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Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



*N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco speaks during the 25th anniversary meeting of the Randolph Economic Development Corp. in Asheboro.*

## Randolph EDC celebrates 25 years

The Randolph County Economic Development Corp. (EDC) honored two long-time leaders of local industry with the 2010 Partners in Progress Award at its recent annual meeting on June 24. J.B. Davis, recently retired president and CEO of Klausner Furniture Industries, and William H. Redding Jr., chairman of the board of Acme McCrary Corp, received the award, which was created to recognize those individuals, organizations and groups that make a significant contribution to economic development in Randolph County. Davis and Redding were described as two extraordinary individuals whose leadership and commitment have blessed the community and its people.

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco said, "They are long term key leaders, courageous and willing to tackle tough issues." Asheboro City Manager John Ogburn said, "As our state and national economy transformed into a global economy, both leaders were able to strengthen their businesses and their industries into economic powerhouses. Randolph County is fortunate to have these men as citizens."

This year's meeting celebrated a quarter century of economic development success resulting in \$1,520,854,800 in announced capital investment and 10,152 new jobs from new and expanded industries. During the meeting, Randolph EDC President Bonnie Renfro recognized leaders and allies that have supported the EDC over the years. Crisco stated that

## Budget includes additional funding for key programs

The General Assembly is expected to pass and send to Gov. Bev Perdue budget adjustments for 2010-2011 that include additional funds for the N.C. Dept. of Commerce to attract businesses to North Carolina, for matching grants to support energy research and green jobs, and to market North Carolina as a premier travel destination.

Acting on Perdue's number one priority to create jobs and saying it must act decisively "to encourage economic activity to keep our families working," the General Assembly has added the following non-recurring funding for the department:

- \$1 million to support the state's small business tourism economy by increasing investment in marketing and advertising of North Carolina as a national tourism destination
- \$875,000 to increase the visibility and awareness of North Carolina as a business destination through targeted marketing, and to promote North Carolina products, including agricultural commodities, both nationally and internationally
- \$12.5 million in additional funding for the One NC Fund to enhance the competitive position of North Carolina when recruiting national and international business and industry projects, 3 percent of which must be used for small business expansion
- \$1.5 million for the One NC Small Business Fund program for matching grants to businesses that qualify for federal SBIR/STTR Incentives funds
- \$1 million for matching funds for U.S. Dept. of Energy grants to support energy research and green jobs

The budget also eliminates four vacant positions in the Department, abolishes the tourism matching grant program and reduces funding for the Wine and Grape Growers Council by 13 percent.

To view a summary of adjustments to the Commerce budget, go to page 73 [here](#). To read Commerce's portion of the bill, go to

economic development activity is strong across the state with new job announcements and praised the Randolph County EDC for consistent excellence and innovation and outstanding leadership. [Read more.](#)

## Work at Fort Dobbs will bring jobs, impact region

Fort Dobbs State Historic Site in Statesville is making history again. It's the first time in a generation an important piece of North America's history will be completely reconstructed on the original site. Over the next six to eight years, public and private dollars will build interpretative buildings and shape the land to help visitors further experience the life of the 18th century settler and the native Cherokee. Comprehensive Interpretive Plan designer Bill Haley has designed interactive visitor experiences at Stonehenge, Jamestowne, the Smithsonian and Valley Forge; Haley's work on the Fort Dobbs project was funded by a federal grant. Reconstruction projects planned over the next six to eight years are projected to drive more than 125,000 visitors, support more than 400 jobs and generate \$21 million in economic impact, according to N.C. State University's Larry Gustke. [Learn more.](#)



## Visitncwine.com adds more features

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development has launched several new enhancements to its consumer website that features N.C. wines, [www.visitncwine.com](http://www.visitncwine.com). Improved navigation, mapping, search capability and additional content make the site even more engaging and help spark interest in visiting North Carolina's more than 90 wineries. Additional navigation options provide easier access to the richer content including the past and present of North Carolina's wine story. "Wineries" provides maps, listings and links to all North Carolina wineries across the state by geographical region or by viticultural area. A streamlined search capability for "Events" highlights fun festivals and special programs known to spark spontaneous visits among travelers looking for new experiences. "Tasting and Tips" covers topics ranging from the wine-making process, how to properly sample and savor a wine, what can be learned from a wine label and representative food and wine pairings. To find out more about N.C. wineries and vineyards, visit [www.visitncwine.com](http://www.visitncwine.com).

page 122 [here](#).



## Support grows for Mobility Fund

Broad-based and bipartisan support for Gov. Bev Perdue's proposed Mobility Fund continues to grow across the state, as evidenced by the number of resolutions passed by local municipalities and other organizations. Twelve groups have already signed resolutions supporting the innovative transportation funding legislation, while four others are pending. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) Revlon CEO Alan Ennis, N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll and Revlon Vice President William Welz

## Revlon, Carroll thank employees in Oxford

On June 4, Revlon CEO Alan Ennis hosted a briefing for N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll at the company's flagship manufacturing operation in Oxford. Carroll also toured the 1 million-square-foot facility with VP William Welz and visited with Revlon employees in the production, warehouse and distribution centers.

## Office of Science and Tech authors nanotech article

Executive Director John Hardin and Assistant Director Sharlini Sankaran of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Office of Science and Technology were the authors of an article

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## Friends of N.C. welcomes new sponsors

The Friends of North Carolina is an advisory council to the NC Commerce Trade and Development Fund, a non-profit organization that helps market North Carolina nationally and internationally. This council coordinates private sector involvement in economic development and trade endeavors that help build business relationships and tell the dynamic business story of North Carolina.

The Friends of North Carolina 2010-11 membership drive commenced in mid-June and is off to a great start. We are pleased to welcome the following new sponsors to the program and look forward to working with them in the coming year: Silver level sponsors [Lake Norman Regional EDC](#) and [RowanWORKS](#) and Bronze level sponsors [Brunswick County EDC](#) and [Shelco Inc.](#) We thank all of our sponsors and look forward to a successful year. [Visit the partner page](#) of the [thrivenc.com](#) website where you can view all of our Friends sponsors.

If you are interested to learn more about this program, please contact Liz Dobbins in the N.C. Dept. of Commerce Marketing Division at (919) 733-4947 or [edobbins@nccommerce.com](mailto:edobbins@nccommerce.com). [View the 2010-11 Friends of North Carolina Work Plan](#), which includes a range of sponsor levels and the event calendar.

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## Furniture Export Office participates in trade show

Mike Padjen of the N.C. Furniture Export Office in High Point attended the American Home Furnishings Alliance (AHFA) annual marketing meeting, "Accelerate the Recovery," held June 16-19 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The main focus of the meeting was to provide tools and tactics to empower marketing executives. There were approximately 50 companies represented.

AHFA is the world's largest and most influential trade organization serving the home furnishings industry, including many North Carolina based manufacturers, designers, and retailers.

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## Powerade State Games worth \$600,000 to Lake Norman Area Economy

The Powerade State Games of North Carolina, being held June 18-27 in the Charlotte region, will have an economic impact of at least \$615,000, according to Visit Lake Norman. The 2009 games brought 13,493 athletes and an estimated economic impact of \$615,000 to the Lake Norman region. Officials with Visit Lake Norman predicted even more participants this year. The Powerade State Games are North Carolina's largest multi-sport festival and one of the largest State Games programs in the United States. [Learn more.](#) [Learn more about the Powerade State Games.](#)

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about the future of nanotechnology that was featured on the website of the Southern Growth Policies Board. Titled, "Investing in the South's Nanotech Future," the article details how the nanotechnology field is growing and transforming traditional industries such as textiles, plastics and chemicals in the South, particularly in North Carolina. [Read the paper.](#)

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## 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 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 - June 28, 2010

New projects assigned:	223
Projects announced:	61
Jobs created:	8,318
Capital invested:	\$1.42B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	656
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	12,035

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## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [State jobless rate declines again in May, to 10.3 percent](#) (Winston-Salem Journal, June 21)
- [ECSU scientist joins fossil fuel fight: to help make biodiesel](#) (Daily Advance - Elizabeth City, June 21)
- [Locals turning layoffs into business startups](#) (The Star-News - Wilmington, June 21)
- [Triangle to be proving ground for electric cars](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, June 18)

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(919) 733-4151

Building Location:  
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