

# sync<sup>TM</sup>

Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



West Pharmaceutical Services Director of Operations, Americas Region Troy Player shows Governor Bev Perdue the rubber material that will be made into stoppers for pharmaceutical bottles.

## Perdue kicks off 'Jobs Tour' in Kinston

Governor Bev Perdue on March 28 kicked off a two-week "Jobs Tour" of the state in Kinston. While there Perdue toured [West Pharmaceutical Services](#) and met with employees, then answered questions from local citizens at the Lenoir County Visitor Center. The governor most covered financial topics, including funding for rail projects and education, municipal electric rates, and her executive order to consolidate state agencies. [See video](#) from the town hall meeting.

[Gov. Perdue kicks off tour with Kinston town hall meeting](#) (*The Kinston Free Press*, March 29)

## Garner lands \$12M behavioral health center

[Strategic Behavioral Health](#) of Memphis, Tenn., announced March 28 that it will build a new residential behavioral center in Garner, representing an investment of over \$12 million and more than 250 new jobs. Strategic Behavioral Health President Jim Shaheen said in making the announcement that the recent removal of the Red Route option for I-540 through Garner lifted the final impediment blocking his company's investment in the Garner community.

"The Town of Garner has done a tremendous job in working with us to get our project to this point," Shaheen said. "As the Red Route issue surfaced in the middle of our land search



(Left-right) Rockwood Holdings Executives Dr. Steffen Haber and Dr. Monika Engel-Bader, Chemetall Foote President Ron France and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll at the groundbreaking in Kings Mountain

## Chemetall Foote breaks ground on \$50M facility in Kings Mountain

On March 25, Chemetall Foote Corp. held a groundbreaking for a green economy project in Kings Mountain in Cleveland County. This project was supported with a major U.S. Department of Energy Recovery Act grant, a N.C. Department of Commerce Industrial Development Fund grant and a N.C. Rural Economic Development Center infrastructure grant. Chemetall Foote, a subsidiary of Rockwell Holdings Inc, will build a new \$50 million facility using up to 200 construction workers. Total badged employees will reach 137 when full production of lithium materials for the lithium ion battery industry begins in 2012. The ceremony included N.C. Representative Tim Moore, staffers from the N.C. Congressional Delegation, local elected officials, the Cleveland County Chamber, the Rural Center, Charlotte Regional Partnership and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll.

## Rail grant expected to bring 4,000 jobs

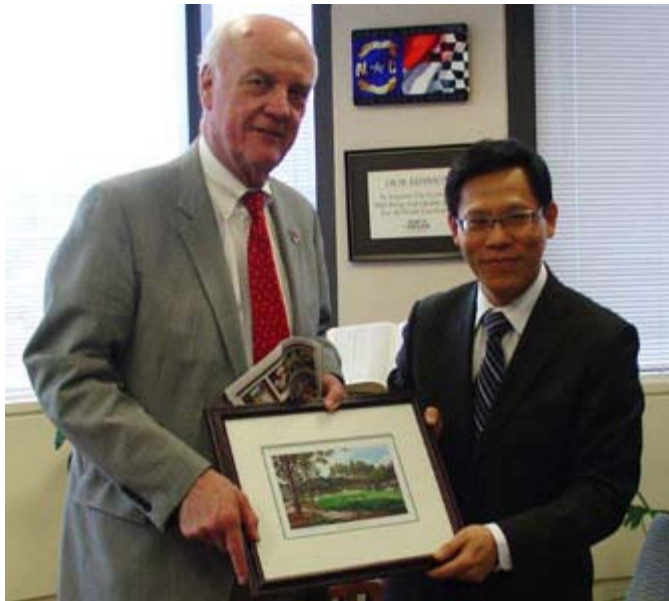
Governor Bev Perdue announced March 22 that North Carolina will be the recipient of \$461 million in federal rail dollars, a grant expected to bring 4,000 jobs to the state.

The federal grant should also boost economic activity in the years to come.

and due diligence, it was the unified effort of the community and its leaders that convinced us to stay and hope that the route would be removed so that we could move forward with this project. We are pleased to be able to build and operate this facility in Garner, as the community leaders have made us feel very welcomed and supported."

Mayor Ronnie Williams hailed Strategic Behavioral Health's decision to commit to Garner. "They're the type of high-end business that will be a long-term community and state asset," Williams said. "The jobs being created – which will have an average annual compensation package of about \$50,000 – will range from doctors and nurses to support and administrative positions."

[Health services company picks Garner for 250 jobs](#) (WRAL, March 25)



*N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco presents Hong Kong Commissioner Donald Tong with a framed portrait of Pinehurst No. 2.*

## Crisco meets with Hong Kong commissioner

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco met with Hong Kong Commissioner Donald Tong March 23 at Commerce's main office in Raleigh. Tong, who is based in Washington D.C., was making a courtesy call to visit North Carolina and offer assistance with building greater links with Hong Kong.

North Carolina has operated an international trade office in Hong Kong since 1994. Between 2009 and 2010, North Carolina trade with Hong Kong totaled \$632 million -- soaring by 40 percent due to large increases in North Carolina exports of food, chemicals and plastics.

## Workforce announces grant awards

The N.C. Commission on Workforce Development recently announced grant awards totaling \$477,650 through the Incumbent Worker Development Training Program. The funds will allow 25 North Carolina firms to support educational and skills training for their workers. A total of 48 proposals were

Perdue said that while rail improvements are exciting, the real value will come from economic development opportunities.

"It's not just about moving people from Raleigh to Charlotte faster," she said. "It's about putting people back to work."

The grant was triggered by an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Co., Amtrak and N.C. Railroad Co. that allows construction to begin on the state's rail modernization program.

The agreement, approved by the Federal Railroad Administration, triggers release of \$461 million in 100 percent federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will pay for upgrades to tracks between Raleigh and Charlotte, bridges and crossing safety improvements, station expansions in four cities along that path and construction of a maintenance facility in Charlotte.

[Perdue: Rail agreement to bring N.C. 4,000 new jobs](#) (*The Citizen-Times* - Asheville, March 22)



*Filmmakers and producers congregate at the filmmakers lounge at the SXSW Festival.*

## Film Office returns to SXSW

[The N.C. Film Office](#) returned to the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas, in March as a sponsor. While there, the office promoted the state's new [25 percent film and digital media incentive](#).

This year the N.C. Film Office took over the filmmakers lounge where producers and directors could meet directly with the N.C. Film Office. The lounge provided a relaxing getaway for filmmakers to enjoy complimentary WiFi, massages, snacks and drinks. The N.C. Film Office branded the film lounge with its "Relax" brand by installing the 10' x 5" directors rocking chair along with

submitted in January 2011 from 19 local area Workforce Development Boards. Of the 25 firms funded, 60 percent are small companies with fewer than 100 employees. [Learn more](#) about the N.C. Incumbent Worker Development Training Program.

---

## Brantley to retire as RDU director

John Brantley, who has guided the fortunes and growth of Raleigh-Durham International Airport for the past 29 years, will retire as the airport's director July 31.

Brantley made the announcement March 24 at a meeting of the Raleigh Durham Airport Authority Board, the governing body for the airport.

[Brantley to retire as RDU airport director July 31](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, March 24)

---

## Carney appointed Mooresville-South Iredell EDC Director

Robert Carney Jr. was appointed the new executive director of the [Mooresville-South Iredell Economic Development Corporation](#) on March 24.

Carney has served as the interim executive director since Feb. 1, 2011, when Russell N. Rogerson, former executive director, resigned to accept a senior vice president position with the Charlotte Regional Partnership.

Prior to assuming the position of interim executive director, Carney served as the organization's existing industry and marketing manager for the past three years.

Chairman of the Board Ron Johnson said, "The Board is extremely confident in Robert's ability to continue the MSIEDC's efforts to expand jobs and investment. He has a proven track record. The decision to appoint him as the executive director was an easy one, since he has done an excellent job for our organization since his arrival." [Read more](#).

[Carney promoted at Mooresville agency](#) (*The Charlotte Business Journal*, March 24)

---

## CLT among world's busiest airports

According to the Airport Council International's Preliminary World Airport Traffic 2010 report, Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is among the busiest airports in the world, ranking seventh for take-offs and landings, behind only Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Denver, Los Angeles and Houston. CLT also ranked No. 25 for Total Passenger Traffic, seeing a 10.4 percent increase over 2009, seeing over 38 million passengers enplane and deplane. [Read the report](#).

---

## Regional commissions to host community forums

[North Carolina's Northeast Commission](#), [North Carolina's Eastern Region](#), [North Carolina's Southeast](#) and Hanbury Preservation Consulting will hold three regional community forums to discuss the creation of a National Heritage Area for Eastern North Carolina. The forums will take place at 6 p.m.

several regular-size directors chairs where filmmakers could sit and rock. More than 500 filmmakers enjoyed the lounge while learning about North Carolina's enhanced incentive.

---

## State incentives recharge film industry

North Carolina's film industry is booming because of the recently increased film incentives, and the state and regional film commissions are working hard to keep that boom alive. But officials said the public needs to understand that film incentive money positively affects the community and isn't being handed out just to film companies and actors.

[N.C. Film Office](#) Director Aaron Syrett, Wilmington Regional Film Commission Director Johnny Griffin as well as Heath Franklin, a Wilmington filmmaker who owns Galvanized Films, and Tom Clark, grants/project manager for the S. C. Film Commission, spoke at In Focus: Film Industry in the Carolinas, a joint growth summit between North Carolina and South Carolina entities. In 2008, films spent \$92 million in the state. In 2009, they spent \$79 million, and in 2010 \$80 million was spent.

"We are only in the third month of this year and already, Syrett said, "We will do over \$200 million in productions in North Carolina." And it doesn't look like the projects are letting up any time soon. He said last year his office received 251 inquiries from film companies. This year, it has already received 382. The spike, he said, is all due to a "smart" film incentive which went into effect in January.

[State incentives help recharge film industry](#) (*The Star-News* - Wilmington, March 16)

---

## NC-CAP issues first loan

Carolina Trust Bank of Lincolnton has issued the nation's first loan under a new program designed to bolster business lending. The loan was issued under the [N.C. Capital Access Program](#), a federally funded program that encourages business lending by reducing lender risk. North Carolina is the first state to get the program up and running.

The loan was awarded to J&S Reel Logging Inc. of Iron Station in Lincoln County to finance log-loading equipment.

NC-CAP was made possible by \$46.1 million in federal funding through the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. Governor Bev Perdue designated the Rural Center to administer the program in all 100 counties. [Learn more](#).

---

## Year-to-date Metrics

March 29 at Lake Waccamaw State Park Visitors Center; 6 p.m. March 30 at Spirit AeroSystems Composite Center of Excellence in Kinston; and 3 p.m. March 31 at Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City.

---

## Clearwater Paper site nears completion

Clearwater Paper is nearing completion of its Shelby distribution center, which could open as early as April. The company, which makes pulp and paperboard, private-label tissue and wood products, plans to hire 250 workers over the next five years. [Read more.](#)

---

## Hagan frequently visits Welcome Center

Senator Kay Hagan and her husband, Chuck, stopped recently at the [I-85 North Welcome Center](#) in Warren County. The Hagans told center manager Mary Perkinson that they often stop there when traveling from Washington back to North Carolina and that they always find the facilities clean and inviting. The center, opened in 1968, is staffed with nationally-certified travel counselors who provide information about North Carolina's attractions, accommodations, events and services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 361 days each year.

Perkinson also gave Sen. Hagan a supply of the [Official 2011 North Carolina Travel Guide](#) to distribute from her office in Washington.

---

## Chinese delegation visits N.C. China Center

The [N.C. China Center](#), housed at the World Trade Park in the headquarters building of [Longistics](#) in Research Triangle Park, hosted a delegation of four Chinese business officials at its offices March 3. Distinguished guests Xu Qihua, deputy general manager for Suzhou Zhongming Optoelectronics Co., Ltd.; Li Zhen, legal contact for Suzhou Zichen Lighting Design Co., Ltd.; Niu Jian, general manager for Jiangsu Tianji Lighting Engineering Co., Ltd.; and Wang Gang, general manager for Shanghai Grand Light Co., Ltd. toured the Center.

The quartet visited several other North Carolina businesses and universities including Longistics, which has promoted international trade with China through the launch of the Suzhou Industrial Park International Commodities Exhibition Center, and Cree, where they learned about advanced lighting and design projects. The delegation came under the leadership of Weizhong Zhang, director of the Center's office in Suzhou, China.

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 29, 2011

New projects assigned:	90
Projects announced:	39
Jobs created:	3,663
Capital invested:	\$570M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	361
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	5,312

---

## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Incentives and infrastructure bring tech startups to downtown Durham](#) (ThriveNC, March 28)
- [State's tough economic times will make it stronger, commerce secretary says](#) (*Appalachian State University News*, March 24)
- [U.S. 17 project ahead of schedule, more funding possible](#) (*The Sun-Journal* - New Bern, March 17)

---

**(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](mailto:feedback@nc-sync.com)   [SYNC archive](#)

