

syncTM

Highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce

Governor McCrory Announces 1,300 New Jobs in Wilmington

Governor Pat McCrory announced November 13 that [Vertex Rail](#) will be adding 1,300 new jobs at the former Terex Crane facility in Wilmington. The company will manufacture rail tank cars which are in high demand to transport crude oil from North Dakota, Texas and other energy-producing states.

At the announcement in Wilmington, Governor McCrory urged Vertex and all North Carolina companies to strongly consider hiring veterans. The governor made his comments as Veterans' Week in North Carolina came to a close last week.

"Veterans can be a major asset for the Vertex workforce," Governor McCrory said. "They come to the work place highly trained and their leadership skills can strengthen communities in Brunswick, Columbus, and New Hanover and Pender counties."

Vertex said in a statement it will be hiring assemblers and fitters, welders, and painters as well as personnel with expertise in engineering, logistics, quality assurance, sales, safety and management. The company reports that salaries will average approximately \$40,000 annually.

The North Carolina Departments of Transportation (DOT) and Commerce are contributing \$305,000 from the Economic Development Fund for the restoration of the River Road crossing and signals. The Rail Division of DOT is contributing \$200,000 from the Freight Rail & Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund to improve the rail spur. This fund is funded through dividends received by the state from the NC Railroad Company.

[Read more.](#)

114 New Jobs Announced in Oak Valley Hardwoods Expansion

Oak Valley Hardwoods, Inc. is expanding operations into Graham County and will create 114 new jobs. The company plans to invest more than \$10.1 million over the next five years in Robbinsville.

"Oak Valley Hardwoods is another one of North Carolina's great homegrown success stories," said Governor Pat McCrory. "Starting out 10 years ago, this business has steadily grown into one of the country's major lumber suppliers to overseas markets."



Cognizant Adding 500 Jobs Across North Carolina

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. announced November 12 that [Cognizant \(NASDAQ: CTSH\)](#) will open a new IT Delivery and Operations Center in Charlotte. The company, a leading provider of information technology, consulting and business process services, plans to create 500 jobs in North Carolina by the end of 2018 and invest more than \$1.4 million.

"Cognizant is a strong part of our IT industry here in North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "Our state continues to be the destination of choice for technology companies across the country, and having Cognizant expanding its presence here reinforces that."

"North Carolina and the Charlotte area are home to some of our largest current and prospective clients," said Gordon Coburn, Cognizant's president. "This combined with the state's strong educational institutions and technology base makes the Charlotte area an attractive location for our newest IT delivery and operations center."

Cognizant has more than 75 delivery and operations centers worldwide and more than 31,000 full-time employees in the U.S. Cognizant is ranked among the top performing and fastest-growing companies in the world. The Fortune 500 company currently has nearly 1,500 employees working in North Carolina in Raleigh, Charlotte, Greensboro and Wilson.

"As Cognizant expands, these new jobs will be added all across North Carolina," said Secretary Decker. "The company already has employees in several North Carolina communities, so these new jobs will be significant for the entire state."

"We are excited about the opportunity to expand our operations into Graham County," said Oak Valley Hardwoods CEO Jimmy Lee. "It has been a pleasure working with the Town of Robbinsville, Graham County, and the State of North Carolina, and we appreciate the support we have received. We plan on moving into the old Stanley Furniture Building quickly and look forward to a successful 2015."

Headquartered in Charlotte, Oak Valley Hardwoods is a subsidiary of Tides and Times Group USA, Inc., and operates lumber, saw mill and dry kiln facilities and produces an assortment of wood products. It already has operations in locations across North Carolina including Rutherford, Haywood, Caldwell, McDowell and Polk counties employing more than 160 workers.

"Timber is one of North Carolina's great renewable resources, so the expansion of Oak Valley Hardwoods is important to that industry," said Secretary Sharon Decker. "I am looking forward to seeing even more expansion in the timber sector in the future."

In addition to the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C., other partners that helped with this project include: North Carolina Community College System, Tri-County Community College, Duke Energy, Town of Robbinsville, Graham County, and Graham County Economic Development.

[Read more.](#)



Welcome to a new feature in SYNC. Healthy Places Change Lives will tell the stories of North Carolina employers building cultures of health, and how your organization can join the movement.

(Photo) Staff from our first featured employer, Partners In Learning, enjoy active outings together as part of the organization's wellness orientation

Partners In Learning: Healthy Change, Family Style

Committing to healthier employee policies has created a multiplier effect at Partners in Learning, a nonprofit childcare center on the campus of Catawba College in Salisbury. As employees have improved their food choices and increased their exercise, they are sharing their enthusiasm for healthy changes with the center's children and families.

Cognizant will hire highly-skilled technology and business professionals to provide consulting and business process services. Salaries will vary by job function and experience, but the average annual salary for the new jobs is expected to be \$79,559. The average annual wage in Mecklenburg County is \$59,046.

In addition to the N.C. Department of Commerce and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners who assisted with this announcement include: NC Works, Charlotte Works, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, Wake County Economic Development, Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, City of Raleigh and Capital Area Workforce Development Board.

[Read more.](#)

Technimark Expansion Bringing 163 New Jobs for Randolph County

More than 160 new jobs will be coming to Randolph County as [Technimark](#) expands in [Asheboro](#). The company, a provider of plastic injection molding services, is planning to invest \$25.9 million in its facilities during the next three years.

"Technimark is growing across the world and right here at home," said Governor McCrory. "This company remains committed to North Carolina and the Asheboro community and plans to build a new facility for its consumer products and health care business."

"Technimark's new manufacturing plant will be part of our global strategy to operate facilities near our customers and ensure quality products and exceptional service," said Fred Richey, vice president of corporate development. "We remain thankful for the State of North Carolina, Randolph County and Asheboro local government's help with this latest expansion."

Technimark is a global manufacturer of plastic injection molding and assembly services for [consumer packaging](#), cosmetics and medical devices. With its global headquarters in Asheboro, Technimark has 12 manufacturing locations in the U.S., Germany, Mexico and China. The headquarters and manufacturing facility in Randolph County currently employs nearly 1,000 workers.

"When you open your laundry detergent, shampoo or beauty cream, the cap on that product may have been made in North Carolina at Technimark in Asheboro," said Secretary Decker. "We welcome the manufacturer's expansion and wish them continued success."

The N.C. Department of Commerce and

Wellness committee members integrated many of the center's staff policies and initiatives into its curriculum. Children enjoy more physical activity opportunities and games in the classroom; staff members are offered gym membership reimbursements and paid breaks for exercise. Healthy meals featuring seasonal produce are served family-style with staff and children dining together. The center's hallways are decorated with nutrition information; an outdoor learning space includes a greenhouse and chicken coop; families are invited to after-hours education sessions on health and wellness.

Among the 45 employees, the results include drops in blood pressure, blood sugar, smoking, and weight. Employees recently lost a total of 109 pounds, for example, through team competitions, running groups, and other supports.

"I am proud that our center has a wellness director and committee that work hard to help make positive changes which took place in a short amount of time," says Executive Director Norma Honeycutt. The childcare center has earned the Excellence Recognition, the highest national standard for healthy workplaces from Prevention Partners for its progress in WorkHealthy America, along with statewide recognition from Eat Smart Move More NC.

This new SYNC feature is a partnership between the N.C. Department of Commerce and Prevention Partners, a nonprofit based in Chapel Hill. Prevention Partners guides schools, workplaces, hospitals and clinics to address the leading causes of preventable disease. The non-profit's Healthy Together NC initiative aims to reach at least 10 organizations in all 100 counties of the state by 2025. Learn more at ForPrevention.org/HealthyTogetherNC



N.C. Commerce Secretary Decker with Tom Fritsch, President of the Triangle Chapter of NAIOP

Decker Talks Economic Growth with Commercial Real Estate Group

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker shared her thoughts about the future of economic development in North Carolina with more than 60 commercial real estate executives in the Triangle at a breakfast meeting of the local

Economic Development Partnership of N.C. partnered with N.C. Community Colleges, the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation, the City of Asheboro and Randolph County, Duke Energy, and Norfolk Southern to make this project possible.

[Read more.](#)

Burkert Contromatic Corp. to Expand in Mecklenburg County

Burkert Contromatic Corporation, doing business as [Burkert Fluid Control Systems](#), is planning to expand in Mecklenburg County and create 61 new jobs as well as invest more than \$22 million over the next three years in Huntersville.

"Burkert has been steadily growing its operations here in North Carolina over the past eight years," said Governor Pat McCrory. "It is great to see them expanding even more in North Carolina with these new jobs."

"Burkert is excited to expand within Mecklenburg County," said Harm Stratman, president and director of global sales for Burkert. "We have a strong, experienced staff ready to take 'The Next Step' to move to a site with long range growth opportunities in Huntersville that offers quality of life, area schools and location close to Charlotte and the airport. We currently have staff in five local locations and look forward to all being under one roof."

Burkert is one of the world's leading manufacturers of measuring, controlling and regulating systems for fluids and gases. Burkert [products](#) are used in a wide range of industries and applications - including food and beverage processing, breweries and wineries, gas handling operations, water treatment facilities and pharmaceutical plants. Burkert valves can be found in various medical equipment such as blood analyzers, dialysis machines and dental chairs.

The family-owned company, founded in 1946 with headquarters in southern Germany, has a large-ranging sales network in 36 countries and more than 2,500 employees worldwide. It currently employs 66 people in Mecklenburg County, plus another 14 in its California office.

"Burkert knows first-hand the benefits of being located in North Carolina," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. "The decision to expand its operations here continues the message that North Carolina is a great state for business."

In addition to the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C., other partners that helped with this project include: North Carolina Community College Systems, Lake Norman Region Economic Development,

chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) November 7 in Cary.

Tom Fritsch, Triangle chapter president and Managing Director at CBRE's Raleigh office introduced the Secretary.

Decker spoke about the new Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, the 501 (c)(3) organization's progress in its first month of operation and the role the Department of Commerce will continue to play in overseeing state financial incentives and grants.

Looking ahead, Decker noted the financial incentive programs will be center stage during the next session of the General Assembly. In particular, the Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program is scheduled to sunset at the end of next year. Decker told the group she thinks JDIG is our most effective tool and said she intended to ask legislators for some type of extension of the program.



N.C. Commerce Secretary Decker offers welcoming remarks November 5 at the N.C. Biotechnology Center



Decker Celebrates Push to Market N.C.'s AgBio Assets

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker offered remarks November 5 for a marketing launch of the state's agricultural biotechnology hub.

Nearly 100 leaders from agriculture, academia, business and economic development gathered at the NCBiotech headquarters in Research Triangle Park for the [AgBio\[sphere\]](#) launch. NCBiotech President and CEO Doug Edgeton hosted Secretary Decker along with N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, Dean Richard Linton from N.C. State University's College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, Joy Parr Drach, President & CEO of Advanced Animani Diagnostic and Michiel van Lokkeren Campagne, Head, Biotechnology, Syngenta Biotechnology.

Decker recounted her recent trip to Japan to note the global reach of North Carolina's ag industry. "A demonstration in which North Carolina pork was cooking in the center of Tokyo was a telling reminder of North Carolina's importance in feeding the world," she said.

Town of Huntersville, Mecklenburg County, Energy United and the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

[Read more.](#)



Bailey Wins Recognition for Broadband Impact

Angie Bailey, director of NC Broadband, received an award for her impact and support of North Carolina's premier research and education broadband network in a ceremony held November 6 at the James B. Hunt Jr. Library in Raleigh.

Bailey received the Empower Award from MCNC at the North Carolina Research and Education Network's Community Day. The Empower Award recognizes individuals who have not been long-time members of the state's broadband community, but have made an immediate impact in their support of NCREN during the course of their engagement. Empower Award recipients are selected by MCNC with input from the NCREN Community.

[NC Broadband](#) is a division of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

\$1.7 Million in Potential Rural Grants Available

North Carolina communities of limited means are invited to apply for grant funds available through the North Carolina Department of Commerce and its Rural Economic Development Division. Applications are now being accepted for the 2015 program year.

The Economic Development Competitive Grant Program provides grants to local governments and non-profits totaling up to \$1.75 million. The grant program aims to assist communities designated as Underserved and Limited Resource Communities (ULRC). The ULRC Program encourages economic development activities, services or projects that benefit underserved populations and limited resource communities across the state.

"These grants enable North Carolina's rural communities to plan for economic

Decker challenged those in the audience to help reverse the two-generation mantra of adults advising children not to seek careers in agriculture. "There's a great future in agriculture in North Carolina," she noted as she thanked NCBiotech and its partners in academia, business and other communities for enabling those coalitions.

[Read more.](#)

[AgBio\[sphere\] website.](#)



(Left-right) Secretary Decker with Bob Sheetz, founder of Sheetz, Inc. and N.C. Senator Rick Gunn

Governor McCrory and Secretary Decker Join Festivities as Sheetz Opens Distribution Center

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker participated in the ribbon cutting of a new distribution center for Sheetz last week. The Altoona Pennsylvania-based operator of convenience stores opened a \$32.8 million facility in Burlington November 12.

"The future of Sheetz's business is on food and beverage; a location like Burlington will help serve the southern region more efficiently," said company CEO Joe Sheetz. "The state of the art distribution center has created over 250 new jobs in North Carolina and has provided an economic boost to the community."



(Left-right) Masahiko Izumi, president of Honda Aero; Secretary Decker and Governor McCrory

Full Throttle as Honda Aero Opens New Engine Plant

Honda Aero celebrated an important milestone November 12, both for the company and for aerospace in North Carolina with

development, enhancement, increased health care services and other projects to help the local economy," said North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker. "By making these funds available, North Carolina is working to ensure that our rural areas have the resources necessary to make a significant difference in their communities."

There are six project categories funded by the program: agriculture, health care, cultural and performing arts, small business development, planning, and coastal projects.

Eligible applicants must be a unit of local government or a non-profit organization located in a North Carolina Tier 1 or Tier 2 county. Organizations located within a rural census tract of a Tier 3 county may also apply.

Applications must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 2014 to be considered. Awards will be announced next January.

[ULRC Grant Guidelines FY2015](#)

[ULRC Grant Application FY2015](#)

Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Jan. 1 - November 14, 2014

Projects announced:	92
Jobs announced:	11,915
Capital investment announced:	\$1.1B

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Forbes Best States for Business 2014](#) (Forbes - November 12)
- [Decker: JDIG incentives maxed out, funding needed ASAP](#) (Triangle Business Journal- November 7)
- [These students are paid to go to college](#) (CNN - November 14)
- [Members of the privatized N.C. partnership board announced](#) (Charlotte Observer - November 13)
- [Honda Aero announces production of first jet engine in Burlington](#) (Triad Business Journal- November 12)
- [Biotech Center launches branding campaign](#) (News & Record - Greenboro - November 10)
- [Economic Bounce From Tennis Tournament: Over \\$3 Million](#) (WilmingtonBiz - November 10)

the first production launch of its new HF120 turboprop light jet engine, completed at its new, state-of-the-art production facility in Burlington.

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker participated in the ceremony, along with Honda executives and local business and civic leaders.

Honda Aero's new engines are the powerplants for Honda's new light business aircraft, the HondaJet. Although the engines will be available to other customers, the signature use for the new engines will be with the Japanese firm's new plane, also under development in North Carolina. Final Federal Aviation Administration approval for the HondaJet is expected early next year.

HondaJet production marks a true milestone for the aerospace industry in North Carolina, as a single company will both assemble an aircraft and source its engines using North Carolina workers and resources.

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