



2011 in review from Commerce

Happy Holidays from all of us at the N.C. Department of Commerce! As 2011 draws to a close, this week's SYNC takes a look back at the year's top stories from North Carolina's economic development community, the dedicated men and women who help companies thrive in North Carolina.

Cooperation and success go hand in hand, and North Carolina's collaborative style of economic development continues to win business in what remains a challenging economic environment. Expanding businesses such as Caterpillar and Siemens opened major new manufacturing facilities in the state, while companies like Chiquita and Caggemini chose a North Carolina location for the first time.

Although final numbers are not yet in, so far this year companies have announced over \$2.8 billion in new investment in the state. This year also saw the launch of new tools from the Department to support business decision makers in the state, such as the new AccessNC mobile app. This innovative new way to access the state's buildings and sites database is available for Apple, Android, and Blackberry Touch devices. ThriveNC.com, the state's website for site selection professionals has seen steady growth in visitor traffic this year.

Topping it off, national media outlets like CNBC, *Forbes* and *Site Selection* magazine continue to rank the state's business climate as one of the nation's best. With continued leadership from Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, along with the collaborative efforts of every member of the state's economic development community, the outlook for 2012 looks bright.

In the coming year, SYNC will continue to bring you the news and information that builds collaborative relationships and helps us all stay in SYNC.

Industry experts tout N.C.'s burgeoning video game sector

On Jan. 1, a new tax incentive aimed at North Carolina video game companies went into effect. The law, signed by Governor Bev Perdue in July 2010, awards qualifying companies a credit of 15 percent of compensation and wages for full-time employees and other allowable expenses as well as a 20 percent credit for research expenses paid to a North Carolina university or participating community college. According to *Site Selection* magazine's article, "Digital Derby: More states are game for recruiting a high-paying industry," North Carolina is among 22 states that are vying for video game companies with tax incentives.

"Every one of our peer competitor states had an incentive, ranging from 10 to 25 percent in tax credits," Alexander Macris, founder and president of the Triangle Game Initiative, explained to *Site Selection*. "The lack of an incentive made us seem unattractive to CFOs who have responsibility for the bottom line. Now, we are playing on an even field." [Read more.](#)

HondaJet makes first flight at world HQ in Greensboro

North Carolina's aviation industry entered 2011 on a high note as Honda Aircraft Company Inc.'s FAA-conforming HondaJet successfully achieved its first flight on Dec. 20 at the company's world headquarters in Greensboro. The flight was a significant milestone in the history of Honda Aircraft



Company and a solid step toward delivery of the advanced light business jet in 2012.

During the 51-minute flight, the advanced light business jet was heavily analyzed and

underwent numerous systems checks that were monitored in real-time at Honda's flight test telemetry operations base also located at the Piedmont Triad International Airport. [Read more.](#)

[Test means Honda engine production closer to reality in Burlington](#) (*The Times-News* - Burlington, Dec. 28)



Red Hat to create 540 jobs in N.C.

Governor Bev Perdue dons a red hat during the announcement that technology company Red Hat will expand in North Carolina.

Governor Bev Perdue announced Jan. 10 that Red Hat, a North Carolina-based software developer and the world's leading provider of open source software solutions to businesses, government and other enterprises, will maintain and expand its headquarters in Wake County. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Vivian Powell](#) was the developer on this project.

"Nothing makes me happier than to announce that Red Hat is staying in North Carolina -- except, perhaps, to say they are also adding 540 new jobs," said Perdue. "Red Hat is a homegrown, high-tech, global brand and we fought hard to keep

them here. That's because economic development -- and growing jobs now -- isn't just about wooing outside companies. It's about taking care of the ones we already have, and encouraging them to put down their roots even deeper."

Red Hat is currently headquartered in Raleigh with satellite offices worldwide. The company develops and provides operating system platforms along with middleware, virtualization and cloud computing solutions offering customers a long-term plan for building infrastructures leveraging open source technologies. The company currently employs more than 690 people in North Carolina. [Read more.](#) [See video and photos from the event](#) on the governor's blog.

Hudson River 'miracle' plane to go on display in Charlotte

US Airways Flight 1549, the plane that made the "miracle" landing on New York's Hudson River in 2009, finally made its arrival in Charlotte. Officials with the Carolinas Aviation Museum finalized an agreement that would put the Airbus A320 on permanent display as a tourist attraction.

Museum President Shawn Dorch and others expect it to draw thousands of visitors to the museum, located just off Airport Drive. It would be a featured addition to a collection that includes a Piedmont Airlines DC-3 as well as fighter planes.

"It would be a great addition to the tourism landscape for the Charlotte region," said Tim Newman, chief executive of the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority. "It has the potential to be a big tourism draw."

['Miracle' plane will finally arrive in Charlotte - to stay](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Jan. 5)



Perdue announces 550 jobs with Capgemini

(Left-right) Chamber Chair Pat Rodgers, Capgemini Managing Director Roy Stansbury, Governor Bev Perdue, Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx, Mecklenburg County Commission Chair Jennifer Roberts, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Crisco. In front, Charlotte Chamber VP of ED Kati

Hynes.

Governor Bev Perdue announced Jan. 13 that [Capgemini](#), a consulting and information technology company headquartered in Paris, will establish a delivery center in the U.S. market to support its clients within the banking, insurance and capital market sectors by opening an office in Charlotte. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [David Spratley](#) was the developer on this project.

The company plans to create 550 jobs in Charlotte over the next three years and will invest \$4.2 million. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program.

"Once again, a top international company is bringing well-paying jobs to our state," said Perdue. "Capgemini is a perfect fit for Charlotte. They will quickly realize the value of the investments we make in education and worker training as they create 550 new jobs in North Carolina."

Capgemini has more than 100,000 people in 35 countries providing technology and consulting services to clients in industry sectors that include manufacturing and retail distribution, public sector, energy and utilities, telecommunications, media and entertainment, and financial services. [Read more.](#)

N.C. receives 46M in federal funds for small business loans

Governor Bev Perdue on Jan. 14 announced that North Carolina will receive \$46.1 million in federal funds for the N.C. Capital Access Program at the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center. The money, allocated through the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, will allow community banks to help leverage more than \$800 million in credit for North Carolina small businesses.

North Carolina is one of the first two states to have their applications approved by the U.S. Treasury Department. Perdue called on Congress to fund the Jobs Act in October, vowing that North Carolina would put the money to work immediately. Between 1994 and 2008, NC-CAP helped North Carolina lending institutions make 1,850 small business loans totaling more than \$103 million, helping save or create more than 27,000 jobs. NC-CAP is a loan loss reserve program that encourages financial institutions to make small business loans. [Read more.](#)



10 honored at Energy Leadership Awards

(Left-right) Duke Energy Group Executive and Chief Generation Officer Dhiaa Jamil, UNC-Charlotte Chancellor Phil Dubois, Siemens Energy Director of Operations Mark Pringle, EPIC Director and SPX Distinguished Professor of Mechanical Engineering at UNC-Charlotte Steve Patterson, Duke Energy President, Chairman, and CEO Jim Rogers, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco.

The Charlotte Business Journal and the Charlotte Regional Partnership held their inaugural Energy leadership Awards at the

Ritz-Carlton in Charlotte Jan. 21. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco was one of the featured speakers at the event.

The 10 awardees were: Talking Points LLC Principal Scott Carlberg; CoaLogix President and CEO Bill

McMahon; The Shaw Power Group Senior VP Jeff Merrifield; O2 Energies Inc. Managing Director Joel Olsen; Energy Production and Infrastructure Center (EPIC) Director and UNC-Charlotte College of Engineering SPX Distinguished Professor Steve Patterson; Siemens Energy Director of Operations Mark Pringle Central Piedmont Community College Director of Workforce Development Keith Ratliff; Duke Energy Chairman, President and CEO Jim Rogers; Piedmont Natural Gas President, Chairman and CEO Tom Skains; Abundant Power Group Founder and President Shannon Smith. [Read more.](#)

Also on Jan. 21, two Charlotte energy companies, Duke Energy and Siemens Energy, announced \$8.8 million in support for the Energy Production and Infrastructure Center at UNC-Charlotte. Duke Energy will provide approximately \$4.5 million and Siemens Energy will provide approximately \$4.3 million in support of the center. Both companies will do this over several years as the EPIC program develops.

Critical to training new engineers and conducting research in energy technologies, EPIC will serve the diverse needs of existing and new energy companies. [Read more.](#)

[Duke, Siemens To Provide \\$8.8M For UNCC Energy Center](#) (WSOC-TV - Charlotte, Jan. 21)

N.C. promoted at U.S. Figure Skating Championships

As a sponsor of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development leveraged several opportunities to market North Carolina as a travel destination to the attendees and television audience for the Jan. 23-30 event in Greensboro.

The Division sent an e-blast newsletter to every ticketholder promoting additional activities throughout the state, has its logo and website listing on all official Championship signage, provided an ad for the rink's videoboard, and had a feature ad in the event program.

The Division also had a booth at the event's Fan Fest which runs throughout the competition. Division staff offered Official North Carolina Travel Guides and conducted a sweepstakes giveaway in conjunction with Beech Mountain Ski Resort.



Urban Development holds successful Main Street Conference

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Brownie Plaster of Destination Cleveland County (accepting the organization's award for Best Public-Private Partnership), Assistant Secretary for Community Development Henry McKoy and Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll

The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Urban Development Division's](#) 2011 N.C.

Main Street Conference was held in Shelby, an original Main Street city, Jan. 26-28. This year's theme was "Community Fitness Training: Preparing communities for economic success."

This year 352 people from 103 communities turned out to hear sessions including "Downtown Revival in a Fiscal Crunch," "Building Entrepreneur-Friendly Communities," "Visual Merchandising for the Artistically Challenged and Financially Deprived," and "Thinking Creatively About Underutilized Buildings."

On the evening of Jan. 27, 34 Main Street Champions were honored at the N.C. Main Street Awards program for their dedication and outstanding contributions to downtowns. Four Small Town Main Street award winners and 16 Main Street award winners were recognized for their exemplary projects, which serve as models for other downtowns. Champions and award winners received certificates presented by N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Assistant Secretary for Community Development Henry McKoy and Urban Development Division Director Liz Parham.

NS Aviation to bring 308 jobs to Forsyth County

(Left right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Governor Bev Perdue, N.C. Representative Larry Womble, Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines and Forsyth County



Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Linville.

Governor Bev Perdue on Jan. 27 announced that NS Aviation, a start-up provider of aircraft maintenance and repair services, will locate in Forsyth County. The company plans to create 308 jobs and invest \$1.27 million during the next four years in Winston-Salem. The project was made possible in part by a \$300,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Melissa Smith](#) was the developer on this project.

"NS Aviation is part of North Carolina's transformation to a highly-skilled, knowledge-driven economy, as they join the growing aerospace industry in the Triad," said Perdue. "Not only are our workforce, infrastructure and strong-business climate helping us attract new investments, but we are helping hundreds of North Carolina families get back on their feet."

NS Aviation plans to open a maintenance facility at Smith Reynolds Airport in Winston-Salem. The facility, originally built and operated by Piedmont Airlines, was most recently the home of Pace Airlines, which ceased operations in 2009. NS Aviation plans to revive much of the former repair business of Pace Airlines and expects to hire many of the former Pace employees that are currently unemployed.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$42,072. The Forsyth County average annual wage is \$41,912. [Read more.](#)

[NS Aviation to expand at airport](#) (*The Winston-Salem Journal*, Jan. 28)

Charlotte to host 2012 Democratic Convention

The 2012 Democratic National Convention will be held in Charlotte. First Lady Michelle Obama made the announcement Feb. 1 in an e-mail to members of the Democratic National Committee.

"I am thrilled to make sure you are the first to hear some very exciting news," Obama wrote. "Charlotte, North Carolina will host the 46th Democratic National Convention in 2012.

"Charlotte is a city marked by its southern charm, warm hospitality, and an "up by the bootstraps" mentality that has propelled the city forward as one of the fastest-growing in the South. Vibrant, diverse, and full of opportunity, the Queen City is home to innovative, hardworking folks with big hearts and open minds. And of course, great barbecue."

"Today's decision is fantastic news for North Carolina regardless of your political party," said Governor Bev Perdue in a statement. "A national political convention is a keystone event that will boost North Carolina's economy, while showcasing Charlotte and our state to the nation and the world. What they will see when they get here is what hundreds of businesses already know – Charlotte's smart investments in infrastructure, cultural attractions and amenities have produced a climate perfect for work and play."

[Charlotte wins 2012 Democratic National Convention](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Feb. 1, 2011)

Crisco leads N.C. trade mission to India

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Mary Tarnowka of the U.S. Embassy in India, and Bob Garrett of KPMG in New Delhi.

With the second-fastest growing major economy in the world, expected to soon expand 8.6 percent, India is one of the most desirable overseas markets for U.S.



Secretary Keith Crisco led a North Carolina trade delegation on a five-day business trip to India. According to New Delhi's *India Real Time*, Crisco's goals for the trip were to search for export markets and to encourage Indian firms to invest more in North Carolina, which will result in jobs coming to the state.

"There is no secret here: all states know about it," Crisco said of India's economic attractiveness. Crisco added that North Carolina is actively competing with several other states, including Virginia, to expand trade with the country.

Indian companies have invested in North Carolina and created more than 700 jobs in the state over the past three years, but said Crisco, "It needs to be more."

In addition to individual states looking to boost trade with India, President Barack Obama and U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, who is also on a trade mission in India, have expressed a desire to export more goods to the country while bringing jobs to the United States. [Read more.](#)

[North Carolina Courts India Business](#) (*The Wall Street Journal*, Feb. 7)



Green Business Fund winner holds ribbon-cutting

(Left-right) Cape Fear Green Building Alliance Intern Jessica Gray, Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, Wilmington City Councilwoman Laura Padgett, N.C. Representative Mike McIntyre, Office of Science and Technology Assistant Director Sharlini Sankaran, and Cape Fear Green Building Alliance Executive Director Joy Allen.

Sharlini Sankaran, assistant director of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Board of Science and Technology, represented Commerce at a Feb. 1 ribbon-cutting for Cape Fear Green Building Alliance's new Performance Training Center. The event was also attended by N.C. Representative Mike McIntyre, Wilmington Mayor Bill Sacco and City Councilwoman Laura Padgett, among others.

The facility, which will offer Building Performance Institute (BPI) certification training, was made possible by a \$99,806 grant from the N.C. Green Business Fund, which is funded by federal dollars through the U.S. Department of Energy. This funding is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and was made available under a competitive grant program.

The purpose of this facility, the only one of its kind in the entire coastal North Carolina region, is to provide training in the knowledge and skills needed to perform home energy efficiency retrofits. The retrofit industry is a high priority of the current administration in Washington and will soon be in North Carolina, when the state launches its own retrofit program.

"This center will provide opportunities for job training and will help create well-paying green jobs that help grow a robust, innovative 21st century economy in North Carolina," Sankaran said. "And in the long run, it will result in North Carolinians drastically cutting their energy bills, and putting money back in our citizens' pockets."

[Perdue announces \\$8.5M for energy projects](#)

Governor Bev Perdue announced on Feb. 7 the N.C. Energy Office has awarded \$8.5 million in federal Recovery Act funds to 43 public and private agencies to make downtown local government and small businesses more energy efficient, promote conservation and use of renewable fuels in industrial buildings and provide for greater energy efficiency in commercial and large nonprofit facilities.

"These investments are more than much-needed job creating investments in our communities," said Perdue. "These projects also will make businesses and government facilities more energy efficient, which holds down costs and helps -- particularly during these challenging economic times -- control government spending on utilities."

[North Carolina invests \\$8.5 million for energy projects statewide](#) (GovMonitor, Feb. 7)

Perdue announces \$14M in grants to 26 local governments

Governor Bev Perdue on Feb. 8 announced that \$14 million will be distributed to 26 local governments through the Community Development Block Grant Economic Recovery Program (CDBG ER). Each grant will help develop infrastructure, housing or special needs in the community.

"Improving infrastructure and housing in our neediest communities, while creating jobs is a win-win for all involved," said Perdue. "I congratulate each of our communities that are participating in the CDBG program."

Each project funded was required to meet national standards and to identify the creation and/or retention of jobs. The recommended projects are "bid-ready" meaning applicants receiving an award are ready to bid the project as soon as all funding conditions are released. In addition, highest priority was given to areas of the state with high unemployment.

Daimler Trucks adding hundreds of jobs in Mt. Holly and Gastonia

Daimler Trucks North America on Feb 15 announced that it plans to add 628 new positions in its Mt. Holly and Gastonia manufacturing plants to accommodate rising customer demand and expanding production schedules. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Martyn Johnson](#) was the developer on this project.

Company officials also confirmed that hiring will occur at all the company's truck and parts manufacturing facilities during the first half of the year totaling approximately 1,300 positions.

The Mt. Holly Truck Manufacturing Plant is located in Mt. Holly, and plans to fill 447 new manufacturing and 27 plant-based administrative positions beginning in mid-March. The Mt. Holly plant manufactures Freightliner M2 Business Class medium-duty, hybrid, and natural gas trucks.

[Daimler Trucks adding hundreds of jobs in Mt. Holly and Gastonia](#) (Fox Charlotte, Feb. 14)

Lowe's to add 275 jobs in Wilkesboro

Lowe's home improvement stores announced Feb. 15 that it is adding more than 275 jobs during 2011 at its Customer Support Center in Wilkesboro. Plans call for the new employees to work in the Contact Center and interact directly with Lowe's customers who reach out to the company with questions, request assistance with online purchases, or request service for products such as appliances and outdoor power equipment.

Employment in the Contact Center has grown significantly in recent years as the company has expanded its proprietary brands and the services it offers to customers. The center has grown from approximately 350 employees in January 2010 to its current employment of more than 700 people. The 275 jobs will bring the total Contact Center employment to more than 975 by year's end.

[Lowe's to add 275 jobs at Wilkesboro call center](#) (WGHP - Greensboro, Feb. 15)

QVC to add 200 jobs in Rocky Mount

Governor Bev Perdue on Feb. 16 announced that QVC, Inc., a major multimedia retailer, through its subsidiary QVC Rocky Mount, Inc., will expand its distribution facility in Edgecombe County. The company plans to create 200 jobs and invest \$71 million during the next five years in Rocky Mount. The project was made possible in part by a \$1 million grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"There is no better validation of North Carolina's top-rated business climate than when our business neighbors who are already operating in North Carolina decide to expand their operations, invest further and

hire more North Carolinians," said Perdue. "This is especially encouraging news in a county like Edgecombe, where residents are fighting hard to rise out of the recession."

QVC is one of the largest multimedia retailers in the world and broadcasts live in the United States 24 hours a day, 364 days a year from its studio and headquarters in West Chester, Pennsylvania. The company's programming reaches more than 98 million U.S. households and approximately 195 million cable and satellite homes worldwide. As of the end 2010, QVC employed 541 full-time workers and 998 part-time and variable workers at its Rocky Mount facility. This project will expand the distribution center by approximately one million square feet while creating 200 new full-time jobs and over 300 part-time jobs following the scheduled completion in fall 2012. [Read more.](#)

[QVC to add 200 full-time jobs in Rocky Mount](#) (*The News & Record* - Greensboro, Feb. 16)



Briggs sworn in as ABC Commissioner

Dan Briggs of Lexington was sworn in as a member of the [N.C. ABC Commission](#) on Feb. 16. A native of Davidson County, he is a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer. Briggs is a former chairman of the Lexington Area Chamber of Commerce and served on its board of directors for nine years.



Tourism Division works to help businesses

Juli Cooney from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development (facing front) chats with tourism business partners during the TRAC event in New Bern.

Staff from the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development traveled to New Bern Feb. 17 to help tourism-related businesses engage more fully with programs offered by Commerce and its partners. The Tourism Resources Assistance Center brought the Division of Tourism's program managers to New Bern to discuss the nuts and bolts of working with the Division. And representatives from Commerce were on hand to discuss services they can provide businesses including strategic planning, assistance with identifying funding sources, and as liaisons with other local, state and federal agencies. Representatives from more than 40 businesses attended the event.

Attractions, lodging, dining, retail outlets and events comprise the state's \$15.4 billion tourism industry and sustain jobs for nearly 200,000 North Carolinians.

Tourism Division offering small business workshops

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development offered a series of new community-based training programs designed to help small tourism-related businesses in North Carolina.

Offered in concert with the New Bern/Craven County Convention and Visitor's Center, the Division rolled out the first program in February. These programs are designed to help tourism-related businesses engage more fully with programs offered by the N.C. Department of Commerce and its partners. Representatives from the N.C. Department of Commerce were on hand to discuss services they can provide businesses including strategic planning, assistance with identifying funding sources, and as liaisons with other local, state, and federal agencies.

The first TRAC session was at the New Bern Convention Center in New Bern on Feb. 17.

[Tourism agencies offer business programs](#) (enctoday.com, Feb. 4)

Eaton to add 120 jobs in



Roxboro

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco announces that Eaton will add 120 jobs at its facility in Roxboro. (Photo by Kenneth Martin/Smith's Photography)

Governor Bev Perdue announced Feb. 21 that Eaton Corporation will expand its Roxboro facility in Person County to meet the needs of its global automotive customers. The company plans to create 120 jobs over the next four years and will invest \$23.3 million to build leading edge

engine valvetrain components that will reduce emissions and help improve a vehicle's overall performance, fuel economy and safety. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bernard Torain](#) was the developer on this project.

The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant program and One North Carolina Fund.

"Eaton has deep roots in North Carolina and has been a long-time employer in Person County. We are delighted they have chosen to create new jobs there," said Perdue. "The company's focus on sustainable transportation and helping to improve the fuel economy of cars and trucks fits comfortably with my focus on bringing green business to North Carolina."

Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2011, Eaton Corporation is a diversified power management company with 2010 sales of \$13.7 billion. Eaton has more than 70,000 employees in 150 countries, with 3,400 of those employees in 12 locations throughout North Carolina. Eaton has operated the facility in Roxboro since 1965. Over the years the facility has manufactured a variety of components for the automotive industry including tire valves and various engine components. Today, the facility is focused on manufacturing components for the next generation of cylinder deactivation and variable valvetrain systems that can help improve a vehicle's fuel economy and reduce emissions. [Read more](#).

[Eaton to expand in Roxboro, add 120 jobs](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Feb. 21)

Fairmont Designs to create 200 jobs in Hickory

Fairmont Designs, a California furniture manufacturer, announced Feb. 18 that it will establish an upholstery furniture manufacturing and distribution facility in Hickory which will create 200 jobs over the next four years. The company has purchased a former Thomasville Furniture building and will spend some \$1.5 million on upfitting the facility. N.C. Department of Commerce Developers [Ron Leitch](#) of the Charlotte Regional office and [Melissa Smith](#) of the Triad office assisted the company in their location efforts.

The company maintains a showroom in High Point during the International Furniture Market. Other partners in the project were the N.C. Community College System, the N.C. Employment Security Commission and the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation.

Eco-friendly pest solutions company to bring 105 jobs to Wake County

Governor Bev Perdue announced Feb. 28 that TyraTech, a Florida-based eco-technology company, will relocate its headquarters to Morrisville. TyraTech has chosen to bring 105 jobs to Wake County because of the talented workforce available in North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Vivian Powell](#) was the developer on this project.

"TyraTech is an excellent example of North Carolina's successful efforts to attract high-tech and green industries. In this case, we got both," Perdue said. "Like so many other companies, Tyratech recognizes that we have a highly-skilled workforce and top-ranked business climate thanks to our investments in education and worker training."

TyraTech is an emerging eco-technology company with proprietary technology that allows it to produce highly effective plant based pest and parasite solutions that are potent yet safe for humans, animals and the environment. TyraTech is entering a period of rapid expansion which requires a highly qualified and innovative team. Ongoing research supports TyraTech's efforts to develop unique foods that control intestinal parasites in humans, control pests found in homes and businesses, and control parasites found in

or on companion animals. [Read more.](#)



NCEDA holds 2011 MidWinter Conference

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco speaks at the N.C. Economic Developers Association 2011 MidWinter Conference in Pinehurst.

The N.C. Economic Developers Association held its 2011 MidWinter Conference in Pinehurst March 3-4. This year's conference, with the theme "Taking on the Competition," offered insight into the state's competitive positioning, and allowed attendees to learn more about the challenges we face in the global economy.

Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco was the conference dinner speaker on March 3. The following day, Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll presented the Commerce Update. Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing

and Global Branding Lynn Minges and B&I Division Director Susan Fleetwood gave presentations on competitive intelligence and competition.

Other speakers included UNC Associate Vice President for Economic Development and Engagement Leslie Boney, N.C. Community College System President Scott Ralls and N.C. Rural Economic Development Center President Billy Ray Hall. [Learn more.](#) See Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll's [presentation.](#)

Lydall to Add 170 Jobs in Yadkin County

Governor Bev Perdue on March 4 announced that Lydall, a manufacturer of specialty thermal/acoustical products for the [automotive industry](#), will expand their manufacturing facility in Hamptonville and open a new manufacturing and distribution facility in Yadkinville. The company plans to create 170 jobs and invest \$18.5 million during the next three years in Yadkin County. The project was made possible in part by a \$300,000 grant from the [One North Carolina Fund](#). The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Melissa Smith](#) was the developer on this project.

"It's great to see Lydall significantly increase their investment in Yadkin County, because they see firsthand the value of doing business in North Carolina," said Perdue. "Creating jobs is my number one priority, especially in areas of the state that have been hit so hard by the decline in our traditional manufacturing industries." [Read more.](#)



John Hardin and Jean Davis attend COIN Open House

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Division of International Trade Director Jean Davis, Office of Science and Technology Director John Hardin and Southeast TechInventures CEO Karen LeVert

The Center of Innovation for Nanobiotechnology held an open house March 8 at its new headquarters in the Venable Center in Durham. N.C. Department of Commerce Division of

International Trade Director Jean Davis and Office of Science and Technology Director John Hardin attended the open house.

COIN will also host a Nanomedicine Commercialization Workshop during the N.C. Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference March 29 in Charlotte. [Learn more about the event.](#)

Executive briefing helps build relationships with



California IT execs

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Epic Games President Mike Capps, NetApp Director of Scalable SAN Engineering Greg Keller; Governor Bev Perdue; North Carolina Technology Association President and CEO Brooks Raiford, Red Hat Vice President of Open Source Affairs Michael Tiemann, Cicso Systems Vice President of Technical Services Acquisition Integration Joe Novak

The Friends of North Carolina program held a luncheon and information technology briefing about North Carolina's information technology industry for executives in San Jose, California March 10. The luncheon occurred during an investment mission to California by Governor Bev Perdue and members of the Department of Commerce.

A panel of speakers, including N.C. Technology Association President and CEO Brooks Raiford and Epic Games President Michael Capps, spoke to a group of more than 25 IT executives in the Silicon Valley market.

The luncheon was designed to provide these executives with a briefing on North Carolina's current programs and activities and an opportunity for them to build and sustain relationships with Commerce personnel and other economic development leaders in the state. Governor Bev Perdue provided the opening remarks, and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco provided closing remarks.

[Perdue to try to lure away Calif. businesses](#) (WRAL Techwire, March 9)



2010 tourist spending sets record

(Governor Bev Perdue speaks during the 2011 N.C. Governor's Conference on Tourism and Hospitality in Asheville.

Governor Bev Perdue announced March 14 that visitors to North Carolina spent a record \$17 billion in 2010, an increase of nine percent from 2009. The number was higher than the previous record of \$16.8 billion set in 2008. The sixth most visited state in the nation, North Carolina gained nearly 2,000 tourism jobs in 2010 while state tax revenues from visitor spending increased 12.6 percent and have increased 16.2 percent since 2007.

"North Carolina's natural and cultural treasures bring people and dollars into our state," Perdue said during remarks at the N.C. Governor's Conference on Tourism and Hospitality in Asheville. "It's a consistently growing part of our economy. Visitors and vacationers spend money that helps local economies thrive and creates jobs here in North Carolina, which is my number one priority."

More than 40,000 businesses in North Carolina directly provide products and services to travelers. Those visitors spend more than \$46.6 million per day in North Carolina and contribute nearly \$4.1 million per day in state and local tax revenues as a result of that spending, according to the U.S. Travel Association.

The 2011 Governor's Conference is taking place through March 15 at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville. The conference has attracted more than 550 travel industry leaders and marketing partners for a dynamic, educational program and valuable networking opportunities.

During the conference, three distinguished North Carolinians were honored for their significant and continuing contributions to the growth and success of North Carolina's tourism industry. The 2011 Winner's Circle Awards were presented to Dr. Lawrence J. Wheeler, Director, North Carolina Museum of Art; Bill Cecil Jr., President and CEO of The Biltmore Company; and Gary Everhardt, former Superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

"With their vision and efforts, these leaders have elevated the state's tourism offerings and thereby enhanced economic development," said N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco. "We thank them for their work and dedication."

The Division is also conducting an abbreviated Tourism Resource Assistance Center program at The Grove Park on March 15 after the conference concludes. TRAC provides accessibility for industry partners and all tourism-related businesses to the Division's staff for informal, one-on-one sessions. [Learn more.](#)

[2010 tourist spending sets record](#) (WWAY - Wilmington, March 14,)



Perdue visits Eaton plant in Asheville

Matt Guth of Eaton's Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure department and Tracee Humes, Product Manager ETI for Eaton, watch as Governor Bev Perdue tries charging an electric vehicle at the plant.

Governor Bev Perdue visited the Eaton Corporation plant in Asheville March 14. While there she toured the plant's new electric vehicle charging station production line. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and

members from the Asheville Chamber of Commerce also participated in the tour.



Film Office returns to SXSW

Filmmakers and producers congregate at the filmmakers lounge at the SXSW Festival.

[The N.C. Film Office](#) returned to the SXSW Festival in Austin, Texas, in March as a sponsor. While there, the office promoted the state's new 25 percent film and digital media incentive.

This year the N.C. Film Office took over the filmmakers lounge where producers and directors could meet directly with the N.C. Film Office. The lounge provided a relaxing getaway for filmmakers to enjoy complimentary WiFi, massages, snacks and drinks. The N.C. Film Office branded the film lounge with its "Relax" brand by installing the 10' x 5" directors rocking chair along with several regular-size directors chairs where filmmakers could sit and rock. More

than 500 filmmakers enjoyed the lounge while learning about North Carolina's enhanced incentive.

Site consultants 'Experience N.C.'

The N.C. Department of Commerce hosted 32 national site selection consultants in Pinehurst and Fort Bragg April 3-5 for the state's annual Experience N.C. event. The business and networking conference, sponsored by the [Friends of North Carolina](#) organization, provides these influential location specialists an opportunity to visit the state and meet local, regional and state economic development leaders. Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and developers from the Business & Industry Division welcomed the group during a Sunday evening reception held in several vintage rail cars provided by the Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway.

This year's conference also featured a rare, behind-the-scenes tour of the Fort Bragg U.S. Army base. Consultants were able to experience up-close how soldiers are trained for dangerous combat and airborne missions. The group also learned more about business opportunities in the state related to the large presence of the military in North Carolina. Joy Thrash from the [N.C. Defense Business Association](#) also assisted with this event.

Commerce reaches out to site selectors

Site selection consultants have told us that they want to hear more from our state, and we're listening. On April 7, the North Carolina Department of Commerce launched ThriveNC, a weekly executive overview of topics impacting economic development in North Carolina. ThriveNC includes timely articles on incentive

and funding benefits, companies that are building and expanding in North Carolina, and industry sectors that are thriving thanks to our state's skilled workforce.



Frozen food producer to bring 342 jobs to Robeson County

(Left-right) Governor Bev Perdue, U.S. Rep Mike McIntyre, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Steven Roberts Original Desserts CEO Steve Fabos at the announcement. (Photo by Bob Shiles courtesy of The Robesonian)

Governor Bev Perdue on April 12 announced that Steven Roberts Original Desserts and Ticklebelly Desserts,

creators, manufacturers and distributors of frozen desserts, will open a new bakery in Robeson County. The company plans to create 342 jobs and invest \$4 million during the next five years in Pembroke. The project was made possible in part by a \$392,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ken Allen](#) was the developer on this project.

"We are working hard every day to bring jobs to the people of North Carolina - in particular, the areas that have been hit hardest by the economic recession," said Perdue, who joined company leaders for the announcement in Pembroke. "Today's announcement is a great step for Pembroke and will help more than 300 hundred families."

Steven Roberts Original Desserts develops and produces a broad line of innovative, premium frozen desserts, selling them directly to restaurants, hotels, theaters and grocery stores. Ticklebelly Desserts leads the industry with innovative, first-to-market gourmet creations for the consumer marketplace including dessert shots, cake pops, dessert minis, cupcakes, molten cakes, cheesecakes and infused cakes. The company plans to purchase and renovate a building in Pembroke to become their third bakery. This new facility will allow expanded production, add manufacturing and shipping redundancy and facilitate scaling dessert production to each client's needs. [Learn more.](#)

[Industry picks Robeson County](#) (*The Robesonian*, April 12)

Perdue announces 260 jobs with Pittsburgh Glass Works

Governor Bev Perdue announced April 12 that Pittsburgh Glass Works, LLC, a leading supplier of automotive glass products and aftermarket glass services, plans to open a manufacturing facility in Elkin. The company anticipates the creation of more than 260 jobs over four years and will invest more than \$85 million in the operation. The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant and One North Carolina programs. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Melissa Smith](#) was the developer on this project.

"Pittsburgh Glass Works considered 88 sites throughout the United States before deciding to locate in North Carolina," said Governor Perdue, who attended the announcement in Elkin. "There is no doubt that our investments continue to pay off. Once again our job-ready workforce, business friendly climate and outstanding infrastructure won the day for our great state."

The company plans to implement state of the art automotive glass manufacturing processes that will enhance their customer delivery, increase global manufacturing capacity and provide additional operational flexibility. The facility in Elkin could also accommodate potential future growth opportunities. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, PGW supplies automotive windshields, rear and side windows, sunroofs and assemblies for automotive original equipment manufacturers (OEM) and the automotive aftermarket through the efforts of more than 4,000 employees world-wide. The company currently employs associates in North Carolina at distribution branches in Wake and Mecklenburg counties. [Learn more.](#)

N.C. leads country in film production

North Carolina's Film industry is once again leading the country in film production, largely in part to the [25 percent film incentive](#) the N.C. General Assembly passed last session and North Carolina's well respected film professionals.

The first project lured to North Carolina by the incentive was "Beverly Lewis' The Shunning." Directed by

Michael Landon Jr., the movie will premiere on the Hallmark Channel April 16. The Shunning was shot entirely on location in Guilford, Forsythe, Davie, and Yadkin counties of the Piedmont Triad region, which doubled for Pennsylvania's Amish Country.

Since the passage of the film incentive, 19 feature films, television series, or TV pilots have shot throughout the NNorth Carolina. In the first four months of 2011, the motion picture industry has committed the following to North Carolin: 14,768 jobs, which include crew, talent and background talent; 1,512 production working days; and \$143,375,000 which will be directly spent in North Carolina communities. The 2011 commitments have already surpassed 2010's \$80 million direct spending for the entire year.

Some other notable productions that have shot in North Carolina this year are: "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island," "A Cinderella Story," "One Tree Hill Season eight" and "Homeland," a television pilot that was recently picked up for a full season by Showtime.

The North Carolina Film Office continues to actively promote the entire state and is currently working on more than 500 active projects.



N.C. wins Silver Shovel Award

North Carolina is a recipient of one of [Area Development](#) magazine's 2011 Silver Shovel awards. The state also won the award in 2009.

Shovel Awards recognize state economic development agencies that drive significant job creation through innovative policies, infrastructure improvements, processes and promotions that attract new employers and investments in new and expanded facilities. The awards are presented annually to states that have achieved significant success in terms of job creation

and economic impact.

Each of the 50 states was invited by the magazine to submit information about its top 10 job creation and investment projects. Only those projects that began to materialize in 2010 were considered. Based on the number of high-valued added jobs per capita, amount of investment, number of new facilities, and industry diversity of the 10 submitted projects, North Carolina qualified for a Silver Shovel Award in the 9+ million population category.

A full review of this year's Gold and Silver Shovel Award winners will be published in May in the Spring Executive Summary issue of *Area Development* and posted [online](#).

Company	City	N/E	No. jobs	Invest	Developer
Siemens Energy	Charlotte	E	825	\$135M	Uconda Dunn
Caterpillar	Winston-Salem	N	392	\$426M	Margie Bukowski
Facebook	Forest City	N	45	\$450M	Margie Bukowski
CREE	Durham	E	575	\$130M	Vivian Powell
Reser's Fine Foods	Halifax	E	500	\$62M	Tim Ivey
Apple	Maiden	N	50	\$1B	Peggy Anderson
Electrolux	Charlotte	N	738	\$8.3M	
IEM	RTP	N	430	\$83T	Bo Gregory
Zenta	Charlotte	E	1,002	\$2.2	Uconda Dunn
EMC	Apex	E	397	\$280M	Bernard Torain

Perdue announces 116 jobs with Superior Essex

Governor Bev Perdue announced April 15 that [Superior Essex Inc.](#), a global leader in the design, manufacture and supply of wire and cable products, intends to open its second manufacturing facility in Tarboro. The company plans to create an additional 116 jobs over five years and invest incrementally more than \$58 million in the facility. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job

Development Investment Grant program.

"My top priority is jobs, and the competition for them is fierce," Perdue said. "Once again we won the day with our job-ready workforce, business friendly climate and outstanding infrastructure -- the results of our policies and hard-fought investments in education and worker training."

This project will provide the infrastructure and equipment for Superior Essex to manufacture power cables for the commercial, industrial and utility markets. Superior Essex, based in Atlanta, has an 80-year company heritage in the production and supply of cable and wire products for many commercial and industrial applications. Superior Essex is part of LS Cable, a multi-industry corporation with approximately 10,000 employees and more than 70 offices in 24 countries. LS Cable supplies a wide range of energy and telecom solutions for the energy, infrastructure, construction, automotive, railway, telecommunications and electronic industries.

While individual wages for the 116 jobs will vary by job function, the overall average for the new jobs will be \$41,289 a year, not including benefits. The Edgecombe County average annual wage is \$33,176. [Learn more.](#)

[Company will add 2nd Tarboro plant: 116 new jobs](#) (WITN - Washington, April 14)

Perdue announces 200 more jobs with Electrolux

While continuing her Jobs Tour around North Carolina, Governor Bev Perdue announced April 19 that Electrolux North America, a leader in the manufacturing of home and professional appliances, will consolidate additional positions from locations throughout the United States to Charlotte. The company plans to create 200 jobs over the next four years with a \$14 million capital investment in Charlotte. The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant and One North Carolina programs. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [David Spratley](#) was the developer on this project.

"Like other international companies, Electrolux looks around the globe when they prepare to expand," Perdue said. "Sixteen months ago, the company moved its North American headquarters to Charlotte. Once more company leaders have chosen Charlotte and North Carolina to expand their international business, as they continue to believe in the investments North Carolina has made in education, building a workforce that will fill 21st century jobs." [Read more.](#)



New call center to bring 1200 jobs to Charlotte

(Left-right) Ryan McDaniels, Cabarrus EDC, Governor Bev Perdue, Connexions CEO Steven Auerback, Charlotte Chamber Project Manager Kati Hynes and N.C. Department of Commerce Project Manager Ron Leitch at the announcement that Connexions Inc. will open a new call center in Charlotte.

The [highly skilled workforce](#) in the Charlotte area has helped attract an Orlando, Fla.-based company to locate a new facility in Charlotte and expand an existing facility in nearby Concord, both of

which will result in approximately 1,200 new jobs coming to the region. [Connexions Inc.](#), a business that provides call-center services for major health-insurance companies, will locate a new facility at Charlotte's Forest Park business complex and will add 400 new employees to its existing facility in Concord. The announcement is the largest for the area so far in 2011 and is further proof that Charlotte has become a hub for call centers. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ron Leitch](#) was the developer on this project.

"We are excited that Connexions has chosen Charlotte. This four-year Inc 5000 winning firm has continued to invest locally, bringing jobs and economic growth to North Carolina for more than three years," said Kati Hynes, vice president of economic development of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. "Connexions' continued commitment to our state and their decision to bring additional jobs to our community during these challenging economic times demonstrates the excellent relationship fostered between our state and Connexions."

The facility at Forest Park will total 61,000 square feet and will generate 800 new jobs, both agent and management positions. Connexions is the latest call center operation to locate at Forest Park, which is

home to call centers for the American Red Cross and Zenta Mortgage Services. Construction of the facility is expected to begin in May. Connexions' facility in Concord currently employs approximately 600 people. [Read more.](#)

Main Street Grants create 260 jobs

Governor Bev Perdue announced April 21 that seven communities will receive more than \$969,000 through the state's [Main Street Solutions Fund](#). The small businesses that benefit from the Main Street Solutions grants will create or retain a minimum of 119 permanent and 57 part-time jobs in addition to 84 construction jobs, according to the grant applications.

For every \$1 invested by the state, an additional \$4.21 will be invested by the local communities, bringing the total public/private investments to just over \$4 million. These funds will be used to provide direct support to North Carolina small businesses with revitalization activities that include commercial building rehabilitation, façade improvements, LEED certification energy efficiency and code improvements.

"Small businesses create more jobs than any other part of the economy, and we are helping to bring those jobs to our communities," Perdue said. "These grants will support some of the most creative and innovative economic development work being done today. Main streets can be at the heart of North Carolina's economic recovery with the right support and investment. The small businesses and other economic partners in our downtown areas will be stronger for this important investment."

Developing main streets in small towns is key to spurring economic growth in communities that have been hit hard by the global economic recession. The Main Street Solutions program helps increase economic activity through public/private redevelopment, historic preservation and small business assistance. The April 21 announcement is the second round of funding through the Main Street Solutions program. To date, the program has handed out nearly \$3 million in grants with an expected \$13 million in additional public/private investments.

Innovative small business award launched

On April 25, Governor Bev Perdue announced plans to honor communities across the state for the creative, innovative ways they help small businesses bring jobs to North Carolina. Two-thirds of all new jobs are created by small businesses, making them critical economic drivers for communities across the state.

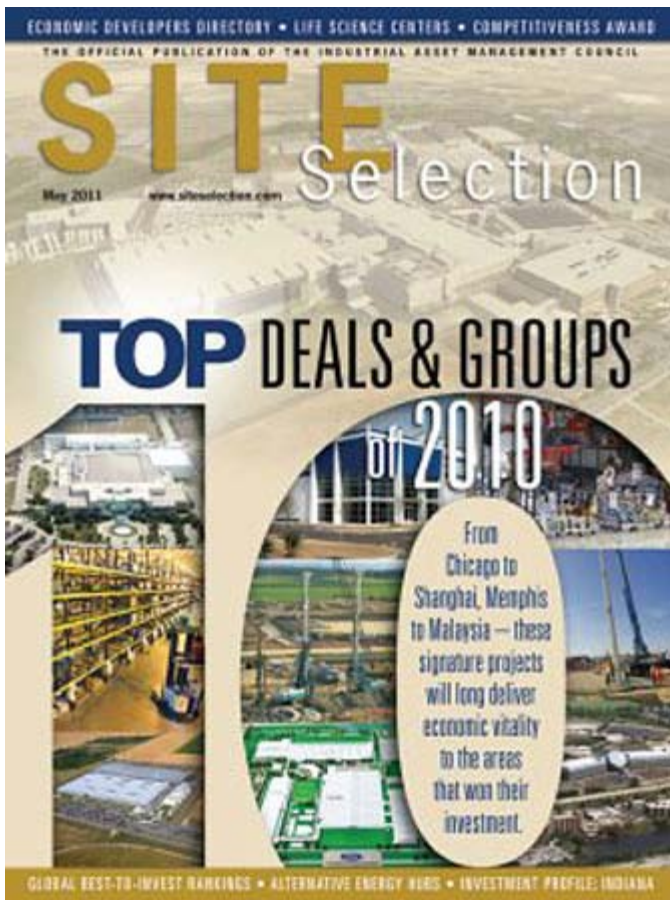
"Small businesses are the backbone of North Carolina's economy and one of the reasons we are in the top ten states to improve our unemployment rate, which has dropped by nearly one-and-a-half points compared to where we were last February," said Perdue. "My goal for North Carolina is basic. We're going to continue to be the best place in the world to turn big dreams into jobs through innovation and by growing our small businesses."

The nomination period for the inaugural Governor's Innovative Small Business Community Awards is now open. Local governments are invited to submit nominations for efforts that reflect excellence in community economic development, small business and entrepreneurship, and sustainability. Successful entries will reflect a vision or creative solution to improve the quality of life and well-being for all North Carolinians through job creation and job sustaining activities. [Read more.](#) [Learn more about small business in North Carolina.](#)

New economic ranking again touts N.C.

Site Selection Magazine has again ranked North Carolina as one of the best places to do business in the country. A recently released ranking places North Carolina fourth place in its Competitiveness Award competition. In November 2010, the magazine [ranked North Carolina No. 1](#) for Business Climate.

Other states in the top five include Louisiana, Virginia, Texas and South Carolina, according to Conway Data Inc., which publishes the magazine. Each state was ranked based on points earned in a 10-factor index based mainly on the magazine's New Plant Database of new



and expanded facilities. [Read more.](#) [See the latest North Carolina comparative rankings.](#)

[North Carolina ranks fourth in Site Selection rankings.](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, May 2)

Merck to build major expansion in Durham

North Carolina's pharmaceutical sector continues to expand. The latest announcement comes from Merck & Co. Inc., which will grow its Durham facility by 70,000 square feet. This expansion will house a live virus vaccine manufacturing operation where Merck will fill and finish pediatric Varivax vaccines for chicken pox.

According to plant manager John Wagner, the expansion at Treyburn Corporate Park will result in 270,000 feet dedicated to the production of bulk live virus and is the latest of several expansions for Merck at this site.

Since Merck first purchased the Treyburn Corporate Park property in June 2004, the company has undergone a series of expansions that total approximately \$900 million in investments and will cover 650,000-square-feet when finished. The completed facility will include the bulk production facility, two buildings to house the final stage of the vaccine production, a material and maintenance support facility, a warehouse and maintenance facility and a laboratory and office facility that will both meet LEED silver standards. [Learn more](#) about the Merck expansion, and about the [growing pharmaceutical industry](#) in North Carolina.

[Merck to expand facilities, add jobs](#) (*The Herald-Sun* - Durham, April 25)

Green Business Fund awards \$4.6M for renewables and energy efficiency projects

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco on April 25 announced that 16 North Carolina small businesses and organizations will receive awards from the North Carolina Green Business Fund, totaling \$4,580,686.45. These projects will result in a total of approximately 35 jobs being created or retained.

"Encouraging investments in the green economy is a centerpiece of our job creation strategy," said Crisco. "This fast growing industry holds vast potential for the future and we must continue to support its development in North Carolina."

The Fund, created by Governor Bev Perdue in 2007, is administered by the N.C. Board of Science and Technology. This is the fourth round of grants awarded by the Fund which has given out approximately \$8 million in grants.

[Read more about the Green Business Fund](#) and learn more about [North Carolina's green economy.](#)

Energy Division holds successful Sustainable Energy Conference

The 8th Annual Sustainable Energy Conference, sponsored by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Energy Division, was held at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh April 26-27.

The conference included an opening address from former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, director of the National Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University, and a keynote from Iberdrola Renewables Managing Director for Wind Business Development David Shadle. [Learn more.](#)

[Sustainable Energy Conference wraps up](#) (News 14 Carolina, April 28)

Perdue declares May Workforce Development Professionals Month

Governor Bev Perdue has declared May 2011 to be "Workforce Development Professionals Month" in North Carolina to honor all professionals who play such a vital role in our economy. Workforce development professionals, organizations and partnerships are more critical than ever in a rapidly changing labor market that demands new skills and training programs.

"The economic success of our communities in the new global economy depends upon the quality and skills of the local labor force," said Perdue. "We owe a debt of gratitude to the hard-working and well-prepared professionals that enable us to produce skilled workers for a variety of industries. They are the troops on the ground as we fight against unemployment and the economic recession."

"The fast-paced change in the labor market, intensified by the recent economic recession, has put a strain on North Carolina's workforce development professionals, but their efforts have led the way to economic recovery for thousands of families across the state," said N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco.



N.C. focuses on Asia

North Carolina currently ranks 10th in the United States for employment supported by foreign direct investment, and 7th in manufacturing employment. Asian countries represent an important part of this success story, with Japanese firms alone bringing approximately 20,000 jobs to the state. North Carolina's commitment to market the state and service clients overseas has remained strong over the years. In addition to international specialists based in Raleigh, the state maintains international investment offices in Japan and China.



Aerospace industry meets for annual forum

(Left-right) Turbomeca Manufacturing President & CEO Matt Nelson, President of ATI Allvac and Executive Vice President of ATI Long Products Hunter Dalton, Monroe Economic Development Executive Director Chris Plate', N.C. Department of Commerce Aerospace Project Manager Rod Forsythe, and Goodrich Corporation Vice President and General Manager of Customer Services Bob Butz

More than 70 business executives from North Carolina's growing aerospace cluster met with state and regional leaders in Monroe May 5 for the 2011 N.C. Aerospace Executive Forum. The annual forum brings industry executives together to build stronger business connections, identify supply-chain opportunities and to facilitate industry working groups addressing common areas of focus such as workforce development. The forum is an example of North Carolina's ongoing support for existing industries in the state.

Speakers at this year's forum included Paul Snyder, Goodrich Corporation's president of customer services and Dr. Robert Hocken from UNC-Charlotte's Center for Precision Metrology. Forum participants also toured Turbomeca Manufacturing's production facility in Monroe. [Learn more](#) about the state's growing aerospace sector.



Chief Executive magazine ranks N.C. No. 2 Best State for Business for third year

North Carolina continues to have a top-ranked, business-friendly climate. For the third consecutive year, more than 500 CEOs ranked North Carolina the No. 2 Best State for Business, according to the May issue of *Chief Executive* magazine.

According to *Chief Executive* Editor-in-Chief J.P. Donlon, the magazine "considered a wide range of criteria, from taxation and regulation to workforce quality and living environment, in our annual ranking of the best states for business. The

charts and articles in this special report show how each state fares on the factors most essential for a business-friendly environment, as well as what states are doing to attract and retain companies in the increasingly competitive battle to win site selection." [Read more](#).



Perdue announces 150 jobs with AptarGroup

Governor Bev Perdue announces 150 jobs with AptarGroup in Lincolnton. (Photo courtesy of *The Lincoln Tribune*)

Governor Bev Perdue announced May 16 that AptarGroup, Inc., a leading global supplier of customized dispensing systems (spray and lotion pumps, dispensing closures, and aerosol valves) for the beauty, personal care, pharmaceutical, household, food and beverage markets, will open its newest manufacturing facility

in Lincolnton. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [David Spratley](#) was the developer on this project.

The company plans to create 150 jobs over the next five years with approximately \$50 million in capital investments in Lincolnton. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program.

"The fact that corporations continue to bring these kinds of projects to North Carolina proves that our investment in education and job creation is paying off," Perdue said. "These are the kinds of jobs that are helping our state steadily climb out of the recession, and we welcome international companies like Aptar that are willing to invest in our state and position North Carolina as a leader in business." [Read more](#).

[New plastics manufacturer invests in Lincolnton](#) (*The Lincoln Tribune*, May 16)

N.C.-China economic partnership launched

To promote job creation and trade between North Carolina and China, a diverse coalition of public- and private-sector groups have joined together to create the N.C.-China Global Gateway Platform for Investment and Economic Development. The purpose of the "Platform" is to develop a new model to bring investment into North Carolina and to strengthen North Carolina's exports across all of the state's industry sectors. In addition, the Platform aims to create jobs, accelerate development of [life sciences](#) in North Carolina and China, and showcase North Carolina's global life sciences, technology, business and economic development.

The N.C. China Global Gateway Platform consists of the N.C. Department of Commerce, [the North Carolina](#)

[Biotechnology Center](#), [Longistics](#), [the North Carolina China Center](#), the China Investment Promotion Agency, [Calvert Research LLC](#), and [The Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences](#), through the new Hamner-China Biosciences Center.

"We are excited about this partnership and the opportunities it will provide for our state's biotechnology and life science companies," said Norris Tolson, president and CEO of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. "A facilitated introduction between companies in North Carolina and China is a significant advantage for companies in both locations."

"With this Platform, we hope to attract additional campus development funding, expand existing life science partnerships in China and gain access to novel life science technologies developed by Chinese companies associated with the Platform," said Dr. William Greenlee, president and CEO of The Hamner. "It is a major element of our global initiative plans that can benefit many Americans and Chinese in the process."



Lenovo expansion in RTP to bring 300 jobs

Governor Bev Perdue at the Lenovo announcement.

Lenovo announced May 20 that it has signed a contract with Affiliated Computer Services Inc., a Xerox Company, as part of an initiative to expand its Global Services business. The agreement will create approximately 300 new jobs in North Carolina's Research Triangle region - 50 of those with Lenovo and 250 with ACS.

"Lenovo exemplifies how the state of North Carolina and a global company started in

China can mutually benefit from the high-tech, highly innovative workforce we've cultivated here in the Triangle region," said Governor Bev Perdue. "Not only does this business expansion bring significant new employment opportunities to North Carolinians, but it will create a larger ripple effect across our state's economy. [Read more.](#)



Syngenta announces \$71M expansion

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, U.S. Senator Kay Hagan and Syngenta Biotechnology President Michiel van Lookeren Campagne.

Syngenta Biotechnology Inc. has announced plans to begin construction on a \$71 million state-of-the-art biotechnology research facility in Research Triangle Park. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Vivian Powell](#) was the developer

on this project.

Building on recent successes in delivering agronomic traits for growers, the new 147,000 square foot research and development complex will provide Syngenta researchers the environment to pursue new traits that will help farmers grow more from less.

The new site will include all-glass, climate-controlled greenhouses and precision growth chambers, which, borrowing from technology developed by NASA, will offer complete control of multiple growth variables, including water, nutrients, light and atmospheric gases.

"We're very excited about the capabilities this new facility will enable," said Michiel van Lookeren Campagne, president of Syngenta Biotechnology. "These sophisticated growth environments will help our researchers study traits with greater precision and efficiency, ultimately leading to discoveries that will enhance plant productivity." [Read more.](#)

Epic and Insomniac lead growth of N.C.'s video game hub

North Carolina's Triangle area is a burgeoning video game development hub, according to the participants in the N.C. Department of Commerce's Video Game Developers Roundtable. The roundtable, held May 24 in Durham's American Underground, featured John Farnsworth (Epic Games), Chad Dezern (Insomniac

Games), John O'Neill (Spark Plug Games), John Austin (Joystick Labs), Michael Young (founder and executive director of the N.C. State Digital Games Research Initiative) and Alex Macris, publisher of The Escapist, who served as moderator.

More than 40 video game development companies are located in the Triangle area which has also hosted the East Coast Game Conference for the past three years. With roots going back to the Top 10 graphics and AI programs of the local universities, the Triangle's video game industry was established by MicroProse in the early 1990s, followed by iEntertainment and Red Storm. Epic opened shop here in 1998. [Read more.](#)

Daimler trucks to hire nearly 700

Daimler Trucks North America on June 9 announced that it plans to sharply increase production and employment levels at its Mt. Holly truck manufacturing plant during the last half of 2011. In addition, over 120 shop and staff employees will be added at the company's Gastonia parts manufacturing plant. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Martyn Johnson](#) was the developer on this project.

Governor Bev Perdue issued the following statement on the announcement:

"Daimler Trucks' announcement today that they plan to hire nearly 700 new employees for their Mt. Holly and Gastonia operations is another terrific example of how our investments in education to build a trained, educated workforce have created a business climate attractive to global companies. Daimler is reaffirming and increasing its commitment to the state, knowing that they will find a workforce that is second to none."

This announcement comes a year after the company announced a major expansion at their Cleveland Truck plant in Cleveland, N.C.

[See video](#) of Daimler Trucks North America COO Roger Nielsen discussing North Carolina's workforce.



NCEDA holds 45th annual meeting in Asheville

(Left-right) NCEDA Professional Development co-chair Jenny Mizelle (Town of Holly Springs), NCEDA Economic Developer of the Year Mark Pope (Lenoir County EDC), and NCEDA Professional Development co-chair Pat Mitchell (Ashe County Government)

On June 15 the N.C. Economic Development Association held its 45th annual meeting in Asheville, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll presented the Commerce Update to the approximate 300 NCEDA members in attendance. [View the presentation.](#)

Mark Pope of the Lenoir County Economic Development Corporation was named NCEDA Economic Developer of the Year, and was elected to the Board of Directors for a term of three years. Tom Johnson of Rutherford County Economic Development Corporation was also named NCEDA Economic Developer of the Year.



(Left-right) NCEDA Professional Development co-chair Jenny Mizelle (Town of Holly Springs), NCEDA Professional Development co-chair Pat Mitchell (Ashe County Government), NCEDA Economic Developer of the Year Tom Johnson, and Mary Taylor (Rutherford County Economic Development Corporation).



North Carolina showcases growing aerospace industry at airshow

N.C. Department of Commerce Existing Industry Specialist Rick Hill (center) talks to attendees who stopped by the North Carolina booth at the International Airshow.

As part of the N.C. Department of Commerce's ongoing program to market the state to aviation and aerospace decision makers, the Department led the state's presence at the International Air Show in Le Bourget, France, in June. The International Air Show is known as the world's largest aerospace trade show, and

more than 135,000 aerospace executives representing global aerospace and defense manufacturers attended. Secretary Keith Crisco and other Commerce officials held several high-level meetings with company executives during the airshow.

Joining the North Carolina air show exhibit were several sponsoring organizations that took advantage of the state's platform to market their own products and services. Sponsors included Cabarrus Economic Development, C.R. Onsrud, Monroe Economic Development, North Carolina's Eastern Region, North Carolina's Global TransPark, Piedmont Triad Partnership, TIMCO Aviation Services as well as Magellan Group, Liquip International - Beta Fluid Systems, and Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development.



N.C. hosts life science executives at BIO 2011

(Left-right) Russ Sawchuck of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Canada office, developers Garret Wyckoff and Donna Phillips, and Secretary Keith Crisco at the 2011 BIO International Convention

As part of the N.C. Department of Commerce's ongoing program to market the state to [life science and biotechnology](#) decision makers, the Department hosted the North Carolina Bio Reception June 28

in Washington D.C. The reception, one of the signature events each year at the BIO international convention and trade show, is made possible by the Friends of North Carolina organization. Governor Bev Perdue and Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco hosted more than 300 leaders from this vital business sector.

Commerce also hosted visitors to the N.C. Pavilion. More than 90 sponsoring companies participated in this year's state pavilion, showcasing the many aspects of North Carolina's biotechnology, pharmaceutical and life sciences industry. Crisco and other Commerce officials met with company executives over the course of the four-day conference.

Clearwater holds grand opening

Governor Bev Perdue and Clearwater Paper Shelby Plant Manager Vince Reese during the plant's grand opening.

On June 21 Clearwater Paper held a grand opening for its 250-employee, \$260 million plant in Shelby. Governor Bev Perdue toured the new facility and delivered the keynote address during the luncheon event. The N.C. Department of



Commerce's [Rod Forsythe](#) was the developer on this project.

Clearwater announced on June 10, 2010, that the company planned to build a new manufacturing and distribution facility in Shelby. The plant will make private-label tissue products for retail grocery chains throughout the Southeast and along the East Coast. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Rod Forsythe was the developer on this project. [Read more.](#)

[100 New Jobs: Clearwater Paper celebrates grand opening](#) (*The Star* - Shelby, June 22)



Perdue announces 363 jobs with Linamar

Governor Bev Perdue announces that Linamar Group will bring 363 jobs to Western North Carolina.

Governor Bev Perdue announced June 30 that Linamar Corporation, a leading supplier of engine, transmission and driveline components, will locate its newest manufacturing facility in Asheville, to supply precision machined components for customers of Linamar's Industrial,

Commercial and Energy Group. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Margie Bukowski](#) was the developer on this project.

The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant and One North Carolina Grant programs. To meet the targets established in these performance-based grants, the company plans to create 363 jobs over four years beginning in 2012 and make a capital investment of \$80 million in Asheville. The company indicates that if the market performs as expected, the project could actually realize as many as 400 jobs and an additional \$45 million in capital investment by 2020.

Other partners that assisted with this project include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, AdvantageWest Economic Development Group, N.C. Community Colleges, the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Coalition for Asheville-Buncombe County and Progress Energy. [Read more.](#)

CNBC ranks N.C. No. 3 Top State for Business

North Carolina is the No. 3 state in the nation for business, according to a new survey conducted by CNBC. Ranked in the top 10 in each of CNBC's "America's Top States for Business," this year North Carolina improved one spot from the 2010 survey. [Learn more.](#)

Raleigh tops *Forbes* business climate list

Raleigh is once again the best place in America to do business.

After a year at No. 3 on *Forbes* magazine's list of Best Places for Business, the Capital City regained its No. 1 spot in the annual list released June 29. It topped the list each year from 2007 to 2009.

Durham ranked 31st on the latest list, Charlotte was 22nd, and Asheville was 24th. [Read more.](#)

N.C. Travel Guide sets technological standard

The Official North Carolina Travel Guide is the technological standard-setter for state travel guides, according to the [Custom Content Council](#), the leading professional organization representing custom media professionals in North America. Additionally, Nxtbook Media, which produces digital travel guides for 36 of 50 states, has called the Travel Guide a "standout publication." Introduced in 2010 and enhanced in 2011, the digital guide, interplaying with the print version, incorporates rich media, animated digital ads, and embedded videos to become a living storybook.

The digital Travel Guide cover is enlivened by twinkling lights and a flickering fire; the Blue Ridge Parkway map features interactive pop-up content, including video links; and an iPad version with even more bells and whistles is under development. There is also a German language mini-version online.



Perdue announces 225 jobs with Time Warner Cable

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Mecklenburg County Commission Chairwoman Jennifer Roberts, Governor Bev Perdue, Executive VP of TWC's East Region Carol Hevey, Charlotte City Councilman James Mitchell, and Time Warner Cable Executive VP of National Network Operations and Engineering Jim Ludington

Governor Bev Perdue on July 11 joined executives from [Time Warner Cable](#) Inc., the second largest cable operator in the U.S., in Charlotte to announce that the company will expand its operations and build a national data center on its Charlotte campus. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ron Leitch](#) was the developer on this project.

The company plans to create 225 jobs over the next three years with a \$101 million capital investment in Charlotte. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program.

"Time Warner Cable looked around the country, and they chose North Carolina," Perdue said. "Time Warner Cable is a devoted corporate citizen in Charlotte and North Carolina, and company leaders continue to bring jobs to our state because they realize that the investments we make in education produce the skilled, creative and capable employees they need." [Read more.](#)

[Time Warner bringing 225 jobs to Charlotte](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, July 11)

Lord Corp. to add 117 jobs at Cary HQ

Governor Bev Perdue on July 12 joined leaders from LORD Corporation in Cary to announce 117 new jobs and a \$20 million investment as part of an expansion project in North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Vivian Powell](#) was the developer on this project.

LORD Corporation is a diversified technology company that develops breakthrough adhesive, coating and motion management technologies. Corporate functions to be included at the site are sales, technical service, marketing, R&D, purchasing and product development.

The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program. To meet the targets established in this performance-based grant, the company plans to create 117 jobs over five years beginning in 2012 and make a capital investment of \$20 million in Wake County.

"LORD Corporation, like a growing number of international companies, recognizes the advantages of an educated, job-ready workforce," Perdue said. "Today's announcement is testament to why we fought so hard against education cuts this year. LORD Corporation found what they needed in North Carolina because of the investments we have made in our schools, our community colleges, our universities – our people." [Read more.](#)



Perdue announces 256 jobs with Semprius

(Left-right) Henderson-Vance County Chamber Executive Director Bill Edwards, GoldenLEAF Foundation CEO Dan Gerlach, Governor Bev Perdue and Semprius CEO Joe Carr

Governor Bev Perdue on July 19 joined leaders of Semprius, Inc., a privately held company that produces high concentration photovoltaic solar modules, in announcing that Semprius will locate a pilot production plant in Henderson. The N.C. Department

of Commerce's [Bernard Torain](#) was the developer on this project.

The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant and One North Carolina Grant programs. To meet the targets established in these performance-based grants, the company plans to create 256 jobs over five years and make a capital investment of \$89.7 million in Henderson.

Commerce also provided Semprius with early grants through the Green Business Fund and the One N.C. Small Business Fund as it was working to commercialize its innovative process and product. These early-stage grants help companies such as Semprius by providing much-needed seed funding, and often lay the groundwork to acquire follow-on funding and expand to create jobs.

"Semprius chose to launch this cutting edge technology in North Carolina because our investments in education and worker training ensure that they can find the job-ready employees they need," said Perdue. "We welcome them to North Carolina: the smart grid capital of the world."

Semprius builds its HCPV modules using patented technology and low-cost components that can concentrate the sun's energy more than 1,100 times onto the world's smallest solar cells. The company believes its unique manufacturing processes allow Semprius to offer an advantageous cost point and execute rapid, capital-efficient expansion. Semprius will sell modules produced in the Henderson facility to global system integrators and project developers, who in turn sell complete solar systems to end users such as utility companies. Solar systems equipped with Semprius modules offer the conversion efficiency, low cost and high reliability needed to compete with fossil fuel energy generation systems and offer a viable option for achieving grid parity with fossil-based electricity.

While individual wages for the 256 jobs will vary by job function, the overall average for the new jobs will be \$45,565 a year, not including benefits. The Vance County average annual wage is \$30,004. [Read more.](#)

[Semprius to create 256 jobs in Vance County](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, July 19)



Fain named GTP head

Former N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Jim Fain has been named president of the N.C. Global TransPark. Fain assumed the post on June 1. Darlene Waddell, chief financial officer since 1999, will continue in the chief executive officer's post, to which she was promoted in July 2003.

[GTP adds former Commerce head](#) (*The Kinston Free Press*, June 19)

Perdue announces 250 jobs with Celgard

(Left-right) Concord Mayor J. Scott Padgett, Governor Bev Perdue, Celgard President Mitch Pulwer, Polypore International President, CEO and Director Robert (Bob) Toth



Governor Bev Perdue and officials from Charlotte-based Celgard LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Polypore International, Inc., on July 25 announced plans to expand production capacity in Concord and hire an additional 250 employees. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Margie Bukowski](#) was the developer on this project.

The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant and One North Carolina Grant programs. To meet the targets established in these performance-based grants, the company plans to create 250 jobs and invest a total of \$105 million in Cabarrus County over the next two years.

"Celgard is an innovative North Carolina company that is helping us realize the promise of a greener economy," Perdue said. "We are able to create these 'green collar' jobs, and other skilled jobs across the state, because we have invested in education and built an educated, skilled workforce."

The company is a global leader in the development and production of specialty membranes used predominantly in the lithium battery industry. The expansion is designed to increase production capacity to supply lithium battery manufacturers focused on the Electric Drive Vehicle industry. The company currently employs approximately 600 people in North Carolina.

While salaries will vary by job function, the overall average wage for the 250 new jobs will be \$37,912 not including benefits. That is higher than the Cabarrus annual average of \$32,448. [Read more.](#)

[Celgard awarded up to \\$11.7 million incentive package for 250 more jobs](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, July 25)



Dessert maker holds ribbon-cutting in Pembroke

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Developer Ken Allen, Steven Roberts Originals CEO Steven Fabos, Steven Roberts Originals Chairman Charles Kosmont and N.C. Department of Commerce Director of Business and Industry Development Susan Fleetwood

Frozen Food producer Steven Roberts Originals and Tickleberry Desserts held a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 28 for its new facility in Pembroke. The company plans to create 342 jobs and invest \$4 million during the next five years in Pembroke. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, and N.C. Rural

Economic Development Center President Billy Ray Hall made comments on behalf of the State of North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ken Allen](#) was the developer on this project. [Read the original jobs announcement.](#)

Commerce meets with site consultants

(Left-right) CB Richard Ellis Senior Managing Director Jonathan Sangster, Charlotte Regional Partnership President and CEO Ronnie Bryant, N.C. Department of Commerce



Secretary Keith Crisco and KPMG Senior Manager Richard Cathy

Site selection consultants learned about business opportunities in North Carolina and met with key economic developers from the state during an Aug. 2 reception at the Wimbish House in Atlanta. More than 100 consultants, consular officers and developers attended. Raleigh bluegrass band Old Habits provided the entertainment. The event was sponsored by [Friends of North Carolina](#).



Southern governors hold annual meeting in Asheville

Governor Bev Perdue speaks at the Southern Governors Association annual meeting in Asheville.

The [Southern Governors Association](#) held its annual meeting Aug. 19-21 in Asheville. Governor Bev Perdue, chair of the SGA over the past year, hosted the meeting, which focused on innovation in the American South.

At the end of the meeting, Perdue and incoming Chair, Governor Luis Fortuño of Puerto Rico, issued a statement on regional collaboration for economic growth:

"The American South is the best region in America to do business and we must continue that momentum by increasing our commitment to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Over the last three days, governors in the American South have learned of opportunities and challenges in medical and energy innovation, technology transfer, workforce development and developing the next generation of innovators. We will continue to collaborate as state to identify ways to make our partnerships more effective and we will work with our federal partners on solutions that make sense for our economic future. The end game is a bipartisan one, to improve our ability to create jobs and enhance our economic growth."

Minges to lead state tourism offices at national level

Lynn Minges, N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding, was recently elected as chair of the [National Council of State Travel Directors](#). Minges most recently served as vice chair of the organization and has been a board member since 1999.

NCSTD is an industry council of the U.S. Travel Association, a national, non-profit organization representing all components of the \$758 billion travel industry which aims to increase travel to and within the United States. Established in 1969, the NCSTD leverages the collective strength of state tourism offices to influence public policy issues impacting tourism.

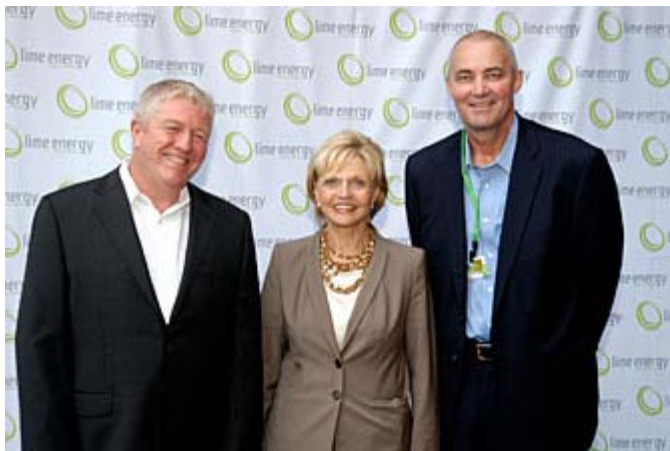
"Lynn Minges is an internationally-recognized leader in the travel industry who knows the powerful economic impact travel and tourism can have on state and local communities," said Roger Dow, president and CEO of the U.S. Travel Association. "She is an excellent advocate for North Carolina, and our industry will greatly benefit from Lynn's leadership as chair of the National Council of State Tourism Directors."

The travel and tourism sector is a bright spot in the U.S. economy, generating 7.4 million jobs with an estimated economic impact of \$758 billion in 2010.

In North Carolina, domestic visitors spent a record \$17 billion in 2010, an increase of 9 percent from 2009. Visitor expenditures directly generated 183,880 jobs and nearly \$4 billion in payroll income within North Carolina in 2010. Visitor spending in the state also directly generated close to \$1.5 billion in tax revenue for state and local governments in 2010, up 10 percent from 2009.

In her role as assistant secretary for Tourism, Marketing, and Global Branding for the N.C. Department of Commerce, Minges provides leadership and strategic direction for the state's tourism, film, sports and wine industries while marketing the state as the preferred location for domestic and international business.

"It is my honor to represent North Carolina and partner with my colleagues across the country on major public policy issues affecting the tourism sector," Minges said. "Working together, we can provide a unified voice for our industry and advocate in support of favorable travel policies."



Corporate expansions create hundreds of jobs across N.C.

(Left-right) Lime Energy President and CEO John O'Rourke, Governor Bev Perdue, Lime Energy Executive Chairman of the Board David Asplund

From Rockingham to Andrews, hundreds of new jobs were announced in North Carolina in early September. Industries announcing job expansions included financial, energy, aviation, automotive, manufacturing and retail.

Among the new announcements were expansions in the energy and aviation sectors. Governor Bev Perdue made remarks at the "Splash of Lime" party hosted by Lime Energy on Sept. 7. The company recently announced it is consolidating its technology, accounting and engineering functions through its corporate headquarters move to Huntersville. The restructuring means the creation of 75 jobs over the next two years for the Charlotte area. Lime Energy helps industrial building owners and other customers reduce their energy consumption.

Also expanding its U.S. headquarters is Andritz Hydro Corporation, a leading provider of turbines, pumps, rehabilitation services and turnkey construction for the hydroelectric power industry.

In the aviation sector, TIMCO Aviation will add 50 jobs in its newly opened Wallburg manufacturing site as well as 50 jobs to its Piedmont Triad International Airport location before the end of 2011, with more job expansion expected over the next five years. Also, U.S. Airways announced on September 8 that it will be expanding its reservation center in Winston-Salem. The expansion could mean as many as 200 new jobs. [Read more](#) about new jobs announced across the state.



EMC opens Center of Excellence in Durham

(Left-right) EMC Corp. Global Centers of Excellence Chief Information Officer and COO Sanjay Mirchandani, Governor Bev Perdue, EMC Corp. Chairman, President and CEO Joe Tucci, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and EMC Corp. Vice President of N.C. Operations Bob Hawkins

EMC is investing nearly \$280 million to expand its presence in North Carolina and hiring 397 positions in the state by the end

of 2015. On Sept. 15, Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco helped open the company's new Center of Excellence in Durham. Commerce's [Bernard Torain](#) was the developer on this project.

In addition to housing a highly-virtualized cloud data center that supports EMC's more than 50,000

employees around the globe, the center includes 130,000 square feet of global research and development labs and will be a technology showcase to help EMC customers accelerate their own cloud computing and IT transformations. [Read more.](#)

[Officials dedicate EMC Corp.'s cloud data center](#) (*The Herald-Sun* - Durham, Sept. 16)



Perdue announces 250 jobs with Horsehead Corporation

Governor Bev Perdue presents the North Carolina flag to Horsehead CEO Jim Hensler. (Photo courtesy Garrett Byers, the Daily Courier)

Governor Bev Perdue announced Sept. 19 that Horsehead Corporation, a leading U.S. environmental services provider and producer of specialty zinc and zinc-based products, plans to build a state-of-the-art zinc production facility in Rutherford County. The company plans to create 250 jobs and make a capital investment of more than \$350 million near Forest City. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Dallas Hardenbrook](#) was the developer on this project.

"My top priority is creating jobs, both attracting new companies and helping existing businesses grow and thrive," Perdue said. "Horsehead Corporation selected North Carolina for this state-of-the-art facility because we have a history of making the right strategic investments in our people and our state – in education and infrastructure – that have won us national rankings as one of the top states in which to do business. We have built a business-friendly environment that is drawing more and more green jobs and cutting edge businesses to our state. I will continue to aggressively pursue new jobs for North Carolina until everyone who wants a job has one." [Read more.](#)

Corporate execs rank N.C. No. 2 in Best States for Business

North Carolina was ranked second for "Best States for Business" in the Development Counsellors International 2011 edition [Winning Strategies in Economic Development Marketing](#) study, released Sept. 19, at the [International Economic Development Council Annual Conference](#) in Charlotte.

This is the sixth installment of the study, which is based on DCI's survey of 322 corporate executives with site selection responsibilities. The 2011 study marks DCI's first time asking the more than 50 location advisors included in the survey audience to select the best regional and state economic development groups.

In addition to North Carolina ranking as a top place to do business, the N.C. Department of Commerce captured second place for "[Best in Class State Economic Development Organizations.](#)"

The IEDC conference continues through Sept. 21. With the theme "Connect Locally, Succeed Globally," the conference is examining how economic developers from across the United States and around the world are adapting to the "new normal" and rewriting the rules for economic development. Speakers included Governor Bev Perdue, who spoke to the conference Sept. 19, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, and Golden LEAF President Dan Gerlach. [Read more.](#)

N.C. tourism campaign gains national recognition

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development recently received a 2011 Mercury Award from the U.S. Travel Association's National Council of State Tourism Directors for its cooperative marketing efforts. This marks the Division's 22nd Mercury Award recognition since 1985.

The national award recognizes the North Carolina tourism office for its excellence in cooperative marketing. In the face of difficult budget constraints and increasing competition for fewer travelers, the Division expanded its offerings of affordable marketing opportunities to help both the Division and its partners stimulate more interest, travel and visitor spending in North Carolina. This concerted marketing effort not only minimized the negative impact of consumers wary of the economic uncertainty, but also reversed course with record visitor expenditures in 2010.

"The judges referred to the campaign as one of the best co-op marketing campaigns they'd ever seen a state accomplish," said Leigh von der Esch, Managing Director of the Utah Office of Tourism and Film and member of the awards committee.



Entrepreneurship Summit breaks the mold

Commissioner for Small Business Scott Daugherty interviews N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco during the N.C. Governor's Entrepreneurship Summit.

The 2011 N.C. Governor's Entrepreneurship Summit, held at the Durham Convention Center, took place Sept. 21-22. More than 350 people from across the state attended to hear North Carolina entrepreneurs share their

experiences with reinventing traditional industries, green technology, local food, health care, money, marketing and more.

Highlights included the "Three N.C. Entrepreneurs Under 30" panel, which was interviewed by keynote speaker Donna Fenn of *Inc. Magazine*; the social entrepreneur's welcome by Martin Eakes of Self-Help Credit Union; an interview with N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco; the luncheon keynote on innovation with Louis Foreman of Enventys and Everyday Edisons; and an actual rap performed by UNC General Administration's Leslie Boney at the plenary wrap-up, which came as a surprise to all and summarized the entire event.

For more information about the 2011 N.C. Governor's Entrepreneurship Summit, including photos and highlights, visit the [summit website](#).

[A generation of entrepreneurs](#) (The Herald Sun - Durham, Sept. 22)

Businessweek ranks Raleigh No. 1

Businessweek has named Raleigh "America's Best City."

Businessweek.com based its rankings on 16 criteria, including the number of recreational amenities, strength of the local economy and the education level of the population.

Raleigh edged out Arlington, Va., and Scottsdale, Ariz., for the top ranking. [Read more](#).

[Of all U.S. cities, Raleigh is 'best'](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Sept. 22)

Tourism holds Mid-Year Marketing Update

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development has been holding regional meetings designed to engage tourism leaders and help them plan for the next fiscal year. So far the Division has hosted three regional meetings -- in Asheville, Nags Head and Atlantic Beach -- and will host a fourth in Concord on Sept. 23. During the course of these meetings, the Division has met with more than 400 tourism leaders from around the state. See the [Mid-Year Marketing Update](#).

In addition to industry and Division updates from Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges and Director of Tourism Marketing Wit Tutttell, Luquire George Andrews, the Division's new advertising agency, is collaborating with Division staff in facilitating open forum discussions to gain perspective from partners about regional priorities and opportunities. The Division is also sharing research on the most recent visitor profiles and trends within each region of the state.

Cooper Standard to bring 137 new jobs to Goldsboro

Governor Bev Perdue on Sept 26 announced that Cooper Standard, a leading global supplier of systems and components for the automotive industry, will expand its Goldsboro body and chassis facility to accommodate new products and programs. The project is slated to create 137 jobs and the company expects to invest \$17.9 million in the plant by the end of 2012. The project was made possible, in part, by a grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Jason Semple](#) was the developer on this project.

"Cooper Standard has been in Goldsboro for more than 25 years," said Governor Perdue. "Our top-ranked business climate and skilled workforce make North Carolina an excellent location for businesses to prosper. We are pleased to support just that kind of growth with this One North Carolina grant."

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$31,713 not including benefits. The Wayne County average annual wage is \$29,848. [Read more.](#)

[Auto parts maker to add 137 jobs](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Sept. 27)



N.C. receives grant to increase small business exports

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Governor Bev Perdue inspect the wares at Raleigh Denim.

Governor Bev Perdue announced Sept. 27 that the N.C. Department of Commerce is the recipient of a \$603,442 grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration that will help increase exporting by small businesses over the next year. SBA Administrator Karen Mills made the national grant

announcement with Perdue in North Carolina.

"I am focused on growing jobs; one of the ways we can do that is by helping our small and medium sized businesses increase their exports," said Perdue. "North Carolina's exports are at near peak levels and we must continue to take an aggressive approach to finding new opportunities with our trading partners."

The grants were authorized by the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, under the State Trade and Export Promotion program. A total of \$30 million is being awarded across the country by the SBA.

"Strengthening the nation's economy through a substantial increase of U.S. exports is a top priority for the Administration and the agency," said Mills. "This is a unique partnership between the federal government and the states. Sharing responsibilities and resources will help new small exporters across the country enter and succeed in the global market."

In North Carolina, the STEP grant will be used for a new export assistance initiative called NC Passport to Export. The N.C. Department of Commerce will provide a 25 % match to the federal funds. The program will leverage the resources of local, state, and federal partners in reaching ever more small and medium size North Carolina companies. NC Passport to Export will give companies access to new market research, increase export education, help companies access global trade shows and new foreign markets, and provide assistance with global branding opportunities. The goal is to increase the number of small and medium size companies exporting and to help current North Carolina exporters to increase the number of overseas markets they reach.

Last year, North Carolina businesses exports more than \$25 billion dollars worth of products and services all over the world. Exports support about 350,000 jobs in North Carolina.



N.C. among Top States for Doing Business

Area Development Site and Facility Planning released its fall 2011 Top States for Business survey results based on responses from location consultants who work with national client bases. Each consultant was asked to list their top five choices in 12 areas of site selection. Overall, North Carolina ranked seventh. In the South-Atlantic region, North Carolina ranked third.

Among the 12 areas of site selection for which feedback was solicited, North Carolina tied for first for certified sites and shovel-ready programs. The state also tied for third in overall labor climate. [Read more.](#)

Perdue says N.C. wants to help small towns rebound

Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco listen to concerns from an attendee at the N.C. Governor's Forum on Small Town Competitiveness held Wednesday at Davidson County Community College. Photo by Donnie Roberts/The Dispatch

Globalization and the Great Recession



delivered a one-two punch to North Carolina's economy, and small towns across the state were often the hardest hit as factories closed and storefronts became vacant, but Governor Bev Perdue said her administration is actively working to help such communities rebound.

Perdue made her remarks Sept. 28 at Davidson County Community College's Conference Center at the second of three N.C. Governor's Forums on Small Town Competitiveness. Dr. Mary Rittling, DCCC

president, introduced the governor to the crowd of a couple hundred government and business leaders.

After talking about statewide initiatives to help small towns, she was also joined in a question-and-answer session by Keith Crisco, secretary of the N.C. Department of Commerce; Henry McKoy, N.C. Department of Commerce assistant secretary for Community Development; Billy Ray Hall, president of the N.C. Rural Center; Scott Daugherty, small business commissioner for the commerce department; Dan Gerlach, president of the Golden Leaf Foundation; and Randy Gore, state director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

[Perdue: State wants to help small towns rebound](#) (*The Dispatch* - Davidson County, Sept. 28)

ASU solar homestead wins People's Choice Award

Appalachian State University won the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2011 People's Choice Award for its Solar Homestead Oct. 1. This award gives the public the opportunity to vote for its favorite house. This year, 92,538 votes were cast. The award was announced at a Victory Reception in the solar Village in West Potomac Park—the last official event of Solar Decathlon 2011.

"The team's passion and enthusiasm were contagious," said Terri Jones, Solar Decathlon Communications Contest official. "The People's Choice Award is a popular vote, and I believe the Solar Homestead house and team appealed to people on many levels."

The Solar Homestead is a self-sustaining net zero-energy house inspired by the pioneer spirit of the early settlers to the Blue Ridge Mountains. The isolation of early settlers to the Appalachian region fostered a pioneer spirit in those who established self-sustaining living/working compounds on the frontier. The Solar Homestead fuses these values into a highly energy-efficient home, which remains true to these underlying principles by integrating renewable resources and innovative technology into a prototype that is adaptable, self-sufficient, rugged, affordable, and attractive. [Read more.](#)



Facebook expands in Western N.C.'s thriving data center corridor

Facebook Director of Site Operations Tom Furlong (left) explains the server system to Governor Bev Perdue, Lieutenant Governor Walter Dalton and others.

Governor Bev Perdue announced Oct. 4 that Facebook will immediately begin construction of a second building at the company's data center property near Forest City. The second building will mirror Building 1, which broke ground in November 2010. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Margie Bukowski](#) was the original developer on this project.

More than 1,500 people have worked on the site at the project so far. This announcement helps to ensure that same kind of activity for at least another full year. Currently there are more than 30 full-time employees at the data center. Facebook expects an increase of approximately 10 jobs at the Rutherford campus as part of the expansion, in addition to the many construction jobs it creates.

According to the 14th annual Cyberstates report from TechAmerica Foundation, North Carolina remained the 16th largest cyberstate. And while the technology industry saw a dip in jobs in 2010, the decline was half that of the year before, representing trending growth in the industry.

Overall, high-tech industry jobs in North Carolina decreased by 3,100 in 2010. However, the state's high-tech workforce is still strong with nearly 146,000 and a total payroll of nearly \$12 billion. Jobs in computer systems design and related services rose by 1,800 in 2010. Although the state saw a decrease of 1800 jobs in computers and peripheral equipment manufacturing, North Carolina still ranked fourth nationwide in this area with a workforce of 11,100. [Read more.](#)

[N.C. 'likes' Facebook in a big way](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Oct. 5)

RayLen, Cypress Bend take top honors at State Fair wine competition

The 12th Annual N.C. State Fair Wine Competition, held Oct. 5-6 in Raleigh, had 444 wines competing in the commercial division. RayLen Vineyards & Winery, in Mocksville, won the N.C. Winegrowers Cup (Best of Show) with its Cabernet Sauvignon. Cypress Bend Vineyards, in Wagram, took home the N.C. Muscadine Cup (Best of Muscadine) with its McNeill white muscadine wine. This marks the second cup for Cypress Bend, which has now won twice in the last three years. Childress Vineyards, in Lexington, received the most awards in the competition with 34 medals. The commercial competition was open to all North Carolina wineries, and the judges awarded 343 medals overall with 28 double gold, 26 gold, 128 silver, and 161 bronze medals. Best of Show in the amateur wine competition was awarded to Daisy King, from Pinnacle, for her Blackberry Dessert wine. [View the complete list of winners](#); to find out more about North Carolina's wineries, visit [VisitNCWine.com](#).



Caterpillar holds grand opening in Sanford

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Governor Bev Perdue (center) at the grand opening of the new Caterpillar facility in Sanford

A classic picture-perfect North Carolina autumn day was the backdrop for the crowd that gathered to celebrate the grand opening of Caterpillar Inc.'s newly expanded Sanford plant on Oct. 7.

"Today's a glorious day, 325 new jobs, new families, will have a way to support their families," said Governor Bev Perdue during the ribbon-cutting event.

In a Caterpillar press release, Perdue noted, "North Carolina's valuable partnership with Caterpillar has meant jobs for our people and investment in our communities that need it."

About 14 months ago, Caterpillar announced the expansion project in Sanford as well as construction of a facility in Winston-Salem. Combined, Caterpillar's expansions in North Carolina will translate into more than 700 jobs across the state over the next five years. [Read more.](#)

[Caterpillar expands in Sanford, hopes to add 325 workers](#) (WRAL, Oct. 7)

Honda Aircraft to create 419 new jobs in Guilford County

Governor Bev Perdue on Oct. 10 announced that Honda Aircraft Company, a subsidiary of American Honda Motors Inc. and the manufacturer of the new



HondaJet, will expand its facilities and land usage at Piedmont Triad International Airport by constructing a Maintenance Repair and Overhaul center on its campus. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Rod Forsythe](#) was the developer on this project.

The company's new \$20 million MRO facility is part of a broader plan to create 419 new jobs and invest a total of \$78.7 million during the next five years in Guilford County. The project was made possible in part by a \$1 million grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"My top priority is creating jobs and it's clear that we've got momentum when global companies like Honda Aircraft Company decide to expand operations in North Carolina," said Perdue. "We are attracting companies because of our skilled workforce and excellent business climate. This will enhance our aerospace cluster in the Triad."

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average wage for the new jobs will be \$53,418, plus benefits. The Guilford County average annual wage is \$39,520. New job creation will come from ramp-up of HondaJet production at Honda Aircraft and from the new MRO service operation. [Read more.](#)

[Honda announces \\$80 million expansion, 419 more jobs, at PTI](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Oct. 10)



Sequenom to create 242 jobs in RTP

Governor Bev Perdue and Sequenom CFO Paul Maier during the Oct. 12 announcement that the company plans to build a state-of-the-art molecular diagnostics clinical laboratory in Wake County.

Governor Bev Perdue announced Oct. 12 that Sequenom Inc., a company committed to improving healthcare through revolutionary genetic analysis solutions, plans to build a state-of-the-art molecular diagnostics clinical laboratory in Wake County. The company plans to create 242 jobs and make a capital investment of \$18.7 million in the Research Triangle Park. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Vivian Powell](#) was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my top priority, and Sequenom is a cutting-edge company working on the forefront of biotechnological innovation," Perdue said. "They have selected North Carolina as the place to launch the latest advancement in testing for Down Syndrome because our history of strategic investment in education and job training guarantees they have the workforce they need to succeed."

Sequenom Center for Molecular Medicine® (Sequenom CMM), a subsidiary of Sequenom, Inc., is a CAP accredited and CLIA-certified molecular diagnostics laboratory developing a broad range of diagnostics with a focus on prenatal diseases and conditions. These genetic tests provide better patient management alternatives for obstetricians, geneticists and maternal fetal medicine specialists. The MaterniT21 test, which is expected to launch in the coming months, is meant to advance prenatal screening for trisomy 21, the most common cause of Down Syndrome. The company was founded in 1994 and employs more than 280 employees. Sequenom is headquartered in San Diego, Calif.

While individual wages for the 242 jobs will vary by job function, the overall average for the new jobs will be more than \$53,721 a year, not including benefits. Wake County's average annual wage is \$44,980. [Read more.](#)



Commerce names Williams assistant secretary for energy

N.C. Secretary of Commerce Keith Crisco has announced that Jonathan S. Williams will serve as the department's new assistant secretary for energy. Williams comes to the post following two years as chairman of the N.C. Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

"Jon will lead a quality team in the [Energy Division](#) as we grow jobs in the energy sector and serve energy efficiency needs throughout the state," said Crisco. "He has the critical leadership skills needed to continue the momentum we've built in establishing North Carolina as a national leader in the [green energy economy](#)."

Williams will be responsible for developing and implementing policies focused on growth and expansion of energy resources and jobs, implementing sound energy conservation strategies, developing renewable energy resources and industries, and continuing to foster the conventional energy resources in the state. Williams replaces Jennifer Bumgarner, who was recently named southeast portfolio manager for the San Francisco-based Energy Foundation. The change is effective Nov. 1. [Learn more.](#)

Workforce holds Partnership Conference

The 24th annual N.C. Workforce Development Partnership Conference was held Oct 12-14 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. The event was attended by nearly 800 workforce professionals and was hosted by the Division of Workforce Development through the Workforce Development Training Center. Highlights included a motivational opening session by speaker Judson Laipply, a panel of state leaders discussing findings and implications of [The State of the N.C. Workforce Report](#), and a closing session in which teen authors and performers with Authoring Action, a Winston-Salem non-profit organization, shared their unique insights and reactions to current issues.

Obama talks jobs in Asheville, Greensboro

President Barack Obama said Oct. 17 he would offer his jobs bill to Congress in "bite-sized pieces" with the hopes of getting it passed starting next week.

He landed at the Asheville Regional Airport just before 11 a.m. to start a two-day bus tour promoting his plan to put 2 million people to work.

"I am going to get a chance to hear from folks about how they are doing," he said. "What direction do they want to take the country? I am going to be doing some talking but mostly listening. Because there doesn't seem to be a lot of listening going on in Washington these days."

The president also visited Greensboro Technical Community College and other sites in Greensboro on Oct. 18.

[In Asheville, Obama pledges new push on jobs](#) (*The Citizen-Times* - Asheville, Oct. 17)

[Obama renews call to pass jobs bill](#) (*The News & Record* - Greensboro, Oct. 18)

Perdue, Commerce meet with Chinese companies

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Governor Bev Perdue and First Gentleman Bob Eaves with Lenovo officials in Beijing.

Governor Bev Perdue, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and other Commerce staff met with various companies in China during an October trip. On Oct. 18 the group attended the Innovation Reception, sponsored by



Lenovo, in Beijing.



Perdue, Crisco participate in Ascletis groundbreaking ceremony

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Governor Bev Perdue and Zhejiang Province Party Secretary Zhao Hongzhu at the groundbreaking ceremony. (Photo courtesy of MMI Public Relations)

Governor Bev Perdue was joined Oct. 20 by Zhejiang Province officials and Jinzi J. Wu, Ph.D., president and CEO of [Ascletis](#), for a groundbreaking of the company's headquarters at Hangzhou Hi-Tech Industry Development Zone in Zhejiang Province, China. The global specialty

therapeutics company that works to discover and develop new treatments for cancer and infectious diseases is jointly headquartered in Research Triangle Park. Ascletis is the first major Chinese-investor backed drug development company to operate both in North Carolina and China.

"The focus of my trip is the same priority I pursue every day: jobs," Perdue said. "Ascletis serves as a new business model and acts as the first of many collaborations between Zhejiang and North Carolina that will increase jobs and investment. This precedent-setting event brings together the best life sciences and investment opportunities from North Carolina and China to create global economic cooperation."

The groundbreaking follows the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Salt Lake City on July 16, 2011, between Perdue and Zhao Hongzhu, Zhejiang Province Party secretary, to promote economic growth, encourage business development and trade between North Carolina and Zhejiang Province. [Read more.](#)

[\\$50M RTP drug startup Ascletis breaks ground for HQ in China](#) (WRALtechwire, Oct. 20)



Perdue announces 131 jobs with CTL Packaging USA

Governor Bev Perdue presents a North Carolina flag to Manuel Diez, CEO of CTL Packaging USA, as N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll looks on.

Governor Bev Perdue on Oct. 26 announced that CTL Packaging USA, a global manufacturer of plastic packaging products for the cosmetic, personal care,

food and pharmaceutical industries, will locate its North American operations in Gaston County. The company plans to create 131 jobs over the next four years and make a \$58.5 million capital investment in Gastonia. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment

Grant program. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ron Leitch](#) was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my top priority, both attracting new companies to invest in North Carolina and helping our existing businesses grow and thrive," Perdue said. "North Carolina is consistently ranked as having among the best business climates in America. CTL looked around the country and, like so many companies, was drawn to our history of critical investments in education, workforce training and a top-notch infrastructure network."

CTL Packaging USA is a subsidiary of CTL TH, a privately-held Spanish company with manufacturing facilities in Spain and France. The grant will allow the company to establish its North American operations in Gaston County. CTL TH Packaging has developed a revolutionary concept that allows deployment of manufacturing installations across the globe while ensuring product quality, decoration, service level and competitiveness. The company has been in operation for 42 years with manufacturing operations in Spain and France and currently ranks third among European tube companies selling over 500 million tubes per year and employing approximately 700 people world-wide. [Read more.](#)

[Plastics company coming to Gastonia Technology Park](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Oct. 31)



'Iron Man 3' to film in Wilmington

Governor Bev Perdue announces that "Iron Man 3" will film in Wilmington.

Governor Bev Perdue on Oct. 27 announced that the Marvel Studios film 'Iron Man 3,' starring Robert Downey Jr., will soon start pre-production in Wilmington. The motion picture is expected to be made in North Carolina over a 10 month period, including pre production, principal photography, and wrap, and have an estimated economic impact over \$80

million while creating 550 crew jobs and over 1,000 talent opportunities.

"My top priority is creating jobs, and this film production will mean high-quality, well-paying jobs for North Carolinians," Perdue said. "I pushed hard to get the revamped film incentive passed, with the help of a number of lawmakers, and now we see that initiative doing exactly what it was designed to do. 2011 has been North Carolina's busiest year in the film industry with productions having a direct spend of over \$200 million. "Iron Man 3" will add to this record breaking year and carry over into 2012."

State and local officials have been working with Marvel Studios for over six months on bringing the project to North Carolina. In addition to the state's 25 percent film incentive, the state's talented and trained film professionals as well as the established infrastructure - including the facility at EUE/Screen Gems Studios in Wilmington - all played key roles in landing the production. [Read more.](#)

[Incentives hike, new sound stage help land 'Iron Man 3'](#) (*The Star-News* - Wilmington, Oct. 27)



EDIS is now AccessNC

On Nov. 1, the N.C. Department of Commerce launched [AccessNC](#), the state's one-stop information portal for site selectors and economic developers. AccessNC, previously known as the Economic Development Intelligence System (EDIS), is the state's online resource for business decision makers offering access to the demographic, economic and property information they need when considering North Carolina business locations.

One of the most innovative elements of the AccessNC system is a new mobile app, a unique tool to access North Carolina building and site data from a wide variety of smart phones and mobile devices. The mobile app versions for Apple's iPhone and iPad platforms are available today on the [iTunes App Store](#). Android and Blackberry versions of the mobile app will be available in the near future.

With the re-launch of the state's building and sites database,

local and regional stake holders are encouraged to re-check the accuracy of the building and site data they are responsible for entering into the system. The new mobile app, along with the marketing campaign to introduce it will bring increased visibility to the buildings and sites database. Data entry procedures remain unchanged from current practice. For information about the AccessNC transition, contact David Rhoades in the Commerce Marketing Division at drhoades@nccommerce.com or 919-715-6556.



Commerce names Holmes as assistant secretary for new employment security division

Assistant Secretary for the Division of Employment Security Lynn Holmes

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco on Oct. 31 announced Lynn Holmes as the department's new assistant secretary for the division of employment security. The appointment takes effect on Nov. 1 when the N.C. Employment Security Commission merges with the N.C. Department of Commerce. Holmes was appointed as chairwoman of the N.C. Employment Security Commission on March 1, 2010, by Governor Bev Perdue.

"The combined agency will focus on two of Governor Perdue's top priorities: creating jobs and getting more out of every state dollar," Crisco said. "Lynn Holmes has the demonstrated leadership skills to make the merger of ESC into Commerce

as effective and efficient as possible. We will focus on customer service, training our top notch workforce and transparency."

Holmes brings to the job more than 25 years of experience in corporate, legislative and governmental relations. Prior to her appointment, Holmes was the principal consultant for Ross Holmes Group, LLC, a Raleigh-based consulting practice focused on management, compliance, ethics, governmental relations, and policy. She also served as assistant vice-president for Ethics & Compliance at BellSouth Corporation (now AT&T), and as vice-president for Regulatory and External Affairs in Atlanta, Ga. [Read more.](#)

New award honors 9 communities for small business innovation

Governor Perdue on Nov. 1 honored nine North Carolina communities with the inaugural Governor's Innovative Small Business Community Award for their creative and innovative ways to help small businesses bring jobs to North Carolina. Two-thirds of all new jobs are created by small businesses, making them critical economic drivers for local communities across the state.

"Small businesses are the backbone of North Carolina's economy. Supporting our small business owners and entrepreneurs is the best way to improve the unemployment rate," said Perdue. "Part of being the best place to do business is providing support for the innovators, risk-takers and small business owners who create jobs."

The Governor's Innovative Small Business Community Award program recognizes projects, strategies and initiatives that reflect excellence in community economic development, small business and entrepreneurship, and sustainability in North Carolina. Nominated communities were evaluated based on their creative solutions to improve quality of life and well-being through job creation and job sustaining activities.

The award recipients will be honored at a reception at the Executive Mansion on Nov. 14. [Read more.](#)

Bosch Rexroth Americas celebrates two state-of-the-art facilities in Charlotte

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and Bosch Rexroth Americas Regional President Berend Bracht (photo courtesy Bosch Rexroth)



On Nov. 2, Bosch Rexroth Americas held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new logistics center in Charlotte. The event included tours of the logistics center and the company's advanced manufacturing facility, also located in Charlotte. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll served as guest speaker for the event.

[Bosch Rexroth shows new logistics center](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Nov. 3)



TIMCO unveils new Davidson County facility

(Left-right) TIMCO Aerosystems President Rick Salanitri, Golden LEAF Foundation President Dan Gerlach, Davidson County Commissioners Chairman Sam Watford, Governor Bev Perdue, Town of Wallburg Mayor Allen L. Todd and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco

Governor Bev Perdue spoke at the event and noted that both TIMCO and state officials are proud to say the seats are manufactured in North Carolina. She said the company is an example of what the state must do in a tough economic environment. N.C. Department of

Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco also participated in the opening. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Melissa Smith](#) was the original developer on this project.

[TIMCO unveils new Davidson County facility](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Nov. 7)



Perdue, NCACC meet at Commerce

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, NCACC President-elect Howard Hunter, NCACC First Vice President Ray Jeffers, Governor Bev Perdue, NCACC President Kenneth Edge, NCACC Legislative Coordinator Alissa Willett, NCACC

Second Vice President Ronnie Beale and Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll (photo courtesy NCACC)

On Nov. 4, Governor Bev Perdue and the N.C. Association of County Commissioners' Executive Committee met in the N.C. Department of Commerce boardroom for a jobs and economic development roundtable. Secretary Keith Crisco and Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll answered questions and shared information during the roundtable. Each member of the executive committee presented information on the status of economic development in their communities and four respective regions of the state.

Smithfield Foods to bring 330 jobs to Kinston

Governor Bev Perdue on Nov. 10 announced that Smithfield Packing Company, a subsidiary of Smithfield Foods Inc., a \$12 billion global food company and the world's largest pork processor, will expand its facility in Lenoir County. The company plans to create 330 new jobs and invest \$85.5 million during the next three years in Kinston. The project was made possible in part by a \$700,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. As part of the expansion in Kinston, the company will add a new product line of packaged meats. Smithfield Foods currently has more than 12,400 employees across North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Donna Phillips](#) was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my top priority," Perdue said. "North Carolina is an ideal location for global manufacturers to expand. Our skilled workforce, job training programs, commitment to success of agribusinesses and our excellent business climate are drawing more and more companies here."

Smithfield Packing Company, which operates the existing Kinston facility, was founded in 1936. Primary lines of business include fresh pork, smoked meats, bacon, cooked hams, and hot dogs for retail, foodservice and deli channels. The company exports products to approximately 30 countries. In addition to the Smithfield brand, its Gwaltney, Esskay and Cumberland Gap products are among the leaders in their respective markets. [Read more.](#)



Siemens holds grand opening in Charlotte

(Left-right) Randy Zwirn, president and CEO of Siemens Energy, Inc. and CEO Siemens Global Energy Service Division; Mark Pringle, director of operations Siemens Energy Charlotte; and Governor Bev Perdue

Siemens Energy, a leading global supplier of energy technology products and services, celebrated the opening of its Charlotte gas turbine plant on Nov. 16. The opening marked the expansion of its worldwide network of gas turbine manufacturing facilities.

The opening of the 42,000-square-meter plant will create 700 jobs and represents an investment of more than \$350 million in the community. Governor Bev Purdue attended the event and made remarks on behalf of the state.

The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Uconda Dunn](#) was the original developer on this project and joined N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco at the event.

"Thanks to the support from the North Carolina state and local governments, which helped us locate in Charlotte, we have been able to establish the facility as an export hub for the worldwide export of power plant technology," said Michael Suess, member of the Siemens AG Managing Board and CEO of the company's Energy Sector, in a press release. "By 2014 we hope to be able to add another 400 jobs there, for a total of 1,800." [Read more.](#)

[Siemens in Charlotte unwraps its \\$350 million bet on natural gas](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Nov. 17)



Caterpillar holds grand opening in Winston-Salem

(Left-right) Governor Bev Perdue, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and Caterpillar Executive Rusty Davis conduct a grand opening tour of the new Caterpillar facility

On Nov. 16, Governor Bev Perdue and Caterpillar executives participated in the grand opening of the company's new 392-job, \$426 million advanced manufacturing facility in Winston-Salem. [Margie Bukowski](#) was the N.C. Commerce recruiter on

the project. Chairman Allen Joines of the N.C. Economic Development Board and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll participated in the event. [Read more.](#)

[Bits and pieces from a trip to Caterpillar's new plant](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Nov. 16)

Forbes ranks N.C. No. 3 Best State for Business

For the second year running, North Carolina was ranked number three on *Forbes'* Best States for Business list, published Nov. 22. In the full report on Best States for Business and Careers, North Carolina earned the following rankings:

- [No. 1 Best Regulatory Environment](#)
- No. 2 Best Business Costs
- No. 3 Best Labor Supply

North Carolina's Gross State Product is ranked tenth in the nation at \$407.4 billion, with a one-year growth rate of 3.4 percent. In addition, North Carolina's workforce is 36 percent more productive than the national average. [Read more.](#)



Avaya to bring 135 jobs to RTP

Avaya Inc. Executive VP Jim Chirico and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll at the company's announcement that it will bring 135 jobs to Research Triangle Park

Governor Bev Perdue announced Nov. 28 that Avaya, a global provider of business collaboration and communications solutions, will expand its operations in Research Triangle Park. The company

plans to create 135 jobs over the next four years with a \$500,000 capital investment in Durham County. The project was made possible in part by a Job Development Investment Grant. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Vivian Powell](#) was the developer on this project.

"My top priority is creating jobs, and when we see a globally competitive corporation like Avaya bringing 21st century jobs to North Carolina, we know that our history of investments in education and worker training are paying off," Perdue said. "We welcome companies like Avaya that are willing to invest in our state and position North Carolina as a leader in business."

Avaya is a leading global provider of business collaboration and communications solutions that bring people together with the right information at the right time in the right context, enabling business users to improve their efficiency and quickly solve critical business challenges. With 400,000 customers, including more than 85 percent of the Fortune 500 companies and one million customer locations worldwide as of June 30, 2011, Avaya's customers operate in a broad range of industries, including financial services, manufacturing, retail, transportation, energy, media and communications, health care, education and government. [Read more.](#)



Workforce, incentives and world-class air access lure Chiquita to Charlotte

(Governor Bev Perdue is shown at the podium during the announcement that Chiquita will move its global HQ to Charlotte. In the months leading up to the announcement, Charlotte economic development organizations and citizens began a vigorous Twitter campaign, with the hashtag #Bananas4clt, to encourage the company to choose the area.

Governor Bev Perdue announced on Nov. 29 that world renowned produce supplier

Chiquita Brands International Inc., will locate its Global Corporate Headquarters in Charlotte. Chiquita expects to create more than 400 jobs over the next three years and invest \$14.1 million in the new global headquarters in Mecklenburg County. The announcement was made possible in part by a state [Job Development Investment Grant](#) and a [One North Carolina Fund](#) award. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [David Spratley](#) was the developer on this project.

"Chiquita looked across America for a place to locate its global headquarters and they chose Charlotte, North Carolina," said Perdue. "Once again this state's tremendous workforce, top business climate and accessible infrastructure attracted an internationally competitive company."

"Charlotte provided the most compelling economic offer and the region is an attractive community for our employees," said Fernando Aguirre, chairman and chief executive officer. "Importantly, the Charlotte airport provides improved access to international markets, customers and Chiquita operations around the world." [Read more.](#)

[Chiquita relocating headquarters to Charlotte](#) (*The Charlotte Observer*, Nov. 29)



DES employees earn Governor's Awards for Excellence

Governor Bev Perdue presents the Governor's Award for Excellence to Tyrone Williams as N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Employment Security Lynn Holmes looks on.

On Nov. 29, employees of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Employment Security, received the 2011 Governor's Awards of Excellence at the N.C. Museum

of History in Raleigh.

Tyrone Williams was nominated for Outstanding State Government Service.

Hours after the April 16 tornado struck and demolished the Roanoke Rapids local office; division management contacted Williams to check on the status of the Division's office. He was able to protect thousands of sensitive documents, secure a relocation site for the staff and marshal the resources at the agency's disposal. He then took inventory of the building's remains and replenished the electronics needed to start up the office again.

Triad Stand Down Coordinators Rick Emblar, Raymond Bruins, Carla Wright, Archie Barrow, Richard Johnson, Delton Mingia and Tony Mizzi were nominated for Public Service.

The Stand Down's mission is to help homeless veterans obtain services and opportunities so they can transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency. Various agencies comprised the Stand Down committee and worked together from the Greensboro local office to coordinate the activities.



Spirit's first ocean shipment of wing spars arrives at Port of Wilmington

The wing spars at Port of Wilmington

Spirit AeroSystems' first ocean shipment of wing spars from its aircraft composite facility at the Global TransPark was delivered to the Port of Wilmington on Dec.

6, and packed into a special Independent Container Line (ICL) 45-ft container. From Wilmington, the wing spars will travel to Prestwick, Scotland, for sub-assembly and then on to France for final assembly of the Airbus A350 XWB.

Communities learn about the Certified Retirement Community Program

Connie Russ (center), manager of the Certified Retirement Community Office in Lumberton, speaks as Lynn Minges (left) and Charlie Thompson (standing at right) look on.

Nearly 80 officials from more than 50 communities attended the N.C. Department



of Commerce's information session on Certified Retirement Communities Dec. 7 in Raleigh. They saw an overview of the program, learned details of the application process from the Division of Community

Assistance, heard about the Division of Tourism's potential marketing initiatives, gained insight into Lumberton's experiences as the state's first Certified Retirement Community and had an opportunity to ask questions.

During its last session, the General Assembly charged the Division of Tourism with marketing the state's Certified Retirement Communities, which have been officially recognized for positioning themselves to attract retirees as an economic and community development strategy. During September's regional Mid-Year Marketing Updates, communities across the state expressed an interest in marketing to retirees. The Certified Retirement Community program is for communities that are positioning themselves for retiree attraction as an economic and community development strategy. North Carolina currently enjoys a robust in-migration of retirees to the state, and the program seeks to attract retirees and those planning to retire to make their homes here. The program encourages mature market travel to North Carolina to evaluate future retirement desirability and to visit those who have chosen to retire in North Carolina. [See the general N.C. Department of Commerce presentation.](#)

The North Carolina General Assembly, during the 2008 short session, recognized the inherent panoply of quality living that the state offers and established the N.C. Certified Retirement Community Program (SB 1627) as a vehicle to designate communities that offer this unprecedented, quality of living that is sought by the mature community. [Learn more.](#)



Roller bearing manufacturer to create 231 jobs in Burke and Alexander counties

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco presents a State of North Carolina plate to ARB President Ben Succop.

Governor Bev Perdue announced Dec. 8 that American Roller Bearing Industries Inc. (A.R.B.), a manufacturer of anti-friction bearings for industrial equipment, will expand its operations in Burke and Alexander counties. A.R.B. expects to create 231 new jobs over the next five years and invest between \$3 million and \$5 million per year in land, buildings, machinery and equipment. The

announcement was made possible in part by a state [Job Development Investment Grant](#). The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Bill Payne](#) was the developer on this project.

"My top priority is creating jobs, and our top-ranked business climate continues to attract new, high-tech manufacturers and help existing ones expand," Perdue said. "Companies, such as A.R.B., continue to choose North Carolina because our past investments in education have created a highly-skilled workforce."

A.R.B.'s first manufacturing plant was located in Pittsburgh, Pa. in the 1920s. All manufacturing operations for the company moved to North Carolina in the early 1980s and the corporate office relocated to Hickory in 2007. A.R.B. manufactures anti-friction bearings for industrial equipment used in electrical power generation, mining and rock crushing, primary metal making and rolling mills, oilfields, construction,

railroads, gear drives, corrugated box and papermaking, and wind energy. The company currently employs more than 340 people in North Carolina.

"North Carolina has dedicated skilled workers who will make our expansion in North Carolina successful," said Ben Succop, president of American Roller Bearing. "We look forward to continuing our long-standing partnership with the State of North Carolina and those we have in Burke and Alexander counties. This grant will enable us to strengthen our operations and to support the needs of our customers."

The total payroll for the new jobs is estimated to be between \$8 million and \$8.9 million. The overall annual wages will exceed the Burke County annual average wage which is \$30,784 and the annual average wage in Alexander County which is \$26,728. [Read more](#).

[American Roller Bearing creating 231 jobs](#) (*The News Herald* - Burke County)



BSH announces investment for new product line in New Bern

Governor Bev Perdue at the BSH press conference announcing in New Bern (Photo courtesy Byron Holland/The Sun Journal)

Governor Bev Perdue on Dec. 9 joined executives from BSH Home Appliances Corporation in announcing that the company will make an investment into a new dishwasher line in New Bern. This investment is expected to create approximately 100 new jobs over the next four years. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Martyn Johnson](#) was the

developer on this project.

A grant that was awarded to Craven Community College by Golden LEAF Foundation will be used toward the purchase of equipment that will train current and future employees of the BSH factory in New Bern, as well as employees of other industries in Craven and surrounding counties.

"My top priority is creating jobs, and BSH's announcement is another testament to the strong partnership between economic development and education," Perdue said. "Our past commitment to investments in education, workforce development and creating a top-notch business climate are reasons globally competitive companies choose to locate or expand in North Carolina."

[New dishwasher line to bring jobs](#) (*The Sun Journal* - New Bern, Dec. 9)

Commerce leads sponsorship effort at new Aviation Week conference

The State of North Carolina will enjoy high-profile visibility at a global aerospace conference coming to Charlotte in May of next year. The Civil Aviation Manufacturing Conference is a new conference being organized by *Aviation Week*, the industry's largest media information and services provider. Aviation Week conferences typically draw senior business executives from leading companies across the sector. The focus of the new CAM conference will be to bring together the leaders of major manufacturers and suppliers to discuss manufacturing capabilities -- examining, evaluating, and where possible, putting common solutions and best practices into place. This subject matter was proposed by Aviation Week's corporate advisory board as a key issue facing the commercial sector's leaders over the next five years.

Joining with The N.C. Department of Commerce to support the state sponsorship will be the [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#), [North Carolina's Eastern Region](#), the [N.C. Global TransPark](#), and the [Piedmont Triad Partnership](#).

The conference will be held May 8-9, 2012, at The Renaissance Charlotte Suites in Charlotte. Read more about the conference online, including the proposed agenda at [Aviation Week's website](#).

Business North Carolina
names DeFeet
International 'Small



Business of the Year'

(Left-right) Business North Carolina Publisher Ben Kinney, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Mercer of Mercer Design Group, Dale Carroll at a "Small Business of the Year" event in Winston-Salem

On Dec. 9, *Business North Carolina* magazine held an event in Winston-Salem honoring its "Small Business of the Year."

The event was sponsored by BB&T, and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll served as keynote speaker. "Small Business of the Year" DeFeet International Inc. CEO Shane Cooper and his wife were honored during the event by *Business North Carolina* Publisher Ben Kinney and Carroll. They also recognized the runners-up: Mercer Design Group, Rhino Assembly Corp. and Something Classic Corp. All four companies and are profiled and their inspirational stories told in the December issue of the magazine. [Read the stories.](#)



Tourism unveils 2012 travel guide

Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Film and Sports Development Lynn Minges unveils the 2012 N.C. Travel Guide.

On Dec. 13, the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development officially unveiled the "The Official 2012 North Carolina Travel Guide," a 174-page handbook featuring unique North Carolina experiences. The Division of Tourism will distribute 600,000

copies of the printed guide. The publication represents a \$1.3 million investment by division travel partners in print and online advertising and cooperative marketing efforts. Destinations, attractions and accommodations are listed for free.

A press conference, held jointly with the Wilmington and Beaches Convention & Visitors Bureau, took place on Johnnie Mercer's Fishing Pier in Wrightsville Beach. The pier is featured on the cover of the new guide. Assistant Secretary of Tourism, Marketing, and Global Branding Lynn Minges spoke at the event as did Kim Hufham, President & CEO of the New Hanover County Tourism Development Authority. The event was covered by local media including News 14 Carolina, WWAY-TV, The Star News, The Wilmington Business Journal and Lumina News.

Pate Dawson Company to create 49 jobs in Iredell County

Governor Bev Perdue on Dec. 20 announced that Pate Dawson Company, a foodservice distributor, will locate a new facility in Iredell County. The company plans to create 49 jobs and invest \$8.5 million over the next three years in Statesville. The project was made possible in part by a \$150,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's [Ron Leitch](#) was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my top priority, and Pate Dawson's choice to locate this facility in Iredell County is a testament to our excellent workforce and strong business climate," Perdue said. "One of the best ways to grow jobs is help home-grown companies, like Pate Dawson, expand their operations right here in North Carolina."

Based in Goldsboro, Pate Dawson Company is a fifth-generation, family-owned company with a 126-year history in North Carolina. The company currently employs more than 390 at its distribution facilities in Goldsboro and Greensboro. Pate Dawson delivers food products to chain account restaurants and more than 1000 independent restaurants throughout the Southeast.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$47,531, plus benefits. The Iredell County average annual wage is \$36,348. [Read more.](#)

