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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



Governor Pat McCrory signs the Economic Development Partnership Bill as Secretary Sharon Decker and key legislators look on.

General Assembly Approves Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina has passed the General Assembly and Governor Pat McCrory signed the bill into law on Tuesday June 24 at a special ceremony in the Old House Chambers of the State Capitol Building. The public-private partnership will start operations in July.

The Economic Development Partnership will operate as a private, non-profit corporation that will contract with the Department of Commerce to handle many of the state's job recruitment and retention functions. The EDPNC will operate as the sales and marketing arm of the state responsible for business recruitment, existing industry and small business support, import and export assistance, marketing, tourism, film and sports development. All grant-making responsibilities will remain public within the Department of Commerce.

"We are thankful for the cooperative effort to pass the enabling legislation to establish the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. "My special thanks go to Senator Harry Brown

Advance Auto to Bring 600 New Jobs to North Carolina

Advance Auto Parts, Inc. has announced it will locate a new corporate support center in Raleigh. With the move, the company plans to create 600 jobs in Raleigh by the end of 2017 and invest more than \$5 million.

The company also announced that its CEO, CFO and president will all relocate to Raleigh as part of the restructuring.

In January 2014, Advance Auto Parts completed its acquisition of General Parts International, Inc. which had its corporate headquarters in Raleigh. The acquisition created the largest automotive aftermarket parts provider in North America, with annual sales of more than \$9.3 billion.

"We remain focused on North Carolina's commitment to economic development," said Secretary Decker. "This location will give Advance Auto Parts the ability to centralize functions and work to create an efficient and effective corporate organization and positions the company for continued profitable growth."

The positions that will be based in the Raleigh Support Center include corporate functions related to merchandising, marketing, supply chain and commercial sales.



Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker joined Governor Pat McCrory and other cabinet secretaries to welcome the U.S. Open Champions to North Carolina on Monday June 9

Department of Commerce at the

and Representative Tom Murry for their leadership. Our Commerce Department is well prepared to make this important transition for the continued growth of North Carolina's economy."

The new partnership will allow North Carolina to work more quickly and be more flexible in recruiting new business and in retaining existing ones.



Governor Pat McCrory welcomes Cisco President and Chief Operating Officer Gary Moore to RTP

Cisco to Create 550 New Jobs in RTP

Cisco has announced it will expand its workforce in Research Triangle Park. The company plans to create 550 new jobs in North Carolina by the end of 2017. Governor Pat McCrory made the announcement at Cisco's RTP site on June 6. He was joined by Cisco's President and Chief Operating Officer Gary Moore in making the announcement.

Cisco is the worldwide leader in networking that transforms how people connect, communicate, and collaborate. Founded in San Jose, California in 1984, today Cisco does business in more than 165 countries and employs more than 74,000 individuals including 4,700 at three sites across North Carolina.

"North Carolina, Wake County and RTP have proven to be an exceptional source of talent for our state," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. "Cisco continues to push innovation and add to our workforce, and we welcome this expansion."

Cisco plans to hire a mix of finance, operations and advanced network services personnel over the next four years.

Richelieu Legwear to Add 205 New Jobs in Burke County

Richelieu Legwear International Inc. (Richelieu Legwear) is expanding its presence in Burke County. The project is expected to result in the creation of 205 new jobs in Hildebran by the end of 2018.

Richelieu Legwear is a leading provider of legwear products to Walmart and other major retailers in the U.S., Canada and internationally under the brand names Peds, MediPeds and Growing Socks.

U.S. Open Championships in Pinehurst

The 2014 U.S. Open Championships at Pinehurst No. 2 June 9-22 provided the Department of Commerce with a unique opportunity to market North Carolina. It was estimated that more than 400,000 people would attend the U.S. Open and the U.S. Women's Open in Pinehurst during the unprecedented back-to-back events.

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker saw the tournament as a great vehicle to market the state to businesses that might be considering locating here. The N.C. Department of Commerce coordinated a number of the state's events surrounding the U.S. Open Championships, including a special "North Carolina Night" performance by the N.C. Symphony on Friday June 13, to highlight the various amenities North Carolina offers.

"While the immediate economic impact of the championships was incredible, we also had the chance to leverage the events to lead to more economic development for North Carolina in the future," said Secretary Decker. "This was our opportunity to show companies what a great business environment North Carolina is, and to share with them some of the advantages of having a corporate presence here."

Secretary Decker met with entrepreneurs and startups as well as with representatives of domestic and international companies during the event. She also updated the public on the current "North Carolina Brand" initiative during events in downtown Pinehurst.

The USGA estimated the total economic impact of the two championships would be \$140-\$170 million.

Here's a video clip of the planning, collaboration and work from state agencies leading up to the back-to-back championships:

<http://www.nccommerce.com/news/media-center/2014-us-open>

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

"Western North Carolina continues to be a top choice for international companies looking to establish and expand advanced manufacturing facilities," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. "This is an important show of support for rural North Carolina."

The company acquired selected assets of International Legwear Group in Hildebran in 2011 and hired 45 members of the firm's workforce. Currently, Richelieu Legwear has its U.S.-based operations in Hildebran where it employs more than 60 people.

N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority Approves Five Grants

The N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has approved five grants totaling \$1.4 million to companies for projects with the commitment of more than 130 new jobs in North Carolina.

The grants include:

Community Development Block Grant (\$240,000) for the Town of Faison (Duplin County).

New distribution lines and an elevated water storage tank will allow Southern Produce Distributors to construct a new 90,000-square-foot warehouse that will be used to store sweet potatoes and sweet potato processed products on NC Highway 403. The company has committed to creating 20 new, full-time jobs.

Building Reuse Program grants/loans of \$300,000 for the City of Cherryville (Gaston County). Carolina Care Center, an elder care facility, will add 22,000-square-feet of new construction to the existing building. The company has committed to creating 30 new, full-time jobs with the expansion.

Building Reuse Program grants/loans of \$150,000 for Granville County. Product Recovery Management (PRM, Inc.) will locate in a building that has been vacant for seven years. The company has committed to creating 15 new, full-time jobs.

Building Reuse Program grants/loans of \$210,000 for the City of Greenville (Pitt County). Purilum, LLC, a start-up joint venture between Alliance One Specialty Products and IOTO USA, will locate in a building that has been vacant since 2005. The company has committed to creating 21 new, full-time jobs.

Building Reuse Program grants/loans of \$500,000 for the City of Lumberton (Robeson County). Southeastern Health, in collaboration with Campbell University, plans to start several residency programs. The company has committed to creating 50 new, full-time jobs.

Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - Jun. 17, 2014

New projects assigned:	153
Projects announced:	57
Jobs announced:	4,762
Capital investment announced:	\$757M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	355
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	9,138

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Snow Hill businesses receive Small Business Entrepreneurial Assistance grants](#) (*Kinston Free Press*, Jun. 16)
- [Raleigh among 'Top Cities for Female Entrepreneurs'](#) (*Intuit Small Business Blog*)

(919) 733-4151

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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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