

# sync<sup>®</sup> NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



Governor Cooper(left) with Microsoft's Reggie Isaac, Director for Microsoft's Charlotte Campus at the October 25 announcement event.

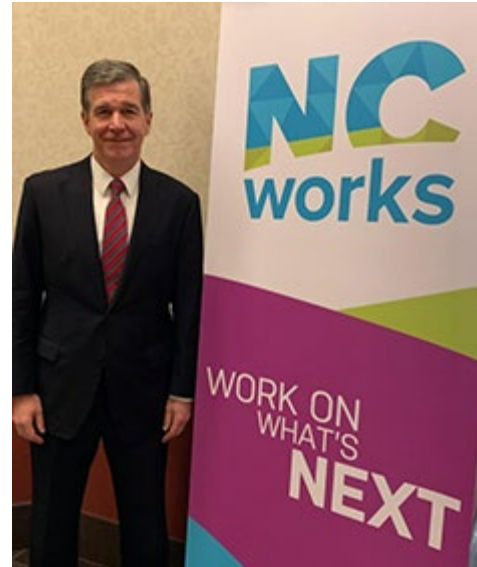
## Microsoft Selects Charlotte for Major Expansion

Microsoft will create 430 new jobs in Mecklenburg County in a major expansion of the company's footprint in the state, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced last Friday (October 25). The company will invest \$23 million to expand their operations in Charlotte.

"Global companies like Microsoft can choose anywhere in the world to expand, and again a highly recognizable brand has decided North Carolina is the right fit," said **Governor Cooper**. "Today's announcement means the company and Mecklenburg County will grow stronger because of this investment in the campus and the people around it."

Microsoft is one of the world's most renowned technology companies, focused these days on digital transformation for the era of intelligent cloud computing.

"The opportunity that we have to grow our base and our talent in North Carolina is an exciting one," said **Reggie Isaac, Microsoft Charlotte campus director**. "Microsoft is pleased to



Governor Cooper offered keynote remarks at the NCWorks Partnership Conference last week, where a new look for the state's workforce system was introduced.

## New Look and New Outreach Campaign on Tap for NCWorks

A new identity and business outreach program for the state's workforce development system was introduced last Thursday (October 24) at the NCWorks Partnership Conference, the state's premiere yearly gathering of workforce professionals held once again in Greensboro.

**Governor Roy Cooper** offered keynote remarks, saluting the importance of the professionals in the room that engage with both jobseekers and businesses. Workforce development is a key focus of the Governor's agenda, with an emphasis on helping people attain the education and skills they need, scaling local innovations, and making sure employers are leading the state's efforts.

be empowering customers, partners, and employees in the Charlotte area and looks forward to the prospects ahead."

"North Carolina is one of the most rapidly growing technology sectors in the country," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "As a leader in IT talent, research, and development, North Carolina is a smart choice for Microsoft's expansion and new ventures."

Although wages will vary depending on the position, the average for all new positions could reach up to \$98,711. The current average annual wage in Mecklenburg County is \$66,709.

Microsoft's project in North Carolina will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). Over the course of the 12-year term of this grant, the project is estimated to grow the state's economy by nearly \$1.9 billion. Using a formula that takes into account the new tax revenues generated by the 430 new jobs, the JDIG agreement authorizes the potential reimbursement to the company of up to \$7,910,250, spread over 12 years.

In addition, as much as \$2.6 million could go into the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account.

The [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#) were assisted by other key partners in the project, including the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Mecklenburg County](#), the [City of Charlotte](#), and the [Charlotte Regional Business Alliance](#).



Secretary Copeland presents Gildan Yarn's President Chuck Ward with a ceremonial gift from the state at the announcement event in Eden October 16.

## Gildan Yarns to Invest \$5 Million in Eden, Creating 85 Jobs



New exterior signage will be installed at NCWorks Career Centers across the state in the coming months. Here, a new sign on display in Greensboro.

The new system logo and outreach campaign made its debut on [social media](#) last week, and a [new outreach video aimed at business leaders](#) was launched. In January, a wider program of outreach will debut across a wide range of both traditional and new media outlets.

The NCWorks Partnership Conference traditionally draws upwards of 1,000 workforce development professionals from across the state. Attendees represent labor, the state and federal governments, education, community-based organizations, community colleges and the private sector. In its 32nd year, the Conference continues to offer timely topics and networking opportunities.

Many of the presentations from this year's conference speakers are now [available online](#).

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## Industrial Hemp Processor Locates in Columbus County with \$3.4 Million Investment

Carolina Botanicals, a company formed to process industrial hemp, will create 30 jobs as it establishes operations in Columbus County, **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland** announced October 17. The company will invest \$3.46 million in its new facility, located in Tabor City.

"Today's announcement is the latest example of the growing market for hemp-related products," said **Secretary Copeland**. "And we know companies like Carolina Botanicals will find success here with our strong agricultural footprint, solid economy and available workforce."

Carolina Botanicals is a commercial processor of industrial hemp biomass. The raw product will be used to produce distillate and other products, including winterized oil, CBD distillate and eventually CBD tincture. Carolina Botanicals hopes to source its hemp from farmers in North and South Carolina. All products that Carolina Botanicals makes will be tested by third-party testers to confirm quality of hemp and CBD ingredients.

Gildan Yarns, a yarn-spinning company, will create 85 jobs in Rockingham County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 16. The company will invest approximately \$5 million to revamp and operate a new yarn spinning mill in Eden.

**North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland** led an event to celebrate the announcement in Rockingham County that morning.

"Eden and Gildan Yarns have been great economic partners, and it makes sense with their existing presence and the strong workforce that they would expand," said **Governor Cooper**.

Gildan Yarns is the yarn spinning division of Gildan, a leading apparel manufacturer headquartered in Montreal, Canada. This new location will be the company's fifth state-of-the-art yarn spinning mill in North Carolina. Eden is also home to Gildan's first large scale distribution center.

"We are very pleased to expand our operations in the Eden community and to invest in a new yarn spinning facility," said **Chuck Ward, President of Gildan Yarns**. "This will be the company's seventh yarn spinning facility in the US. We are particularly proud to contribute to creating an additional 85 jobs in Eden in the next year as we open and ramp up our new operation."

"Gildan Yarns' decision further solidifies our leadership in the textile industry," said **Secretary Copeland**. "North Carolina has more textile manufacturers than any other state and a world-class pipeline of textile talent to continue Gildan's global operations."

Although wages will vary depending on the position, the average for all new positions could reach up to \$37,707. The current average annual wage in Rockingham County is \$34,716.

A performance-based grant of \$250,000 from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) will help facilitate Gildan Yarn's operation in Rockingham County.

In addition to [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [Rockingham County Board of Commissioners](#), [Rockingham County Economic Development Office](#), and the [City of Eden](#).



Secretary Copeland addresses the group at the North Carolina Museum of Art October 10..

## Secretary Copeland On Hand for French-

"It is heartening to know that our new business, while producing a product with all the health benefits of CBD, will also be providing needed economic stimulus to the downtown area of Tabor City," said **Earl Singleton, Jr. President of Carolina Botanicals, LLC**. "We look forward to becoming a part of the Tabor City and Columbus County business communities. My investors and I are very pleased that the state of North Carolina, Columbus County and Tabor City have embraced our proposed business. Their support was demonstrated today by the awarding of these generous grants."

Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but the average annual wage will be \$35,496. The average annual wage in Columbus County is \$33,817.

A performance-based grant of \$100,000 from the [One North Carolina Fund](#) will help facilitate Carolina Botanicals' new operation in North Carolina.

In addition to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Southeastern Community College](#), [Columbus County](#), [Columbus County Economic Development Commission](#), and the [Tabor City Committee of 100](#).

## New Round of Rural Grants to Create 449 New Jobs

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 24 rural grants to local governments on October 17, totaling \$7,799,500 to help communities make necessary infrastructure preparations to attract business to their regions.

The grants will help create a total of 1,312 jobs, 863 of which were previously announced, since their projects included discretionary grants like the One North Carolina Fund.

The public investment in these projects will attract more than \$262 million in private investment.

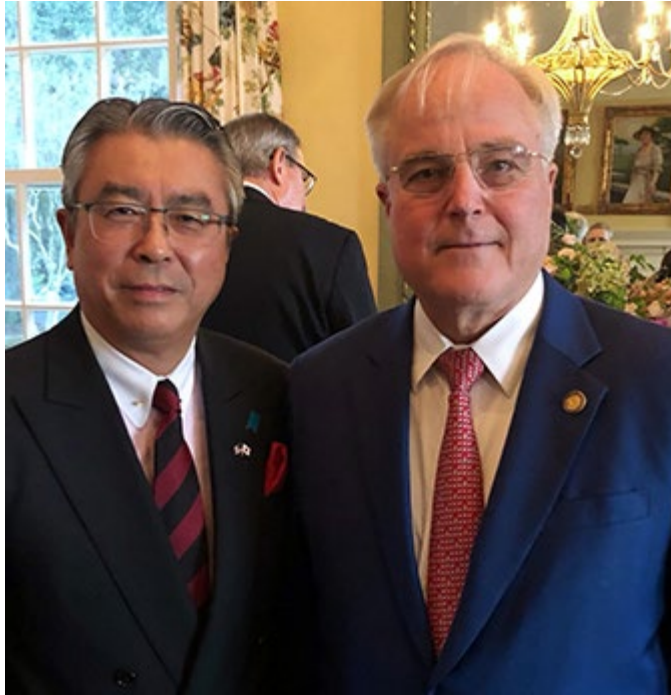
"Many rural communities across North Carolina are experiencing economic growth because their infrastructure has prepared them for opportunity," **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland** said. "That's why it is so important that we continue to make strategic investments like these Rural Infrastructure Authority grants, which will support good jobs and make rural areas more competitive."

The Authority authorized Building Reuse

## American Chamber Event

The French-American Chamber of Commerce of the Carolinas bestowed its French-American Business Awards at a gala event in Raleigh October 10. **Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland** and representatives from 29 French companies were in attendance. Around 200 people joined the festivities.

More information about the evening and a [list of the award winners is available on the chamber's website](#).



*Japanese Ambassador to the United States Shinsuke Sugiyama (left) with Secretary Copeland at the SEUS/Japan conference in Savannah.*

## State Delegation Strengthens Japanese Business Ties at SEUS/Japan Conference

North Carolina was well represented at the 42nd Annual Southeast U.S./Japan Conference, held October 20-23 in Savannah, Georgia. Nearly 450 business and governmental leaders from Japan and seven states in the southeastern United States gathered for the annual event.

North Carolina is a founding member of SEUS/Japan, an association of seven southeastern states created in 1976. The state's participation aims to encourage foreign direct investment (FDI) from Japanese companies, as well as strengthen export ties for North Carolina companies selling goods in Japan.

grants in Anson, Cherokee, Columbus, Gaston, Granville, Halifax, Orange, Pitt, Rutherford, Wayne, and Wilson counties as well as the cities or towns of Asheboro, Belmont, Eden, Edenton, Lenoir, Middlesex, Mooresville, Rocky Mount, and Salisbury. Grants were also awarded from the Utility Account, Demolition, and the Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development programs.

Complete details on each of the [RIA awarded projects is available online](#).

## On Our Radar

- [Cooper creates advisory council to grow NC film industry](#) (WWAY-TV) - October 22

## N.C. in the News

- [CFCC Names Jan Yokeley New Director Of Customized Training](#) *WilmingtonBiz* - October 29)
- [Duplin Airport growth expected to boost economy](#) *WITN-TV* - October 28)
- [Greenville's Indigreen Corporate Park Achieves Site Certification](#) (*Patch.com* - October 25)
- [Top 20 Resorts in The South: Readers' Choice Awards 2019](#) *Condé Nast Traveler* - October 14)

## About Us

*SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor](#).*

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