

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



Gov. Bev Perdue on NBC17

Perdue discusses Asia mission in TV interview

Gov. Bev Perdue sat down for an interview with Kim Genardo of Raleigh NBC affiliate WNCN (NBC17) to discuss the expected benefits from the recent mission to Japan and China. In the interview, Perdue said that the visit to Tokyo was important because it allowed her to meet with established business partners developed by former Gov. Jim Hunt. She said Japanese businesses and officials appreciated the fact that a current governor was checking on them. The China portion of the trip was especially important because it allowed North Carolina to establish new relationships in a fast-growing economy.

"My goal is for North Carolina to be a global player and this is one of the ways to make it happen," said the governor. [See video](#) of the interview.



The Umstead Hotel and Spa

Ferrington House, Umstead continue 5 Diamond rating

The Ferrington House Country Inn in Pittsboro and the Umstead Hotel and Spa in Cary have again won AAA 5 Diamond Lodging ratings for 2010. The Ferrington House Country Inn has maintained the rating for 16 consecutive years. The restaurant in the Inn has maintained the AAA 5 Diamond Restaurant rating - the only one in North Carolina - for 15 consecutive years. The Umstead has maintained the 5 Diamond rating for three years. [Read more.](#)

Five communities to receive housing development funds

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco on Nov. 4 announced that five North Carolina communities will receive \$1.23 million in Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Tax Credit Housing Development funds to provide housing and related needs for low- and moderate-income residents.

The CDBG funding awards will assist in constructing 245 affordable housing units and supporting infrastructure for the projects, including safe water and sewer lines, road improvements and sidewalks. The grants range from \$240,000 to \$250,000. The funding is awarded to local governments to strengthen neighborhoods, rehabilitate homes and address critical infrastructure needs in a community.



Gov. Bev Perdue speaks at the Rural Partners Forum.

Rural leaders discuss the future at forum

More than 550 leaders from rural areas of the state gathered Nov. 5-6 for the annual Rural Partners Forum, sponsored by the [N.C. Rural Center](#), at the North Raleigh Hilton. The theme of the forum was "Funding Our Rural Future," and topics included community-based philanthropy, and recession and recovery in rural areas. Gov. Bev Perdue spoke on Nov. 5 and also recognized Tim Will of [farmersfreshmarket.org](#), a virtual farmers market. Will recently won the Purpose Prize and \$100,000 for social innovators over 60 who do good things in their "encore" careers. Other speakers included Brian Dabson, president and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Institute, Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton and Freddie Killough of the N.C. Small Town Economic Prosperity Program.

Textile company adds 135 jobs in Richmond County

Gov. Bev Perdue on Nov. 9 announced that Richmond Specialty Yarns, a manufacturer of fiber-based yarns for the textile industry, will expand in Richmond County. The company plans to create 135 new jobs and invest \$1 million during the next three years. In addition, the project will help the company retain 140 existing jobs. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$150,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. Commerce's Martie Butler was the developer on this project.

"North Carolina maintains its strong ties to the textile manufacturing industry," Gov. Perdue said. "Our highly skilled workforce and business-friendly policies continue to support and attract growing companies, like this one, which are adapting for success in a global market."

Richmond Yarns Inc. is a fiber-based yarn company with its headquarters and manufacturing facility in Ellerbe. FilSpec Inc., a yarn-spinning company based in Canada with clients worldwide, has purchased a controlling interest in Richmond Yarns, which will be renamed and expand operations at its Ellerbe site to serve new markets.

The new company, Richmond Specialty Yarns LLC, will produce specialized yarns from fibers and fiber blends to serve the military, medical, protective wear, marine, upholstered furniture and other markets. Salaries for the 135 new jobs will vary by job function, but the overall annual average wage will be \$25,931, not including benefits.

"North Carolina citizens from all walks of life share a basic need for safe, accessible housing," Crisco said. "We are committed to improving conditions for our needy residents and doing our utmost to improve the quality of life for all North Carolinians." [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) Turkington USA President John Lucas and Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll

Carroll speaks at Turkington plant opening

Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll was on hand Nov. 5 for the official opening of the new Turkington USA plant in Clayton. The privately owned British company, which previously was located in Goldsboro for 27 years, designs, manufactures and installs custom built automated equipment for industrial bakery industry. Some of Turkington's clients include Pepperidge Farm, Sara Lee and Interstate Bakeries. The Town of Clayton was awarded a \$324,000 Building Reuse grant from the Rural Economic Development Center to help Turkington Industries renovate an existing building.



(Left-right) Byron Owens, CEO of Vesture Corp., Peter Horwath, vice president of Phase Change

Research Commerce Park planned for Kannapolis

The Charlotte Observer reports that plans have been created for an eco-friendly development designed to be a gateway to the N.C. Research Campus. DPE Investments of Charlotte created the master plan for the 32-acre, \$35 million site, which will include commercial space, a convenience store, office buildings, two hotels and three ponds. DPE plans to break ground on the project in 2010.

[Commercial development in Kannapolis?](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Nov. 2)

Site consultants learn about N.C. at Atlanta event

The [Friends of North Carolina](#) program sponsored a reception and presentation for site consultants at the Capital City Club in Atlanta on Nov. 3. Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco was among the economic development leaders from across the state on hand to update the consultants on North Carolina's programs and activities. Approximately 70 consultants and partners attended the event.

October economic overview released

On Nov. 3, Commerce's Division of Policy, Research & Strategic Planning released its Monthly Overview of North Carolina's Economy for October, 2009. North Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained the same at 10.8%. While North Carolina's unemployment rate has remained relatively constant since February 2009, the labor force has contracted by 50,000 people between February and September 2009. [Read the overview.](#)

Among the other findings

- Nonfarm payroll declined slightly; construction employment increased for second month in a row
 - Announced business closings and layoffs are at their lowest levels in over a year
 - Number of foreclosures decreased in September
 - Retail sales and highway use tax collections declined
-

2 appointed to Energy Policy Council

Gov. Bev Perdue has appointed Kevin Garrison of Concord and Cy Rich of Edenton to the Energy Policy Council. Garrison is operations manager for the South Central Oil Co. Rich is self-employed.

Web site to help with anti-smoking law

Gov. Bev Perdue has announced the launch of www.SmokeFree.NC.gov, a Web site to help implement North Carolina's new law that requires restaurants, bars and lodging establishments that serve food and drink to go smoke-free as of Jan. 2, 2010. The Web site, launched by the N.C. Division of Public Health in collaboration with the N.C. Association of Local Health Directors, provides business owners and customers information on the new law, on the health hazards of secondhand smoke and on resources to help those

Energy Solutions, and Sumio Shibata, Commerce foreign trade representative

Commerce participates in Green Device show

The inaugural Green Device 2009 tradeshow was held October 28-30 in Yokohama, Japan. The event, designed to attract firms in new lighting devices and energy conservation fields, attracted 53,563 visitors. Phase Change Energy Solutions, Inc. of Asheboro, which produces energy saving building materials, exhibited at the show. Foreign Trade Representative Sumio Shibata and International Business Development Manager Joe Conaty are assisting Phase Change Energy Solutions with export of their products.

Web site launched for 'Race to the Top' initiative

Gov. Bev Perdue on Nov. 5 launched racetothetop.nc.gov and called upon North Carolinians to participate in the federal "Race to the Top" initiative. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Race to the Top is a federal \$4.5 billion competitive grant fund that rewards states for educational innovation and achieving significant improvements in how students perform. [Read more.](#)

Commerce to attend World Forum for Medicine

John Brennan, trade and investment representative in Commerce's European office, will attend the 40th annual [MEDICA World Forum](#) for Medicine in Dusseldorf, Germany, Nov. 18-21. MEDICA is the world's largest trade fair for experts from the medical industry, and offers exhibits from more than 4,300 exhibitors covering topics such as electromedicine, physiotherapy, facility management and medical services.

Brennan is also scheduled to attend a meeting of the Council of American States in Europe (CASE) in Dusseldorf on Nov. 17.

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the 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

smokers who may want to quit smoking. There are downloadable fact sheets, no-smoking signs and other tools to help make the transition to smoke-free air an easy one. The N.C. Restaurant and Lodging Association has provided input on key aspects of the Web site, including the signs that are recommended for use.

[Gov. Perdue announces launch of SmokeFree.NC.gov](#) (The Garner News, Nov. 1)

Aerospace forum to be held Nov. 11-12

The [NewSpace Conference and Forum](#) will be held at Elizabeth City State University Nov. 11-12. The N.C. Aerospace Alliance, ECSU, North Carolina's Northeast Commission and NASA are all sponsors. The conference aims to educate government, business and academic leaders about economic development potential for the aerospace industry in North Carolina and develop a strategy for moving forward. Gov. Bev Perdue, Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll and N.C. Dept. of Transportation Director of Aviation Richard Walls are among the scheduled speakers.

number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - Nov. 9, 2009

| | |
|---|---------|
| New projects assigned: | 386 |
| Projects announced: | 102 |
| Jobs created: | 12,257 |
| Capital invested: | \$2.52B |
| Industry visits by existing industry staff: | 1,279 |
| Calls to the Business ServiCenter: | 22,215 |

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [GTCC gets \\$1.45 million grant for aviation training](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, Nov. 9)
- [Pfeiffer University expanding Chinese studies](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Nov. 9)
- [Wind power generating excitement](#) (The Daily Advance - Elizabeth City, Nov. 9)
- [Jobless rate tops 10 percent for first time since '83](#) (The Associated Press, Nov. 6)
- [Walmart picks Cree lights for 650 stores](#) (Triangle Business Journal, Nov. 5)

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