

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gov. Bev Perdue (center) and husband Bob Eaves (left) chat with film industry members at the North Carolina reception.

Perdue leads film mission to California

Gov. Bev Perdue led a North Carolina delegation on a film mission to California, March 17-19. The governor, N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, Assistant Sec. for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges, N.C. Film Office Director Aaron Syrett and other members of the delegation met with the heads of several major studios. The delegation also included N.C. film industry leaders, members of the N.C. Film Council and members of four in-state regional film commissions.

In addition to promoting North Carolina as the ideal setting for film projects – for location, talent/crew foundation and general industry familiarity – the group emphasized the new 25 percent film incentive, which went into effect in January. Syrett says that the studios all reacted positively to the new incentive.

"Every single studio we talked to said, 'We want to be in North Carolina,'" Syrett said.

Perdue also hosted an evening reception, underwritten by several film industry leaders in the state and Friends of North Carolina, which allowed the delegation an additional



N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco addresses a meeting of the NCACC's Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee.

Crisco addresses county commission group

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco spoke on Feb. 23 to the N.C. Association of County Commissioners' Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee about creating jobs in North Carolina's 100 counties. Crisco pledged the department's help to the counties to help them attract and retain new business and industry. [Read more.](#)

Carroll addresses Triad commercial real estate executives

The N.C. Chapter of Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) included Senior Economist Mark Vitner of Wells Fargo and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Carroll at their annual meeting of 300 Triad commercial real estate executives. Carroll presented Gov. Bev Perdue's 2010 Agenda for North Carolina and gave an update on the reorganization of the Raleigh-based and regional office recruiters for Commerce's B&I Development Division.

[Economist: no double-dip recession](#)
(Business Journal of the Greater Triad, March 17)

Commerce participates in India Business Forum

N.C. Dept. of Commerce International Trade Division Director Jean Davis was the

opportunity to meet with film industry executives and decision-makers, including guests that have North Carolina connections. North Carolina actresses Sharon Lawrence and Emily Proctor and director Peyton Reed were among those who attended the reception.

SBTDC to host NIH event

On June 2–3 more than 600 health and science managers, entrepreneurs, small business executives, university researchers, and consulting organizations will converge at the Raleigh Convention Center for the 12th Annual NIH National SBIR/STTR Conference. The Small Business and Technology Center will host the event.

Attendees will learn the ins and outs of the NIH SBIR/STTR program and the funding opportunities available to small business researchers. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) Carroll Gray, former head of the Charlotte Chamber, N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco and Ed Kizer, former VP of UNC-Charlotte.

Crisco addresses Charlotte Rotary Club

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco spoke at a meeting of the Charlotte Rotary Club March 16. Crisco, who is a Rotarian with the Asheboro chapter, spoke about Gov. Bev Perdue's commitment to jobs in North Carolina and praised the Charlotte region's strong workforce, economic development partners and educational resources. Crisco also shared business expansion and recruitment strategies, which include bringing energy companies, international business and more to the state. He told the group that the economy is improving and praised Perdue's efforts and leadership. [Read more.](#)

Commerce awards \$1.4M for public water lines

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco on March 17 announced that four North Carolina communities will receive a total of \$1.4 million in Community Development Block Grant funds to connect low- and moderate-income homes to clean drinking water supplies. The money will be used to install or replace 15,300 linear feet of public water lines.

"Every North Carolinian should have access to safe, clean drinking water," Crisco said. "Community development is an

luncheon keynote speaker at the 2010 India Business Forum held March 9 at the Brier Creek Country Club in Raleigh. India is of increasing importance to North Carolina companies that want to export their products and services to this fast growing market, Davis noted. Banashri Harrison, commerce minister with the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C., was the chief guest. She provided an overview of growing ties between India and the United States, and how this emerging market may present new business opportunities. The event was sponsored by the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Business Development Manager Kuldip Wasson also participated in the forum. [Learn more.](#)



N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll addresses the Carolina Recycling Association Annual Meeting in Asheville.

Carroll focuses on priorities in WNC

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll completed a two-day visit in the AdvantageWest region that was focused on priorities in western North Carolina. He addressed a few hundred manufacturers and service providers at the Carolina Recycling Association Annual Meeting in Asheville.

While in WNC, Carroll worked with the Transylvania EDC; met with Rep. Ray Rapp regarding the landslide in Maggie Valley; discussed Jackson County's economic development efforts with local officials; reviewed Haywood Community College and Mountain Projects' work on weatherization; and met with Henderson County business leaders and officials regarding joint economic development recruitment efforts.

Wind power workshop held in Greensboro

important part of the mission of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce, and we will continue to focus on improving the quality of life for all of our residents."

CDBG Small Cities infrastructure funds are awarded to local governments to eliminate severe water and sewer problems that are causing health and/or environmental problems. Projects are chosen based on severity of need, feasibility of the project and the percent of low- and moderate-homes that will be served. The maximum award per project is \$750,000. [Read more.](#)

Two communities awarded funds

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce has awarded economic development grants to two N.C. communities. The Town of Sawmills has been awarded an Industrial Development Fund (Utility Account) grant to upgrade their fire suppression capabilities. The grant would allow the town to construct a 12-inch water supply line for Automated Solutions, LLC, providing the necessary water volume and pressure to meet fire protection requirements.

Automated Solutions is a manufacturer's representative firm specializing in automation components for manufacturing and packaging. With their fire suppression needs met, Automated Solutions anticipates retaining their 12 current employees as well as creating an additional 25 jobs over the next two years.

Also, Franklin County has been approved for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$750,000 to loan to Palziv North America for renovating a vacant industrial building. The company has pledged to create 72 new jobs and invest more than \$7.8 million dollars over a two-year period.

AdvantageWest to host economic summit

Registration is now open for an upcoming event that features a panel of experts presenting a broad range of views on economic and business issues in North Carolina.

Organized by AdvantageWest, "The AdvantageWest Economic Summit: Pathways to a New Economy," takes place March 29 at Diana Wortham Theatre in downtown Asheville.

The evening starts with a networking reception, beginning at 5:30 p.m., which provides an opportunity to meet and interact with regional, state and federal business leaders, entrepreneurs, economic development professionals and others with a vested interest in business and economic conditions in Western North Carolina.

The panel discussion takes place 7:15 – 8:45 p.m., with D. G. Martin serving as moderator. N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco is among the panelists. [Learn more about the summit.](#)

North Carolina's State Energy Office partnered with the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) to sponsor a two-day Wind Power Supply Chain Workshop March 16-17 in Greensboro. Individual sessions offered information on the wind energy industry, wind turbine manufacturing and entering the wind energy industry supply chain. [Read more.](#)

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry (B&I) 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 22, 2010

| | |
|---|----------|
| New projects assigned: | 106 |
| Projects announced: | 20 |
| Jobs created: | 3,374 |
| Capital invested: | \$409.4M |
| Industry visits by existing industry staff: | 238 |
| Calls to the Business ServiCenter: | 5,467 |

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Biden: Manufacturing key for middle-class wages](#) (The Associated Press, March 19)
- [Rock slide reported at Grandfather Mountain](#) (The Associated Press, March 19)
- [Not all companies meet incentives goals](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, March 19)
- [N.C. city charged up for electric car development](#) (Gaston Gazette, March 17)

(919) 733-4151

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

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

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