

sync[®] NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



Governor Cooper (left) presented a ceremonial gift from the state to Michael Praeger, AvidXchange's CEO during a job announcement event in Charlotte on December 18.

2018: A Year of Growth, New Jobs and Successful Milestones For Commerce

Governor Roy Cooper announced 19,729 new jobs in North Carolina last year, marking 2018 as another year of growth and successful milestones for the state and the Department of Commerce.

The new jobs are the yield of 157 business recruitment, expansion or rural development projects that engaged Commerce or its team at the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. in 2018. These projects represent \$3.54 billion of new investment in the state.

A majority of the projects located or expanded in the state's more rural or economically distressed areas, with 69 percent choosing either a Tier 1 or Tier 2 county, as delineated by North Carolina's economic development tier system.

Top projects for the year, as ranked by job creation totals, include two projects with Amazon totaling 3,000 jobs, [AvidXchange's expansion in Mecklenburg County](#) that will create 1,229 jobs; and [Publix's decision to bring 1,000 new jobs to Guilford County](#). [POLYWOOD will bring 384 new jobs to Person County](#), while [LGM Enterprises and its Jetstream unit](#)



The large turnout of people attending the ARC listening session on January 15.

ARC Listening Event Marks Start of Gov. Cooper's Chairmanship of State-Federal Organization

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), in partnership with Governor Roy Cooper's office hosted a *Recovery to Work* Listening Session at Wilkes Community College on Tuesday, January 15, 2019.

The nation's substance abuse crisis was the focus of the gathering, with over 100 individuals from across the state participating in the discussions on recovery-to-work and other economic impacts of the crisis in the Appalachian region and in North Carolina specifically.

The day included a morning workshop with experts from the area's public health, private industry, community college, recovery treatment, and social service sectors focusing on what elements are needed to develop a comprehensive recovery ecosystem encompassing treatment, job training and placement, and employment.

The afternoon featured a panel conversation between **Karen Kelley, Chief Program Officer of TROSA Inc.**, which offers work-based vocational opportunities as part of a long-term recovery program; **Jeff Swofford, Chief Operator, Brushy Mountain Smokehouse and Creamery** which is committed to offering post-treatment employment; and **Danny Giddens, Assistant Secretary, North Carolina Department of Commerce.**

The listening session served as one of Governor Roy Cooper's first official acts as Co-Chair of the Appalachian Regional

will build a new electrostatic paint and coating facility at the Global TransPark in Lenoir County, adding 145 jobs there. Five companies selected Cherokee County for projects totaling 106 new jobs and three companies chose to site projects in Halifax County for a total of 171 jobs in that region.

Additional jobs were created in conjunction with rural development grants managed by Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division. A total of 2,581 new jobs were supported by \$43,030,175 in grants awarded by the state's Rural Infrastructure Authority. These public grants in turn attracted \$1.15 billion in private-sector investment capital in infrastructure capacity for rural North Carolina.

Commerce's Workforce Solutions Division led several initiatives during the year to help roll out Governor Cooper's NC Job Ready program, announced in May. These include the Finish Line Grants program that helps community college students overcome unexpected financial emergencies that threaten the students' ability to complete their studies. The NCWorks Local Innovation Fund, with \$2 million in available funds, also launched in 2018 offering financing to help local communities pilot innovative programs addressing workforce development issues in their regions

N.C. Commerce also achieved important advancements in 2018 to the agency's technical capacity to deliver services more efficiently while delivering a better experience for its customers.

The Department's Employment Security Division implemented an overhaul of its information technology platform with the successful launch of SCUBI, the Southeastern Consortium Unemployment Benefits Integration. The system, born from a partnership with South Carolina and Georgia, has streamlined the computer systems that support the state's unemployment insurance program. Since SCUBI's launch on September 28, the system has managed 52,779 claims for benefits from unemployed workers, and helped the Department administer the payment of nearly \$1 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) to 1,544 claimants impacted by Hurricane Florence.

Commerce also launched an upgraded edition of its website, further enhancing the agency's capacity to deliver information and services. The website redesign was based on research of the agency's key audiences, such as national site selection consultants, local community leaders, economic developers and the general public.

In the coming year, in addition to its traditional focus on companies seeking to locate or expand operations in the state, Commerce will be working to optimize its programs to help local communities make the necessary preparations to attract business, such as [building and site upgrade grants](#), [economic development planning services](#), and support for [extending utility and other infrastructure assets](#).



Commission, the federal-state economic development agency. ARC operates in 420 counties located across 13 states, and Governor Cooper was elected to the post for 2019 by the governor's of those participating states.



Governor Cooper with ARC Federal Co-Chair Tim Thomas at the Executive Mansion during a visit last week.

Governor Cooper's federal counterpart, Co-Chair Tim Thomas, commented on the appointment. "With over thirty years of public service experience, it is clear why Governor Cooper was selected by his counterparts to carry on this partnership, which is so vital to communities throughout our Region. I know the Governor has a deep commitment to ARC's mission and I look forward to working with him throughout 2019 to strengthen economic opportunity for all Appalachians."

Governor Cooper is ARC's 66th states' co-chair, and the second governor from North Carolina to hold the position in ARC's 54 year history. He succeeds Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, who held the post in 2018. The last ARC states' co-chair from North Carolina was former Governor James B. Hunt, Jr, who held the position in 1978. Twenty-nine North Carolina counties are part of ARC's 420-county footprint, which stretches from northern Mississippi to New York's Southern Tier. ARC investments in North Carolina are coordinated by North Carolina's Department of Commerce.

State Honors Six N.C. Companies Growing Through Exports

Six North Carolina companies received 2018 Governor's Export Awards January 15 in a ceremony highlighting their success in increasing overseas sales, as well as the significant role exporting plays in the state's economy.

North Carolina's export of goods and services supports more than 400,000 jobs in the state, according to data from the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Secretary Copeland (left) with 3M executives Melissa Blakely, National Sales Manager and Tim Inglis, Exec. Government Transportation Safety Specialist. 3M hosted an exhibit at the two-day event at the Raleigh Convention Center.

Secretary Copeland Delivers Keynote at N.C. Transportation Summit

North Carolina Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland delivered keynote remarks and participated in a panel discussion at the North Carolina Transportation Summit, January 10 in downtown Raleigh.

The panel discussion, held in general session, was titled *How Transportation Planning and Design Enhance NC's Economic Competitiveness*.

Joining the Secretary on the panel were Novo Nordisk's Shaylah Nunn Jones, Jennifer Lantz from the Wilson Economic Development Council, and John Kane, CEO of Kane Realty. NC DOT board member Hugh Overholt moderated the panel.



Secretary Copeland (center) with BSH executives in New Bern.

Secretary Copeland Visits BSH

Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland visited BSH in New Bern today (January 22).

BSH, which manufactures and distributes home and kitchen appliances, is active in a variety of efforts to build a strong talent pipeline in partnership with the community, and recently won a Governor's NCWorks Award of Distinction for outstanding accomplishments and contributions related to workforce development.

The company has partnered with Craven County Schools on the county's first advanced manufacturing/mechatronics program at the high school level, hosted teachers through externships and shadowing experiences, collaborated with Craven Community College on apprenticeships, worked with Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board on an Advanced Manufacturing Certified Career Pathway, and

"With more than 80 percent of the world's purchasing power outside the U.S, it's clear why exporting is critical to the growth of North Carolina's economy," **Governor Roy Cooper** said. "We are honoring our state's export leaders. Their commitment builds prosperity here at home and bolsters North Carolina's global reputation as a strong climate for business."

The Governor's Office developed the export award program in collaboration with the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) and the North Carolina Department of Commerce. EDPNC's International Trade division works with North Carolina companies to help them achieve their export objectives

The companies receiving 2018 Governor's Export Awards in a ceremony at the North Carolina Executive Mansion include:

- Unifi, Inc., in Guilford, Yadkin and Rockingham counties
- Advanced Detection Technology in Iredell County
- Bernhardt Furniture Co. in Caldwell County
- National Wiper Alliance in Buncombe County
- P2P Rescue in New Hanover County
- ImmunoReagents Inc. in Wake County

"The EDPNC's international trade team has helped each of these companies in a variety of ways," said **John Loyack, EDPNC vice president for global business services**. "We provide export-education workshops, market research, market-entry strategies and more. We accompany North Carolina businesses to trade shows around the world, administering funds that can reimburse their trade show travel costs. We also help companies find new international distributors at trade events."

"Smaller companies with limited resources particularly benefit," **Loyack** added, "because our help comes at no charge."

More information about the [winners is available online](#).

N.C. in the News

- [Business leaders say NC must do more to provide Pre-K to those kids who most need it](#) (News & Observer - January 17)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer

financially supported other local STEM education programs.

unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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