

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker speaks to a participant at the aerospace forum in Kinston

Aerospace takes center stage at forum in Kinston

The Triangle-Eastern North Carolina British-American Business Council hosted an event promoting the aerospace industry in Eastern North Carolina on May 22 at the Global TransPark in Kinston.

More than 50 participants heard from representatives from the N.C. Department of Commerce and the N.C. Aerospace Alliance, plus the northeast, eastern, and southeast regional economic development commissions, which collaborated to discuss the sector's growth and how they are supporting the industry. While North Carolina is home to more than 180 aerospace related manufacturers, the eastern part of the state is becoming a hotbed of aerospace and aviation employers with more than 60 related companies. A representative from the Research Triangle Region provided remarks regarding the GE Aviation operations in Durham.

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker delivered the keynote address. Decker's remarks concerned advanced manufacturing, which she referred to as a foundational element of our statewide economy. Decker noted that a vice president for manufacturing would be appointed by Governor Pat McCrory and will be responsible for supporting existing manufacturers by leveraging of state, regional and local assets.

Spirit AeroSystems Director for Site Services, Business



Downtown New Bern, a 2013 nationally accredited Main Street program and the host city for the 2014 N.C. Main Street conference

N.C. Main Street communities receive 2013 national accreditation

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Office of Urban Development announced that 27 North Carolina communities have achieved accreditation from the National Main Street Program for meeting the commercial district revitalization performance standards set by the National Main Street Center®, a subsidiary of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Each year, the National Main Street Center and its partners announce the list of accredited Main Street® programs that have built strong revitalization organizations and demonstrated their ability in using the Main Street Four Point Approach® methodology for strengthening their local economy and protecting their historic buildings.

"We are proud to announce that Albemarle, Brevard, Burlington, Clayton, Concord, Elizabeth City, Elkin, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Goldsboro, Hendersonville, Hickory, Kings Mountain, Lenoir, Lexington, Lincolnton,

Management and Government Relations Don Blake provided an overview of Spirit's Kinston facility that manufactures center fuselage and wing spars for Airbus. The company employs more than 400 (plus contract workers) and accommodates another 20+ full-time Airbus employees. Current plans anticipate 1,000 workers at the facility by 2016.

Attendees were treated to a tour of the Spirit AeroSystems Composite Center of Excellence, a state-of-the-art training center that houses specially equipped classrooms and labs to meet the unique employment needs of the company. In addition to touring the Center of Excellence, Blake and others provided a tour of Spirit's manufacturing facility at the N.C. Global TransPark.

Alongside private industry, the military is a significant player in Eastern North Carolina's aerospace economy. Fleet Readiness Center East, a maintenance, repair and overhaul facility on Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, employs more than 3,000 people, 500 of which are full-time civilian engineers who work on-base. As the largest industrial employer in Eastern North Carolina, FRC East provides maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) support on the military's vertical lift aircraft.



N.C. Commissioner for Small Business Scott Daugherty

Small business commissioner speaks at Carteret County forum

On May 21, N.C. Commissioner for Small Business Scott Daugherty participated in a small business forum hosted by Transportation Impact, an Inc. 500 company located in Carteret County. The event was held at Carteret Community College in Morehead City.

The event's theme was "Strategies for Success" and included presentations from two successful local entrepreneurs: Gene Garner, recently retired owner of Coastal Carolina Heating and

Marion, Monroe, Morganton, New Bern, Salisbury, Shelby, Smithfield, Statesville, Wake Forest, Waynesville and Wilson are North Carolina's 2013 nationally accredited Main Street communities," said Office of Urban Development Director Liz Parham. "Each of these communities has established a strong organizational foundation that is benefitting them in their efforts to implement complex downtown revitalization initiatives,"

"We congratulate this year's nationally accredited Main Street programs for meeting our established performance standards," said Valecia Crisafulli, acting director of the National Main Street Center. "Accredited Main Street programs are meeting the challenges of the downtown in the economy head on and are successfully using a focused, comprehensive revitalization strategy to keep their communities vibrant and sustainable."

The performance of each of the state's local Main Street programs is annually evaluated by the Office of Urban Development, [N.C. Main Street Center](#), which works in partnership with the National Main Street Center to identify those local programs that meet ten performance standards. These standards set the benchmarks for measuring an individual Main Street program's application of the Main Street Four Point Approach® to commercial district revitalization. Evaluation criteria determine the communities that are building comprehensive and sustainable revitalization efforts and include standards such as developing a mission, fostering strong public-private partnerships, securing an operating budget, tracking economic progress and preserving historic buildings.

Established by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1980, the National Main Street Center helps communities of all sizes revitalize their older and historic commercial districts. Working in more than 2,200 downtowns and urban neighborhoods over the last 32 years, the Main Street program has leveraged more than \$55.7 billion in new public and private investment. Participating communities have created 473,535 net jobs and 109,693 net businesses, and rehabilitated more than 236,418 buildings, leveraging an average of \$18 in new investment for every dollar spent on their Main Street district revitalization efforts.



Elite car event drew \$2 million impact for Pinehurst area

The inaugural Pinehurst Concours d'Elegance and the events surrounding the vintage auto showcase attracted more than 5,000 fans,

Air Conditioning, and Mary Duane Hale, owner of Atlantic Beach Realty. Also speaking was Sound Bank CEO Phil Collins and Keith Byrd and Travis Burt, co-founders of Transportation Impact, a fast growing firm that helps companies reduce their parcel shipping costs.

Daugherty provided an overview of the strong role and amazing impact that small businesses have in providing jobs and sustaining a growing economy in North Carolina. His remarks included factors that were underlying improvements in our economy and increased employment — including a resurgence in manufacturing, increased construction, a "bumper" crop of college graduates, and strong immigration.

At the close of the forum, Transportation Impact was recognized for providing a \$50,000 donation to Carteret Community College in celebration of its 50th anniversary of service to the citizens and businesses of Carteret County.



Tourism division staff members work with Fayetteville area businesses earlier this month

Fayetteville area tourism businesses learn at TRAC

Local and regional tourism businesses in the Fayetteville area met with the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development staff at a [Tourism Resource Assistance Center \(TRAC\)](#) program earlier this month in Fayetteville. In partnership with the Fayetteville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, these businesses found ways to engage more fully with the Division's programs and heard directly from them about ways the Division could provide assistance. Businesses included independent artisans, restaurants, accommodations, and retail, as well as outdoor, event, sports and attractions owners and managers. Division staff explained the Division's research, development and marketing programs and discussed best practices for reaching visitors and the media to increase visitation and spending.

Small Business Taxpayer Program reports big impacts; new program launched

The [Small Business Taxpayer Recovery Program](#) — a joint effort of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Commissioner for Small Business and the N.C. Department of Revenue — is winding down, but it continues to have a significant impact on North Carolina's small businesses. More than 3,000 firms have been accepted into the program by the Department of Revenue and \$126 million has been collected: \$58 million in

and its [economic impact approached \\$2 million](#) despite unseasonably cool temperatures the first weekend of May, officials said. "Having an event the caliber of a Concours in Moore County is significant, especially as it grows in recognition and importance in the Southeast," said Caleb Miles of the Pinehurst/Southern Pines/Aberdeen Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Beyond the new tourism dollars it generated, the prestige and attention it brings to the destination and the brand are a powerful combination." The Pinehurst Concours will return to Pinehurst Resort the first weekend in May for at least 2014 and 2015. Next year's Pinehurst Concours will kick off a prestigious six-week period at Pinehurst Resort, which will also host the 2014 U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open on consecutive weeks in June.

Year-to-date Metrics

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 - May 27, 2013

New projects assigned:	172
Projects announced:	49
Jobs announced:	7,063
Capital investment announced:	\$637M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	522
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	8,611

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Midland freight hub developer vows 'thousands' of new jobs](#) (*Independent Tribune* — Concord, May 24)
- [Arden plant expansion](#) (WLOS.com, May 24)
- [Motorsports industry drives entrepreneurship](#) (*Business Today* - Cornelius, May 2013)
- [Decker highlights need for statewide](#)

delinquent taxes and \$68 million in current taxes. Businesses will save almost \$18 million in waived penalties and collection fees if they comply with the terms of their installment agreements.

The program also involves the UNC System's Small Business and Technology Development Center and the N.C. Community College System's Small Business Center Network. As a condition of acceptance, businesses must agree to use the business counseling services of the SBTDC or SBCN.

The Small Business Taxpayer Recovery Program was closed to new enrollments in February, but because of its success, a new program has been launched. The new initiative is called the Small Business Counseling Program because of its increased focus on confidential, one-on-one management and financial planning assistance and counseling for the participating businesses. Under the counseling program, payment plans may extend up to 24 months based on the amount of the tax liability.

[economic growth at Durham forum](#) (*The Herald-Sun* - Durham, May 23)

- [GTCC receives grant for aviation program expansion](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, May 23)
- [Research Triangle region leads N.C. job growth: more than 36,000 jobs created](#) (WRAL Tech Wire, May 23)
- [MetLife on track for 500 jobs in Charlotte this year](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, May 22)
- [Foreign-owned companies honored in Charlotte](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, May 22)
- [Event held to give small-business advice to military women entrepreneurs](#) (WCTI12.com, May 21)
- [Winston-Salem called a 'shining example' of economic development](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, May 20)
- [Triangle companies in hiring mode aggressively pursue job candidates](#) (*The News & Observer* — Raleigh, May 18)

(919) 733-4151

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)
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Building Location:

301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

Mailing Address:

4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

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