

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Washington Mayor Archie Jennings, N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker, idX Impressions Plant Manager Randy Roark, Beaufort County Commission Chair Jerry Langley, and Beaufort County Economic Development Executive Director Bob Heuts at the Washington Civic Center

## idX Impressions to Expand in Beaufort County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Sept. 4 that idX Impressions will be expanding its manufacturing operations in Beaufort County. The company plans to create 159 new jobs and invest \$3 million over the next three years in Washington. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Tim Ivey](#) was the developer on this project.

"Our administration is continuing its focus on developing the manufacturing industry and emphasizing eastern North Carolina as a strategic location for growth," said McCrory. "We welcome the expansion of idX Impressions here in Beaufort County."

idX Impressions builds store fixtures for companies across the globe. Its customer list includes leading retailers, banks and telecom companies. The company currently employs 84 people in North Carolina.

"Companies like idX Impressions are contributing to an increasing trend of job growth throughout rural North Carolina," said Decker. "It's time for a bold, focused, comprehensive approach to economic development that will improve the economic health of North Carolinians in all 100



Governor McCrory speaking at the Lee Controls announcement in Southport

## Motion Component Manufacturer to Create 77 Jobs in Brunswick County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Sept. 6 that Lee Controls will locate its manufacturing and headquarters operations in Brunswick County. The company plans to create 77 new jobs and invest \$2.46 million over the next three years near Southport. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ken Allen](#) was the developer on this project.

"This project demonstrates how reforming the tax code can become an important tool for economic development," said McCrory. "We welcome Lee Controls to our state and look forward to seeing more products made right here in North Carolina."

Lee Controls is a world-class manufacturer of round rail products. The company produces precision linear motion components, including linear precision balls, ceramic and Teflon® bearings, pillow blocks, and accessories such as carriage locks, carriage plates and ball screws.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$39,649 plus benefits. The Brunswick County average annual wage is \$33,174.

"North Carolina's overall lower cost of doing business was a major reason why Lee Controls chose to relocate to Brunswick County," said Lee Controls President Glen Michalske. "We applaud the state's recent tax reform, which allows us to reinvest in our

counties."

"idX looks forward to expanding our presence in Beaufort County," said idX CEO Terry Schultz. "The North Carolina facility will offer idX a strategic location to increase our manufacturing and distribution capability and better serve our customers. The expanded facility will be part of idX's global network that includes 18 locations and more than 1,500 employees."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$300,000. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds. These grants also require and are contingent upon local matches.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, N.C. State University-IES, Beaufort County, the Northeast Commission, and the City of Washington. [Read more.](#)



*(Left-right) Congressman G.K. Butterfield, Congressman David Price, BASF Plant Science President and CEO Peter Eckes, Governor Pat McCrory, BASF Crop Protection Senior Vice President Nevin McDougall, and Durham Mayor Bill Bell at the ribbon cutting ceremony for BASF's new \$33 million expansion*

## **BASF Opens Its \$33 Million Facility Expansion in RTP**

On Sept. 4, BASF inaugurated its new research facilities in Research Triangle Park at a grand opening ceremony. This \$33 million expansion includes 80,000 square feet of office, laboratory and greenhouse facilities.

"This expansion demonstrates BASF's strong commitment to Agricultural Solutions and strengthens our research and development capabilities," said BASF Plant Science President Peter Eckes. "This investment demonstrates our commitment to our employees, our neighbors and the State of North Carolina."

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, U.S. Representatives G.K. Butterfield and David Price, Durham Mayor Bill Bell and other guests from government, business and academia were invited to join BASF employees at the event.

The facilities include a climate-controlled greenhouse and laboratories for plant biotechnology research as well as a new environmentally-controlled insect production facility to expand

employees and the future growth of our business. We are delighted to join the North Carolina community."

The project was made possible, in part, by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$40,000.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Brunswick County Economic Development Commission, Brunswick County and the City of Southport. [Read more.](#)



*N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker with ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard last week*

## **Decker Tours ECU**

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker met with East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard, top university officials, professors and various students when she spent the afternoon of Sept. 4 on the Greenville campus. Her visit included a trip to the College of Technology and Computer Science and a tour of the School of Nursing and its nurse anesthetist lab. Decker talked with the university research and economic development team about student programs, inventions and community outreach activities that are creating jobs and improving the lives of East Carolinians.

"East Carolina University is an economic engine for the eastern part of North Carolina and beyond," said Decker. "The university is preparing students to enter the workforce, and we're recruiting companies for them to work in. I see ECU as an essential tool in our success in improving the economic health of all 100 counties in the state, but especially in

insect control research.

"A significant share of BASF's insecticide research is conducted in RTP. These larger facilities will enable us to evaluate our promising insecticide candidates faster," said BASF Crop Protection North America Senior Vice President Nevin McDougall.

In RTP, BASF manages a total of 480,000 square feet and employs approximately 950 people. RTP serves as headquarters for the North American activities of BASF's Crop Protection division as well as global headquarters for the Plant Science division. BASF has been a pillar of the North Carolina agricultural industry for the past 27 years, following the 1986 groundbreaking of the site. [Read more.](#)

[BASF expansion of RTP research facilities includes high-tech 'insect zoo'](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Sept. 4)



(Left-right) B&C Associates Inc. Founder, Chairman, & CEO Robert J. Brown, N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker and Governor McCrory had a conversation with job creators at the Minority Enterprise Development Breakfast

## N.C. HUB Office Contributes to Minority Enterprise Celebration

The N.C. Department of Administration's [Office for Historically Underutilized Businesses](#) participated in the N.C. Minority Enterprise Development Celebration on Sept. 5 at the Raleigh Convention Center. This inaugural statewide Celebration's theme was "Doing Business in the NEW North Carolina."

"This Celebration is a significant opportunity to support minority enterprises in pursuit of building a strong North Carolina economy," said Secretary of Administration Bill Daughtride.

The Celebration included networking sessions for business development, overviews of transportation and energy issues, and special guests which included Governor Pat McCrory, Daughtride and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker.

HUB plays a significant role in promoting economic opportunities for historically underutilized businesses in state government contracting and procurement. These opportunities foster growth and profitability for many of North Carolina's minority owned businesses.

the rural parts of Eastern North Carolina."

## Acme United Corporation to Create 90 Jobs with Purchase of Rocky Mount Facility

Acme United Chairman and CEO Walter C. Johnsen on Aug. 30 announced the company's purchase of the Roomstore building located on Tanner Road in Rocky Mount. The Roomstore property consists of 340,000 square feet of office and manufacturing space on 33 acres of land. The property adjoins a CSX railroad spur, is convenient to major interstate highways and ports, and is 30 miles from the company's Fremont plant. The facility will be used to consolidate two distribution centers and to provide space for manufacturing and growth. The company plans to create 90 new jobs.

"I congratulate Acme United Corporation on its location decision. The Carolinas Gateway Partnership region is a great place for business, with a high quality workforce and an excellent business climate with Interstate 95 and limited access US 64 providing access to a broad customer base," stated Carolinas Gateway Partnership Chairman Frank Harrison.

Other partners in this project include: Rocky Mount City Council, Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners, Carolinas Gateway Partnership, and N.C. Department of Commerce.

Connecticut-based Acme United Corporation is a leading worldwide supplier of innovative cutting, measuring and safety products for schools, home, office, hardware and industrial markets. Its leading brands include Wescott®, Clauss®, Camillus®, Physicians Care® and Pac Kit®.

[Acme United Corporation Acquires Manufacturing and Distribution Facility](#) (*The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 30)

## 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 Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - Sept. 9, 2013

"The HUB office is the gateway to business opportunities for our minority enterprise businesses across the state," said Assistant to Secretary for HUB Outreach Dennis English. "This Celebration allows the HUB office to launch future initiatives that will facilitate doing business in the 'new' North Carolina."

The event is part of a larger MED week which first achieved national recognition in 1983 after a proclamation was issued by President Ronald Reagan. On Aug. 8, McCrory issued an [official North Carolina proclamation](#) in which he named October as Minority Enterprise Development Month and recognized the vital role minority businesses play in North Carolina's economy.

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## Decker to Speak in Wilmington on the Future of Export Growth and Trade Promotion in N. C.

The [N.C. World Trade Association, Cape Fear chapter](#) is pleased to present a business luncheon with guest speaker N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker on Sept. 17, noon - 1:30 p.m. at the Cape Fear Country Club in Wilmington. Decker will discuss the importance of international trade in North Carolina and the opportunities available to exporters. [For more information and to purchase tickets, click here.](#)

The NCWTA promotes growth of trade between North Carolina and the world by providing education and networking opportunities and advocacy for North Carolinians engaged in exporting, importing and supporting global trade activities.

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## No Nonsense and Walmart Expand Mutual Commitment to "Made in the USA"

No Nonsense®, one of the most recognizable legwear brands in America, made by Kayser-Roth, announced on Sept. 3 a "Sock Initiative" with Walmart that expands its "Made in the USA" program. No Nonsense will invest up to \$28 million in its existing operations in Burlington and Asheboro, enabling No Nonsense and Walmart to offer more "Made in the USA" products to consumers and create 100 more jobs in North Carolina.

"Made in the USA" is, and has been, a core strategy of Kayser-Roth for more than 50 years, and its signature brand - No Nonsense - produces more than 90 percent of all its tights, socks and sheer hosiery in the U.S.

"Walmart is proud to be working with suppliers like Kayser-Roth to increase domestic production and create jobs that will support the middle class," said Walmart U.S. President and CEO Bill Simon. "Growing business with existing suppliers supports our goal of purchasing an additional \$50 billion in U.S. manufactured products over the next 10 years."

"The No Nonsense Sock Initiative with Walmart represents a business model demonstrating our mutual commitment, cooperation and trust with all stakeholders in creating more jobs and more 'Made in the USA' products," said Kayser-Roth President and CEO Kevin Toomey. "We've figured out how to make a better product at a better price here in America, and working with Walmart has been a tremendous asset in creating more jobs here at home. Together we are making a difference... one job and one consumer at a time." [Read more.](#)

[Kayser-Roth to add 100 jobs, invest \\$28M in Triad](#) (*The*

<b>New projects assigned:</b>	265
<b>Projects announced:</b>	98
<b>Jobs announced:</b>	13,110
<b>Capital investment announced:</b>	\$1.3B
<b>Industry visits by existing industry staff:</b>	856
<b>Calls to Business Link N.C.:</b>	14,028

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## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [Women find path into factory jobs](#) (*Citizen-Times* - Asheville, Sept. 5)
- [HCL to add 200 jobs in Cary](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Sept. 5)
- [Japanese candy factory comes to Orange County](#) (*The Daily Tarheel*, Sept. 5)
- [Innovation Fund offers \\$1.2M for N.C. startups](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Sept. 5)
- [Economic developers tout Triad's connectedness](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Sept. 5)
- [Highwoods reveals plans for MetLife's \\$110 million campus in Cary](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Sept. 5)
- [UNCW opens Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#) (*News 14 Carolina*, Sept. 5)
- [Will FDA's green light multiply Merck's Durham headcount?](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Sept. 5)
- [Charlotte-based Meineke looks to double store count](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Sept. 4)
- [Business returns microbrewing to Mooresville](#) (*Mooresville Tribune*, Sept. 4)
- [Hajoca Greensboro moving headquarters, hiring staff](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Sept. 4)
- [Duke Energy again ranks among top economic developers](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Sept. 3)
- [Ruger incentives approved by Rockingham Co. Commissioners](#) (WFMY, Sept. 3)
- [UNC-Pembroke business incubator funded: could be ready by January 2015](#) (*The Fayetteville Observer*, Sept. 3)
- [N.C. ranks second for new solar construction in Q2](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Sept. 3)
- ['Revolution' cast, crew reflect on Wilmington in DVD release](#) (*StarNews* - Wilmington, Sept. 2)

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