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Gov. Cooper (right) thanks Allstate VP Harriet Harty for the company's decision to expand in Mecklenburg County.

## Governor Cooper Announces 2,250 New Jobs as Allstate Insurance Expands in Mecklenburg County

Allstate Insurance Company will add 2,250 jobs over three years in North Carolina as it expands its operations in Mecklenburg County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced August 9. The company, already a major employer in the area with more than 1,400 people, plans to invest more than \$22 million in the Charlotte area.

"Charlotte's role as a leader in the financial services sector makes our state an excellent fit for Allstate," said **Governor Cooper**. "North Carolina has so much to offer growing companies, including our celebrated universities and community colleges, highly skilled workforce, competitive business climate and outstanding quality of life."

Founded in 1931, Allstate (NYSE: ALL) provides insurance services to more than 16 million households nationwide. The company's major business is private passenger auto and homeowner's insurance, but its product mix also includes retirement and investment products, accident and health insurance, business insurance and life insurance. It is the largest publicly-held property and casualty insurer in the U.S.

"Allstate has prospered in Charlotte and they've made the right decision to continue their expansion here," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "We congratulate the company on this exciting time of growth and diversification."



Gov. Cooper (right) with Mikael Staal Axelsen, Group CEO, Fibertex Personal Care.

## Danish Textile Company Selects Randolph County for first U.S. manufacturing facility

Fibertex Personal Care, a Danish textile company, will add 145 jobs in Asheboro with its first U.S. manufacturing facility, **Governor Cooper** announced August 14. The company plans to invest \$60 million by December 31, 2021 with a project facilitated in part by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG).

"Fibertex Personal Care could go anywhere in the world, but they chose North Carolina," said **Governor Cooper**. "Our state's workforce and leadership in manufacturing and textiles brought this company here."

Fibertex Personal Care manufactures nonwoven materials for different applications in the personal care industry, including diapers, feminine hygiene and incontinence care products. In addition to nonwoven production, the company also delivers print on nonwovens - the Innovo Print brand - from its printing facilities in Germany and Malaysia. Fibertex Personal Care is headquartered in Denmark and has 600 global employees at facilities in Denmark, Malaysia and Germany. This project will be its first U.S.-based manufacturing operations and will include a new, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility with a focus on printing on nonwoven.

"We're grateful for the support and partnership with the state and the local business community," said **Harriet Harty, executive vice president, Human Resources, Allstate Insurance Company**. "We look forward to supporting the continued economic development in the Charlotte area as we take the operational steps needed to best serve our customers. We are deeply committed to the communities we serve and our employees across the country who are helping us build the Allstate of the future. We will continue our strong legacy of corporate citizenship as we expand our footprint in Charlotte."

Allstate's expansion in Mecklenburg County will be facilitated in part by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). Allstate will add a variety of job functions in North Carolina, delivering a yearly payroll impact of more than \$105.3 million, once all positions are filled. Over the course of the 12-year term of this grant, the project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$3.9 billion.

Using a formula that takes into account the new tax revenues generated by the new jobs, the JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$17.8 million, spread over 12 years. Because Allstate chose to locate in Mecklenburg County, the company's JDIG agreement also calls for moving as much as \$5.95 million into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account. The Utility Account helps rural communities finance necessary infrastructure upgrades to attract future business.

Partners with [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) on this project include [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [Charlotte Chamber of Commerce](#), [Mecklenburg County](#), the [City of Charlotte](#), the [University of North Carolina at Charlotte](#), [Charlotte Works](#), [Central Piedmont Community College](#), [Northeastern University Charlotte](#), [Bank of America](#), [Charlotte Center City Partners](#), and the [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#).

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(Left-right) Bill Welz, Senior VP Manufacturing (Americas) for Revlon; Gov. Cooper; and Jackie Sergent, Mayor of Oxford

"Fibertex Personal Care joins the growing number of global manufacturing companies selecting our state," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Randolph County and Asheboro, with choice sites, strong business and education environments and stellar quality of life made a winning combination for the company."

Fibertex Personal Care will add a variety of job functions in Randolph County with this project, including administrative personnel and technical workers. Salaries for the new positions will vary with an average salary projected to exceed \$40,000 once all positions are filled. The average salary in Randolph County is \$33,974.

"The coming factory in Asheboro will cover the markets of North and South America, which are very important for our expansion," said **Mikael Staal Axelsen, Group CEO of Fibertex Personal Care**. "We expect fine growth rates within our niche, and therefore, the factory will need to be operational by the end of 2018. We are very pleased with the cooperation with North Carolina and Randolph County about this project, and look forward to being a part the community in Asheboro."

The company's JDIG agreement runs for 12 years and will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$327 million over that time. Potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$1,966,500 is authorized, and the company's JDIG agreement also calls for moving as much as \$218,500 into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account.

Partnering with [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [North Carolina Railroad](#), the [City of Asheboro](#), [Randolph County](#), the [Randolph County Economic Development Corporation](#), [Duke Energy](#), and [Norfolk Southern](#).

[Read more.](#)

## 200 New Jobs as Albemarle Corporation expands in North Carolina

Albemarle Corporation, a global specialty chemicals company, will add 200 jobs in North Carolina, **Governor Cooper** announced August 14. In Cleveland County, the company will add 170 new jobs and invest \$10.5 million over five years with a project facilitated in part by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). The company also plans to continue to grow its corporate headquarters in Charlotte by adding 30 jobs and plans to increase its

## Revlon Expands in Granville County, Adds 55 New Jobs in \$16M Expansion

Revlon, the global cosmetics and beauty care products company will expand operations at its existing facility near Oxford, creating 55 full-time jobs over three years, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced August 11. The company will invest \$16.1 million to add production capacity for its Elizabeth Arden line of products.

"Revlon has found success in North Carolina thanks to our top-flight workforce and exceptional business climate," **Governor Cooper** said. "This expansion is the latest example of the confidence global companies place in our state and our workers."

Revlon Consumer Products Corporation offers a diversified portfolio of consumer brands in the areas of cosmetics, skin care, hair color and beauty care. The company employs more than 1,300 people in North Carolina. The expansion of the Granville County facility will add fragrance filling and assembly lines to its operation and will include the installation of new equipment.

"The companies that know North Carolina best are the ones already doing business in our state," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "It's wonderful to see how Revlon's positive experiences in Granville County have led to this new expansion."

"Our Revlon and Elizabeth Arden brands are growing globally and the plant expansion in Oxford will enable us to in-source production of fragrances and Elizabeth Arden skincare and color cosmetics to meet increased consumer demand," said **Alan Blake, Revlon Chief Supply Chain Officer**. He added, "We are committed to the state of North Carolina and pleased to be making a significant economic investment at our largest manufacturing plant in the world."

A performance-based grant of \$100,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Revlon's expansion in Granville County.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Granville County](#), the [Granville County Public Schools](#), and [Granville County Economic Development](#).

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## LS Tractor USA Expands in Nash County Creating 31 Jobs

Agriculture equipment distributor LS Tractor USA will expand operations in Nash County, creating 31 jobs over five years, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced today (August 22). The company will invest \$11.5 million to add employees and upgrade offices and facilities in Battleboro.

"Nash County is a wonderful place to live, work and do business, and I'm pleased that LS Tractor USA has decided to keep growing right here," said **Governor Cooper**, a Nash County native. "North Carolina's exceptional workforce, business climate, and commitment to education encourage companies to expand in our state time and again."

investment in Cleveland County to a total of \$20 million.

"North Carolina continues to be a leader in the chemical science industry because of our world-class workforce," said **Governor Cooper**. "Albemarle Corporation's decision to expand in North Carolina bolsters this thriving industry in our state."

Albemarle Corporation is a global specialty chemicals company with leading positions in lithium, bromine and refining catalysts. Albemarle Corporation products power critical industries, from energy and communications, to transportation and electronics.

"Albemarle Corporation is a global leader and has made the right decision to expand in North Carolina," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "I know Albemarle Corporation will continue to succeed with this expansion in Cleveland County."

Albemarle Corporation will add a variety of job functions in Cleveland County with this project, including operations and engineering services. Salaries for the 170 new Cleveland County positions will vary, with an average salary of \$78,225, once all positions are filled. The average salary in Cleveland County is \$36,576.

"Albemarle is pleased to build upon our recent corporate headquarters relocation to Charlotte and invest in expanding our footprint in Kings Mountain," said **Luke Kissam, Albemarle's Chairman, President and CEO**. "The functions we are adding at Kings Mountain will enable us to grow key business functions that support current global operations and position Albemarle to pursue future growth opportunities. We appreciate the strong support of the state of North Carolina, City of Kings Mountain and Cleveland County for this project."

Over the course of the five-year term of the company's JDIG grant, the project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$390 million. The JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$4.3 million, spread over 12 years. The JDIG agreement also calls for moving as much as \$479,300 into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account. The Utility Account helps rural communities finance necessary infrastructure upgrades to attract future business. Even when new jobs are created in a Tier 2 county such as Cleveland, the new tax revenue generated through JDIG grants helps communities across the state. More information on the state's economic tier designations is available [here](#).

Partnering with [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) on this project were the [North](#)

LS Tractor USA sells and distributes tractors and agricultural equipment produced by LS Mtron, a corporation based in South Korea. LS Tractor's corporate headquarters and primary facility is in Battleboro. The company also has contract facilities in Louisiana, California and Illinois. The company sells equipment through a dealer network of locations through the U.S. and Canada.

"LS Tractor USA has been doing business in our state for nearly ten years," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Their positive experiences here drove them to expand in North Carolina."

"Since 2009, LS Tractor USA has become part of North Carolina and has experienced very successful growth based on collaboration with the North Carolina government and Nash County," said **Joey Sim, Director of Sales and Marketing at LS Tractor USA**. "LS Mtron (Parent Company of LS Tractor USA) has very strong confidence in our continuous growth and our relationship with the local community, which make them willing to increase business and investment for the future here."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but will average \$44,252. The average wage in Nash County is \$38,105.

A performance-based grant of \$60,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate LS Tractor's expansion in Nash County.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Nash County](#), and the [Carolinas Gateway Partnership](#).

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## TrueLearn will move headquarters to Mooresville Creating 44 Jobs

TrueLearn, LLC plans to create 44 new jobs and move its headquarters and operations to Iredell County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced August 9. The company, which helps young physicians achieve board certification in various specialties of medicine, will expand its services with an investment of \$435,000 over five years in Mooresville.

"North Carolina is uniquely suited for innovative, knowledge-based companies like TrueLearn, and our workforce is ready to fill these technology and data science jobs," said **Governor Cooper**

TrueLearn is a leader in online test preparation, offering learning tools designed to prepare physicians and health care professionals for their licensure exams. The company uses predictive models that adapt to the individual to advance learning, enhance retention and improve performance.

"Our higher education system and competitive technology and health care industries attracted TrueLearn to North Carolina," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "I know TrueLearn will benefit from and add to the innovation happening in health care, education and technology here in our state."

While compensation will vary by position, average salaries for the new jobs are expected to be \$101,818. Iredell County's current average annual wage is \$47,705.

[Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Gardner-Webb University](#), the [City of Kings Mountain](#), [Cleveland County](#), and the [Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership](#).

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## Premtec Division of New York Air Brake to add jobs in Rowan County

New York Air Brake, LLC (NYAB), a global manufacturer of innovative train control systems for the railroad industry, will expand operations at its Premtec Division in Rowan County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced August 17. The company plans to create 28 jobs and invest over \$1 million in its plant in Salisbury in conjunction with a grant from the state's One North Carolina Fund. Long term, the company intends to add as many as 40 jobs at the facility.

"North Carolina's manufacturing workforce is unmatched in the Southeast," **Governor Cooper** said. "Manufacturing companies like New York Air Brake recognize the role our hard-working people play in the success of their businesses."

New York Air Brake, with headquarters in Watertown, New York, has served the rail industry since 1890. The company offers freight & locomotive air brake control systems. The Premtec Division, located in Rowan County, currently houses NYAB's freight car brake hose manufacturing and will be expanded to include peripheral product assembly and test functions.

"New York Air Brake and its Premtec Division is just the latest example of a North Carolina manufacturer choosing to expand in our state," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Companies that are already doing business here clearly see the many advantages North Carolina offers."

"The decision to shift a portion of our product assembly from Watertown, New York to Salisbury is part of an overall strategic plan to align our manufacturing and operations in focused facilities," said **New York Air Brake President & CEO Mike Hawthorne**. "Our Premtec Division already has manufacturing, as well as low-complexity assembly and test, making it a natural fit for this portion of our business. In addition, the shift helps improve our proximity to our customers."

A performance-based grant of \$50,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate New York Air Brake's expansion in Rowan County.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of](#)

"Every day, we have the unique opportunity to influence the lives of thousands of young physicians in their efforts to outperform on some of the most high-stakes licensure exams on the planet," said **Dr. Joshua Courtney, TrueLearn's founder and CEO**. "To achieve this, we work with some of the best minds in the education technology community. After a great run in Pittsburgh, we are thrilled to move our headquarters to the Charlotte, N.C. area as the company enters into a new phase in its growth cycle, and we are grateful for the support we have received from the community."

A performance-based grant of \$50,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate TrueLearn's move to Iredell County.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [Town of Mooresville](#), and the [Mooresville South Iredell Economic Development Corporation](#).

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## Rural Communities Receive \$15.8 Million in Grants, Attracting 429 New Jobs

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 22 grant requests on August 17, totaling \$15,802,945. The requests include commitments to create a total of 429 new jobs. An additional 368 new jobs associated with these grants had been previously announced.

"These investments will help our rural communities prepare for and win business," said **Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "The Rural Infrastructure Authority's work supports necessary improvements and projects that will help communities prepare and compete for jobs."

In the latest round of grants, the RIA approved eight requests from the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account program in the cities of Conover, Laurinburg, Albemarle, and Bessemer City as well as the Town of Mocksville and the counties of Columbus, Cherokee, and Davidson.

The RIA approved one request under the state's Economic Infrastructure program in the City of Hendersonville.

Grants under the state's federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - Economic Development program were made to Davidson County and the City of Lexington.

Under the state's Building Reuse program, the RIA approved ten grants in locations statewide.

Details on each of the RIA awarded projects is [available online](#).

[N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Duke Energy](#), [Rowan County](#), and [RowanWORKS](#).

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## Deputy Secretary Miller Participates in Isothermal Groundbreaking

More than 100 people were on hand for a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Applied Sciences and Workforce Development Center on August 14 at Isothermal Community College.

In addition to N.C. Commerce Deputy Secretary Will Miller (far right in photo), other participants in the ceremony included Leonard Hollifield, chairman of the Isothermal Board of Trustees; Chivous Bradley, past chairman of the Board of Trustees; Olivia Collier of the Appalachian Regional Commission; Mark Sorrells of the Golden LEAF Foundation; Brett Keeter of U.S. Rep. Patrick McHenry's Office; Chairman Bryan King of the Rutherford County Board of Commissioners; Stephen Matheny, vice president of Administrative Services; and Isothermal President Walter Dalton.

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## N.C. in the News

- [N.C. soars in ranking that could attract aerospace manufacturer to Kinston](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - August 18)
- [Taking off: N.C. rockets to No. 4 for aerospace manufacturing](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - August 17)
- [Albemarle shifting more jobs from Baton Rouge to North Carolina](#) (*The Advocate* - Baton Rouge, LA - August 15)
- [Danish company to bring 145 jobs to Asheboro](#) (*Times-News* - Hendersonville - August 15)
- [Danish company to bring 145 jobs to Asheboro](#) (*Courier-Tribune* - August 14)
- [Council approves \\$4 million in grants](#) (*Shelby Star* - August 12)
- [Execs: NC must change education to win job wars](#) (*WRAL TechWire* - August 11)

## About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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