

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



N.C. Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Secretary of Commerce Sharon Decker at the Trinity Frozen Foods announcement on April 11 at Mariani's Restaurant in Pembroke

Food manufacturer to create 149 jobs in Robeson County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on April 11 that Trinity Frozen Foods, a frozen food manufacturing company, will locate its operations in Robeson County. The company plans to create 149 jobs and invest more than \$15 million over the next three years in Pembroke. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ken Allen](#) was the developer on this project.

Trinity Frozen Foods, with management offices in Charlotte, will construct a sweet potato processing facility in Pembroke and has initial plans to produce 12-15 million pounds of sweet potato fries annually. The company plans to expand eventually to produce 50 million pounds of sweet potato fries each year. North Carolina is the nation's leading grower of sweet potatoes.

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$500,000. The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds.



Ipreo Holdings to create 250 jobs in Wake County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on April 11 that Ipreo Holdings, a global company that provides market intelligence, data and technology solutions to capital markets and corporate professionals around the world, will establish a business center in Wake County. The company plans to create 250 new jobs in North Carolina by the end of 2017 and invest more than \$3 million in its Raleigh location. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Vivian Powell](#) was the developer on this project.

Ipreo is a global leader in offering market intelligence, platforms that facilitate the issuance of equity and debt securities, and investor communications tools to the world's leading investment banks, financial firms and publicly traded companies. The company is headquartered in New York and employs more than 650 people in offices on five continents.

Ipreo plans to establish a business center in Raleigh that will both mirror its New York City headquarters operations and serve as a base for future growth. Staffing plans include product development, client services and analytical functions.

The project was made possible in part by an award to Ipreo from the state [Job Development Investment Grant](#) program, as voted by the state Economic Investment Committee. Receipt of the award is based on proof of job creation and other performance requirements. JDIGs are awarded only to new and expanding businesses and industrial projects whose benefits exceed the costs to the state, and which would not be undertaken in North Carolina without the grant.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Robeson County, Robeson County Economic Development Commission, Robeson County Committee of 100, North Carolina's Southeast, N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, and the Golden LEAF Foundation. [Read more.](#)

[Trinity Frozen Foods to create 149 jobs in Robeson County with sweet potato factory](#) (*The Fayetteville Observer*, April 12)



Building products manufacturer to create 145 jobs in Columbus County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on April 10 that Ply Gem Industries, a manufacturer of building products, will expand its operations in Columbus County. The company plans to create 145 jobs and invest \$15.5 million over the next three years in Fair Bluff. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ken Allen](#) and [Ben Rogers](#) were the developers on this project.

"These new manufacturing jobs are a welcome and necessary step to improving the economy in Columbus County," said Governor McCrory. "It's always encouraging when a great corporate citizen like Ply Gem chooses to expand right here in North Carolina."

Ply Gem, headquartered in Cary, is a leading manufacturer of exterior building products in North America. Ply Gem produces a comprehensive product line of vinyl siding, designer accents and PVC-trim, vinyl fencing and vinyl and composite railing, stone veneer, and vinyl windows and doors used in new construction and home repair and remodeling in the U.S. and Western Canada. Ply Gem currently employs more than 100 people in North Carolina.

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$150,000. The grant is contingent upon proof of job creation and receipt of a local funding match.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Columbus County, Town of Fair Bluff, North Carolina's Southeast Regional Partnership, Columbus County Committee of 100, N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, N. C. Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, Columbus County Schools, and the Columbus County Economic Development Commission. [Read more.](#)

Under the terms of the company's JDIG award, Ipreo is eligible to receive up to nine annual grants equal to 65 percent of the state personal income tax withholdings from the eligible new jobs created since the date of the initial award. Receipt of each annual grant is based on state-certified proof that the company has fulfilled incremental job creation requirements. Over nine years, the JDIG award could yield aggregate benefits to Ipreo of up to \$3,783,000.

In addition, up to \$1.26 million in additional funds from the company's JDIG award could be added to the state's Utility Fund for infrastructure improvements in economically distressed counties. When a JDIG is awarded to a company whose site is located in the state's more economically prosperous counties such as Wake, 25 percent of the company's grant is allocated to the Utility Fund to encourage economic development in less prosperous counties. For more information on the county tier designations, visit: <http://www.nccommerce.com/research-publications/incentive-reports/county-tier-designations>.

Other partners who assisted with this announcement include: N.C. Community Colleges, Wake County, Research Triangle Regional Partnership, and the Raleigh Chamber. [Read more.](#)

[N.Y. financial support firm hiring 250 workers in Raleigh](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, April 11)

[Why Ipreo chose Raleigh for its 250-job expansion](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, April 11)





Small Town Main Street Eastern Program Coordinator Bob Murphrey presenting at the annual spring meeting of N.C. Main Street Program managers

N.C. Main Street managers meet

[N.C. Main Street Program](#) managers from across the state gathered in Washington April 3-5 for their annual spring meeting, hosted by the Washington Harbor District Alliance. During the three-day event, facilitated by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Office of Urban Development staff, managers received information updates and participated in roundtable discussions. Educational sessions included "Recruiting, Training, Managing and Retaining Downtown Volunteers," "Main Street Stakeholders and Partnerships" and "Photographing Your Downtown: Great Pictures That Tell Your Story," presented by Garry Hodges of Rocky Mount's Sunset Studios. In a workshop session entitled "Taking Vacant Buildings to the Next Level: The Project Development Plan," Small Town Main Street Eastern Program Coordinator Bob Murphrey took managers through the multiple steps of a project development plan.

Managers' meetings provide a host community with the opportunity to showcase their downtown. [Washington](#), incorporated in 1776 and often referred to as "the Original Washington," exhibits one of the finest historic commercial districts in the state, with buildings dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Managers were given a tour of the scenic waterfront downtown, which stretches along the edge of the Pamlico River and offers specialty retail shops, restaurants and upper floor housing. In an evening reception, attendees experienced one of Washington's greatest assets - the [N.C. Estuarium](#), a 15,000-square-foot museum dedicated to educating the public about sounds, rivers and the inland waterway.

Main Street managers' meetings, open to program managers and staff from North Carolina's designated Main Street communities, are held twice a year and alternate between the eastern and western regions of the state. The next meeting will be in western North Carolina in late August/ early September.

In SYNC: Jennifer Hogsed

N.C. Department of Commerce Economic Developer/Existing Industry Specialist [Jennifer S. Hogsed](#) is from Andrews, a rural town in southwestern North Carolina. She graduated from Western Carolina University in 2002 with a B.S. in Business Administration, with a concentration in Business Administration and Law, and a minor in Hospitality Management. Hogsed has returned to WCU to obtain a M.S. in Human Resources and expects to complete that program next year.

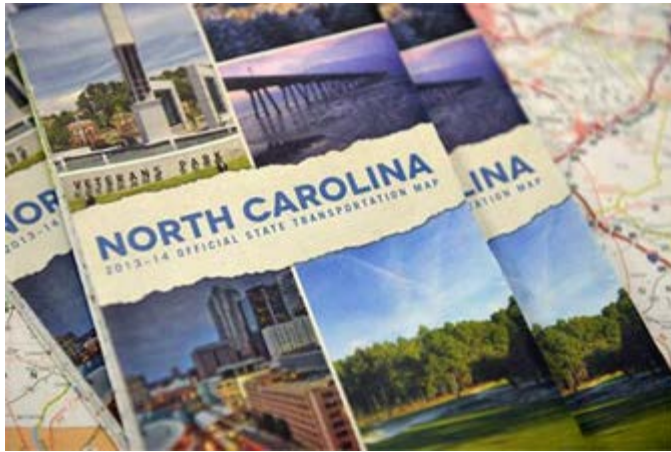
After college, her early career was spent working as a financial analyst in private industry in Western North Carolina. In 2009, Hogsed changed careers and began working for Tri-County Community College in Murphy as its customized training coordinator. In October 2011, she began working for the N.C. Department of Commerce in her current role in the Southwestern Regional Office in Bryson City.

Hogsed's most recent accomplishment with Commerce was the acquisition of Whitley Products by [Franklin Tubular Products](#) last month. "This was a very rewarding project, that I really enjoyed working on because not only were jobs created, but jobs were also saved in rural Macon County," said Hogsed. "The partners in Macon County, including Economic Developer Tommy Jenkins, made the project a true win for everyone. Also, the new owners were so easy to work with and their excitement about the project was refreshing. I am truly thankful to have had the opportunity to work with everyone involved in the project; it was a true success."

Hogsed reports that the most rewarding thing about working in economic development is being given the opportunity to help businesses and the people who depend on them for their livelihood. "I really enjoy getting to know all of the community partners and working with them to address issues, in an attempt to find solutions that will make rural Southwestern North Carolina a better place to live, work and play," said Hogsed.

In her spare time, Hogsed enjoys spending time with her two children, Ansley (8) and Zackary (4), and her husband of ten years, Tim. She enjoys watching her children participate in their various activities: softball, t-ball, swimming, riding bicycles, cheerleading, and Bible Drill. Hogsed says they enjoy many outdoor activities as a family as well and always look forward to their beach trip with extended family every year.

Year-to-date Metrics



2013-14 state map now available at VisitNC.com, 1-800-VISITNC

The 2013-14 State Transportation Map has officially arrived and is available free of charge. The map is funded and produced by the N.C. Department of Transportation, but it will now be distributed through the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development and can be ordered [online](#) or by calling 1-800-VISITNC. "One of our central goals is to improve efficiency and streamline our operations," N.C. Transportation Secretary Tony Tata said. "We are also striving to identify ways we can work together across state agencies to better serve North Carolina. By distributing the map through Visit NC, we can achieve cost savings by eliminating redundancies and better serve our travelers by allowing them to access all travel publications through a central source."

Map orders, whether through VisitNC.com or 1-800-VISITNC, are fulfilled at the Division's Call Center, located at the N.C. Correctional Institute for Women in Raleigh. Inmates take orders for the maps and package them for mailing, keeping expenses low. The Call Center also processes orders for the Division's *Official 2013 North Carolina Travel Guide*.

The cover of the new map features a montage of North Carolina scenes, including the N.C. Veterans Park in Fayetteville; Mount Mitchell, near Burnsville and the highest point east of the Mississippi River; Johnnie Mercer's Pier at Wrightsville Beach; Pinehurst No. 2, site of the 2014 U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open championships; research crops planted in Kinston; and uptown Charlotte.

In 2009, NCDOT transitioned from a one-year map to a two-year map, cutting printing costs in half. Also, starting with the 2011-12 edition, the state map went high-tech and began featuring a QR (Quick Response) code that can be scanned by cell phones and other mobile devices to link directly to [NCDOT Mobile](#), a phone-friendly version of the NCDOT website.

Maps are also available at the Division's nine Welcome Centers, NCDOT rest areas and NCDOT offices across the state. For bulk requests, send the quantity desired along with shipping information to visitnc@nccommerce.com.

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development 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 - April 15, 2013

New projects assigned:	124
Projects announced:	37
Jobs announced:	5,907
Capital investment announced:	\$547M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	371
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	6,296

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Foothills expanding brewing capacity again](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, April 12)
- [Eastern Band to build second casino](#) (*The Citizen-Times* - Asheville, April 11)
- [MetLife will lease 340,000 square feet at Ballantyne](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, April 9)
- [MCC showcases training opportunities during Advanced Manufacturing Day](#) (*Statesville Record & Landmark*, April 9)
- [Security firm opens global headquarters in Mooresville](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, April 9)
- [Duke Energy names new recruiter for data-center industry](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, April 9)
- [Ashley Furniture to break ground on Davie County expansion April 17](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, April 8)



Bieber photos at N.C. Transportation Museum hit newsstand

The April [Teen Vogue](#) magazine featuring photos of Justin Bieber at the [N.C. Transportation Museum](#) in Spencer is on newsstands, and a [You Tube](#) video of him at the museum is also available. The magazine, with a circulation of about 1 million, photographed Bieber at the museum in January when he was in North Carolina for concerts in Charlotte and Greensboro. The video shows Bieber climbing on old trains and a motorcycle, carrying a suitcase, posing and performing in the Back Shop. "It has been fun to see the reaction from the public," said Mark Brown, a spokesman for the museum. "Opinions are widespread and myriad about Justin Bieber, but one way or another, he's a very big name."

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