inn (March 13) and Biltmore (March 14).

The Division will also conduct an abbreviated Tourism Resource Assistance Center program at The Grove Park on March 15 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. after the conference concludes. TRAC provides accessibility for industry partners and all tourism-related businesses to the Division's staff for informal, one-on-one sessions.

N.C. Green Business Fund now accepting proposals

The N.C. Green Business Fund is now accepting proposals for projects that save energy, generate renewable energy and promote building energy efficiency. The complete solicitation document and instructions on how to apply can be found on the N.C. Department of Commerce [Board of Science and Technology's website](#). Interested applicants are requested to read the solicitation document carefully before beginning an application.

All questions must be submitted via e-mail or in writing by 5 p.m. March 18, to [Paul](#)



(Left-right) Macon County EDC Chair Ed Shatley, Macon County Economic Development Director Trevor Dalton, AdvantageWest Board of Directors Chair Tommy Jenkins, AdvantageWest Senior VP of Entrepreneurial Development Pam Lewis, and Bob Scott of the CEC Leadership Team

Macon and Yancey counties recognize entrepreneurship as economic development strategy

Members of AdvantageWest's board and staff, along with leaders of Macon Economic Development Commission, celebrated Macon County's achievement as a Certified Entrepreneurial Community® at the Annual Enterprise Banquet, held Feb. 24 in Franklin. The CEC designation is the result of a rigorous, multi-year process of working to ensure the community has policies and resources that encourage and support entrepreneurship while also improving the business climate for existing companies. The event included the presentation of CEC highway signage by AdvantageWest Board Chair Tommy Jenkins, with remarks by AdvantageWest Senior VP of Entrepreneurial Development Pam Lewis.

The celebration followed one that commemorated National Entrepreneurship Week in Burnsville earlier in the week. That event was coordinated and led by AdvantageWest Director Wanda Proffitt on behalf of Yancey County's CEC program. Participants in that event, attended by more than 70 entrepreneurs and small business owners, included N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll as well as N.C. Representative Ray Rapp and N.C. Senator Ralph Hise,

AdvantageWest's CEC program was the first program in the country to certify communities as "entrepreneur-ready." In addition to Macon and Yancey counties, other communities in the AdvantageWest 23-county region that have earned certification are Haywood, Watauga, Transylvania, Mitchell, Polk and Burke counties as well as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Town of Black Mountain.

Space limited at 'Networking at the Speed of Nano' session

Space is limited at the "Networking at the Speed of Nano" session during the N.C. Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference, scheduled for March 29-30 at the Barnhardt Center at UNC-Charlotte. The session is designed for networking with funders and business specialists. Register [here](#).

[Shannon](#), Green Business Fund administrator, at 301 N. Wilmington Street, 1326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1326. Answers to the aggregated questions will be published on the Board's website on a rolling basis. This solicitation closes at 2 p.m. March 30.

Mini-summit to explore tourism in the Eastern Region

North Carolina's Eastern Region, along with Duplin County Tourism, will co-sponsor the third annual North Carolina's Eastern Region Tourism Mini-Summit, March 2, at River Landing Country Club in Wallace.

Attendees are invited to explore interesting facets of the area's tourism industry with local experts and learn how to take part in one of the Eastern Region's fastest growing sectors. A number of events are planned prior to and following the summit including complimentary tours of River Landing, Buckner Hill Plantation, and Liberty Hall Plantation, and wine tastings at Country Squire Winery and Duplin Winery. [Learn more.](#)

Haywood Community College to hold job fair

[Haywood Community College](#) in Clyde will hold its 2011 job fair from 1-6 p.m. March 31 in Beall Auditorium. Last year's job fair drew 23 employers and more than 350 job seekers.

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry 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 1, 2011

New projects assigned:	52
Projects announced:	21
Jobs created:	2,366
Capital invested:	\$434M
Industry visits by existing	

Registration open for Carolina Connect

Registration is now open for Carolina Connect, Western North Carolina's signature event for connecting entrepreneurs and investors from across the region and beyond. Carolina Connect is a full day of networking, professional development and idea-sharing. Produced by AdvantageWest in partnership with Mountain BizWorks, this is sure to be the best attended Carolina Connect conference since its start in 2002. Register [here](#).

Enrollment, course numbers up in '12 in 6' program

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Workforce Development continues to track the progress of Governor Bev Perdue's JobsNOW "12 in 6" initiative. The community colleges have been asked to provide monthly reports regarding the number of students enrolled, courses offered and the number of jobs created and maintained. The numbers through Jan. 31 show that 18,994 students are enrolled in the program (up from 18,654 as of Dec. 30), and 2,842 courses have been offered (up from 2,785 as of Dec. 30).

industry staff:	211
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	3,463

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Perdue meets with Chinese leaders during DC trip](#) (News 14 Carolina)
- [Banned method of stopping beach erosion could return](#) (The Winston-Salem Journal, Feb. 28)
- [Charging station plans getting a jolt](#) (The Herald Sun - Durham, Feb. 28)
- [State boards face ax to trim budget](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, Feb. 28)
- [Perdue: N.C. can't yet repay federal unemployment loans](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Feb. 28)
- [N.C. budget cuts land conservation but doesn't end it](#) (The Citizen-Times - Asheville, Feb. 27)

(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 [SYNC archive](#)