

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



*(Left-right), Commerce economic developers Ron Leitch and Uconda Duggins, Gov. Bev Perdue, Jeff Edge of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and Mark Pringle, plant manager for Siemens Energy Inc., seen at the May 14 announcement in Charlotte.*

## JDIG helps Siemens Energy expansion

Gov. Bev Perdue announced May 14 that Siemens Energy Inc., an international supplier of products and services for the generation, transmission and distribution of power, will expand its operations in Mecklenburg County. The company plans to invest nearly \$50 million and create 226 jobs in Charlotte during the next five years.

"North Carolina is an international leader in innovative power and energy production, research and design," Gov. Perdue said. "Our state continues to be attractive to leading-edge global companies looking to invest and expand here, thanks to our top-rated business climate, world-class research facilities, and skill and knowledge-based workforce."

The state's Economic Investment Committee met May 14 and voted unanimously to award a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) to Siemens Energy to facilitate this expansion. Under terms of the performance-based grant, the average annual wage of the 226 new jobs will start at \$49,082 in 2009 and increase to \$66,463 in 2013, not including benefits. That compares favorably with the Mecklenburg County average wage of \$49,400. [Read more.](#)

## Commerce announces funding for 14 community projects statewide

More than \$11.8 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding has been approved to benefit low- and



## Davis selected as Toll Fellow

Director of International Trade Jean Davis is one of 40 state leaders from across the nation selected for this year's Toll Fellowship Program, sponsored by The Council of State Governments.

The annual week-long seminar, named in honor of Henry Toll, a Colorado senator who founded the Council of State Governments in 1933, seeks to develop the next generation of leaders from all three branches of state government. This year's program will be held in Lexington, Ky., Sept. 12-17. It will focus on trend analysis, policy development, media and constituent relations, and leadership and institutional changes.

Davis was nominated by N.C. Sec. of State Elaine Marshall, with endorsements from Rep. Deborah Ross and Toll alumna Jeanne Bonds. Past Toll Fellowship graduates include governors, U.S. senators and members of Congress, as well as leaders in state government.

## Retail merchandiser to locate facility in Gates County

The Marco Company, a Fort Worth-based retail merchandising company, has announced that it will locate a new distribution site in Gatesville, according to a release from the Gates County Board of Commissioners and North Carolina's Northeast Commission. Initially, the company will employ up to five people in its warehouse, assembly and distribution facility. The relocation is expected to begin within the next few weeks as East Coast distribution is

moderate-income families and meet critical needs statewide with 14 infrastructure projects throughout North Carolina, Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco announced May 15.

The grants, drawn from Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Community Revitalization funds, will assist in rehabilitating or constructing 152 housing units and installing 52,635 linear feet of streets with water, sewer and flood drainage.

"These projects will directly aid 14 counties and cities throughout North Carolina," Crisco said. "We are committed to improving conditions for our needy residents and doing our utmost to improve the quality of life for all North Carolinians."

Community Revitalization grants fund activities that help a residential area through improvements, preservation or development. The grants are competitive and each community can receive up to \$1 million. The Division of Community Assistance received 36 applications for the 2008 Community Revitalization grant cycle, 14 of which were funded.

CDBG funding is allocated to the state from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. Commerce's Division of Community Assistance administers the program for the state.

Communities seeking more information about the CDBG award program and how to apply for grants can visit the [Division of Community Assistance website](#). [Read more](#).

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## Grant helps Henkel Corp. expand

Gov. Bev Perdue announced May 15 that Henkel Corp., an international supplier of adhesives and sealants for industrial, commercial and home use, plans to expand its Salisbury operations. The company plans to invest more than \$23.7 million and to create 103 jobs during the next three years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$206,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

Henkel Corp. is part of Henkel AG & Co. KGaA, based in Germany. Henkel has regional offices and manufacturing facilities in 75 countries, serving customers in 125 countries. Company operations include offices in Cary, Mooresville and Charlotte, and a manufacturing plant in Salisbury.

The company, which recently acquired the adhesives and electronics materials operations of National Starch and Chemical Co., plans to consolidate out-of-state operations and expand the Salisbury facility, which produces specialty label industrial adhesives and circuit board assembly adhesives. The Salisbury expansion will focus on electronics-related adhesives.

The new positions will pay an average annual wage of \$54,763, not including benefits. That exceeds the Rowan County average annual wage of \$34,788.

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## Plan to help small towns released

The Small Towns Action Council has released a 17-point plan to help small towns bolster their fiscal capacity and build their economies. Among the recommendations are that the state should create an "Office of Small Town Development," and expand the N.C. Local Government Service Corps.

The recommendations grew from more than three years of work by the council, whose members include public officials as

diverted to the Gatesville location.

"We chose the Gatesville location because it offers an excellent location near a major port which will give us the opportunity to provide better access and affordability for our East Coast customers. We also think that Gatesville is a great community with a solid foundation in which to grow our business," stated Steve Mitchell, Eastern Region Operations Manager for the Marco Company. The company sells and distributes merchandising solutions for the retail industry including specialty shelving and fixtures that are used to display food and other merchandise in grocery and department stores. [Read more](#)

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## Economic Recovery Office holds third in series of workshops

The N.C. Office of Economic Recovery and Investment (OERI) on May 18 held the third in a series of workshops across the state providing information and guidance to local municipalities, businesses and interested citizens on how the federal recovery funds will be administered. The workshop was held in Lenoir Community College's Waller Auditorium in Kinston, N.C.

Attendees of upcoming workshops will have an opportunity to hear from representatives of state and federal agencies administering the recovery funds. These representatives will discuss the current status of funds in their agencies, detail upcoming opportunities and explain the mechanisms for participation in the process.

"North Carolina is set to receive more than \$8 billion in federal recovery money, and I intend for our state to not only be prepared to use this money to put our people back to work, but also to spend the money with the utmost accountability and transparency," said Gov. Bev Perdue in announcing the workshops. "These workshops will build the bridges between state, local and county governments - and anyone else interested in utilizing recovery funds - to ensure this money is used to benefit all of North Carolina and our people."

OERI Director Dempsey Benton will lead the two-hour workshops. "The economic recovery funds are purpose-driven, rather than place-driven," he said. "It's important that attendees understand the funded programs so that they may actively participate. It's also important for participants to understand the expectations for efficiency, transparency and accountability in the investment of funds."

The OERI Web site [www.NCRecovery.gov](http://www.NCRecovery.gov) details the role of the office as the official coordinator, monitor and clearinghouse for

well as representatives of nonprofits and educational institutions. The council was convened by the Rural Center in 2005 as part of a wide-ranging effort to create new economic opportunities for struggling small towns. [View the full action agenda.](#)

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## Rural Center offers regional look at agriculture

A report just released by the Rural Center's Agricultural Advancement Consortium examines farming in each of North Carolina's seven economic development regions. The report was designed to help the regions mix agriculture into policies on economic development. Included in the report are basic facts and recommendations for strengthening each region's agriculture, and opinions about the state of farming from extension agents and farmers. [View the report online.](#)

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## Study: Equine industry brings \$2B a year

A study administered and released by the Equine Study Executive Committee and the Rural Center's Agricultural Advancement Consortium documents nearly \$2 billion in annual economic impact from the state's equine industry. The industry includes horses, mules and ponies, as well as all related businesses and activities, such as horse shows and fence manufacturing. The study was funded by the General Assembly in 2008 to assess the industry's economic impact and find growth opportunities. [Read the report.](#)

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## Charlotte to host seminar for small-business owners

The city of Charlotte will host the Small Business Resource Event, a seminar with panels of local experts who will offer advice on everything from marketing, financial resources and funding strategies. The free event will be held June 2 at the Friendship Baptist Missionary Church in Charlotte.

[Charlotte hosts small-business seminar](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, May 18)

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## NCCDA to hold spring conference in Wilmington

The [North Carolina Community Development Association](#) (NCCDA) will hold its Annual Spring Training Conference on May 20-22, at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel in downtown Wilmington. This annual conference is geared toward housing and rehabilitation professionals, community development professionals, and administrators and nonprofits engaged in housing, economic development and community development work. Attendees will include decision-makers and key staffs from North Carolina cities, counties, private, nonprofit organizations and private companies.

Workshops and training scheduled for the conference include:

- New stimulus bill funding
  - Weatherization and energy
  - Housing market studies
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federal economic recovery funds designated for the state. Workshop details are available at the site.

Additional workshops will be held in the Charlotte, Raleigh and Wilmington areas in the next few weeks. Details will be announced soon. The first two workshops were held April 28 in Winston-Salem and May 11 in Clyde.

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## Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the 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.

January - May 18, 2009

New projects assigned:	183
Projects announced:	37
Jobs created:	3,829
Capital invested:	\$632.8 million
Direct Account Interactions (industry visits by existing industry staff):	684
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	10,445

## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Stock Building Supply to cut 2,200 more jobs](#) (Triangle Business Journal, May 15)
- [Incentives lure 226 Siemens jobs to N.C.](#) (Triangle Business Journal, May 15)
- [North Carolina incentives land Henkel expansion](#) (Triangle Business Journal, May 15)
- [Despite economy, local and state tourism see record highs](#) (May 15, Shelby Star)
- [Big Rock Sports finds a home in Richmond County](#) (Richmond County Daily Journal, May 15)
- [3 local towns awarded community revitalization grants](#) (The Fayetteville Observer, May 15)
- [Del Labs to halt production, costing area 510 jobs](#) (Wilmington Star-News, May 14)
- [Officials: 90 new jobs on horizon](#) (The McDowell News, May 14)
- [Granite Falls taps into past for future growth](#) (Hickory Daily Record, May 14)
- [Electrolux announces \\$55 million](#)

## Thornton appointed to TransPark board

Dr. Courtney H. Thornton of Durham has been appointed to board membership of the N.C. Global TransPark Authority. Thornton is the research director for the University of North Carolina General Administration. The N.C. Global TransPark Authority, chaired by the governor, is responsible for planning, building and operating the Global TransPark project. Thornton was appointed to the post by UNC system President Erskine Bowles to fill the vacancy left by Dr. Steven Leath after his resignation.

[investment at Lenoir County site](#) (Eastern North Carolina Today, May 14)

- [IBM hosts 'Smart Cities'](#) (Durham Herald-Sun, May 14)
- [\\$1 million expected in stimulus money](#) (Clay County Progress, May 14)
- [N.C. tourism spending up](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, May 13)
- [Wilmington beverage packaging plant to close, eliminating 110 jobs](#) (Wilmington Star-News, May 13)
- [Continental Teves temporarily cuts staff](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, May 13)

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