

# sync<sup>TM</sup>

Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce

## Confectionary Company to Create 90 Jobs in Orange County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Sept. 3 that Morinaga, a leading international confectionary company, will locate a new facility in Orange County. The company plans to create 90 new jobs and invest \$48 million over the next three years. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [April Kappler](#) was the developer on this project.

"Morinaga's decision to locate in Orange County will mean more North Carolina products being sold in the global marketplace," said McCrory. "Our robust talent pool and attractive quality of life will be a perfect fit for this growing company."

Morinaga and Company was founded in 1899 in Tokyo. Morinaga produces a wide array of confectionaries. Products include milk caramel, chocolates, cookies, foodstuffs such as cocoa mix, and frozen desserts such as ice cream sandwiches and sundae cups. Its North Carolina activities will primarily consist of blending syrup, sugar, flavorings and other ingredients to produce soft candy.

"North Carolina's strong workforce continues to be an important asset in recruiting globally competitive companies," said Decker. "Morinaga knows our state's sweet quality of life will complement the confectionary products that will soon be made in Orange County."

"North Carolina is well-known as a state which provides a remarkable business environment," said Morinaga America Inc. CEO Masao Hoshino. "We feel honored to be a member of the community and are determined to do our very best to contribute to the state as well as to make our business in the U.S. a success."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) of up to \$264,000. 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. Incentive agreements with the City of Mebane and Orange County have not yet been approved.

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Department of Transportation, N.C. Community Colleges,

## Exterior Building Products Manufacturer to Expand in Lenoir County

Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced on Aug. 29 that [Associated Materials Inc.](#) will be expanding its manufacturing operation in Lenoir County. The company plans to create 252 new jobs and invest more than \$5 million over the next five years in Kinston. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bernard Torain](#) was the developer on this project.

"Creating new manufacturing jobs across North Carolina has been a priority of my administration's economic plan. We remain focused on expanding partnerships with existing North Carolina businesses like Associated Materials," said McCrory. "Kinston and Associated Materials will both benefit greatly from this major expansion."

Associated Materials Inc. is the parent of several North American manufacturing and distribution operations, including Alside Window Company, one of Kinston's largest employers. Its products and services serve both the remodeling and new construction markets in the continental U.S. and Canada, serving the needs of contractors, builders, remodelers and architects. Associated Materials currently employs more than 540 people in North Carolina.

"Governor McCrory and I are working every day to ensure that we're addressing the needs of our state's existing manufacturers," said Decker. "Lenoir County's highly-skilled workforce will be a perfect match for Associated Materials."

"We are investing in people, training, new equipment and manufacturing capabilities now through the next five years," said AMI Senior Human Resources Manager Ondrea Joyner. "We appreciate the commitment from Lenoir County and the N.C. Community Colleges to assist with our expansion."

Other partners that helped with this project include: N.C. Community Colleges, Lenoir County, and the City of Kinston. [Read more.](#)

Research Triangle Regional Partnership, Orange County, Orange County Economic Development and the City of Mebane. [Read more.](#)



Appalachian Regional Commission Director Olivia Collier (left) and Governor McCrory (center) hand out laptops to Graham County students.

## Graham County Students Receive Free Laptops through ARC Grant

Governor Pat McCrory presented almost 600 refurbished laptops to middle and high school students in Graham County on Aug. 19. The laptops were made possible by a \$234,000 federal grant awarded to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

A little more than half the households in Graham County, with a population of about 8,000, have access to the Internet with DSL service, according to N.C. Broadband, a division of the N.C. Department of Commerce. The digital divide, as it is sometimes called, is one of the economic factors that hold Appalachian communities back.

N.C. Broadband Director Angie Bailey said officials in Graham County have pushed hard for more Internet access. She said the laptop program will help.

"High speed internet is critical to the economic capacity of the county," she said. "That includes students as the future workforce."

North Carolina has strong connectivity, she said though nearly every county has pockets where service is not available. [Read more.](#)

## 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. 3, 2013

<b>New projects assigned:</b>	257
<b>Projects announced:</b>	87
<b>Jobs announced:</b>	11,890
<b>Capital investment announced:</b>	\$1.2B
<b>Industry visits by existing industry staff:</b>	842
<b>Calls to Business Link N.C.:</b>	13,629

## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [RSI up to 850 employees, 1M square feet in Lincoln](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Aug. 30)
- [Textiles manufacturer expands operations, adds jobs in Sanford](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Aug. 29)
- [OILES unveils second Concord expansion, plans for third](#) (*Independent Tribune --Concord*, Aug. 29)
- [Raleigh's music scene plays sweet melody for local economy](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Aug. 29)
- [Riding on the railroad](#) (*Kinston Free Press*, Aug. 29)
- [Fostering Growth: Enterprise Business Center to use grant to support 30 additional businesses](#) (*Winston-Salem Journal*, Aug. 29)
- [Unilin adding jobs at Thomasville plant](#) (*The Dispatch - Lexington*, Aug. 28)
- [Greensboro Partnership to enhance entrepreneur, mentoring initiatives](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Aug. 28)
- [North Carolina rural development center discusses its future](#) (ABC11, Aug. 28)
- [VF Jeans Center in Greensboro means new jobs, possible expansion](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Aug. 27)
- [Getzner of Austria to establish office in](#)



Tourism Development Manager André Nabors discusses retirement in N.C. with expo attendees.

## State Promotes 'Retire in N.C.' Message at D.C. Expo

Staff from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development promoted North Carolina as a retirement destination at the Ideal Living Resort & Retirement Expo in Falls Church, Va., Aug. 24-25. The expo drew approximately 500 potential retirees from the Washington, D.C., area interested in exploring opportunities and conversing with exhibitors from across the Southeast. Attendees talked with community developers and experts from towns to gain insights and get answers to help plan, design and enjoy their retirement. North Carolina has consistently been one of the most requested states by the attendees. The Division attended the expo in continuing efforts to promote the N.C. Certified Retirement Community program, which currently consists of Asheboro, Lumberton, Marion, Mount Airy, Sanford, and Pittsboro.

The General Assembly has charged the N.C. Department of Commerce with operating the state's Certified Retirement Community program, which recognizes towns that are positioning themselves for retiree attraction as an economic and community development strategy. Once a community has completed the certification process, the Division markets and promotes the community through the Web presence on [RetireNC.com](http://RetireNC.com), e-marketing, social media such as [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/RetireNC.com), public relations, visitor services and research among other opportunities. Sign-up for the RetireNC.com e-newsletter [here](#).

- [Charlotte](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Aug. 27)
- [Carowinds plans \\$50 million expansion](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Aug. 27)
- [Commerce head sees manufacturing jobs returning to N.C.](#) (*The Richmond County Daily Journal*, Aug. 26)
- [Apple's second Catawba solar farm to open this fall](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Aug. 26)
- [Triangle tops nation in concentration of engineering degrees](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Aug. 26)
- [Made in N.C.: Asheville becomes hub of state's growing craft beer industry](#) (*The News & Observer - Raleigh*, Aug. 25)
- [Diamond Brand adds more jobs with new military contract](#) (*Citizen-Times - Asheville*, Aug. 24)
- [N.C. State students win marine design contest using fabrics made in Norlina](#) (*The News & Observer - Raleigh*, Aug. 24)
- [Textile growth looms in Alamance County](#) (*The Times-News -- Burlington*, Aug. 24)
- [Lacy: Unintentional entrepreneurs find balance in owning their own business](#) (*The News & Observer - Raleigh*, Aug. 24)
- [Cleantech, smart grid growing in the Triangle](#) (*WUNC*, Aug. 23)
- [E4: Internships, education programs key for energy hub](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Aug. 23)

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