

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



(Left-right) Andrew Tate, with Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development, Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco and Harry Poovey, manager of economic development with Duke Energy, look over plans for the Ferncliff Industrial Park in Mills River during a tour of the park. (Photo by Mike Dirks, Times-News)

## Commerce works on projects in WNC

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll and Assistant Commerce Sec. for Energy John Morrison worked on economic development projects in Western North Carolina on Sept. 1. At [AdvantageWest](#), they received a briefing on the "AdvantageGreen" initiative in the region and participated in a demonstration by a green energy company. Activities with the [Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development](#) included a tour of the planned Ferncliff Industrial Park, adjacent to the Asheville Regional Airport. Sec. Crisco delivered the keynote address at the annual Industrial Appreciation Banquet at Blue Ridge Community College.

[Ferncliff Industrial Park closer to attracting industry](#) (Times-News - Hendersonville, Sept. 2)



SEUS/Japan logo

## Perdue, Crisco to lead Asia business development trip

Gov. Bev Perdue and Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco will lead the state's Asia business development trip in October. Business leaders and regional economic developers will join the two as they meet with trading partners and recruitment prospects in China and Japan, North Carolina's second- and fourth-largest trading partners. Most of the costs will be paid by non-state funds.

"This trip is about building and sustaining relationships that create jobs for North Carolinians," said Gov. Perdue. "Doing business with Japan and China results in \$3.6 billion a year in trade, jobs for 20,000 North Carolinians and more than \$200 million in foreign direct investment."

The Asia trip is timed to coincide with the 33rd annual joint meeting of the Japan-U.S. Southeast Association (SEUS) and the Southeast U.S.-Japan Association, organizations that promote commerce between the region and Japan. The eight Southeastern member states -- Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia -- rotate hosting the event, with North Carolina serving as the current U.S. host. More than 400 Japanese and Southeastern U.S. leaders are expected to attend the event, which returns to Tokyo this year after having met in Raleigh last October.

Information about SEUS/Japan, including a registration form and preliminary program



Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll (right) makes presentations on behalf of the State of North Carolina to Mack Trucks CEO Dennis Slagle and his wife, Karen

## Mack Trucks opens HQ in Greensboro

Mack Trucks officially opened their new headquarters in Greensboro Sept. 3. Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll and Congressman Howard Coble participated in the ceremony. Activities included a tour of the headquarters, an outdoor exhibit of vintage Mack Trucks, and the presentation of the Mack Truck's bulldog mascot and bulldog statue.

[Mack moves south, bulldog in tow](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, Sept. 4)

[Bullish Move: Mack Trucks officially opens its new corporate headquarters in Greensboro](#) (The Winston-Salem Journal, Sept. 4)

## Clean-energy company to add 61 jobs

Gov. Bev Perdue announced Sept. 4 that [SCR-Tech LLC](#), a leading national provider of cost-effective emissions control solutions for power plants, will expand and add an additional facility in Charlotte. The company plans to invest more than \$12.4 million over the next five years in capital and lease payments for the expansion and for new technologies. During the next three years, the company plans to create 61 new jobs in Mecklenburg County. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$90,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

The 61 new jobs will pay an overall average wage of \$49,372, not including benefits.

SCR-Tech is wholly owned by CoaLogix Inc., which provides innovative solutions for clean energy production with a focus on cost-effective emissions control solutions for the coal and gas-fired power generation industry. The company, with headquarters in Charlotte, currently provides selective catalyst reduction (SCR) regeneration technologies and SCR management services to reduce its customers' environmental footprint.

Project partners include: Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Commerce's Uconda Dunn was the developer on this project.

## Six added to Main Street program

agenda, can be found online at [www.nccommerce.com/seusjapan](http://www.nccommerce.com/seusjapan). Or contact David Rhoades in the Marketing Division at [drhoades@nccommerce.com](mailto:drhoades@nccommerce.com) or (919) 715-6556. [Read more.](#)

[Perdue to hunt economic prospects in China, Japan](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Sept. 3)

## Morrison to speak at GreenNC tradeshow Sept. 9

The 5th annual [GreenNC tradeshow](#) for the state's building industry will take place Sept. 9 at the Raleigh Convention Center. The tradeshow is targeted toward architects, engineers, developers and anyone with an interest in sustainable buildings. This year's show will feature a large residential section featuring exhibitors from the green home building and remodeling industries.

Assistant Commerce Sec. for Energy John Morrison will deliver the luncheon keynote address on the greening of the North Carolina Workforce. The State Energy Office is among the sponsors.

The following day (Sept. 10), one full-day and two half-day LEED workshops will be offered at the Raleigh Convention Center. [Learn more](#) about the workshops.

## Commerce participating in China investment/trade fair

[The China International Fair for Investment and Trade](#) (CIFIT) is taking place Sept. 8-11 in Xiamen, China. Trade representative Marlinda Ma from Commerce's Shanghai office is attending.

CIFIT is currently China's only international investment promotion event aimed at facilitating bilateral investment. CIFIT is comprised of an investment and trade exhibition, an international investment forum and a series of seminars devoted to current issues in foreign direct investment. The event attracts investment promotion agencies from dozens of countries and regions to conduct investment briefings and showcase their business climate. Last year, CIFIT attracted 13,685 overseas visitors from 126 countries.

Six communities are the newest members of the Division of Community Assistance's Small Town Main Street program, an initiative for smaller cities that focuses on creating new jobs and investment by helping revitalize downtown areas. Robbins, LaGrange, Liberty, Selma, Waxhaw and Wilkesboro were selected from among 19 applicants across the state. [Learn more.](#)

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## August Economic Overview released

On Sept. 1, Commerce's Division of Policy, Research & Strategic Planning released its Economic Overview for August 2009. Most significantly, North Carolina's unemployment rate remained the same (11 percent) for the second month in a row. However, the fact that the rate remained unchanged is misleading because there was a 17,000-person decline in the size of the workforce. A large number of those who dropped out of the workforce are legitimately unemployed but are not counted as such because they have stopped looking for work.

Other findings in the overview:

- Non-farm employment declined significantly between June and July.
- The number of announced closings and layoffs were both down from the previous month.
- Foreclosures increased slightly in July; housing units authorized decreased significantly.
- Gross sales and use tax collections and highway use tax collections increased.

[Read the Economic Overview.](#)

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## Workforce development program to expand to high schools

The Base Closure and Realignment Commission Regional Task Force (BRAC RTF) announced Aug. 31 that the N.C. Dept. of Commerce and the Division of Workforce Development (DWD) have awarded the BRAC RTF a grant totaling \$800,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds received by the state of North Carolina. This grant award is part of Gov. Bev Perdue's JobsNOW initiative.

"This funding will support the expansion of the All American Center for Workforce Innovation's pilot circuit concept and distributed learning network that connects educational institutions and business partners in the 11 counties," said Paul Dordal, executive director of the BRAC RTF.

The grant award expands the technology in 11 pilot high schools and includes a fixed i3D theater, SMART board, video telepresence, HD cameras, and connectivity with a distributive learning network via the Internet. The following high schools will be recipients of this technology: West Bladen, Pine Forest, Overhills, Hoke County, Southern Lee, East Montgomery, Union Pines, Richmond Senior, Lumberton, Lakewood and Scotland. [Read more.](#)

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## WNC training event to focus on military contracts

[The N.C. Military Business Center](#) (NCMBC) and [AdvantageWest](#) are co-sponsoring a series of training events



*(Left-right) Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll and State Sen. Charlie Albertson*

## Albertson, Carroll meet with community leaders in Duplin County

On Aug. 31, Deputy Commerce Sec. Carroll and N.C. Sen. Charlie Albertson met with civic and business leaders in Duplin County. Carroll presented an update on Gov. Bev Perdue's JobsNOW priority for the state and held a town hall-style Q&A with the audience. He recognized Sen. Albertson for his leadership in the N.C. General Assembly as an Appropriations Co-Chair and the sponsor of landmark green energy legislation through Senate Bill 3.

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## Energy Office issues first RFPs

The State Energy Office announces the availability of two Requests for Proposals (RFP) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help grow North Carolina's green economy and create jobs.

The first seeks proposals from firms capable of providing technical assistance services for preliminary energy surveys, detailed system level surveys, creation of an energy plan with project submittal, monitoring and verifying project results. The RFP number is 200900760, and the bid is due Sept. 14. The second seeks renewable energy proposals for the installation of solar, wind, biomass, and hydropower systems that use commercially available technologies. The RFP number is 200900845, and the bid is due Sept. 21. [Learn more.](#)

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in Western North Carolina on federal defense contracting. The sessions will be facilitated by NCMBC staff. They will cover topics such as registering as a government contractor and learning to compete for contract opportunities.

The sessions will take place at the following times and locations:

- Sept. 15: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Blue Ridge CC (Flat Rock)
- Sept. 16: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.: Regional Hi Tech Center (Waynesville)
- Sept. 17: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.: Caldwell CC/TI Continuing Education Center (Boone)
- Sept. 17: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.: Wilkes CC (Jefferson)
- Sept. 18: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.: Southwestern CC (Franklin)

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## International bio conference coming to Raleigh

The [BioProcess International Conference & Exhibition](#) (BPI) is coming to the Raleigh Convention Center on Oct. 12-16. BPI will focus on technical, regulatory and strategic planning challenges in the manufacture of biotherapeutics, and will bring together 1,500 industry experts across various disciplines of biopharmaceutical manufacturing.

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## Tourism's in-state marketing campaign garners national award

Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development was awarded the 2009 Mercury Award for Co-op Marketing for the Division's campaign supporting in-state leisure travel. The Mercury Awards are presented annually by the U.S. Travel Association's National Council of State Tourism Directors to recognize excellence and creative accomplishments in state/territory tourism marketing promotion.

The Division's resident campaign is an ongoing effort that has become increasingly important during the economic downturn as consumers look for opportunities for getaways closer to home. Already difficult conditions were exacerbated by rising gasoline prices and availability issues in summer and fall 2008. The comprehensive multimedia effort benefited greatly from a variety of public relations initiatives and the support provided through partnerships with the N.C. Association of Broadcasters, the N.C. Press Foundation and UNC-TV that generated millions of dollars in exposure promoting North Carolina and the state's official travel planning website [VisitNC.com](#). The Division offers a variety of co-operative advertising and marketing opportunities to its industry partners. [Learn more.](#)

*Carolina Economic Recovery Corps Interns and their Councils of Government advisors are recognized at UNC-Chapel Hill*

## Recovery Corps recognized

On Aug. 28, Deputy Commerce Sec. Dale Carroll joined higher education and economic development leaders in Chapel Hill to receive a briefing from participants who spent their summer as Carolina Economic Recovery Corps interns. Following the briefing, Carroll recognized the interns for a job well done on behalf of Gov. Bev Perdue and also congratulated their advisors from the Councils of Government across the state. [Learn more.](#)

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## 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.

Jan. 1 - Sept. 7, 2009

New projects assigned:	315
Projects announced:	72
Jobs created:	7,932
Capital invested:	\$1.89B
Direct account interactions (industry visits by existing industry staff):	1,056
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	18,119

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## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Newspaper publisher files for bankruptcy](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Sept. 2)
- [Fletcher, Mills River named Partners of the Year](#) (The Times-News - Hendersonville, Sept. 2)

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