

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



Gov. Bev Perdue shakes hands with Lawrence Stern, chairman and CEO of Talecris. Behind her are (from left): Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco; Johnston County Board of Commissioners Chairman Wade Stewart; Clayton Mayor Jody McLeod; and U.S. Rep. Bob Etheridge. (Photo by Andy Kenney for The News & Observer)

## Talecris to expand facilities in Clayton

Gov. Bev Perdue announced Nov. 13 that international biopharmaceutical company Talecris Biotherapeutics is expanding its manufacturing facilities near Clayton, creating 259 new jobs over the next seven years and investing \$268.7 million. The announcement was made possible in part by state Job Development Investment Grant and One North Carolina Fund awards and is contingent upon approval of local incentives. Commerce's Dallas Hardenbrook was the developer on this project.

"The competition for these types of jobs is fierce," Perdue said. "The fact that Talecris has found the tools it needs to succeed in North Carolina shows why this state's business climate is consistently named as the best in the nation."

Talecris Biotherapeutics discovers, develops and produces critical-care treatments for people with life-threatening disorders in the areas of immunology, neurology, pulmonology and hemostasis. The company employs about 4,700 worldwide with headquarters in the biotech hub of Research Triangle Park. With more than 1,800 full-time workers currently employed in Johnston County, Talecris is one of the county's largest employers and a Top 10 employer in RTP.

Talecris has remained committed to North Carolina as it has grown, adding more than 200 jobs in the state in 2009 alone. The 259 new jobs that will be created in Johnston County will pay an overall average annual salary of \$51,066, not including benefits, which is higher than the Johnston County average of



Assistant Sec. for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges speaks during a ceremony to kick off the Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary.

## Blue Ridge Parkway celebrates 75 years

Assistant Sec. for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges and Virginia Tourism Corp. President and CEO Alisa Bailey helped kick off the Blue Ridge Parkway 75th Anniversary Opening Weekend Nov. 13. N.C. Reps Ray Rapp and Bruce Goforth were also at the event.

The event included a ceremonial torch passing from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2009, to the Blue Ridge Parkway, celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2010. The event took place at the Ravensford Overlook at Milepost 467 at the southern end of the Parkway. The event also highlighted the passage of intergenerational stewardship, as well as a performance of the Warriors of AniKituhwa dancers and remarks from both park superintendents and a representative of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians Tribal Council.

[Spruce Pine one of Western North Carolina towns reaping tourism gains from Blue Ridge Parkway](#) (Asheville Citizen-times, Nov. 15)

## N.C. mountains featured on Good Morning America

A Nov. 15 segment on Good Morning America featured the "Tail of the Dragon," a Western North Carolina highway that's popular with motorcycle riders. U.S. 129 has more than 30 turns per mile. Host Bill Weir

\$33,800. [Read more.](#)

[Talecris picks Clayton](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh)

[See video of the announcement](#) on YouTube

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## Perdue names Energy Policy Council members

Gov. Bev Perdue on Nov. 13 announced appointees to the North Carolina Energy Policy Council. The council was reorganized during the past legislative session as part of Perdue's strategy to make North Carolina a leader in green economy jobs by strengthening state leadership in energy policy and making smart investments to create green jobs and foster innovation. The council will hold its first meeting on Nov. 18, at the offices of Advanced Energy on the N.C. State University Centennial Campus.

The law requires that Perdue's appointees come from specific sectors of the state's energy economy, as follows:

- Electric power industry: George Everett, Raleigh - Duke Energy
- Natural gas industry: George Baldwin, Charlotte - Piedmont Natural Gas
- Energy policy matters: Jo Anne Sanford, Raleigh - Sanford Law Offices
- Alternative fuels and biofuels: Steven Burke, Oxford - Biofuels Center
- Energy efficient building design or construction: Tim Toben, Chapel Hill - Greenbridge Development
- Environmental protection: Michael Regan, Raleigh - Environmental Defense Fund
- Providing renewable energy services: Marcus Wilhelm, Chapel Hill - Solar Tech South
- Renewable sources of energy: Simon Rich, Edenton - Fuqua Rich Weeks LLC
- County or city commissioner: Rodney W. Locks - Brevard City Council
- Development of energy-related businesses: Henry McKoy, Durham - Fourth Sector Financial
- Low-income residential weatherization: Reginald Speight, Williamston - Martin County Community Action
- Petroleum industry: Kevin Garrison, Concord - South Central Oil Company

Appointed by Senate President ProTem Marc Basnight are Sen. Ellie Kinnaird, D-Orange and Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake. Appointed by House Speaker Joe Hackney are Rep. Angela Bryant, D-Nash and Rep. Pricey Harrison, D-Guilford.

Also, on Nov. 16, Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco announced appointments resulting from the consolidation of the state's energy programs into the Commerce Department: Larry Shirley has been named to the newly created post of director for the development of the green economy, and Ward Lenz, most recently energy program director at the nonprofit Advanced Energy Corp., has succeeded Shirley as director of the State Energy Office. [Read more.](#)

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## Perdue announces 'I Hire Military' campaign

Gov. Bev Perdue on Nov. 11 thanked North Carolina veterans at a Veterans Day Remembrance Ceremony in Jacksonville and issued a proclamation honoring the men and women who

drove an Indian Motorcycle along famed highway, and interviewed Dale Walksler, curator of the [Wheels Through Time](#) motorcycle museum and gift shop in Maggie Valley, about what makes the mountains such a great place to ride motorcycles. [View the segment.](#)

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## Carroll speaks at aerospace forum

Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll was among the speakers at the inaugural [NewSpace Conference and Forum](#), held at Elizabeth City State University Nov. 11-12. The N.C. Aerospace Alliance, ECSU, North Carolina's Northeast Commission and NASA sponsored the forum. The conference was intended to inform government, business and academic leaders about economic development potential for the aerospace industry in North Carolina and develop a strategy for moving forward.

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*(Left-right) Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll presents a Dept. of Commerce plate to American Truetzschler President Kurt Schoeller*

## American Truetzschler celebrates 40th anniversary

Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll spoke at the 40th anniversary celebration of textiles manufacturer [American Truetzschler](#) in Charlotte Nov. 3.

The German company located its U.S. headquarters in Charlotte in 1969, one of the earliest German investments in the state. The Charlotte headquarters now employs nearly 150 people.

The company originally made textile machinery including spinning machines and machines to prepare the yarn before spinning. They now specialize in machinery that prepares fibers of all kinds to be spun, woven or placed in non-woven fabric producing machinery.

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have served and sacrificed for our country. During the ceremony, Perdue announced the creation of the "I Hire Military" campaign to encourage businesses to hire veterans and military spouses.

"The close relationship between the civilians and the military is one of the biggest reasons I'm proud to call North Carolina home," said Perdue. "The 'I Hire Military' campaign is one more example of how North Carolina is the most military-friendly state in the nation."

To join the "I Hire Military" campaign, businesses must visit [IHireMilitary.org](http://IHireMilitary.org), sign a pledge to hire veterans and military spouses whenever practical, display the "I Hire Military" decal in their establishments, and register as part of the "I Hire Military" database.

Veterans and spouses looking for work can go online to [IHireMilitary.org](http://IHireMilitary.org) to find a list of businesses that have signed up for the "I Hire Military" pledge.



Gov. Bev Perdue chats with Gregory Prange, producer of the hit TV show "One Tree Hill" following the signing an Executive Order reestablishing the N.C. Film Council.

## N.C. Film Council reestablished

Gov. Bev Perdue on Nov. 12 signed an Executive Order reestablishing the N.C. Film Council at a ceremony at EUE Screen Gems studios in Wilmington, home to the largest studio lot east of California. The N.C. Film Council advises the governor on film industry matters and serves as a forum for film-making concerns and recommendations. [Read more](#)

In addition to reestablishing the council, the new executive order will add duties for council members:

- Assist in ongoing development and growth of the N.C. film industry.
- Support fiscal incentives that help North Carolina remain competitive in recruiting films.
- Assist in developing a marketing strategy for the N.C. Film Office.
- Monitor the North Carolina film industry and assist in developing protocol to measure filmmaking activities in North Carolina.

[Gov. Perdue signs film council executive order \(with video\)](#)  
(WECT - Wilmington, Nov. 12)

## NCBIO to hold forum on raising revenue

## Perdue promotes jobs initiative in Rocky Mount

Gov. Bev Perdue promoted the [JobsNOW 12-in-6 initiative](#) during a visit to Nash Community College in Rocky Mount on Nov. 10. Perdue met with officials and students and heard their feedback on the program, which was launched in April to help job seekers find a new career path in six months.

The N.C. Community College System and the N.C. Department of Commerce are collaborating on the program as part of Perdue's larger JobsNOW initiative, which focuses on job creation and economic development. The new training programs are available at all 58 community colleges. The state's 24 workforce boards, JobLink Career Centers and Employment Security Commission offices will connect job seekers with the training programs and employment opportunities.

[Perdue promotes state's job initiative during visit](#) (Rocky Mount Telegram, Nov. 10)

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

Jan. 1 - Nov. 16, 2009

New projects assigned:	391
Projects announced:	104
Jobs created:	12,434
Capital invested:	\$2.54B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,290
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	22,619

## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [419 workers needed for new customer care center](#) (Hickory Daily Record, Nov. 16)
- [Carolinian cluster reaches critical mass](#) (Site Selection Magazine, Nov. 13)
- [State media blitz to reassure tourists](#) (Asheville Citizen-Times, Nov. 13)

[The N.C. Biosciences Organization](#) (NCBIO) will hold an Emerging Companies Forum on "Raising Capital and Finding New Sources of Revenue" at NCBIO's office in Durham on Nov. 18. Panelists will be Garheng Kong, general partner of Intersouth Partners, Barry Myers, executive in residence of Pappas Ventures, and Clay Thorp, general partner at Hatteras Venture Partners. NCBIO Chairman Bob Schotzinger will moderate.

- [Durham, Raleigh rank high for jobs](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Nov. 12)
- [State panels studying offshore drilling](#) (Burlington Times, Nov. 10)

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