

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Yoichi Uchiyama, president of FCC (North Carolina), receives an official State of North Carolina commemorative plate from N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco.

Automotive components maker to create 66 jobs in Scotland County

Governor Bev Perdue on Aug. 6 announced that FCC (North Carolina), LLC, a manufacturer of automotive components, will expand its operations in Scotland County. The company plans to create 66 jobs and invest more than \$57 million over the next three years in Laurinburg. The project was made possible in part by a \$264,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Martie Butler](#) was the developer on this project.

"My top priority is creating jobs," said Perdue. "Manufacturers know our job training programs are world-class and that our highly-skilled workers and top-notch business climate help them to thrive in a globally competitive market."

FCC (North Carolina) is owned by FCC (North America), Inc. The parent company of FCC (North America) is FCC Co., Ltd. Japan. FCC (North Carolina) manufactures ATV clutches, ATV differential components, automotive transmission components and automotive differential components. The company currently employs more than 140 people at its facility in Laurinburg.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual payroll for the new jobs will be more than \$1.8 million, plus



Visitor spending rises in all N.C. counties in 2011

Governor Bev Perdue announced Aug. 7 that all of the state's 100 counties saw increases in visitor spending in 2011, including seven counties that had double-digit increases. Data from the North Carolina Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development showed that three counties (Mecklenburg, Wake and Guilford) had more than \$1 billion in visitor spending in 2011 while Dare, Buncombe, Forsyth and Durham all had more than half a billion in spending.

Domestic visitors to and within North Carolina spent a record \$18 billion in 2011, an increase of 8 percent from 2010. For the first time, state tax receipts as a result of visitor spending neared \$1 billion in 2011. Local tax revenues totaled nearly \$561 million. Visitor expenditures directly generated 187,900 jobs and more than \$4 billion in payroll income within North Carolina in 2011.

"Tourism means jobs -- nearly 200,000 of them across North Carolina," said Perdue. "The depth of the state's appeal is reflected in the fact that every corner of North Carolina benefited from tourism. More than 37 million people experienced what makes this state such a desirable destination, from our wondrous coast and breathtaking mountains to our lively cities and fascinating towns."

[Read more.](#)

benefits. [Read more.](#)

NGK Ceramics USA Inc. to create 86 jobs in Iredell County

Governor Bev Perdue on Aug. 7 announced that NGK Ceramics USA Inc., a leading manufacturer of ceramic components for automobile engines, will expand its operations in Iredell County. The company plans to create 86 jobs and invest more than \$93 million over the next three years in Mooresville. The project was made possible in part by a \$160,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Uconda Dunn](#) was the developer on this project.

NGK Automotive Ceramics USA is a subsidiary of NGK Insulators Ltd., located in Nagoya, Japan. NGK Automotive Ceramics USA directly supports and supplies all major automobile and heavy duty diesel manufacturers with high-performance precision ceramic components for diesel and gasoline engine emission control systems. The company currently employs more than 540 people at its facility in Mooresville.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$38,416, plus benefits. The Iredell County average annual wage is \$37,492. [Read more.](#)



International Trade Division staff (left-right): Tiffanie Taylor, John Loyack, Theresa Spera, Glenn Jackman, Kuldip Wasson, Mike Padjen, Jean Davis and Lisa Law

ITD staff volunteers at Interfaith Food Shuttle

As part of the community service program at N.C. Department of Commerce, the International Trade Division staff worked with the Raleigh-based Interfaith Food Shuttle on July 20 to harvest produce that goes to needy families. The organization's goal is to end hunger in the Triangle.

The team harvested vegetables, turned compost piles and threshed seed pods for fall planting.



A barbecue sandwich at Allen & Son in Chapel Hill.

Tourism media missions lead to coverage of N.C. attractions

Condé Nast Traveler highlighted the N.C. Barbecue Trail as part of its "[10 Food Trails Worth the Flight \(and the Calories\)](#)," published July 30 in *Condé Nast Traveler* online. The piece highlighted Wilber's in Goldsboro, Grady's in Dudley, Allen & Son in Chapel Hill and Stephenson's in Willow Springs. The Division team and partners pitched journalist Kate Parham about the state's culinary offerings during the Washington, D.C., media mission in April. The placement reached 149,790 unique viewers online, and the estimated value of the coverage was \$8,313.

Also, as a result of the Division's January media mission to New York, Lake Lure, Brevard and Highlands received coverage in a three-page editorial feature in the August 2012 issue of *Southern Living*, "[The North Carolina Highlands](#)." The Division team and attending partners pitched story ideas to writer Graham Averill during the mission. This travel piece was written as a three-day itinerary that readers can follow if they make the trip themselves. The placement reaches 3,749,227 readers via print and online placement. The estimated value of the coverage is \$460,571.



Nano school growth on mark

You won't see a lot of posters or highway billboards advertising the [Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering's](#) programs.

The school, a venture between N.C. Agricultural & Technical University and UNC-



Oskar Blues to start production in Brevard in December

Officials with Colorado-based Oskar Blues Brewery say the company is on track to fire up the kettles by December at its new facility in Brevard. And perhaps the only ones as eager for the opening as thirsty craft-beer lovers in Western North Carolina are the handful of employees relocating from Oskar Blues' home base of Longmont, Colo., who will lead the launch of the WNC expansion.

[Oskar Blues to start production in Brevard in December](#) (BlueRidgeNow.com, Aug. 5)

WCU's Millennial Campus gets its first building

The new Health and Human Sciences building is the first building to crown Western Carolina University's Millennial Campus, and hopefully a stepping stone to help realize the initial vision for the 344-acre addition to the campus.

The university purchased the Millennial Campus tract across the highway from its main campus in 2005 with the idea of creating a place where academics, research, private industry and college life intersect.

WCU hopes the Health and Human Sciences building will become the epicenter of a health care consortium where students and professors study and teach alongside private health care providers, medical device companies and specialized clinics.

The College of Health and Human Sciences is currently waiting internal approval of a partnership with CarolinaWest Sports Medicine. The medical group would have space in the new building and work with the college's athletic training department. CarolinaWest currently provides medical assistance for WCU's sports teams.

Other businesses have approached the university but nothing is final.

[WCU's Millennial Campus gets its first building](#) (Smoky Mountain News, Aug. 1)

Greensboro, doesn't do a lot of active recruiting. But that hasn't stopped information from spreading among students wanting to learn more about how tiny particles can have a big impact on everyday life.

[Nano school growth on mark](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, Aug. 6)

Flynn named VP of Charlotte Regional Partnership

The [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#) has named Michael Flynn as vice president of economic development services. He will join the partnership on Aug. 20. Most recently vice president of proactive recruitment at the Economic Development Corporation of Utah, Flynn also served as research manager, director of existing business and vice president of public development for the organization. Before joining EDCUtah, Flynn worked in the marketing department at the Newspaper Agency Corporation, the advertising, production and distribution company associated with *The Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret News*. Flynn has a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of Utah and an MBA from Westminster College.

Raleigh ranks 5th in nation for eco-friendly services

A survey of the greenest U.S. cities shows that Raleigh is among the tops in the nation in offering eco-friendly services.

Raleigh ranked fifth on the survey, which ranked cities on per capita availability of eco-friendly services as well as the premium charged by some green businesses.

The survey was performed by Thumbtack, a website geared to helping find local services.

[Raleigh ranks 5th in nation for eco-friendly services](#) (The News & Observer, Aug. 3)

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



(Image courtesy of Cabarrus Economic Development)

New business park planned for Concord

Beacon Partners, one of the area's leading developers of office and industrial space, recently announced plans for RiverOaks Corporate Center, according to a post on Cabarrus Economic Development's blog. The park will be a campus-style development located on 150 acres of land at the corner of Poplar Tent and Derita Roads in Concord.

The master plan has flexibility to accommodate customers looking for 50,000 up to 1.5 million square feet of logistics and manufacturing space. This will be particularly helpful in Cabarrus County's product portfolio because the size and type of building is in high demand for businesses evaluating the area. [Read more.](#)

Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - Aug. 7, 2012

New projects assigned:	251
Projects announced:	76
Jobs announced:	9,535
Capital investment announced:	\$2.13B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	777
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	12,139

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- ['A whole new future' for research park](#) (*The Winston-Salem Journal*, Aug. 6)
- [Pender Commerce Park will get more tax credits for port-related jobs](#) (*The Star-News* - Wilmington, Aug. 3)

(919) 733-4151

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

Building Location:

301 North Wilmington Street
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

Mailing Address:

4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

[Invite a Friend](#) [Unsubscribe](#) [Subscribe](#) feedback@nc-sync.com [SYNC archive](#)

© 2012 North Carolina Department of Commerce | SYNC™ is a trademark of the N.C. Department of Commerce.