

# sync<sup>TM</sup>

Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Unison General Manager Mike Grunza (far left) and his management team brief Gov. Beverly Perdue and Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll about some of the components their Asheville plant produces for military and commercial jet aircraft engines. Unison Engine Components is a GE Aviation Subsidiary. The governor has made aerospace and the defense industry supply chain major priorities in her economic development platform.

## Governor, Deputy Sec. Carroll participate in western N.C. meetings

Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll participated last week in a series of meetings with Gov. Beverly Perdue in western North Carolina. The governor centered her first western trip on economic development, meeting with area city council members, county commissioners and business leaders at UNC-Asheville, and speaking to the Council of Independent Business Owners at the Crest Center.

[Perdue makes first trip to mountains](#) (Citizen-Times - Asheville, March 13)



Commerce Sec. J. Keith Crisco speaks March 10 during an event in Chicago sponsored by the Friends of North Carolina organization.

## Site selection consultants learn about N.C. at Chicago event

In an effort to develop and sustain business relationships, the [Friends of North Carolina](#) program sponsored a March 10 reception and presentation in the Chicago regional market where site selection consultants met with Commerce personnel and other economic development leaders from across North Carolina. Sec. Keith Crisco offered remarks and provided consultants with an update about North Carolina's current programs and activities. All attendees received a copy of a 2009 [Spring Update](#).

## B&I Spring Update released

The Division of Business and Industry Development has produced a Spring Update, which is being distributed at site selection consultant events such as the one sponsored by

## Gov. Perdue releases budget

Today Gov. Beverly Perdue released her [proposed budget](#) for the next fiscal year, which includes a \$7 million investment in the Main Street program, and \$5 million for the Green Business fund to encourage the growth of businesses developing green technology. Visit the governor's economic recovery [Web site](#).

[Perdue budget cuts jobs, spending](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, March 17)

[Perdue's budget would raise tobacco, alcohol taxes](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, March 17)

## Study: State's business tax burden is extremely competitive

A study conducted by Ernst & Young in conjunction with the Council of State Taxation finds that North Carolina is extremely competitive in terms of its business tax burden.

Key findings from the report for fiscal year 2008 are:

- N.C. has the third lowest business tax burden among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- N.C. ranks ninth among states for the ratio of public benefits for business to state and local business taxes.
- N.C. has the lowest effective tax rate among the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

[Read the memo](#) about North Carolina's business tax burden and effective tax rate.

## Halifax County to add manufacturer, 105 jobs

Gov. Bev Perdue announced March 13 that FASTA Inc., an international producer of steel and foam construction panels, is opening its first manufacturing plant in Littleton. The company plans to invest \$2.5 million and create 105 jobs in Halifax County over the next three years. [Read more](#).

## Edgecombe County manufacturer to add 120 jobs

Gov. Beverly Perdue announced March 10 that HC Composites, a

Friends of N.C. in Chicago. [Click here](#) to see the update.

## Raleigh Media Showcase brings media, travel industry together

The Public Relations section of the Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development hosted a Raleigh Media Showcase on March 3 to pitch stories and ideas to in-state media outlets. More than 30 travel writers from Raleigh and surrounding areas attended, including WRAL's Tar Heel Traveler, editors from AAA Living, Southern Living and Cooking Light, as well as freelance writers for several state and national publications. More than 40 partners from across the state joined the division for the event.

[See the selection](#) of North Carolina travel story ideas industry partners provided during the event.

## Burke named president of Biofuels Center of N.C.

[The Biofuels Center of N.C.](#) has named W. Steven Burke as its new president. Currently the senior vice president of corporate affairs for the [N.C. Biotechnology Center](#), Burke has served as the BioFuels Center's chairman of the board since July, 2007, and has been its acting president since August, 2008. He will begin his new duties on April 20. Biotechnology Center president and CEO Norris Tolson will assume the role of chairman of the board of directors of the Biofuels Center.

## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [State of the Economy Lunch March 24](#) (The Pilot - Southern Pines, March 16)
- [Celebrate Express delays closing of distribution center](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, March 16)

national manufacturer of twin-hull boats, plans to expand its Tarboro operations. The company will invest \$2.65 million and create 120 jobs in the next three years. [Read more.](#)



*A material used in auto parts undergoes a heat test. The material has been coated with a nanomaterial to enhance its heat resistance. Photo by nCoat*

## Nanotechnology future on display at innovative two-day session

From molecule-size medicine to "smart" fabrics that adapt to their environment, the rapidly evolving field of nanotechnology is transforming the way we live and work. Emerging practical applications for this 21st century scientific revolution -- and the new jobs and businesses they will bring -- are the focus of the state's first Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference, March 25-26 at the Raleigh Convention Center.

Gov. Beverly Perdue will deliver the luncheon keynote speech on March 26. The forum also will feature educational workshops, networking opportunities and exhibit booths. Registration for the conference has been extended. Register online by noon on March 23, and save \$50.

[Click here to register.](#) [Click here](#) to read more about the conference.

## N.C. Film Office at SXSW

The N.C. Film Office is attending the [South by Southwest \("SXSW"\) Film Conference & Festival](#) in Austin, Texas, through March 21. The Film Office, along with partners Advantage West and the Piedmont Triad Film Commission, will exhibit at the Film and Interactive

- [Furniture maker relocating to N.C.](#) (The Charlotte Observer, March 16)
- [N&O cutting pay, eliminating 78 jobs](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, March 16)
- [Mayor, officials confident about safety of original Dell deal](#) (The Winston-Salem Journal, March 13)
- [State Grant Creates 105 Jobs In Halifax County](#) (digitriad.com, March 13)
- [Layoffs expected at N.C. plant](#) (The Kinston Free Press, March 13)
- [Editorial: State economic picture becomes more cloudy](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, March 13)
- [New Jobs Coming To County Hit Hard By Layoffs](#) (North Carolina News Network, March 13)
- [105 jobs coming to Halifax](#) (WTVD - Durham, March 13)
- [Dell cuts jobs in Winston-Salem and Tennessee](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, March 12)
- ["Green" building components firm to open N. C. Plant](#) (The Associated Press, March 12)
- [University Entrepreneurship Conference March 23-27](#) (UNC-Greensboro University News, March 12)
- [Engine plant lays off 390 in Nash County](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, March 12)
- [Report: Dell layoffs to impact W-S](#) (Triad Business Journal, March 11)
- [Dell makes cuts at N.C. plant, elsewhere](#) (Austin Business Journal, March 11)
- [N.C. wine prices shift lower, but sales stay steady](#) (The Star-News - Wilmington, March 11)
- [N.C. agency says Jan. jobless rate hit 9.7 percent](#) (The Associated Press, March 11)
- [Boat jobs get state money](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, March 11)
- [IOI adding 40 new jobs](#) (Cherokee Scout, March 10)
- [Eyes on the Prize](#) (Site Selection magazine, March 2009)

Tradeshow, host a reception for filmmakers, and be the title sponsor for the film awards. SXSU Film explores all aspects of the art and business of independent filmmaking and spotlights the latest filmmaking trends and new technology.

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