

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gov. Bev Perdue is shown with Emilia Mueller, secretary of Commerce for the state of Bavaria in Germany, at the North Carolina reception, currently taking place at SYNC press time, in Munich.

## Perdue, Crisco lead mission to Europe

On April 26, Gov. Bev Perdue and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco began an important business and tourism development trip in Europe, focusing on Germany and Sweden. The governor will be in Munich through April 28, with the Commerce team continuing on to Hamburg, Berlin and Rostock, then ending the trip with client visits in Sweden.

The purpose of the trip is to recruit more jobs, investment and tourism dollars to North Carolina by meeting with senior executives of current and prospective clients in high-growth sectors including energy, life sciences and advanced manufacturing, and with tourism leaders. Scott Ralls, president of the N.C. Community College System, will showcase the state's highly regarded workforce training capabilities – an important competitive advantage for North Carolina.

Since 2001, international investment and job creation have accounted for 15 percent of all investment and jobs in North Carolina, amounting to nearly \$8 billion and the announced creation of more than 40,000 jobs. European jobs and investment have been a big part of the state's economic growth over the past 10 years.

As of press time, The Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development is hosting a reception for 60 people including tour operators and journalists in Munich.



## N.C. Film Office wins awards

The N.C. Film Office recently participated in the 25th annual Locations Tradeshow in Santa Monica, California. Attending the tradeshow with the N.C. Film Office were regional film commissions from Charlotte, Piedmont Triad, and Wilmington.

At the tradeshow the N.C. Film Office was honored to receive multiple marketing awards for creative work this past year. The Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI), which represents more than 300 film commissions worldwide presented the following awards to the N.C. Film Office.

- First Place: The North Carolina Los Angeles Reception Invitation (Direct Marketing Category) – This piece was designed in house with the help of Angela Marshall, Roberta Rose and Whitney Goulding.
- First Place: The Giant North Carolina Rocking Chair Installation (Displays/Signs Category) - This was designed by partner agency LKM. This piece has been installed at the Sundance Film Festival, Los Angeles, Governors Conference, and will be displayed this week at the Tribeca Film Festival.
- Second Place: The North Carolina T-shirt Design (Apparel Category) – This T-shirt was designed by LKM. The design is the FilmNC theater design,



Gov. Bev Perdue is shown at the March announcement that Siemens Energy Inc. would expand in Charlotte. Siemens is one of more than 150 German companies bringing jobs and investment to North Carolina.



Dale Carroll, deputy secretary of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce, presents a state plate to Greg Stoner, president of MasterBrand Cabinets April 22 as Stoner announced the addition of 334 jobs at the Kinston plant over the next three years. (Photo by Charles Buchanan/The Kinston Free Press)

## Cabinet maker to bring 334 jobs to Kinston

Gov. Bev Perdue on April 22 announced that MasterBrand Cabinets Inc., a national manufacturer of kitchen and bath cabinets for the remodeling and new construction markets, will expand in Lenoir County. The company plans to create 334 jobs and invest more than \$3.75 million during the next three years in Kinston. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$200,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Donna Phillips was the developer on this project.

"North Carolina remains home to the finest furniture and cabinet makers, an industry rapidly adapting to master the evolving challenges of a world market," said Perdue. "Our highly skilled workers, custom training programs and top quality of life continue to attract companies looking for the

which also can be seen on the reverse side of N.C. Film Office business cards.

- Third Place: The North Carolina Director Rocking Chair (Specialty Category) – In conjunction with the large installation these chairs were designed by LKM. These chairs have been displayed at various industry functions and several now reside in the offices of executives at DreamWorks, Alcon, Paramount, Warner Bros. and several others.

These awards mark the sixth win for the Film Office. In 2008 the N.C. Film Office won two first place honors for Logo Design and Advertising Campaign. [Read more](#)

[N.C. Film Office wins awards for marketing and creative work](#) (WECT - Wilmington, April 26)

## Toyota supplier to add 360 jobs in Durham

AW North Carolina has announced plans to add up to 360 jobs and invest more than \$100 million in its Durham plant. The company plans to build a new production line for fully assembled front-wheel drive transmissions for Toyota. AW North Carolina is a subsidiary of Japan's Aisan AW Co. Ltd.

[AW North Carolina to add 360 Durham jobs](#) (Triangle Business Journal, April 22)



State Sen. Ed Jones at the N.C. Partnership for Economic Development quarterly meeting in Edenton

## N.C.'s Northeast hosts NCPED meeting

The N.C. Partnership for Economic Development held its quarterly meeting April 22-23 in Edenton. The event was hosted by North Carolina's Northeast. Dinner speakers were State Sen. Ed Jones and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll.

perfect place to grow and thrive."

MasterBrand Cabinets Inc., a subsidiary of Fortune Brands Inc., is headquartered in Jasper, Ind. The company manufactures cabinets for the kitchen, bathroom and other rooms of the home. MasterBrand has manufacturing facilities throughout the United States and Canada, including a plant in Kinston employing more than 200 workers.

The company plans to reconfigure the current facility and more than double the workforce at its Kinston plant to produce a new kitchen and bath product line. While salaries will vary by job function, the new positions will pay an average annual wage of \$25,787, not including benefits. [Read more.](#)

[New jobs for Kinston](#) (Kinston Free Press, April 23)



*N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll participates in an economic development summit with Wingate University, the Charlotte Chamber and Town of Matthews*

## Town of Matthews Holds Economic Development Summit

On April 16 the Town of Matthews held an economic development summit. Wingate University, the Charlotte Chamber and N.C. Dept. of Commerce participated in the summit with town officials and staff. N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll presented Gov. Bev Perdue's 2010 Agenda for North Carolina.

## Obama visit shines light on Asheville

President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama visited Asheville for a short vacation April 23-25. The visit is sure to increase the city's profile among those deciding where to travel and spend their money, according to Marla Tambellini with the Asheville CVB.

"Anytime you have a notable person visit, it certainly raises the level of awareness of your destination," Tambellini said. "But when you have someone as significant and important as the president of the United States, that's certainly publicity you can't buy. Having the leader of the free world visiting your destination is priceless as far as promoting your community as a great vacation getaway."

[President Barack Obama's visit to Asheville gives city 'priceless' publicity](#) (Asheville Citizen-Times, April 18)



## Ferries to increase service to Ocracoke

The N.C. Dept. of Transportation (NCDOT) is restoring full toll ferry service to Ocracoke Island this summer, adding four daily roundtrip runs that were canceled last summer because of budget cuts and increased federal staffing requirements. Starting May 25, the NCDOT Ferry Division will offer six daily roundtrips from Cedar Island, instead of the four that operated last summer. The Swan Quarter schedule will have four daily roundtrips, up from the two that operated last summer. [Learn more.](#)

[Ferries to go to Ocracoke more often this summer](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, April 21)

## SEUS-CP wraps up in Biloxi

The annual Southeastern United States-Canadian Province Alliance (SEUS-CP) event took place in on April 11-13 in Biloxi, Miss. The theme of this year's conference was "Shared Interests-Shared Opportunities" and focused on three industry sectors: energy, geospatial technology and advanced manufacturing. The North Carolina delegation was led by Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton, who commented on the strength of the North Carolina-Canadian relationship. Canada is North Carolina's No. 1 trading partner. In 2009, over \$4.5 billion in goods was exported from North Carolina to Canada. North Carolina's Trade and Investment representative in Toronto, Russ Sawchuck, was also in attendance, along with International Trade Division Director Jean Davis.

Both business and economic development delegates joined the group for the event. Local aerospace companies met one-on-one with Northrop Grumman and other companies as part of the match making and toured their facility. North Carolina had strong representation on speaking panels including presentations by Ray Jones, CEO of VX Aerospace and David Holdstock, CEO of Geographic Technologies Group. Next year's event will be held in New Brunswick, Canada, on June 12-14, 2011.



## Spectrum Mills to bring 49 jobs to McDowell County

Gov. Bev Perdue announced April 26 that Spectrum Mills LLC will locate in McDowell County. The company, which will manufacture specialty textured yarns, plans to create 49 jobs and invest \$2.7 million during the next three years. The project was made possible in part by a \$135,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"North Carolina remains a top choice for companies seeking to create new jobs and enhance their successful operations," said Perdue. "Our exceptional business climate, skilled workforce and training programs continue to attract businesses and investment to our state."

Spectrum Mills is a privately owned company headquartered in Marion. The company will make textured and color polyester yarns for use in wholesale and retail applications, including sewing, needlework and piece goods. The company's predecessor was Spectrum Dyeing and Finishing, which was purchased from bankruptcy by a private investor who plans to consolidate two inactive facilities into one operation in Marion and restart production. [Read more.](#)

---

## Medical supply maker to add 51 jobs in Union County

Gov. Bev Perdue announced April 21 that Greiner Bio-One North America Inc., a manufacturer and distributor of medical sampling devices and laboratory analysis technology, will create 51 jobs and invest \$25 million in Union County over the next three years. The project was made possible in part by a \$100,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Martyn Johnson was the developer on this project.

"This is Greiner Bio-One's second expansion since it opened in Monroe a decade ago," said Perdue. "That success reinforces North Carolina's international stature as a top location for biotech and pharmaceutical companies – a reputation that we have worked hard to earn."

Austria-based Greiner Bio-One International AG is a world leader in the field of biotechnology, diagnostics, pharmaceutical, medicine and in vitro diagnostics. It employs more than 1,200 workers in Europe, Asia, South America and the U.S.

Wholly owned subsidiary Greiner Bio-One North America currently employs 230 people with 187 of them working in Monroe. While individual salaries for the 51 new jobs will vary by job function, the overall average wage will be approximately \$28,000 a year plus benefits. [Read more.](#)

---

## Alamance county Tri Vantage Breaks Ground

Tri Vantage, a distribution subsidiary of [Glen Raven](#), has begun construction of a centralized distribution center in Alamance County that will serve customers throughout the U.S. The 100,000-square-foot facility is being built in the N.C. Industrial Center in Mebane with completion anticipated during the fourth quarter of this year. Glen Raven, Inc. is a global provider of fabric-based solutions, serving awning, marine, furniture, automotive and military markets worldwide.



(Left-right) N.C. Dept. of Commerce Economic Developer Bill Payne, and Morganton Pressure Vessels Accounting Manager Angela Lovett, and Manufacturing Manager Derrick Fairchild

## Morganton Pressure Vessels receives One N.C. Funds

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Economic Developer Bill Payne recently presented Morganton Pressure Vessels with a partial disbursement of their One N.C. Funds. The company received a One N.C. Fund Grant on May 21, 2009, for \$129,000. The agreement called for creating 43 new jobs. So far the company has created 30, or 75 percent, of the total. Therefore they qualified for a partial payment of the award for a disbursement of \$96,750. Morganton Pressure Vessels is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Baglioni Group, which is based in Italy.

---

## NCSEA to hold policy forum

The N.C. Sustainable Energy Association (NCSEA) will hold its 2010 Economic Outlook Luncheon & Policy forum May 17 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh. N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll will be the luncheon keynote speaker. There will also be an "Energy Executives Roundtable" for NCSEA members. [Learn more.](#)

---

## Registration open for Carolina Connect

Registration is now open for AdvantageWest's Carolina Connect event for entrepreneurs. The event will take place May 13 at the Renaissance in downtown Asheville. This year the conference will include two new breakout tracks: Green Innovation and Intrapreneurship. Victor Hwang, co-founder and managing director of T2 Venture Capital, will be the luncheon keynote speaker. [Learn 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

"This new facility will strengthen our operational controls and increase the efficiency of operations by consolidating inventories, support services and systems," said Steve Ellington, president of Tri Vantage. "The result will be improved product availability to customers who rely on us for fast delivery of a vast and continually growing array of technical products."

Glen Raven conducted an extensive search for a location for the new center and selected the Alamance County location because of its proximity to Interstate 85, UPS and FedEx hubs, Glen Raven's corporate headquarters and the company's logistics subsidiary, Glen Raven Transportation.

Samet Corporation is serving as general contractor for the new facility, which will create 35 full-time positions.

---

## Four N.C. cities make 'best of' list

RelocateAmerica.com has released its 2010 Top 100 list of Best Places to Live, and four North Carolina cities have made the list, including two in the Top 10. Charlotte was listed as No. 7, and Raleigh at No. 8.

Asheville and Wilmington were the other two North Carolina cities that made the top 100 list. RelocateAmerica said the ratings this year "focused on communities poised for recovery and future growth."

Factors that were considered included strong local leadership, employment opportunities, thriving community commitment, improving real estate markets, growing green initiatives, plentiful recreational options "and an overall high quality of life." [Read more.](#)

---

## U.S. Energy Sec. Chu announces \$200M for solar, water technologies

On April 22, the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, U.S. Dept. of Energy Sec. Steven Chu announced that the department will invest more than \$200 million over five years to expand and accelerate the development, commercialization and use of solar and water power technologies throughout the United States. This funding underscores the Administration's commitment to foster a robust clean-energy sector in the United States - that will create American manufacturing jobs and a workforce with the required technical training to speed the implementation of cutting-edge technologies. The announcement represents a down payment that will help the solar and water power industries overcome technical barriers, demonstrate new technologies, and provide support for clean energy jobs for years to come.

"Expanding the U.S. clean-energy manufacturing base is an important part of the Administration's goals to diversify electricity supply options, increase national security, and accelerate green jobs development," said Sec. Chu. "These investments will help strengthen American competitiveness in renewable energy and transform the U.S. into a lasting manufacturing presence in the 21st century clean-energy economy." [Read more.](#)

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 26, 2010

New projects assigned:	145
Projects announced:	32
Jobs created:	4,965
Capital invested:	\$555.4M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	404
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	8,016

---

## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [I-40 reopens to limited traffic after western N.C. rockslide](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, April 26)
- [Shoppers cash in on appliance rebates before deadline](#) (News 14 Carolina, April 26)
- [Good wood energy](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, April 26)
- [Study shows potential for biomanufacturing growth in Charlotte region](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, April 26)
- [Most sections of Blue Ridge Parkway in N.C. finally open](#) (Asheville Citizen Times, April 23)

---

(919) 733-4151

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

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)  
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

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](#)

---

© 2010 North Carolina Department of Commerce | SYNC™ is a trademark of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

---