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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco speaks at the N.C. Economic Developers Association 2011 MidWinter Conference in Pinehurst.

NCEDA holds 2011 MidWinter Conference

The N.C. Economic Developers Association held its 2011 MidWinter Conference in Pinehurst March 3-4. This year's conference, with the theme "Taking on the Competition," offered insight into the state's competitive positioning, and allowed attendees to learn more about the challenges we face in the global economy.

Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco was the conference dinner speaker on March 3. The following day, Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll presented the Commerce Update. Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges and B&I Division Director Susan Fleetwood gave presentations on competitive intelligence and competition.

Other speakers included UNC Associate Vice President for Economic Development and Engagement Leslie Boney, N.C. Community College System President Scott Ralls and N.C. Rural Economic Development Center President Billy Ray Hall. [Learn more](#). See Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll's [presentation](#).

Auto Parts maker to expand in

Lydall to Add 170 Jobs in Yadkin County

Governor Bev Perdue on March 4 announced that Lydall, a manufacturer of specialty thermal/acoustical products for the [automotive industry](#), will expand their manufacturing facility in Hamptonville and open a new manufacturing and distribution facility in Yadkinville. The company plans to create 170 jobs and invest \$18.5 million during the next three years in Yadkin County. The project was made possible in part by a \$300,000 grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#). The N.C. Department of Commerce's Melissa Smith was the developer on this project.

"It's great to see Lydall significantly increase their investment in Yadkin County, because they see firsthand the value of doing business in North Carolina," said Perdue. "Creating jobs is my number one priority, especially in areas of the state that have been hit so hard by the decline in our traditional manufacturing industries." [Read more](#).

Crisco participates in Domtar ribbon-cutting

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 4 for a new NC5 Fluff Pulp Machine at [Domtar](#) in Plymouth. Domtar, based in Montreal, Canada, and Fort Mill, S.C., merged with Weyerhaeuser in 2007. The company is the largest integrated manufacturer and marketer of uncoated freesheet paper in North America and the second largest in the world based on production capacity. CEO John Williams also attended the event from Canada.

Carroll to keynote small business lending event at Catawba College

N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll will keynote the "Business Capital 2011: Shaking the Money Tree" event on March 10, sponsored by the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College's Small Business Center and the Catawba College

Edgecombe County

Governor Bev Perdue announced during a visit to the Keihin Carolina System Technology plant in Tarboro March 4 that the company plans to create 50 new jobs and invest more than \$13 million in expanding their facility. KCST is a world leader in the manufacture of engine control units and electronic assemblies for Honda and Acura automobiles and Honda Power Sports. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Steve Brantley was the developer on this project.

"North Carolina, the home of NASCAR, has a strong tradition in auto parts manufacturing because of our highly skilled workforce and customized training programs," said Perdue. "We have built a top ranked [business climate](#), not just to attract new companies, but to fuel growth among those that are already here. KCST's expansion is another reminder that North Carolina has extended its economy around the globe."

KCST's state-of-the-art facility has been in Tarboro since 1997 and currently has 370 employees. [Keihin](#) is a Japanese-owned firm that employs 1,800 people at seven locations in North America. Globally, Keihin has facilities in 11 countries and employs more than 16,000 associates. [Read more](#). [Learn more](#) about the automotive industry in North Carolina.



(Left-right) Cumberland County Commissioner Jimmy Keefe, Fayetteville Mayor Tony Chavonne, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, and Strategic Solutions Unlimited CEO Tony Martin are joined by SSU staff and chamber members at the ribbon-cutting.

Strategic Solutions Unlimited opens second location in Fayetteville

On March 4 Strategic Solutions Unlimited Inc. held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of a second location in Fayetteville. This "Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business" exclusively used North Carolina sub-contractors to complete a major retrofit of a vacant building in a HUB Zone in Fayetteville. CEO Tony Martin also shared his commitment to North Carolina-based companies for his supply chain to provide hard and soft intelligence assets to the U.S. military and federal agencies. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll participated in the ceremony and presented Governor Bev Perdue's economic development priorities in support of the [military and defense](#) supply chain in North Carolina.

Crate & Barrel opens flagship store in Durham

Ketner School of Business. Seminars will include panelists from area banks, the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, the Self-Help Community Development organization, the N.C. Institute of Minority Economic Development, the N.C. Bar Association, SBA, the Michael Scott Mater Foundation and other organizations.

[BEFCOR helps business owners shake the money tree at March 10 event](#)
(dBusinessNews, March 8)



(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, N.C. Rural Economic Development Center President Billy Ray Hall, Governor's WNC Office Director Juleigh Sitton, Rural Center VP Patrick Woodie, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Commissioner of Small Business George Millsaps

Commerce participates in Young America grand opening

On March 7, N.C. Capital Access Program briefings and lender training sessions were held at Southwestern Community College and Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. N.C. Rural Economic Development Center President Billy Ray Hall and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll keyed the two sessions. [Learn more](#).



(Left-right) Young America VP of Operations Bob Harlod, Shower Me with Love/Young America owner Andrew Shallal, N.C. Department of Commerce Commissioner for Small Business Scott Daugherty, N.C. Department of Commerce Western Regional Manager Cindy Messer, Young America Senior VP of Sales Kevin Bowman, Graham County Commissioner Connie Orr, Graham County Planner Josh Graham, Young America Sales Representative John Pigg

Home furnishings retailer [Crate & Barrel](#) opened its new 22,000-square-foot flagship store March 2 at the Streets of Southpoint in Durham. The new store will employ 40 workers. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Assistant Secretary for Policy, Research and Strategic Planning Stephanie McGarrah attended the grand opening.

Crate & Barrel sells more than \$100 million of merchandise a year that is made in North Carolina. The majority of the upholstered furniture they sell and a large percentage of the fabrics it sells are made in North Carolina. The company is building a new distribution center, the company's largest, in Lincolnton. It will open in 2012 bringing even more jobs.

Some of the North Carolina companies that supply Crate & Barrel are: McCreary Modern (Newton, 450 employees), Lee Industries (Newton), Shenandoah Furniture (Valdese), Bernhardt Furniture (Lenoir), Thayer Coggin (High Point), Hancock & Moore (Taylorsville), Valdese Weavers/Circa (Valdese), and Marlatex Weavers (Belmont).

Gates Foundation invests in RTP nano firm

Research Triangle Park nanotechnology firm Liquidia recently received a \$10 million investment from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The funds will be used for vaccine and therapeutic development. The company was developed by N.C. State University and UNC-Chapel Hill professor William DeSimone. Liquidia is also developing a seasonal flu treatment.

[Gates Foundation invests \\$10M in RTP-based Liquidia](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, March 4)

USA Today lauds RDU design

An article on airport design in the March 3 edition of *USA Today* praises the design of Raleigh Durham International Airport's new Terminal 2. The article describes the terminal as evoking the rolling Piedmont landscape.

"The terminal's wooden ceiling beams are a tribute to the area's legacy of furniture manufacturing," the article says. "Stainless steel and large windows are meant to reflect progress and the Research Triangle's technology orientation."

"Passengers tend to get a picture fairly quickly that there's a story being told," airport director John Brantley says. "Folks have associated us with 'The Andy Griffith (show)' for so many years. We're no longer Mayberry. This terminal reflects that the region has grown up."

[Airports embrace local design, dining and retail](#) (*USA Today*, March 3)

Commerce participates in Young America grand opening

N.C. Department of Commerce Commissioner for Small Business Scott Daugherty and Western Regional Manager Cindy Messer participated in the Feb. 18 grand opening of the Young America Signature Shop in Charlotte. Young America is Stanley Furniture Company's brand of infant-to-teen furniture, Built to Grow™ from crib to college. All of its products are made in the United States.

Year-to-date Metrics

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 8, 2011

New projects assigned:	58
Projects announced:	27
Jobs created:	2,848
Capital invested:	\$488M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	247
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	3,941

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Paul Brayton to expand, add employment](#) (The High Point Enterprise, March 8)
- [NHL All-Star Weekend was a boon](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, March 8)
- [All-electric Nissan Leaf makes Raleigh debut](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, March 7)
- [State hearing set on wind turbine project](#) (*The Daily Advance* - Elizabeth City, March 6)
- [Troxler hopes to boost NC exports to China](#) (*The News & Observer* - March 6)
- [Ingles' founder, Asheville-area visionary Robert P. 'Bob' Ingle dies](#) (*The Asheville Citizen-Times*, March 6)
- [Wilmington's film business on a roll: let's hope it continues](#) (*The Star-News* - Wilmington, March 1)

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