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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll and Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines at the Targacept headquarters in Winston-Salem (Photo courtesy Cindy Carroll)

Mayors forge biotech jobs plan

Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines led a biotech summit on July 29 at the Targacept headquarters at the Piedmont Research Park in Winston-Salem. Speakers included Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton and Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll. Carroll spoke on Gov. Bev Perdue's priorities for the green economy, defense supply chain, financial services, and life sciences. He gave examples of ways in which Commerce and the N.C. Biotechnology Center collaborate on life sciences projects throughout the state. Carroll also recognized Mayor Joines as the newly appointed Chair of the State of N.C. Economic Development Board.

Also at the event was Dr. Anthony Atala, director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, who is featured in a ["State of Minds" profile](#) on Commerce's Web site. [Read more.](#)

[Joines convenes mayors to talk biotech](#) (Business Journal of the Greater Triad, July 30)

International biomanufacturing conference coming to Raleigh in October

The [BioProcess International Conference & Exhibition](#), an international biopharmaceutical meeting, will take place at the Raleigh Convention Center Oct. 12-16. The meeting will include presentations and seminars in four tracks: manufacturing efficiency and supply chain security, scaling up



(Left-right) International Trade Director Jean Davis and Chiyoko Lord of Pixon Imaging

Commerce strengthens trade ties with Canada

Canada continues to be North Carolina's largest trade partner. The second annual joint meeting of the [Southeast United States and Canadian Provinces Alliance \(SEUS//CP\)](#), which took place July 26-28 in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, helped further strengthen the existing robust trade relationship.

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco and International Trade Director Jean Davis attended the event in an effort to further cultivate and forge business relationships with Canadian officials and business leaders. After presenting remarks to the delegates at the opening ceremony, Sec. Crisco spent time with other heads of delegations from southeastern states, and also held private meetings with premiers and ministers from the participating Canadian provinces.

The 15-member North Carolina delegation included business leaders such as Chiyoko Lord who is vice president of business development with Pixon Imaging, LLC. North Carolina's booth provided businesses with an opportunity to network with Canadian business partners. North Carolina trade representative Russ Sawchuk assisted Pixon Imaging in setting up six appointments with Canadian buyers during the sessions. Next year's SEUS//CP conference will be held April

from bench through commercialization, cell culture & upstream processing, and recovery & purification.

The week-long conference will also feature six keynote presentations, a Biospace Career Fair, a workshop entitled "Formulation Strategies for Protein Therapeutics," and three IBC Professional Training Academy courses. Attendees will be able to tour the biomanufacturing facilities of local firms Diosynth Biotechnology and Biogen Idec. From Oct. 13-15, conference participants may take part in an international exhibition with more than 150 suppliers and eight themed roundtable discussions. [Read more.](#)

Triad Bioscience Business Center Launches

A new initiative to link international companies to resources in the Piedmont Triad officially launched July 27.

The Bioscience Business Center will provide assistance with business organization, intellectual property protection, regulatory counseling, market-channel development and connections to capital for international bioscience companies seeking to enter the Piedmont Triad.

The center will be a central point of contact to establish connections between companies and governments, universities, research parks, business incubators and licensing venues. [Read more.](#)

Crisco appears on 'North Carolina People'

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco was interviewed by Dr. William Friday on the weekly "North Carolina People" program on UNC-TV. In the program, Crisco discusses Commerce's recent European mission and the importance of early childhood education on a productive 21st-century workforce. The program originally aired on July 31, but is still available online. [See the program and others from July.](#)

N.C. ranked No. 2 for Workforce by CNBC

North Carolina was recently named in the Top Ten of CNBC's "America's Top States for Business in '09," and ranked No. 2 in the Workforce subcategory. In 2008 North Carolina was ranked No. 3 for Workforce. Georgia, which ranked No. 10 overall, was No. 1 for Workforce. [See the full ranking.](#)

Green Workforce workshop planned

Commerce's Division of Workforce Development is sponsoring a seminar focused on the emerging green industry sector. "Green 101: Planting a Green Foundation for N.C. Workforce Development," scheduled for Aug. 27 in Raleigh and Sept. 1 in Hickory, is designed to provide foundational information on green jobs, green businesses in the state and green workforce training needs. For more information and online registration see www.ncwia.com and click on Training Center; or contact the Workforce Development Training Center at (919) 329-5588.

PRSP releases July economic report

11-13, 2010, in Biloxi, Miss.

Workforce promotes careers in advanced manufacturing

Regional workforce development boards in the Piedmont Triad region collaborated with the Piedmont Triad Partnership (PTP) to present ManufacturingWorks July 27-31. Eleven [JobLink career centers](#) were included in the tour, where representatives from industry and education answered questions about advanced manufacturing careers, skills requirements and educational needs for JobLink clients and staff.

"These information sessions will provide jobseekers with clear information and hands-on demonstrations of the skills and education required to pursue a career in this field," said Althea Hairston, director of Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board and member of the regional collaborative of workforce boards, TriadWorks.

Other partner workforce boards are: DavidsonWorks, Greensboro/High Point/Guilford, Pee Dee, and Regional. A total of 207 JobLink customers, 65 JobLink staff and 33 exhibitors participated in the tours. The Piedmont Triad Partnership (PTP), one of the state's seven economic development partnerships, is the lead organization for a first-generation [Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development \(WIRED\) grant](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor. Advanced manufacturing is one of the initiative's targeted industry clusters. The grant is administered through Commerce's Division of Workforce Development.



Ports to add biodiesel tanks

A Raleigh-based company will provide the N.C. State Ports Authority with three biodiesel storage tanks and fuel systems for operating equipment at the Ports of Wilmington and Morehead City. The Ports Authority has been working for several years to reduce its environmental footprint. In July 2007, the authority began using ultra low sulfur diesel as its primary off-road diesel fuel, three years

Commerce's Policy Research & Strategic Planning Division has released its July Overview of North Carolina's Economy. The purpose of the overview is to summarize and analyze important economic indicators. [Read the full report.](#)

According to the findings:

- Unemployment rates increased nationally, but decreased slightly in North Carolina
- Employment continues to decline in most industry sectors
- Announced closing and layoffs are up from the previous month
- Foreclosures increased in June
- Gross sales and use tax collections were lower than previous month



Carroll promotes JobsNow during meeting

Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll was guest speaker at the summer meeting of the N.C. Association of Community College Presidents on July 30. More than 50 community college presidents participated in the meeting at Blue Ridge Community College. Carroll promoted the governor's JobsNow initiative, including the ["12 in 6" Training Pathways](#), which is being implemented by community colleges across the state. The program, funded in part by Commerce's Division of Workforce Development, offers training programs in 12 high-demand jobs in six months or less. Carroll updated the association members on the federal recovery programs currently managed by Commerce.

Green business forum to be held in Lenoir

[AdvantageWest](#) and Appalachian State University are teaming up to present a free forum, "Re-Powering Our Region: Building Profit By Being Green," at the Broyhill Civic Center in Lenoir Aug. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The forum will feature keynote speaker Harry Wingo, policy counsel in Google's Washington, D.C. office. Wingo focuses on cybersecurity, energy and other issues. Wingo will discuss Google's clean energy vision and address how both consumers and businesses can benefit from emerging technology.

The event will also feature expert panelists who will discuss responsible energy use, local and global perspectives on the green economy, the area's existing green businesses and various resources for education and economic development. The event is designed to connect business leaders, entrepreneurs, educators and policymakers to create a more

before federal requirements. Two biodiesel tanks at the Port of Wilmington -- one 20,000-gallon tank and one 10,000-gallon tank -- and one 10,000-gallon tank at the Port of Morehead City will be installed by Jones and Frank Corp. An N.C. Clean Air grant is funding \$104,000 of the \$126,000 cost, with Ports Authority revenues paying for the balance. For more details on this and other ports news, see the July [Stem to Stern newsletter](#).

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by 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.

January - Aug. 3, 2009

New projects assigned:	259
Projects announced:	62
Jobs created:	6,402
Capital invested:	\$1.804B
Direct account interactions (industry visits by existing industry staff):	972
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	15,836

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Market America looks to expand](#) (The News & Record, Greensboro, Aug. 3)
- [Ribbon cutting scheduled for August 5th at Raleigh Operations Center](#) (dBusinessNews, Aug. 3)
- [Mayors focus on state's biotech industry](#) (Winston-Salem Journal, July 31)
- ["JobsNOW" offers training for unemployed workers](#) (WBTV.com - Salisbury, July 30)
- [Colleges receive stimulus money to use for training](#) (New Bern Sun Journal, July 30)

sustainable economic future for the region. Participants will increase their awareness of substantial savings available through new technologies and education in today's energy market. [Read more.](#)

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