

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce

2010 in review from Commerce

Happy Holidays from all of us at the North Carolina Department of Commerce! As 2010 draws to a close, this week's SYNC takes a look back at the year's top economic development accomplishments from across North Carolina.

Like 2009, 2010 presented difficult challenges to the state's economic development community, but there were also many success stories and examples of outstanding collaboration in all corners of the state. Established businesses such as Caterpillar, Siemens and IBM continued their commitment to North Carolina by expanding in the state. New partners such as Facebook helped cement North Carolina's reputation as a leader in the data center industry. This year also saw the launch of [ThriveNC.com](#), a new website dedicated to meet the needs of business decision-makers and site selection consultants, as well as an expanded marketing program for in-state partners. Topping it off, Site Selection magazine once again named the state as the nation's best business climate. 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 2011 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.



Perdue announces small business initiatives

Governor Bev Perdue on Jan. 13 announced her major policy priorities for the coming year – jobs and the economy, education, setting government straight, and keeping communities safe. Governor Perdue's goals in each of these areas will help North Carolina emerge from the economic recession stronger than before. Governor Perdue outlined her initiatives during speeches to the Charlotte Chamber and the Greensboro Partnership this week.

For Perdue, keeping and growing jobs in North Carolina is her No.1 priority – and she recognizes the need for North Carolina to focus its economic development efforts not only on large companies, but also on the small businesses that make up 98 percent of all state businesses.

During her address, she announced the launch of a statewide small business initiative called Biz Boost. Biz Boost will help small businesses apply for credit, work on staffing, manage cash, and reduced costs. It will give small businesses access to the same kind of outside talent that big businesses often use to help them adapt and grow. The initiative has been successfully piloted already in Charlotte and will be replicated statewide through the Department of Commerce and the N.C. Small Business and Technology Development Center. [Read more.](#)

[Perdue pledges job growth, education reform](#) (The News & Record, Jan. 13)

Reser's to bring 500 jobs to Halifax County

Governor Bev Perdue arrives at Halifax



Northampton Regional Airport to make the Reser's announcement. Commerce Deputy Secretary Carroll, far right, walks with her. (Photo by Roger Bell, Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald)

Governor Bev Perdue on Jan. 19 announced that Reser's Fine Foods, a national producer of prepared foods and salads, will expand its plant to the Halifax Industrial Center in Halifax County. The company plans to create 500 jobs in three phases over the next five years. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$1 million grant from the One North Carolina Fund. Commerce's Tim Ivey was

the developer on this project.

"We are working hard to create jobs and North Carolina is proud to host a national-brand business like Reser's Fine Foods, which is building on its success here," Perdue said. "Our state's strategic location, skilled workers and top business climate continue to attract growing companies from around the nation."

Reser's Fine Foods Inc., headquartered in Oregon, makes prepared salads, dips, side dishes, Mexican foods and specialty products under a variety of brand names. The company has facilities nationwide. The company's goal is to expand production of prepared foods at its Halifax plant, starting with a first-phase investment of \$15 million in 2010.

"We are convinced North Carolina is the best strategic location, and we are excited to expand there. We plan to build a facility that the people of Halifax County and our employees are proud of, and one that will continue to produce great products," said company CEO Al Reser.

"I want to thank Governor Perdue and her staff for helping us finalize this project. I also want to recognize the Halifax County commissioners and Cathy Scott, executive director of the Halifax Economic Development Commission, and her associates for their assistance in moving this project along." [Read more.](#)

[Governor announces Reser's expansion](#) (The Daily Herald - Roanoke Rapids, Jan. 20)



Celgard to add 289 jobs in Concord, Charlotte

(Left-right) Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Celgard General Manager Mitch Pulwer, Congressman Larry Kissell, Carrie Cook of Sen. Kay Hagan's office and local officials look on as Governor Bev Perdue announces the Celgard project.

Governor Bev Perdue announced Jan. 20 that Charlotte-based Celgard LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Polypore International Inc. will create 289 jobs and invest a total of \$91 million in expanded and new infrastructure in Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties over the next five years. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Ron Leitch was the developer on this project.

The company is a global leader in developing and producing 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.

"Celgard is an innovative, forward-thinking North Carolina company that is helping us realize the promise of a greener economy," Perdue said. "These are exactly the types of jobs I envisioned when we started building the number of 'green-collar' jobs in our state."

Celgard plans to expand its Charlotte campus, which currently employs about 390 workers, and add 80 jobs. A second facility will be built in Concord, which will employ 209 workers by the end of 2014, contingent on approval of local incentives. While salaries will vary by job function, the overall average wage for the 289 new jobs will be \$56,960 not including benefits. That is higher than both the Cabarrus annual average of \$32,396 and the Mecklenburg average of \$48,776. [Read more.](#)



Minges speaks to New Bern anniversary committee

Nelson McDaniel (left), chair of New Bern's 300th Anniversary Committee, receives a commemorative copy of the 2010 North Carolina Travel Guide from Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges.

Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges addressed the New Bern 300th Anniversary Committee Jan. 22. She presented the group with a commemorative copy of the 2010 North Carolina Travel Guide, which features New Bern's 300th anniversary celebration on one of its two covers. During her presentation, Minges said the anniversary could give the city an

economic boost, helping to set it apart from other towns in the state affected by the recession. Minges also spoke at the New Bern Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner on Jan. 21.

[Tourism, city already getting boost](#) (The Sun Journal - New Bern, Jan. 22) [See video of Minges speaking in New Bern.](#)



Civil Rights Museum opens in Greensboro

The International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro

[International Civil Rights Center & Museum](#) in Greensboro opened Feb. 1 on the 50th anniversary of the Woolworth sit-ins. The 30,000 square foot exhibition space is located in the former Woolworth building where four African-American students from N.C. A&T University sat down at a luncheonette and were refused

service. The protests, which continued for six months until the luncheonette was desegregated, sparked other protests in cities across the U.S. The original luncheonette and chairs are a focal point of the museum.

The Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development is teaming with the Greensboro Convention & Visitors Bureau and Visit Charlotte to bring nine national and regional journalists to the state Feb. 3-7. The press trip will highlight North Carolina's African-American history and heritage including the opening of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum and Charlotte's new Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture.

N.C. receives \$545M for high-speed rail

Governor Bev Perdue announced Jan. 28 that North Carolina is receiving \$545 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for further development of the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor, a nearly 500-mile route that will allow trains to travel between Charlotte and Washington, D.C.



at top speeds of up to 90-110 miles per hour and an average speed of 86 mph.

"Building this high-speed rail corridor will put our people to work on critical infrastructure projects and boost local economies in North Carolina," said Perdue. "This is a huge leap toward making high-speed rail in North Carolina a reality."

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson announced the funding award Jan. 28 during a ceremony at the newly renovated Durham train station. The project is expected to create or maintain 4,800 private sector jobs in North Carolina and provide environmental and energy benefits through reduced congestion and improved air quality.

"Every dollar we spend on high speed rail is an investment in job creation and in cleaning the air we all breathe," said Jackson. "Building high speed rail will put people in North Carolina to work right away, lay the foundation for long term growth and make travel faster and cheaper - all while reducing our impact on the environment."

Under the recovery funding, North Carolina received \$520 million for improvements that will enable higher track speeds along the corridor between Raleigh and Charlotte, and \$25 million for projects to improve reliability of existing service from Raleigh north to Virginia. In addition, Virginia received \$75 million for improvements to the Richmond to Washington, D.C. section of the Southeast High Speed Rail Corridor.

[Read more.](#)



Perdue establishes Motorsports Advisory Council

Governor Bev Perdue goes for a ride in a race car after signing an executive order establishing the N.C. Motorsports Advisory Council.

Governor Bev Perdue signed an executive order on Feb. 11 establishing the North Carolina Motorsports Advisory Council. The council will advise the governor on ways to strengthen the industry and recruit new motorsports jobs to North Carolina.

"Just days away from the Daytona 500, I'm taking the time to rev up our commitment to the motorsports industry, which supports thousands of high-tech jobs in North Carolina," said Perdue. "We've come a long way since moonshine running turned into a multi-billion dollar industry more than 60 years ago." Perdue signed Executive Order No. 49 in a ceremony at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

The motorsports industry supports more than 27,000 jobs in North Carolina and contributes more than \$6 billion to the state's economy each year. Ninety percent of NASCAR teams are based in North Carolina, and Charlotte is home to the NASCAR Hall of Fame, which opens in May.

A motorsports advisory council was originally created in 2005, but has been inactive since 2007.

[Council aims to recruit motorsports jobs](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triad Area, Feb. 11)

LabCorp to bring 346 jobs to Greensboro

Governor Bev Perdue announced Feb. 11 that Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings Inc. (LabCorp), a national provider of medical laboratory testing services, will open a new billing operations office in Guilford County. The company will create 346 jobs and invest \$4 million during the next three years in Greensboro. The project was made possible in part by a \$275,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C.

Department of Commerce's Melissa Smith was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs continues to be my top priority. Medical and biotechnology firms know that North Carolina is the perfect place to locate, invest and grow their operations," Perdue said. "Our top business climate and dedicated workforce continue to attract nationally known companies like LabCorp."

LabCorp, headquartered in Burlington, provides testing services for medical lab specimens, drug testing, diagnostic support, cancer detection and other services to doctors, hospitals and other health-care providers. The company, which has labs and other facilities nationwide, plans to consolidate billing operations into a new office in Greensboro.

The company will create 346 new jobs in Guilford County and transfer approximately 50 positions from its Burlington billing operation to the new office in Greensboro. [Read more.](#)

[LabCorp to add about 350 jobs in Greensboro](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, Feb. 12)



Perdue names first Small Business commissioner

Scott Daugherty has been named to serve as North Carolina's first Small Business commissioner.

Governor Bev Perdue on Feb. 17 named Scott Daugherty to serve as North Carolina's first Small Business commissioner.

This position will establish an organizational structure and a collaborative partnership model within which the leading state-funded small business assistance resources will clarify their roles and responsibilities, identify opportunities to collaborate and most effectively serve the small business community. It is being created through a cooperative agreement between the N.C. Department of Commerce, the University of North Carolina System, N.C. State University, and the N.C. Community College System. The governor also named Dr. George Millsaps to serve as assistant commissioner for Small Business.

Also on Feb. 17, Perdue signed Executive Order No. 50 that will give North Carolina-based businesses a price-matching opportunity when bidding on state contracts for the purchase of goods. The governor's order will help North Carolina businesses protect and grow jobs.

Executive Order No. 50 directs the N.C. Secretary of Administration to develop price-matching procedures for North Carolina resident bidders on state contracts for the purchase of goods. Such a preference would provide a qualified North Carolina company whose bid price is within 5 percent or \$10,000 of the lowest bid, whichever is less, an opportunity to match the price of an out-of-state low bidder and be awarded contracts with the State of North Carolina. [Read more.](#)

[State gives N.C. businesses an edge](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Feb. 18)



'Blood Done Sign My Name' hits the big screen

*A scene from "Blood Done Sign My Name."
Photo by Palidin*

"Blood Done Sign My Name" opened in theaters nationwide in February. Based on a North Carolina story, the N.C. Department of Commerce's Film Office worked in concert with the Charlotte Regional Film Commission to bring the film to the state. Additionally, they worked with

the film's production team and local entities for scouting and filming locations to facilitate production of the movie in North Carolina.

While the movie is based on a true story that took place in Oxford, it was shot entirely on location in Shelby, Gastonia, Monroe and Statesville. Mitchell Community College doubles as the North Carolina State Capitol.

Based on the book of the same title by North Carolina native and Duke University Professor Timothy Tyson,

the film was adapted for the screen and directed by North Carolina native Jeb Stuart ("Die Hard," "The Fugitive"). It tells the story of how a 1970 incident in Oxford, Tyson's hometown, erupted in racial turmoil after an all-white jury acquitted two white men of killing a young black man.

The production contributed about \$10 million to the state's economy and employed around 2,000 people, including talent, extras and crew. To find about the film industry in North Carolina, visit www.NCFilm.com.

[The storyteller returns.](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Feb. 19)

Utility grant funds to aid 200 households statewide

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco on Feb. 22 announced that 13 communities received a total of \$830,330 in Community Development Block Grant funds to connect 200 low- and moderate-income households to public water and/or sewer lines.

The Infrastructure Hook-Up Program enables local governments to connect low- and moderate-income households to existing public water and/or sewer lines, provided the existing lines were not constructed with CDBG funds. The maximum grant amount is \$75,000.

"North Carolina is committed to helping provide vital utility connections to our needy families statewide," Crisco said. "These funds will ensure that basic hygiene needs are met through enhanced service to 200 deserving households." [Read more.](#)



Pierre Foods to bring 500 jobs to Catawba

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and Claremont Mayor David Morrow watch Governor Bev Perdue announce that Pierre Foods will bring 500 new jobs to Catawba County.

Governor Bev Perdue on March 5 announced that Pierre Foods Inc., a national producer of high-quality, fully cooked meats and frozen sandwiches, will expand in Catawba County. The company

plans to create 500 jobs and invest \$16.8 million during the next three years in Claremont and retain more than 700 existing jobs at its facility there. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$600,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Uconda Dunn was the developer on this project.

"I am committed to creating new jobs for North Carolina and retaining the jobs we have in our state," said Perdue. "Companies like Pierre Foods know they can build on their hard-won success with North Carolina's skilled workers and top business climate." [Read more.](#)

[Pierre Foods bringing 500 jobs to Catawba County](#) (WNCN - Charlotte, March 5)

[500 new jobs coming to Claremont](#) (Hickory Daily Record, March 6)



Commerce, partners explore opportunities in Brazil

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Economic Developer Uconda Dunn, International Trade Director Jean Davis and Secretary Keith Crisco are suited up to tour a company in Brazil.

N.C. Department of Commerce officials, including Secretary Keith Crisco, and leaders of several economic development partnerships statewide recently

participated in a trade mission to Brazil. The group met with a number of Brazilian officials and industry leaders to explore increased trade and investment opportunities between North Carolina and the South

American country. Commerce partners who also participated in the trade mission were Lincoln County EDC, Cabarrus County EDC and Charlotte Regional Partnership. Representatives from Sabo, a Brazilian company with an office in Lincoln County, also traveled with the delegation.



Perdue leads film mission to California

Governor Bev Perdue (center) and husband Bob Eaves (left) chat with film industry members at the North Carolina reception.

Governor Bev Perdue led a North Carolina delegation on a film mission to California, March 17-19. The governor, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges, N.C. Film Office Director Aaron Syrett and other members of the delegation met with the heads of several major studios. The delegation also included N.C. film industry leaders, members of the N.C. Film Council and members of four in-state regional film commissions.

In addition to promoting North Carolina as the ideal setting for film projects – for location, talent/crew foundation and general industry familiarity – the group emphasized the new 25 percent film incentive, which went into effect in January. Syrett says that the studios all reacted positively to the new incentive.

"Every single studio we talked to said, 'We want to be in North Carolina,'" Syrett said.

Perdue also hosted an evening reception, underwritten by several film industry leaders in the state and Friends of North Carolina, which allowed the delegation an additional opportunity to meet with film industry executives and decision-makers, including guests that have North Carolina connections. North Carolina actresses Sharon Lawrence and Emily Proctor and director Peyton Reed were among those who attended the reception.



Governor's Conference highlights tourism industry

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco addresses attendees at the Governor's Conference.

New Bern rolled out the red carpet for nearly 450 tourism, business and government leaders from across the state at the 2010 N.C. Governor's Conference on Hospitality & Tourism March 22 and 23. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco addressed the conference, announcing that North Carolina gained market share (from 4.3 percent to 4.4 percent) and remains the sixth most visited state despite the economic downturn. He commended travel industry leaders for their work and commitment to marketing North Carolina as a premier travel destination.

Crisco also announced that visitors spent \$15.6 billion in 2009, down 7.7 percent from 2008. Visitor spending generated more than \$1.36 billion in state and local tax revenue, generated a payroll of nearly \$4 billion and created nearly 183,000 jobs for North Carolinians. Each North Carolina household saves

approximately \$360 in state and local taxes as a result of taxes generated by visitor spending. [See the complete report.](#)

At the Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development Update, Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges reported on highlights of the division's accomplishments in 2009, frequently citing ongoing relationships with partners across the state. She reviewed 2009 visitor spending in detail and cited encouraging news from recent lodging reports indicating that occupancy and room demand are up through February 2010.

Dr. Lowell Catlett was the opening keynote speaker. Catlett, a professor and dean at New Mexico State University, commended the state on its beauty and hospitality, telling attendees that they were poised to "own" the future. Geoff Freeman, senior vice president of public affairs for the U.S. Travel Association, discussed national tourism policy issues and how they impact communities across North Carolina. Peter Shankman, founder of HARO (Help a Reporter Out), was the closing keynote. An entrepreneur, author, speaker and worldwide connector, Shankman is recognized internationally for radically new ways of thinking about social media, PR, marketing, advertising, creativity and customer service. Freeman's presentation is available at www.nccommerce.com/governorsconference, along with presentations from the educational breakout sessions.

[Governor's tourism conference brings 400 to New Bern](#) (New Bern Sun Journal, March 22)



Three appointed to Tourism 'Winners Circle'

(Left to right) Capt. David Scheu; Bill Hensley; N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco; Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges; Spencer Robbins

Three North Carolinians were named to the "Winners Circle" at the Governor's Conference for their significant and

continuing contributions to the growth and success of N.C.'s tourism industry. They are:

- Capt. David Scheu of Wilmington, former executive director of Battleship North Carolina memorial
- Bill Hensley of Charlotte, a public relations executive and a nationally known writer, promoter and lecturer
- Spencer Robbins of Banner Elk, who served as president of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce and was instrumental in forming the Southern Highland Attractions Association

The Winners Circle Award originated in 2004. Previous recipients include H.A. "Humpy" Wheeler, former president and general manager of Lowe's Motor Speedway; Jerry Richardson, owner of the Carolina Panthers; and Hugh Morton, owner of Grandfather Mountain.

Obama talks jobs, economy in Charlotte

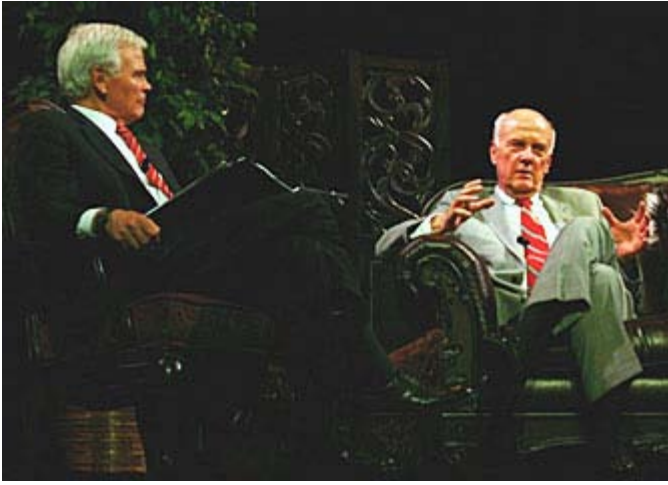
President Barack Obama praised a new government report on jobs during a visit to a Celgard plant in Charlotte April 2. According to a U.S. Department of Labor report released the same day, businesses added 162,000 jobs to their payrolls in March.

The president said that government actions "have broken this slide and are helping us to climb out of this recession."

Celgard received a \$49 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy in 2009. Governor Bev Perdue announced in January that the company will create 289 jobs and invest a total of \$91 million in expanded and new infrastructure in Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties over the next five years. The company was awarded a Job Development Investment Grant and a One North Carolina fund grant to assist with the expansion.

Also instrumental in the facility expansion were U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan and U.S. Rep. Larry Kissell; the N.C. departments of Commerce and Transportation, N.C. Community Colleges, cities of Charlotte and Concord, counties of Mecklenburg and Cabarrus, Charlotte Chamber and Cabarrus Chamber/Economic Development Corp.

[Obama discusses economy at Charlotte Celgard plant](#) (News 14 Carolina, April 2)



Crisco speaks at AdvantageWest Economic Summit

(Left-right) Moderator D.G. Martin talks with N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco.

More than 300 economic development professionals came together March 29 for an economic summit organized by AdvantageWest. "Pathways to a New Economy," held at Pack Place in downtown Asheville, featured a networking reception followed by a panel discussion with experts presenting a broad range of

views on economic and business issues in Western North Carolina and beyond.

Among the panelists was N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco. Other panelists were AdvantageWest Board member Mike Fulenwider, president and CEO of Fulenwider Enterprises Inc., in Morganton; Martin Lancaster, attorney and former president of the N.C. Community College System; Sen. Martin Nesbitt of the N.C. General Assembly; and Nelson Schwab III, co-founder and managing partner at Carousel Capital. D.G. Martin, host of "North Carolina Bookwatch," on UNC-TV, was the moderator. Segments of the discussion are available for viewing on the [AdvantageWest Web site](#). [View video of the summit here](#).



Nanotech conference attendees excited about future

(Left-right) John Hardin, executive director of the Office of Science and Technology; Ed Kitchen, board chair of Gateway University Research Park; and James Ryan, founding dean of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering

The [2010 N.C. Nanotechnology Commercialization Conference](#) wrapped up April 1 at the Koury Center in Greensboro. The conference was organized by the N.C. Board of Science & Technology, with help from partners such as the Small Business and Technology Development Center, Piedmont Triad Partnership, Greensboro Partnership and the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering. More than 250 people attended the event.

N.C. State Treasurer Janet Cowell spoke to the conference about the N.C. Innovation Fund. Joe Raguso, CEO and president of IntrinsicMaterials, and Josh Wolfe, co-founder and managing partner of Lux Capital, were the keynote speakers.

[Conference sees big future for nanotechnology](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, April 4)



Precor holds grand opening in Greensboro

Left-right) U.S. Rep. Howard Coble, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and Precor CEO Paul Byrne at the ribbon cutting for Precor's grand opening in Greensboro.

On March 30, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll joined U.S. Rep. Howard Coble and Precor CEO Paul Byrne at the company's grand opening in Greensboro. Carroll thanked the partners that worked with Commerce and Greensboro Economic Development Alliance to recruit Precor's combination manufacturing, showroom and distribution center to North Carolina. He also recognized Precor for earning the LEED CI Gold Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council for their new facility in Greensboro.

[Precor facility earns LEED certification](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, March 29)

[Precor Opens Guilford County Plant](#) (WGHP - Greensboro, March 30)

Plastek Industries to bring 250 jobs to Richmond County

Governor Bev Perdue on April 12 announced that Plastek Industries, a leading maker of plastic consumer, cosmetic and pharmaceutical packaging, plans to create 250 jobs and invest \$19 million in Richmond County over the next three years. The project was made possible in part by state grants from the One North Carolina Fund and the Job Development Investment Grant program. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Ken Allen was the developer on this project.

"Our skilled workforce and highly-rated business climate continue to attract top-notch companies to our state," said Perdue. "My number one priority is to continue to leverage these assets to create more jobs."

Plastek Industries is a family-run business started in 1956 in Erie, Pa. Today, the company employs more than 2,000 people in the U.S., Brazil, Venezuela and the United Kingdom. The Richmond County facility, which will be located just outside of Hamlet, is the company's first in North Carolina. [Read more.](#)

Perdue touts N.C. to national site consultants

On April 12, Governor Bev Perdue spoke in Charlotte to a gathering of national site selection consultants from Los Angeles, Dallas, Atlanta, Chicago, New York, New Jersey, and other parts of the country. Her speech, titled "North Carolina's Value Proposition," was delivered during the "Experience North Carolina 2010" event, which was staged by the N.C. Department of Commerce and Friends of North Carolina partners from across the state. The program also included a panel with site consultants from three firms that in recent months have led site searches resulting in successful corporate locations in North Carolina. [See TV coverage from WSOC of Governor Bev Perdue's speech and the event.](#)

ThriveNC.com launched

"Business Thrives Where People Thrive." That's the message of [ThriveNC.com](#), a new N.C. Department of Commerce Web site targeted toward executives and site selection consultants who are considering relocating or expanding their business in North Carolina. The new site offers quick and easy access to information on North Carolina's business and cultural advantages, tools for selecting the perfect site for a business, small business resources, and detailed information on incentives. The site was rolled out April 12, and will be expanded in the coming months.



Energy Office engineer to lead N.C. Weatherization Program

Dr. Rita Joyner

Dr. Rita Joyner, most recently a special assistant in Commerce's N.C. Energy Office, has been named section chief of the state's Weatherization Assistance Program, Ward Lenz, director of the N.C. Energy Office announced today.

Joyner, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from N.C. A&T State University, has previously served as section chief in the N.C. Energy Office, supervising a staff of engineers and energy efficiency specialists and overseeing a \$14 million budget. She holds a doctorate from the UNC School of Education and has served

as legislative liaison to the state Board of Education.

The state's weatherization program received a \$132 million boost in funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and is implementing a goal of increasing the number of weatherized homes in the state from 250 a month to 750. The program's mission is to improve energy efficiency and household safety, and to educate the public about maintaining energy efficiency. Services are provided in all 100 counties through 28 community-based agencies around the state.

The program's focus is on the elderly, the disabled, families with children, high-energy users and the energy needed to keep North Carolina citizens warm in the winter, cool in the summer and safe all year long. Weatherization assistance is available for single family homes, apartments, condominiums, and mobile

homes, based on household income – about \$44,000 annually for a family of four. [Read more.](#)



Perdue, Crisco lead mission to Europe

Governor Bev Perdue is shown with Emilia Mueller, secretary of Commerce for the state of Bavaria in Germany, at the North Carolina reception.

On April 26, Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco began an important business and tourism development trip in Europe, focusing on Germany and Sweden. The governor will be in Munich through April 28,

with the Commerce team continuing on to Hamburg, Berlin and Rostock, then ending the trip with client visits in Sweden.

The purpose of the trip is to recruit more jobs, investment and tourism dollars to North Carolina by meeting with senior executives of current and prospective clients in high-growth sectors including energy, life sciences and advanced manufacturing, and with tourism leaders. Scott Ralls, president of the N.C. Community College System, will showcase the state's highly regarded workforce training capabilities – an important competitive advantage for North Carolina.

Since 2001, international investment and job creation have accounted for 15 percent of all investment and jobs in North Carolina, amounting to nearly \$8 billion and the announced creation of more than 40,000 jobs. European jobs and investment have been a big part of the state's economic growth over the past 10 years.

The Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development also hosted a reception for 60 people including tour operators and journalists in Munich.



Cabinet maker to bring 334 jobs to Kinston

Dale Carroll, deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Commerce, presents a state plate to Greg Stoner, president of MasterBrand Cabinets April 22 as Stoner announced the addition of 334 jobs at the Kinston plant over the next three years. (Photo by Charles Buchanan/The Kinston Free Press)

Governor Bev Perdue on April 22 announced that MasterBrand Cabinets Inc., a national manufacturer of kitchen and bath cabinets for the remodeling and new construction markets, will expand in Lenoir County. The company plans to create 334 jobs and invest more than

\$3.75 million during the next three years in Kinston. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$200,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Donna Phillips was the developer on this project.

"North Carolina remains home to the finest furniture and cabinet makers, an industry rapidly adapting to master the evolving challenges of a world market," said Perdue. "Our highly skilled workers, custom training programs and top quality of life continue to attract companies looking for the perfect place to grow and thrive."

MasterBrand Cabinets Inc., a subsidiary of Fortune Brands Inc., is headquartered in Jasper, Ind. The company manufactures cabinets for the kitchen, bathroom and other rooms of the home. MasterBrand has manufacturing facilities throughout the United States and Canada, including a plant in Kinston employing more than 200 workers.

The company plans to reconfigure the current facility and more than double the workforce at its Kinston plant to produce a new kitchen and bath product line. While salaries will vary by job function, the new positions will pay an average annual wage of \$25,787, not including benefits. [Read more.](#)



Life sciences highlighted at 2010 BIO

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce developer Donna Phillips and Kendyle Woodard of the N.C. Biotechnology Center speak to an unidentified BIO participant about life sciences in North Carolina, May 4 at the N.C. pavilion.

The N.C. Department of Commerce and the N.C. Biotechnology Center are at the 2010 BIO International Convention in Chicago this week. BIO is the global event for biotechnology. It features a robust partnering conference, high level keynotes and an array of timely and intriguing breakout sessions, bringing together

thought leaders from around the world to discuss the most important issues facing the biotechnology sector today.

The theme of this year's BIO International Convention is "Fulfilling the Promise: Heal, Fuel, Feed the World," highlighting the diverse practical applications of biotechnology. The biosciences encompass a varied set of companies and individual industry sectors that span manufacturing, services, and research activities.

This year's BIO Exhibition will cover an estimated 180,000 net sq. ft. and host more than 1,700 exhibitors with approximately one-third expected to come from countries outside the U.S. The convention also will host numerous domestic and international public officials including nine U.S. governors.

The Biotech Center, in conjunction with Commerce, is hosting the 2,000 sq. ft. North Carolina Pavilion at BIO. Both the [Biotech Center](#) and [Commerce](#) will be tweeting from the convention, too. [Read more.](#)

The Research Triangle region remains among the nation's leaders in life sciences industry jobs and salaries, according to a report released May 3 at BIO. The study by Battelle Memorial Institute, State Bioscience Initiatives 2010, benchmarks how U.S. states and regions are faring in efforts to attract companies and jobs in an increasingly competitive national and international environment during an economic downturn. Among the key findings:

- Raleigh-Cary and Durham-Chapel Hill 2008 metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) accounted for 12,988 research-and-testing company jobs at an average \$75,829 annual wage in 2008. Those jobs generated an additional 2.6 jobs each for the state and region.
- Durham-Chapel Hill ranked first among mid-size 2008 MSAs (those with employment of 75,000-250,000) for jobs in two core employment concentration sub-sectors of the nation's life sciences industry: research, testing and medical laboratories jobs (8,270) and drugs and pharmaceuticals jobs (6,755).
- Raleigh-Cary ranked fourth in drugs and pharmaceuticals jobs (3,331) and 11th in research, testing and medical laboratories jobs (3,718) among large MSAs with total private employment of greater than 250,000.

[Download the study.](#) [Learn more about the Research Triangle Partnership.](#) The partnership includes the north-central N.C. counties of Chatham, Durham, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Moore, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake and Warren counties.

[See the Impact Magazine special edition on BIO.](#)

[Biotech poised for resurgence in N.C.](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, May 4)

N.C. delegation meets with BSH in Munich

The North Carolina delegation meets with BSH officials at the company's headquarters in Munich. Bottom row, left to right: First Gentleman Bob Eaves, N.C. Department of Commerce Economic Developer Martyn



Johnson, Kurt-Ludwig Gutberlet of BSH, Governor Bev Perdue, Jane Crisco, Winfried Seitz of BSH, and Chief Advisor for Business & Economic Development Don Hobart. Top row, left to right: Clemens Schaller of BSH, N.C. Community College System President Scott Ralls, Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Craven County EDC Executive Director Jim

Davis and Stefan Koss of BSH

Last week Governor Bev Perdue visited the corporate headquarters of BSH Bosch und Siemens Hausgeräte GmbH located in Munich, Germany. The visit was part of the recent economic development mission to Europe. Joining Perdue were N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, N.C. Community College President Scott Ralls and Craven County EDC Executive Director Jim Davis.

Perdue received a briefing on worldwide sales and the energy savings policy of BSH. Perdue, Crisco and others from North Carolina shared with BSH the multiple ways North Carolina can assist companies. BSH Home Appliances Corporation has maintained a factory that produces dishwashers, cooktops and ventilation hoods in New Bern since 1997.



Sustainable Energy Conference takes place in Raleigh

Governor Bev Perdue delivers the opening remarks for day two of the 7th annual Sustainable Energy Conference.

The N.C. Department of Commerce's State Energy Office sponsored the 7th annual Sustainable Energy Conference April 20-21 in Raleigh. Almost 900 people gathered to discuss topics such as wind and solar energy, green/sustainable policy and manufacturing opportunities.

Governor Bev Perdue provided opening remarks for day two of the event. She was introduced by N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll.

Keynote speakers included Harry Wingo, policy counsel for Google, and Nate Hurst, director of public affairs and government relations for Walmart.

N.C. Small Business Commissioner Scott Daugherty and Office of Science and Technology Executive Director John Hardin were panelists for the Small/Emerging Business Assistance session. Executive Director of Workforce Development Roger Shackelford was a panelist for the Workforce Development session.

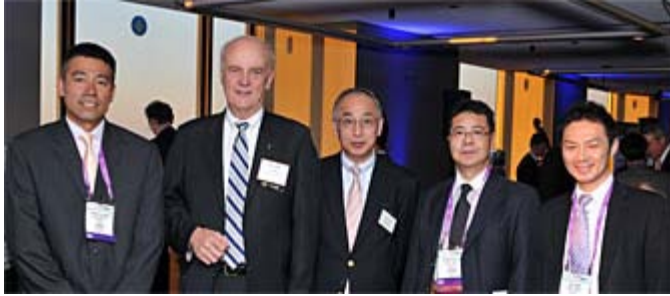
Sponsors included Duke Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Business Link N.C. (BLNC) and the N.C. Sustainable Energy Association.

Shelby wins Legion World Series bid

The town of Shelby won its bid to host the American Legion World Series in 2011, and possibly become the series' permanent home. The town won the bid in a clean sweep Saturday in Indianapolis, where a group of 100 supporters, all wearing orange T-shirts, helped present the city's bid. The group traveled to Indianapolis May 2 via a 20-hour bus trip from Shelby. Lt. Governor Walter Dalton, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges were heavily involved with local partners in recruitment efforts to secure the bid. Minges

traveled to Indianapolis on May 2 and participated in the formal bid presentation.

[Great news: Shelby makes clean sweep in Legion World Series bid](#) (The Shelby Star, May 2)



Crisco, Tolson lead N.C. group to BIO

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and biotech executives at the Friends of North Carolina reception in Chicago.

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and N.C. Biotechnology Center President Norris Tolson hosted a

reception sponsored by the [Friends of North Carolina organization](#), May 4 at the Willis Tower in Chicago. The event was held in conjunction with the BIO 2010 Convention, which took place the week of May 3 in Chicago. More than 300 biotech executives and thought leaders from countries around the world, including China, Norway and Japan, were on hand to learn about North Carolina's business advantages and growing life sciences cluster.



Perdue taps two for Economic Development Board leadership positions

(Left-right) Bill Owens and Billy Sewell

Governor Bev Perdue has reappointed Rep. Bill Owens as vice-chair of the [Economic Development Board](#) and has asked Billy Sewell to lead the Economic Development Budget Review Team. The team will have the responsibility of making state budgetary appropriation

recommendations for board approval, which will then be submitted to the governor.



N.C. ranked No. 2 for business

Business Executive magazine has once again ranked North Carolina No. 2 for Best States for Business. Texas took the top slot, with Tennessee, Virginia and Nevada rounding out the top five. California was listed in the bottom position.

Six hundred CEOs were asked to rate each state in three general categories: taxation and regulation, quality of workforce, and living environment. Within each category, respondents graded the states in five categories, as well as ranking each in terms of its importance to the respondent and how individual states measure up. [Read more.](#)

Perdue announces new aerospace initiative

Governor Bev Perdue outlines her new aerospace initiative during the N.C. Aerospace Executive Forum on May 21 in New Bern

Governor Bev Perdue announced a new state aerospace initiative during the third



annual N.C. Aerospace Executive Forum on May 21 in New Bern. Speaking to a group that included more than 100 aerospace executives and economic development partners from around the state, Perdue asked N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco to develop three working groups of aerospace professionals to focus on

workforce preparedness, the supplier network and recruitment of new industry.

U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan and Crisco delivered welcoming remarks during the forum. Kimberly Gavaletz, vice president of joint strike fighter autonomic logistics global sustainment at Lockheed Martin, delivered the keynote address. Facilitated breakout sessions focused on finding the right workforce, finding military-related business opportunities and finding research collaboration partners.

Following the forum, participants were invited to take a tour of the Fleet Readiness Center East at the Marine Corps Air Station in Cherry Point. An opening reception celebrating North Carolina's aerospace industry and sponsored by the Friends of North Carolina organization took place the evening before at the Hilton New Bern.

[Perdue announces statewide aerospace initiative](#) (The Sun-Journal - New Bern, May 21)

[Hagan, Perdue speak at aerospace business event](#) (News 14 Carolina, May 21)

Vitacost to add 300 jobs in Lexington

Governor Bev Perdue announced May 20 that [Vitacost.com](#) Inc., a leading online retailer and direct marketer of health and wellness products, will expand in Davidson County. The company plans to invest \$6.7 million and create 228 jobs over the next three years. The project was made possible in part by a \$450,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Melissa Smith was the developer on this project.

"Competition for jobs is fierce around the country and around the world," Perdue said. "So it is particularly rewarding when a company recognizes our exceptional business climate and tremendous workforce by continuing to invest and grow in our state."

Vitacost.com, headquartered in Boca Raton, Fla., currently operates a call center and a manufacturing and distribution facility in Lexington. In addition to selling brand name items such as New Chapter, Atkins, Twinlab and Kashi, the company makes and sells its own products including Nutraceutical Sciences Institute (NSI), Cosmeceutical Sciences Institute (CSI), Smart Basics and Best of All. The expansion of the facility in the Lexington Business Park will allow Vitacost to increase its manufacturing and distribution capabilities to meet growing demand.

The Lexington plant currently employs 168 people. While individual salaries will vary by job function, the overall wage for the 228 new jobs will average more than \$30,000 a year plus benefits, which is higher than the Davidson County average of \$29,640. [Read more.](#)

Commerce participates in Wind Energy event

Dr. Harvey Seim of the University of North Carolina addresses a group, including N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, at the North Carolina Wind Energy Breakfast May 25 in Dallas, Texas.

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, State



Energy Office Director of the Green Economy Larry Shirley participated in Windpower 2010 in May in Dallas, Texas.

Windpower is the premiere wind energy event in North America, with approximately than 20,000 executives in the wind power industry and more than 1,000 exhibitors.

Commerce and the [N.C. Solar Center](#) sponsored a North Carolina Wind Energy breakfast May 25 for approximately 90 wind power executives from around the U.S. Other event sponsors were 3Tex advanced textiles manufacturer, N.C.'s Southeast, Parker Poe law firm and Kimley-Horn & Associates engineering and land planning firm. Crisco, and Shirley offered remarks on outlining the growth of green energy in the state. Featured speaker Dr. Harvey Seim, a professor of marine sciences at the University of North Carolina, outlined his recent nine-month study assessing the feasibility of installing wind turbines in North Carolina's sounds and off the state's coast.



Energy Office dispenses ARRA funds

National Energy Technology Laboratory Project Manager Otis Mills Jr., left, and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll shake hands after releasing \$6 million in ARRA funds.

The N.C. Department of Commerce's State Energy Office awarded more than \$6 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for energy efficiency improvements in state and university buildings in the state. The document releasing the funds was signed at a celebration including members of the Commerce's Office of Science and Technology, Commerce Deputy Secretary

Dale Carroll and Otis Mills Jr., project manager at the National Energy Technology Laboratory, a division of the U.S. Department of Energy. Mills was in North Carolina for a week-long monitoring visit to document how recovery funds are being spent in the state.



Perdue visits Main Street towns

Governor Bev Perdue announces a Main Street Solutions grant to the City of Morganton with Mayor Mel Cohen (right) and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll (left).

On May 27 and 28, Governor Bev Perdue toured downtowns in Burlington, Morganton and Waynesville to highlight the importance of the Main Street Solutions fund in helping small businesses grow and create jobs. Earlier in the week, the

governor announced grants to eight small towns across the state to help them revitalize their downtowns. The grants will assist planning agencies and small businesses with revitalization efforts by creating jobs, funding infrastructure improvements, rehabilitating buildings and finding other growth opportunities. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll accompanied the governor on the tour.

"We know that some of the most creative and innovative economic development work is being done through small businesses and other economic partners in our downtown areas," said Perdue. "Main Streets can be at the heart of North Carolina's economic recovery with the right support and investment. For every \$1 invested by the state, an additional \$4.72 will be invested by the local community." [Read more.](#)

Perdue wrote on her blog, "Downtown is the heart and soul of a community. Revitalize downtown and the community comes to life." [Read the governor's blog post.](#)

[Morganton, Waynesville get 'Main Street Solutions' grants](#) (Asheville Citizen-Times, June 1)

[Cities receive grant to revitalize downtown businesses](#) (News 14 Carolina, May 27)



NASCAR Hall of Fame holds first induction

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, NASCAR Hall of Fame inductee Richard Petty and Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges at the inductee dinner in Charlotte

The newly opened [NASCAR Hall of Fame](#) in Charlotte held a series of induction ceremonies, including a dinner for inductees on May 20 at the Crown Ballroom in Charlotte. N.C. Department of

Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges attended the dinner, where various NASCAR dignitaries shared memorable stories about the inaugural class of inductees, including Richard Petty, Dale Earnhardt and Junior Johnson. Also on May 20, the inductees unveiled their signatures in granite tiles in the Ceremonial Garden outside the Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony was held on May 23.

Located in uptown Charlotte, the 150,000-square-foot NASCAR Hall of Fame is an interactive entertainment attraction honoring the history and heritage of NASCAR. The high-tech venue, designed to educate and entertain race fans and non-fans alike, includes artifacts, interactive exhibits, a 275-person state-of-the-art theater, Hall of Honor and NASCAR Media Group-operated broadcast studio. The five-acre site also includes a privately developed 19-story office tower and 102,000-square-foot expansion to the Charlotte Convention Center, highlighted by a 40,000 square-foot ballroom. The NASCAR Hall of Fame opened on May 11 and is owned by the City of Charlotte, licensed by NASCAR and operated by the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority.



Commerce's 2010-2011 Strategic Marketing Plan goes live

Introduced on May 4, [the strategic marketing plan](#) for fiscal year 2010-2011 highlights Commerce's goals, strategies, and the range of tactics designed to spur new and continued investment in North Carolina. Collaborating successfully with allies in all 100 counties to articulate the state's competitive advantages to decision makers and influencers in key industry sectors will ensure a North Carolina where

both our businesses and our citizens thrive.

With that goal in mind, this plan offers several cooperative marketing and advertising programs to our economic development partners and allies. These cooperative opportunities have been evaluated and selected based upon their ability to effectively and efficiently reach our target audiences with a unified North Carolina message and to do so at value pricing that none of us could attain alone. Participation opportunities exist within multiple key industries including: aviation and aerospace, alternative energy, biotechnology and life sciences, financial services, information technology and automotive.

These programs combine tradeshows, signature events and paid media placement opportunities in a variety of platforms relevant to our core audience. Partners can make the most of their marketing and advertising budgets by "piggybacking" on the department's investment.

Please review these opportunities, pass along your feedback, and direct any questions you may have to Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Banding Lynn Minges at lminges@nccommerce.com. We look forward to working with you this year to position North Carolina as a globally preferred business location. [See the strategic plan.](#)

Crowley named assistant secretary for communications

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco on June 4 announced that Tim Crowley, deputy communications director for Governor Bev Perdue, will become Commerce's new assistant secretary for communications and external affairs, effective July 1.

"We are very pleased to have Tim Crowley join the Commerce team," said Crisco. "Our Public Affairs staff has worked very closely with him, and we know his extensive experience with the news media, legislative and executive branches, and economic development will allow him to hit the ground running."

Crowley takes over for Kathy Neal, who is leaving Commerce to pursue a new career in health care. Neal, who had been at Commerce since May 2007, leaves June 30. "I am thrilled to have Tim coming to Commerce," Neal said. "He will do a great job, as he has in the Governor's Press Office, and I know he will enjoy working with Secretary Crisco and other Commerce colleagues." [Read more.](#)

International Trade releases 2010 Export Report

The N.C. Department of Commerce's International Trade Division (ITD) has released its 2010 Export Report.

ITD plays a pivotal role in helping North Carolina businesses capitalize on global market opportunities. Trade specialists in Raleigh and High Point leverage resources and programs to help North Carolina businesses grow through exports. Trade representatives in Canada, Mexico, Germany, China (Shanghai and Hong Kong), and Japan locate distribution channels and partners for North Carolina companies looking to enter the foreign markets and assist them with on-the-ground services in these countries.

In a message to readers, ITD Director Jean Davis notes that the division worked on more than 470 business requests for export assistance from 265 N.C. companies in 2009. Dr. Richard W. Williams Sr., president and CEO of Value Clothing in Salisbury also writes about how working with ITD has helped his company double export sales. [Read the report.](#)

Citco Fund Services to create 258 jobs in Mecklenburg County

Governor Bev Perdue announced June 3 that global hedge fund administrator Citco Fund Services (USA) Inc. plans to create 258 jobs in Mecklenburg County over the next five years. The company will invest \$3 million to open its first North Carolina office thanks in part to a state Job Development Investment Grant. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Ron Leitch was the developer on this project.

"Charlotte is second only to New York for financial services, making it a major player in this industry," said Perdue. "Because of that, top-quality companies know they will find the knowledgeable and dedicated workers they need to succeed here."

While individual wages will vary by job function, the overall average for the 258 new jobs will be \$78,256 a year, not including benefits. That is higher than the Mecklenburg County average of \$48,770.

Citco Fund Services companies have more than 35 years of experience and offer a full range of fund administration services. These companies currently provide services for more than 2,000 funds at 16 offices in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, Asia, South America and several islands in the Caribbean. Citco Fund Services companies are part of the Citco Group of Companies, a worldwide group of independent financial service providers whose customers include alternative investment funds, private equity and real estate firms, institutional banks, Global 1000 companies and wealthy individuals. [Read more.](#)

Clearwater Paper to create 250 jobs in Cleveland County

Governor Bev Perdue announces that Clearwater Paper Corp. will build a new manufacturing and distribution facility in



Shelby.

Governor Bev Perdue announced June 10 that Clearwater Paper Corp. plans to invest \$260 million and hire 250 workers over the next five years 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.

"Paper making is a heritage industry in North Carolina dating back to colonial times," said Perdue. "We remain a leader in this field and others because of our top-rated business climate, our outstanding workforce, and excellent infrastructure. We welcome Clearwater Paper to North Carolina."

Clearwater Paper (NYSE:CLW) makes pulp and paperboard, private-label tissue and wood products. Its Consumer Products Division supplies more than half of the retail grocery store brand bathroom tissue, paper towels, facial tissue and napkins in the United States.

The company has private-label tissue manufacturing facilities in the West and Midwest but not in the Southeast. This new manufacturing and distribution facility is intended to help the company serve the Eastern Seaboard more cost effectively and meet growing demand.

While individual wages will vary according to job responsibilities, the overall average wage for the 250 new jobs will be approximately \$38,000. That is higher than the Cleveland County average of \$31,200. [Read more.](#) [See video of the announcement from The Shelby Star.](#)

["Guys, we picked the right place": Clearwater Paper announces plans for Cleveland County facility, roughly 300 jobs](#) (The Shelby Star, June 10)

Magna to add 327 jobs in Rowan, Caldwell and Catawba

Governor Bev Perdue announced June 14 that auto parts supplier Magna Composites LLC plans to expand three plants in the western part of North Carolina and create 327 new jobs over the next four years. The expansion – in which Magna plans to invest \$10 million in facilities in Salisbury, Lenoir and Newton – was made possible in part by a state Job Development Investment Grant. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Uconda Dunn was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my number one priority, and this multi-county expansion is a win for the region and state," said Perdue. "North Carolina's commitment to education, workforce training and maintaining a top-rated business climate makes us well positioned to continue to add jobs and economic opportunities."

Magna Composites is a division of Magna Exteriors and Interiors, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian auto parts giant Magna International (NYSE: MGA). Magna International operates 240 manufacturing facilities in 25 countries.

Magna added the three North Carolina plants to its holdings when it purchased portions of Meridian Automotive Systems' composites business in June 2009. Since then, the company has increased employment at the three facilities, which currently provide jobs for 360 workers. [Read more.](#)

[Auto parts giant to add 327 jobs at three NC plants](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, June 14)

N.C. joins 9 Eastern states in Wind Energy Consortium

U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, Governor Bev Perdue and the governors of 9 other East Coast states on June 8 signed a Memorandum of Understanding that formally establishes an Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium to promote the efficient, orderly and responsible development of wind resources on the Outer Continental Shelf. Salazar said the establishment of the consortium will promote safe and environmentally responsible development, enhance the nation's energy security, and create jobs. He explained a regional renewable energy office has been set up to coordinate and expedite the

development of wind, solar and other renewable energy resources off the Atlantic coast. Salazar in April authorized the nation's first offshore wind farm off Cape Cod. In addition to North Carolina, the other states are Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Virginia. [Read more.](#)

[10 eastern states join wind energy consortium](#) (Bloomberg Businessweek, June 8)



Charlotte USA and Piedmont Triad Partnership recognize regional partners

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Cindy Carroll, Sandra Bryant and Charlotte Regional Partnership President and CEO Ronnie Bryant at Charlotte USA Annual Awards Luncheon

On May 25, Charlotte USA held its annual awards luncheon and recognized US Airways, the community colleges in the region and outgoing Chairman Humpy Wheeler for their outstanding leadership.

On June 3, the Piedmont Triad Region held its Capstone Event to recognize its partners at the conclusion of the successful \$15 million Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development grant project (WIRED) from the U.S. Department of Labor. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll visited both regions to thank the two partnership CEOs for their outstanding efforts.

[Charlotte Regional Partnership honors US Airways, colleges](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, May 25)

[Leaders celebrate results of federal WIRED grant](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, June 4)



NCEDA wraps up annual meeting

(Left-right) NCEDA Immediate Past President Scott Hamilton, former Governor Jim Hunt, outgoing NCEDA President Katherine Thomas, NCEDA incoming Secretary Treasurer Linda Weiner

[The N.C. Economic Developers Association](#) (NCEDA) held its annual conference June 14-16 at the Sheraton in Atlantic Beach. Nearly 300 economic development professionals from around the state attended the conference, which focused on the logistics of doing business in North Carolina. Speakers included N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges, N.C. State Ports Authority Director of Distribution Services James Yokeley, Piedmont Triad Partnership President Don Kirkman and Spirit AeroSystems N.C. Site Operations Director Rick Davis.

During the conference, the NCEDA presented a special President's Award to former Governor Jim Hunt. The award is given to an individual who has gone "above and beyond to make a significant impact on economic development in our state."

The NCEDA also presented two "Economic Developer of the Year" awards, recognizing individuals who have made significant and measurable contributions to economic development in North Carolina. This award recognizes accomplishments in a calendar year, in this case 2009, that are significant and measurable.

Award recipients were Don Porter, from Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission, and Scott Millar, from the Catawba County Economic Development Commission.



Commerce names assistant secretary for energy

Jennifer Bumgarner

N.C. Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco on June 17 announced Jennifer Bumgarner as the department's new assistant secretary for energy. Bumgarner comes to Commerce from Governor Bev Perdue's policy staff, where she has served as deputy policy director with a special focus on energy and environmental issues. Bumgarner will oversee the N.C. Energy Office, the state's weatherization program and the state's Energy Policy Council, with a goal of creating green jobs and expanding the state's energy economy.

"Jennifer Bumgarner brings significant policy experience and expertise to this position," said Crisco. "We are pleased she is joining the Commerce team and know that she will continue to focus on moving forward our state's energy efforts and programs, especially as we work to get recovery dollars and jobs out into communities and to support energy- and green-related businesses." Bumgarner starts her new position July 1. [Read more.](#)

[N.C. energy official appointed](#) (The Charlotte Business Journal, June 18)



Crisco helps raise scholarship funds at Dancing with the Randolph Stars event

LoriAnn Owen and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco shake it to "You're the One that I Want." Photo courtesy of Jerry Wolford and Randolph Community College.

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco was among 34 Randolph County civic and community leaders who

participated in Randolph Community College's (RCC) June 5 Dancing with the Randolph Stars event, raising thousands of dollars for scholarships for RCC students.

Several costumed couples danced for 90 seconds to a song of their choice, soliciting cheers and applause from the sold-out crowd. Crisco and LoriAnn Owen, wife of renowned potter Ben Owen, dressed up as John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John from "Grease" and danced to "You're the One that I Want."

In addition to voting and ticket sales, scholarship money was raised through sponsorships from local businesses and community groups. The event netted \$64,500, which will go directly to student scholarships.

RCC President Dr. Robert Shackelford said, "The Dancing with the Randolph Stars event has been the most successful fundraiser ever for the Randolph Community College Foundation. Our students will be the recipients of this wonderful outpouring of support from our community. We want to thank everyone who was involved, from the planning committee members, to the dancers, to those who sponsored the event, contributed monetary votes, and purchased tickets." [Read more.](#)

Friends of N.C. welcomes new sponsors

The Friends of North Carolina is an advisory council to the NC Commerce Trade and Development Fund, a non-profit organization that helps market North Carolina nationally and internationally. This council coordinates private sector involvement in economic development and trade endeavors that help build business relationships and tell the dynamic business story of North Carolina.

The Friends of North Carolina 2010-11 membership drive commenced in mid-June and is off to a great start. We are pleased to welcome the following new sponsors to the program and look forward to working with them in the coming year: Silver level sponsors [Lake Norman Regional EDC](#) and [RowanWORKS](#) and Bronze level sponsors [Brunswick County EDC](#) and [Shelco Inc.](#) We thank all of our sponsors and look forward to a successful year. [Visit the partner page](#) of the [thrivenc.com](#) website where you can view all of

our Friends sponsors.

If you are interested to learn more about this program, please contact Liz Dobbins in the N.C. Department of Commerce Marketing Division at (919) 733-4947 or edobbins@nccommerce.com. [View the 2010-11 Friends of North Carolina Work Plan](#), which includes a range of sponsor levels and the event calendar.



Randolph EDC celebrates 25 years

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco speaks during the 25th anniversary meeting of the Randolph Economic Development Corp. in Asheboro.

The Randolph County Economic Development Corp. (EDC) honored two long-time leaders of local industry with the 2010 Partners in Progress Award at its recent annual meeting on June 24. J.B. Davis, recently retired president and CEO of Klaussner Furniture Industries, and William H. Redding Jr., chairman of the board of Acme McCrary Corp, received the

award, which was created to recognize those individuals, organizations and groups that make a significant contribution to economic development in Randolph County. Davis and Redding were described as two extraordinary individuals whose leadership and commitment have blessed the community and its people.

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco said, "They are long term key leaders, courageous and willing to tackle tough issues." Asheboro City Manager John Ogburn said, "As our state and national economy transformed into a global economy, both leaders were able to strengthen their businesses and their industries into economic powerhouses. Randolph County is fortunate to have these men as citizens."

This year's meeting celebrated a quarter century of economic development success resulting in \$1,520,854,800 in announced capital investment and 10,152 new jobs from new and expanded industries. During the meeting, Randolph EDC President Bonnie Renfro recognized leaders and allies that have supported the EDC over the years. Crisco stated that economic development activity is strong across the state with new job announcements and praised the Randolph County EDC for consistent excellence and innovation and outstanding leadership. [Read more.](#)

Budget includes additional funding for key programs

The General Assembly is expected to pass and send to Governor Bev Perdue budget adjustments for 2010-2011 that include additional funds for the N.C. Department of Commerce to attract businesses to North Carolina, for matching grants to support energy research and green jobs, and to market North Carolina as a premier travel destination.

Acting on Perdue's number one priority to create jobs and saying it must act decisively "to encourage economic activity to keep our families working," the General Assembly has added the following non-recurring funding for the department:

- \$1 million to support the state's small business tourism economy by increasing investment in marketing and advertising of North Carolina as a national tourism destination
- \$875,000 to increase the visibility and awareness of North Carolina as a business destination through targeted marketing, and to promote North Carolina products, including agricultural commodities, both nationally and internationally
- \$12.5 million in additional funding for the One NC Fund to enhance the competitive position of North Carolina when recruiting national and international business and industry projects, 3 percent of which must be used for small business expansion
- \$1.5 million for the One NC Small Business Fund program for matching grants to businesses that qualify for federal SBIR/STTR Incentives funds
- \$1 million for matching funds for U.S. Department of Energy grants to support energy research and green jobs

The budget also eliminates four vacant positions in the Department, abolishes the tourism matching grant program and reduces funding for the Wine and Grape Growers Council by 13 percent.



Spirit AeroSystems opens GTP plant

Governor Bev Perdue (right) presents an aerial photo of the Spirit AeroSystems facility to President and CEO Jeff Turner (center).

Spirit AeroSystems, the world's largest independent supplier of commercial airplane assemblies and components, on July 1 formally opened its new 500,000-square-foot manufacturing facility at the Global TransPark in Kinston. The ceremony was hosted by Spirit President

and CEO Jeff Turner, and Airbus President and CEO Tom Enders. Governor Bev Perdue, and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll were among the numerous community partners from around the region and state who attended the ceremony.

"I believe that Kinston and the Global TransPark will become synonymous with aerospace around the globe," Perdue told the audience.

"We are proud of what Spirit has achieved over the last two years and honoured to have been invited to Kinston to witness the opening of this high-tech facility. Here at the Kinston plant an important part of our all new A350 XWB will be manufactured," said Tom Enders, Airbus president and CEO. "Our cooperation with Spirit is an example of how Airbus is growing its partnerships in the United States, both supporting jobs and contributing to the American economy," he added.

Employees at the facility will design and manufacture the composite center fuselage upper and lower shells (Section 15) and front wing spar for the Airbus A350 XWB aircraft using state-of-the-art technology and processes. Design work has been underway for approximately two years, and the manufacturing process will begin immediately. Spirit has pledged to create 1,000 jobs over the course of the next six years, 200 of which will be created by the end of 2010. [Read more.](#)

[Spirit North Carolina](#) (Kinston Free Press, July 2)

[Spirit enters with glitz, promises](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, July 2)

State program will make new homes more energy efficient

The N.C. Department of Commerce's State Energy Office is launching a \$3.7 million program to improve energy efficiency in new single-family homes and multi-family housing under construction. Two agencies have been designated to work with the state to develop, implement and monitor a statewide residential energy efficiency program that will provide sustainable energy savings in new homes for both homeowners and renters, while improving the comfort and durability of the homes.

The ASU Energy Center in Boone and Systems Building Research Alliance, a nonprofit consortium of electric utilities and major manufactured and modular home building companies, have been designated by the Energy Office to lead the effort. Plans are to improve energy efficiency in nearly 2,500 single-family homes and 480 multi-family units, along with 1,700 manufactured homes. The program, funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will demonstrate to builders and homeowners that energy improvements make homes more attractive to buyers, generate greater marketplace demand for energy-efficient homes and result in long-term energy savings.

Appalachian State University will receive \$2.6 million to focus on site-built single-family and multi-family home energy efficiency improvements. Systems Building Research Alliance will receive \$1.1 million to focus on manufactured homes built to federal standards, addressing energy efficiency improvements. [Read more.](#)

[Latest weatherization program targets new homes, apartments, trailers](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, June 30)

IBM to bring 600 jobs to RTP

Governor Bev Perdue announced on July 8 that IBM Lender Business Process Services Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of International Business Machines Corp., will



hire 600 workers during the next two years and invest \$3.7 million to open a managed business process service center in Research Triangle Park. A state Job

Development Investment Grant helped make the project possible. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Vivian Powell was the developer on this project.

"IBM has been a major employer in North Carolina providing thousands of skilled jobs for more than 30 years. We value this company's ongoing commitment to North Carolina and Research Triangle Park," said Perdue. [Read more.](#)



Commerce promotes aerospace at airshow

(Left-right) N.C. Dept of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, TIMCO Co-CEO, CFO and CAO Kevin Carter, Wright family spokesperson Amanda Wright Lane and TIMCO VP of Sales and Marketing Kip Blakely at the Farnborough Airshow.

The N.C. Department of Commerce, along with several partners and allies from across the state, were in Farnborough, England, at the [Farnborough International Airshow](#) in July. This show provides an opportunity to connect with senior aerospace executives over the course of the seven-day trade fair. Eleven North Carolina companies and economic development organizations are also joining Commerce to exhibit within the state's booth, taking advantage of the department's expanded marketing partnership program.

Partners include: North Carolina's Eastern Region, Purolator Facet, North Carolina's Piedmont Triad Partnership, VX Aerospace, C.R. Onsrud, Liquip International, TIMCO Aviation Services, Spatial Integrated Systems, Commerce Overseas Corporation, Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development, North Carolina's Global TransPark

On July 20 Secretary Keith Crisco welcomed Amanda Wright Lane, great-grandniece of Wilbur and Orville Wright, as they hosted dozens of company executives to the state's networking reception. Crisco and Lane commemorated the famous 1903 first flight and noted how the state is building on its heritage in aviation to create new jobs and opportunities for North Carolinians.

The Farnborough trade show was the largest event held in the sector this year with more than 130,000 trade visitors expected to attend. Commerce led the state's marketing efforts at the show, mounting a 650-square-foot exhibit in the U.S. Pavilion and conducting meetings with senior aerospace executives. The airshow ran through July 25. The state's presence at the air show follows successful exhibits mounted at the 2008 show and at the International Air Show at Le Bourget, France, last summer.

Governor Bev. Perdue has identified aerospace and defense as key target industries for North Carolina, and as increasingly important to long-term job and investment growth for the state. North Carolina has enjoyed significant growth in the sector over the last three years. Just this month Spirit AeroSystems' opened a new manufacturing facility at the Global TransPark in Kinston where the company will build major fuselage and wing components for the Airbus A-350 XWB. Airbus reports more than 500 firm orders for its next-generation aircraft, which features extensive use of composite materials. [Learn more about the aerospace industry in North Carolina.](#)

[Kinston area represented at international air show](#) (The Kinsotn Free Press, July 19)

Crisco leads European business development trip

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco completed the first part of a European business development trip by visiting three countries and making five corporate calls in three days. The mission

focuses on reverse investment and trade opportunities for North Carolina in Denmark, Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom. Crisco is leading the trip with support from North Carolina businesses, economic development allies and Commerce's Business & Industry Development, International Trade and Marketing divisions.

5 N.C. communities make Preserve America list

North Carolina communities often take pride in their heritage and culture, and now five of them are being recognized by First Lady Michelle Obama with the [Preserve America](#) Community designation. Asheboro, Hendersonville, Hillsborough, Waxhaw, and Transylvania County have earned the designation by demonstrating that they protect and celebrate their heritage, use historic resources for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage residents and visitors to experience local historic resources through education and historic tourism programs.

CNBC ranks N.C. No. 4 on list of Top States for Business

CNBC has declared North Carolina as most improved among the top five states for doing business, elevating the state from 9th to 4th in its annual survey, "America's Top States for Business."

"This shows that the hard work of the past year has paid off - our investments in education to build the workforce of tomorrow, policies that create a more business-friendly climate and our aggressive recruiting," said Governor Bev Perdue. "When I took office, I pledged to take any meeting and make any call to bring jobs to this state. There's nothing I love more than convincing a corporate executive of what a great place this is to live and work."

The ranking is the highest North Carolina has achieved in the four years of the survey. In 2008 and 2007, North Carolina ranked 6th and 5th, respectively.

In its rankings, CNBC scored the states on more than 40 measures of competitiveness based on the [cost of doing business](#), [workforce](#), [quality of life](#), [economy](#), [transportation and infrastructure](#), [technology and innovation](#), [education](#), [business friendliness](#), [access to capital](#) and [cost of living](#).

See the full CNBC special report on "[America's Top States for Business](#)." The report also includes [a video highlighting North Carolina](#) and CNBC's reasons (including workforce and access to capital) for the No. 4 ranking. [See the full rankings for all states](#).

Perdue signs JobsNOW legislation

Governor Bev Perdue on July 22 signed House Bills [1973](#) and [1035](#) that will help create jobs for more North Carolinians. Governor Perdue signed the bills in a ceremony at Epic Games, a video game company headquartered in Cary.

"This jobs package, which was strongly supported by legislators in both parties, gives North Carolina more tools in our economic development toolbox," said Perdue. "I intend for us to be as competitive and innovative as any state -- both nationally and internationally."

The [JobsNOW](#) legislation provides a number of critical tools for economic development in North Carolina, including:

- A new tax credit for investments in the digital media industry
- Extension of tax credits for businesses that create new jobs and new investment
- Enhancements to North Carolina's film tax credit to increase the state's competitiveness in film production
- Raising the bonding limit for small businesses that compete for small state construction projects -- which makes it easier and cheaper for small businesses and historically underutilized businesses to do work for the state.

[N.C. boosts arsenal to compete for videogame industry growth](#) (Local Tech Wire, July 23)

Defense spending in N.C. jumps by 10 percent

Governor Bev Perdue, the [N.C. Military Business Center](#) (NCMBC) and the [N.C. Military Foundation](#) on July 26 announced that Department of Defense spending in North Carolina grew by 10 percent and exceeded \$4.0 billion in federal fiscal year 2009 -- an increase of \$363.8 million over procurement in the state in 2008.

"These numbers continue to indicate that North Carolina is becoming a very significant player in the global

military and defense industry cluster," said Perdue. "The state has made great strides to leverage expanding markets, capture federal revenues and grow jobs right here in North Carolina -- the most military friendly state in America."

Perdue helped establish the NCMBC within the North Carolina Community College System and launched the foundation, a business development organization focused exclusively on building the state's defense and homeland security economy.

"Defense spending in North Carolina is critical to expanding our economy and growing jobs in North Carolina," said Scott Dorney, executive director of the NCMBC. "The defense and federal market is still booming. Although it is not easy, businesses across the state are competing and winning in the federal market." [Read more. Learn more about aerospace and defense in North Carolina.](#)

[Military spending in N.C. jumps by 10 percent](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, July 26)



Caterpillar to bring 392 jobs to Winston-Salem

(Left-right) Winston-Salem Business Inc. President Robert Leak, Forsyth County Board of Commissioners Chairman David Plyler, Governor Bev Perdue, N.C. Community College System President Scott Ralls and Caterpillar General Manager Mike Murphy (Photo by William Bottomley, WXII)

Governor Bev Perdue announced July 30 that Caterpillar Inc., the largest maker of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, and industrial gas turbines in the world, will build a new manufacturing plant in Forsyth County. The company plans to create 392 jobs over the next five years and invest \$426 million. The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant program and One North Carolina Fund.

"Creating jobs is my top priority and this major investment by Caterpillar will be a tremendous benefit to the Triad and our state," said Perdue. "Globally competitive companies realize our tremendous workforce, custom training programs and top-ranked business climate will allow them and their employees to thrive in North Carolina."

Caterpillar currently employs 1,026 full-time workers in Wake, Johnston, Lee, Macon and Burke counties. While individual wages for the 392 additional jobs will vary by job function, the overall average for the new jobs will be \$40,482 a year, plus benefits. That is higher than the Forsyth County average of \$40,352. [Read more. Learn more about the automotive, truck and heavy equipment cluster in North Carolina.](#)

[Caterpillar selects Winston-Salem for new \\$426M plant](#) (WXII - Winston-Salem, July 29)

McKoy named assistant Secretary for community development

Henry McKoy has been named assistant Secretary for community development for the N.C. Department of Commerce. McKoy graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a BS in Business Administration and has pursued graduate studies at Duke University in Environmental Management & Policy. His professional career began with Central Carolina Bank where his responsibilities steadily progressed to the role of senior vice president. He has served as a consultant to the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education, as president of CASS Intelligence Networks and as CEO of Fourth-Sector Financial Corporation. McKoy's appointment is effective immediately.

Perdue, Crisco welcome Hatteras Yachts

Governor Bev Perdue accepts framed burgees from Hatteras employee Harry Davis, left, and James Meyer, president of Hatteras Yachts. The burgees, of Hatteras and Cabo yachts, were signed by employees. (Photo by Byron Holland, courtesy of the New Bern Sun-Journal)



Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco were among the state and local leaders on hand Aug. 6 to celebrate Brunswick Corp.'s announcement that it will consolidate its Hatteras- and Cabo-brand yacht manufacturing operations at its New Bern plant.

"Hatteras Yachts, as you all know, has been a staple of New Bern's economy, and the region's economy, quite frankly, since (1959)," Perdue said. "It was here since I moved here in the late '70s, and we've been through great times when nobody around the world could buy yachts fast enough to hard times in other recessions, but never as hard as these past three years when the global economy was stressed."

"Bringing our brands under one physical roof will allow us to fully leverage our technological and operational advantages, better serve our dealers and customers, reduce fixed costs and more effectively use our available manufacturing capacity," explained Hatteras President James R. Meyer. [Read more.](#)

[Perdue, leaders welcome Cabo Yachts](#) (New Bern Sun-Journal, Aug. 6, includes video of the announcement)

Caterpillar to bring 485 jobs to Lee County

On Aug. 5, Governor Bev Perdue announced that Caterpillar Inc., the largest maker of construction and mining equipment, diesel and natural gas engines, and industrial gas turbines in the world, will expand its manufacturing facilities in Lee County.

The company plans to create 325 jobs over the next four years. In addition, a company supplier is expected to locate 160 jobs in North Carolina as part of the expansion, bringing the total to 485 jobs. Caterpillar will invest \$28.3 million as part of the project in Sanford, which was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant program and One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Jamie Vaughn was the developer on the project.

This is the second job announcement for Caterpillar in one week. On July 30 the company revealed it will expand its manufacturing facilities in Winston-Salem, investing \$426 million and creating 392 jobs. [Read more.](#)

[Caterpillar creating 325 jobs at Sanford plant](#) (The Fayetteville Observer, Aug. 6)



Watt views weatherization work

U.S. Rep. Mel Watt visited the home of Patricia Nixon in High Point on Aug. 3 to get a first-hand look at the work of the N.C. Weatherization Assistance Program and Regional Consolidated Services, the weatherization services provider for Guilford County. On hand to show Rep. Watt around were N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Energy Jennifer Bumgarner, Benny Wofford of Regional Consolidated Services, Regional Consolidated Services Board President Maria Bliss, homeowner Patricia Nixon, Regional Consolidated Services Executive Director Janice Scarborough and N.C. Weatherization Section Chief Rita Joyner.



Carroll participates in ElectriCities of N.C. annual meeting

N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll speaks at the ElectriCities of North Carolina annual meeting.

On Aug. 13 ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc. held its 2010 annual meeting. Guest speakers included N.C. Sen. Dan Blue and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll.

[See Carroll's economic development presentation.](#)



IEM headquarters now open

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Governor Bev Perdue, U.S. Rep. David Price and IEM CEO Madhu Beriwal at the ribbon-cutting ceremony

On Aug. 17, Governor Bev Perdue joined U.S. Rep. David Price, IEM CEO Madhu Beriwal and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco in cutting the ribbon on IEM's new headquarters in Research Triangle Park. In

December, IEM, an international risk management consultant, announced it would move its headquarters to North Carolina and is expected to create over 400 new jobs.

IEM's decision to move to North Carolina continues the strong growth of North Carolina's defense-related economy. Federal defense spending increased in North Carolina by 10 percent during the past year, exceeding \$4 billion in fiscal year 2009.

IEM consults federal and local governments and private clients on risk management ranging from natural disasters, to terrorist attacks, to overseas military conflicts.

[Price, Perdue turn out for IEM ribbon-cutting](#) (The Herald Sun, Aug. 18)



Perdue, Crisco speak at SGA

Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco confer during a panel at the Southern Governors' Association annual meeting.

Governor Bev Perdue and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco attended the Southern Governors' Association annual meeting Aug. 27-30 in Birmingham, Ala. Crisco spoke at a roundtable discussion on exploring trade opportunities in targeted industries. Specifically he spoke of

opportunities for partnering and trade with China in agribusiness and biotechnology.

N.C. Biotechnology Center President and CEO Norris Tolson also served as a panelist for a business session on the role of technology in the South's economic future.

Also at the conference, Perdue announced that North Carolina will host the 2011 conference in Asheville. Perdue was also selected to chair the SGA in the coming year.

Founded in 1934, the SGA is the oldest and historically the largest of the regional governors' associations. Since its inception, SGA has represented the common interests of Southern states' chief executives and provided a vehicle for promoting them. SGA supports the work of Southern governors by providing a bipartisan, regional forum to help shape and implement national policy and solve regional problems.



Site consultants learn about N.C. at Atlanta event

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco (center) chats with partners at the Atlanta reception, which was sponsored by the Friends of North Carolina program.

The [Friends of North Carolina](#) program sponsored a reception and presentation for site consultants at Ventantas in Atlanta on Aug. 24. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco was among the economic development leaders from

across the state on hand to update the consultants on North Carolina's programs and activities. Approximately 60 consultants and 30 partners attended the event.



Celgard breaks ground on Concord plant

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and Secretary Keith Crisco, Celgard VP Mitch Pulwer, and Polypore CEO Robert Toth

On Sept. 2, [Celgard](#) held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new electric drive vehicle battery separator manufacturing facility in Concord. The company and community officials recognized the leadership of Governor Bev Perdue and her

administration, along with the N.C. congressional delegation in competing for the \$100 million project. The company will create 209 jobs in Concord and 80 jobs in Charlotte. The project includes a \$49 million U.S. Department of Energy competitive grant award through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The new plant is the second phase in Celgard's strategy to expand production capacity, while bolstering the development of a strong and viable U.S.-based supply chain for lithium-ion batteries used in EDVs. The first phase, begun earlier this year, included the expansion of the company's existing Charlotte SouthPoint facility. [Read more.](#)

[Celgard breaks ground on new Concord facility](#) (News 14 Carolina, Sept. 2)



Orientation held for newest 21st Century Communities

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary Henry McKoy, Kristin Fletcher of Cleveland County, Franky Howard of Jones County, Alan Wood of Stokes County, and 21st Century Communities Director Mark Roberts (Representatives from Pamlico County were not available due to hurricane preparations.)

On Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, the N.C. Department of Commerce Division of Community Assistance held an orientation for the newest additions to the [21st Century Communities program](#). Cleveland, Jones, Pamlico and Stokes counties were welcomed into the program, bringing the total to 35 participating communities since 2001. 21st Century Communities Director Mark Roberts led the orientation for Commerce. The

orientation was held in Scotland County, a 21st Century Community from the last round in North Carolina.



Nanotechnology flourishes in N.C.

Svitlana Fialkova, a Ph.D. student at N.C. A&T State University's College of Engineering, shows U.S. Rep. Brad Miller some carbon nanotubes. Carbon nanotubes can transmit electricity without resistance, making them a key ingredient in the next generation of electronics that will dramatically increase the power and shrink the size of computers and other electronic devices.

In an example of how innovation and technological advances can help spur economic recovery, nanotechnology is playing a role in creating jobs and commercializing new green technologies that will help consumers save energy. High Point nanotechnology company QuarTek, a spin-out company of North Carolina's [Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering](#), recently received both a One N.C. Small Business Program grant and a Green Business Fund grant. Both programs are administered by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Office of Science and Technology.

QuarTek has collaborated with Vesture, another Green Business Fund grantee, to launch a new company called Phase Change Materials. Phase Change Materials produces an innovative, green energy-saving nanomaterial that can be used in the foil lining of pizza delivery bags and fast food wrappers to better insulate food, as well as in homes. As a result of the innovation that was facilitated by the Office of Science and Technology grants, Phase Change materials has created 25 new jobs to date and anticipates a four- to five-fold growth in the next two years.

According to Reyad Sawafta, founder of QuarTek, the opening of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering in Greensboro means that companies like his can now benefit greatly from convenient local access to nanotechnology equipment, resources, and researchers. The school a partnership between N.C. A&T University and UNC-Greensboro, is one of the first institutions in the Southeast that will grant Ph.D. degrees in nanotechnology. The N.C. Office of Science and Technology's 2006 Nanotechnology Roadmap helped pave the way for the creation of the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering.

In another sign that nanotechnology is playing a more prominent role in North Carolina's innovation economy, U.S. Rep. Brad Miller recently toured several North Carolina companies and research laboratories involved in nanotechnology, including the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering, and One N.C. Small Business Program Grant recipient [Protochips](#).



Boral Composites breaks ground on new plant

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and RowanWorks Economic Development Executive Director Robert Van Geons speak with guests at the Boral Composites groundbreaking Thursday in East Spencer. (Photo by Emily Ford for The Salisbury Post)

Boral Composites Inc., an independent, wholly-owned subsidiary of Boral USA, broke ground Sept. 9 on a new manufacturing facility located in East Spencer. The Rowan County facility is scheduled for completion in September 2011, and when fully built out will employ up to 25. In attendance at the ceremony were N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Rowan County Commissioner Carl Ford, and East Spencer Mayor John Cowan.

Boral USA currently operates a brick manufacturing facility in East Spencer and other facilities in Charlotte and Lake Norman.

"We look forward to furthering our business relationships with our valued partners, including the North

Carolina Department of Commerce, North Carolina Community Colleges System, Rowan County, RowanWorks, town of East Spencer and Duke Energy," said Brian Below, general manager of Boral Composites Inc. "Based on our history, we have found North Carolina offers our company a desirable geographic location to efficiently service our customers, as well as access to a skilled and able workforce."

The new plant, which will be located on property adjacent to Boral USA's current East Spencer site, is being built to the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) standards, minimizing energy use and conserving other resources. The facility will manufacture a line of exterior building products made primarily of recycled and rapidly renewable materials. [Read more.](#)

[Boral Composites among those set to add more jobs](#) (The Salisbury Post, Sept. 10)



Tourism Division promotes Parkway's 75th anniversary

Governor Bev Perdue (left) and Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell were two of the featured speakers during the Sept. 10 celebration of the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th anniversary. (Photo by Eric Brady, courtesy of The Roanoke Times)

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development has promoted the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th Anniversary across all aspects of its

marketing program. Media placements alone have generated more than 11 million impressions. Editorial coverage has reached an audience of 64 million.

The Parkway was featured on the cover of the Official N.C. Travel Guide. Some 300,000 copies of the guide, including a feature story on the Parkway anniversary, were produced. Guides are sent to potential visitors to the state. They will also be available at nine N.C. Welcome Centers and at many visitor centers across the state.

The Division has arranged for the Weather Channel to do a live remote broadcast themed "Why We Love Fall" during October from a location on the Parkway in western North Carolina. It will be shown to an estimated 672,000 viewers. The Division has hosted more than 30 travel writers, tour operators and travel agents from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Germany along the Parkway to celebrate the anniversary. The Division has also promoted the Parkway domestically and internationally to hundreds of media and travel representatives.

Several magazines including Country Living, AirTran Airlines' Go in-flight Magazine and Saveur are running Division advertorial sections that will be seen by millions of readers.

See the advertorial, "[Dine Along the Blue Ridge Parkway.](#)" See the advertorial "[Autumn Experiences.](#)" See the [High Country advertorial.](#) See the [marketing report](#) on the Blue Ridge Parkway's 75th anniversary. See the [report on story placement](#) for the anniversary.

['America's Favorite Drive,' the Blue Ridge Parkway, turns 75](#) (The Roanoke Times, Sept. 11)



Cree to add 244 jobs in Durham

Governor Bev Perdue speaks at the Sept. 20 announcement that Cree will add 244 jobs in Durham. With her are (from left) Cree CEO Chuck Swoboda, U.S. Sen. Richard Burr, U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, U.S. Rep. David Price, U.S. Rep. Brad Miller, Durham County Commissioner Ellen Reckhow (seated behind the governor) and Cree VP of Marketing Greg Merritt.

Governor Bev Perdue announced Sept. 20 that Cree Inc., a global leader in LED lighting technology and products, will expand its manufacturing operations in Durham. The company plans to create 244 jobs over the next two years and invest \$135 million. The project was made possible in part by a state grant from the Job Development Investment Grant program.

"Cree is a homegrown success story," said Perdue. "Not just because they started here and grew into a

global leader in efficient lighting technology, but also because North Carolina's top-notch workforce and top-rated business climate helped encourage them to stay, expand and thrive here at home." The N.C. Department of Commerce's Vivian Powell was the developer on this project.

[Cree to add 244 jobs in Durham](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Sept. 20)



Empire Foods to bring 200 jobs to Halifax County

Governor Bev Perdue speaks at the Sept. 16 announcement that Empire Foods will create 200 jobs in Halifax County. Empire Foods Chairman Greg Hatem is pictured at right.

Governor Bev Perdue on Sept. 16 announced that Empire Foods Inc., an advanced-technology food processing company, will bring 200 jobs to Halifax County. The company, using technology licensed from N.C. State University, plans to create the jobs and invest \$2.5 million over the next five years. The project was made possible in part by a \$400,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Garrett Wyckoff was the developer on this project.

"These 200 new jobs are the result of North Carolina's exceptional ability to bring together innovation, economic development, our renowned university system and local and state partnerships," said Perdue. "This creative collaboration will also benefit local farmers, successfully combining new production technology with our traditional agricultural heritage."

Empire Foods Inc. is a state-of-the-art food processing company that uses technology to produce shelf-stable food products. The products do not require refrigeration, but maintain the flavor, color and nutrients of fresh food. The company will lease a 35,000-square-foot production facility to be built by the county at the new Halifax Corporate Park. It will produce fruits and vegetables with an initial focus toward military and restaurant markets. In addition to creating jobs at the production facility, the company will purchase fruits and vegetables from local and regional farmers. [Read more.](#)

[Governor announces new venture in Halifax](#) (The Daily Herald - Roanoke Rapids, Sept. 17)

Perdue announces \$6M to promote health care, create jobs in rural N.C.

Governor Bev Perdue clasps hands with N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco after announcing \$6 million in funding to support job growth and health care facilities throughout rural North Carolina.

The N.C. Rural Economic Development Center and six partners are teaming to provide \$6 million in funding to support job growth and health care facilities throughout rural North Carolina. Governor Bev Perdue joined the partners Sept. 23 in Goldsboro to announce the funding for a second year of the Rural Hope initiative.



Rural Hope makes grants and loans for projects that will create jobs in health care through the construction and renovation of health care facilities or the purchase of health care equipment.

The program is making a significant difference in people's lives, Perdue said. "We measure it in the minutes and hours spent with loved ones -- instead of on the road just to get to the closest hospice care center," she said. "We measure it in the number of people who find good jobs in their communities -- and in the hope we

build for the future of rural North Carolina."

The Rural Center, which provided \$3 million for the second year of the initiative, is teaming with the Golden LEAF Foundation, the USDA Office of Rural Development and the Appalachian Regional Commission to provide funding for rural health care projects. Other partners in the initiative are the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the N.C. Office of Rural Health and Community Care and the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund. [Read more.](#)

Governor Perdue announces 275 jobs with TIMCO Aerosystems

Governor Bev Perdue announced on Sept. 28 that TIMCO Aerosystems, LLC., one of the largest providers of aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul services in the world, will open a passenger seat manufacturing operation in Wallburg. The company plans to create 275 jobs over the next five years and invest \$2.75 million at the facility. The project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant program and One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Melissa Smith was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my number one priority, and TIMCO Aerosystems decision to open its East Coast manufacturing operation in North Carolina is a big win," said Perdue. "By expanding its stake in the state, TIMCO has demonstrated that our own investments in education, worker training, aerospace and infrastructure have paid off. We have created the kind of business climate and workforce that is attracting new companies and encouraging the ones that are here to grow."

The TIMCO group currently employs 1,182 people in Greensboro. While individual wages for the 275 additional jobs will vary by job function, the overall average wage for the new jobs is \$34,728, not including benefits. That is higher than the county average of \$29,640 in Davidson County. [Read more.](#)



Perdue tours Commerce

Governor Bev Perdue shakes hands with Client Service Manager Tiffany McNeill during a visit to the N.C. Department of Commerce office in Raleigh.

Governor Bev Perdue on Sept. 27 toured the main offices and greeted staff of the N.C. Department of Commerce in Raleigh. The governor began her tour in the Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development, then continued to the Business & Industry Division, Public Affairs and the Commerce Finance Division. Along the way she spoke to Commerce staff and asked about the work that they do.



Manufacturing Makes It Real tour ends with rally

N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll and Secretary Keith Crisco recognize Dr. Terri Helmlinger Ratcliff of the N.C. State University Industrial Extension Service after reading Governor Bev Perdue's proclamation.

A convoy including a tractor-trailer, a hybrid school bus from Thomas Built and a red yacht from Winter Custom Yachts pulled up to the rally. Inside the truck were dozens of items, from pickles to military protective gear, all made in North Carolina.

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll presented [Governor Bev Perdue's proclamation](#) declaring the week of Sept. 27 "Manufacturing Makes It Real Week," and urging all North Carolinians to recognize the importance of manufacturing to the state. N.C. State University Chancellor Randy Woodson and N.C. Community Colleges President Scott Ralls also spoke at the event. The tour was sponsored by N.C. State University's Industrial Extension Service. N.C. State cheerleaders, and mascots Mr. and Mrs. Wuff helped celebrate at the rally.

[Out to prove that manufacturing is cool](#) (The News & Observer, Sept. 28)

Partnership to bring 241 jobs, \$161M in investment, to Buncombe, Johnston

(Left-right) Ken Fry of Nypro, Buncombe



County Commission Chairman David Gantt, Anita Walkey of Nypro, U.S. Rep. Heath Shuler, N.C. Rep. Jane Whilden, Asheville-Buncombe Economic Development Coalition Chair Ray Bailey, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Joe Freitas of Nypro and Asheville Area Chamber CEO Rick Lutovsky

Governor Bev Perdue announced Oct. 4 that Novo Nordisk, a global healthcare company and leader in diabetes care, and Nypro Inc., a global leader in manufactured precision plastics products, will expand operations in Johnston County and Buncombe County. The companies plan to create 241 jobs over the next four years and will invest \$161 million combined. The two-company, multi-county project was made possible in part by state grants from the Job Development Investment Grant program and One North Carolina Fund. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll participated in an announcement event at the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce.

"North Carolina continues to gain national attention for our job growth, and this wonderful announcement is an example of why," said Perdue. "Our skilled workforce, custom education and training programs, and top-rated business climate are attracting global companies looking for the best place to expand or relocate." [Read more.](#) [Photo gallery.](#)

[Novo Nordisk to expand Clayton insulin products plant](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Oct. 4)



Perdue announces up to 500 aerospace jobs in Davidson County

Governor Bev Perdue laughs with Kevin Carter, CEO of TIMCO Aerosystems, after Perdue puts her feet up in a TIMCO aircraft seat on Sept. 28 at Davidson County Community College during a press conference to announce that the company will open a plant in Wallburg and hire up to 500 workers. (Photo by Donnie Roberts, courtesy of the Lexington Dispatch)

TIMCO Aerosystems will open a manufacturing operation that makes airline passenger seats and interior systems, such as galley and lavatory systems, in the former Tyco plant in Wallburg in the first quarter of 2011 and eventually employ 500 people.

Governor Bev Perdue made the announcement at Davidson County Community College on Sept. 28, surrounded by local and state officials. To help facilitate this expansion, the company has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the state's One North Carolina Fund. The state's Economic Investment Committee also voted that same day to award the company a Job Development Investment Grant of up to \$1.8 million over nine years for meeting job creation targets.

[TIMCO Aerosystems to bring up to 500 jobs to Davidson County](#) (The Lexington Dispatch, Sept.28, 2010)

Crisco helps push for more STEM education

Education, business and other leaders gathered in Raleigh Sept. 28 for an all day summit on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. The morning kicked off with N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco explaining why this type of education is necessary for the state's future

success.

"Our economic success will be directly proportional to our ability to do good in STEM, our success in STEM, and the capability of our students in a wide range of conditions," said Crisco.

Crisco said this is because as the state works to recruit new companies and jobs to North Carolina, STEM education is now part of the equation.

"Companies that are here, that are growing, and companies that come here are all looking for people with backgrounds that understand, and are comfortable with math and science."

[Leaders push more STEM education](#) (News 14 Carolina, Sept. 28)

State Fair awards 341 medals in 2010 Wine Competition

Childress Vineyards won Best of Show and Sanders Ridge Vineyard & Winery took home the Muscadine Cup in the 2010 North Carolina State Fair Wine Competition. The 11th annual wine competition was held October 6-7 in Raleigh, featuring 454 wines competing in the commercial division and 156 wines in the amateur division.

The top winners from the commercial and amateur wine competition will be on display at the 2010 North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh from October 14-24.

North Carolina is home to 98 commercial wineries from the mountains to the coast, and ranks seventh for wine production in the United States. For more information on North Carolina wineries, including events and an interactive map, go to www.visitncwine.com. Results from the competition may be found at www.nccommerce.com/wine.

Apple data center to bring 300 jobs to Maiden

Maiden will get about 300 new jobs this fall with the opening of Apple Inc.'s \$1 billion data center. Apple officials have not verified an exact date for the center's opening but Catawba County Economic Development President Scott Millar said it should be open "any day now."

Apple started construction in August 2009 after the town agreed to give the company a \$46 million tax break over the next 10 years. The center will be used to house computers and store data.

"There's plenty of folks in the area with these tech skills," Millar said. "There's plenty of people to fill these jobs."

[Apple data center brings 300 jobs to Maiden](#) (Hickory Daily Record, Oct. 7)



Forbes ranks N.C. 3rd for Best States for Business

Governor Bev Perdue on Oct. 14 announced Forbes magazine is ranking North Carolina as the 3rd Best State for Business in America. North Carolina improved from last year's Forbes ranking of fifth. In addition, the governor announced that recent statistics from the Federal Bureau of Labor and Statistics show North Carolina is the third best state for declining unemployment and fourth in the nation for job creation.

"This shows that the hard work of the past year has paid off - our investments in education to build the workforce of tomorrow, policies that create a more business-friendly climate and our aggressive recruiting," said Perdue. "When I took office, I pledged to take any meeting and make any call to bring jobs to this state. There's nothing I love more than convincing a corporate executive of what a great place this is to live and work."

In the Forbes rankings, North Carolina scored third in Business Costs and Regulatory Environment and ninth in Growth Prospect. Forbes scored the states on six measures including business cost, labor supply, regulatory environment, economic climate, growth prospect and quality of life.

While Perdue acknowledged the need to go further in job growth, she noted four indicators that hint at

North Carolina's economic recovery:

- A decline in unemployment from 11.1 percent in January to 9.7 percent now;
- Corporate profits up 10 percent;
- A climb to fifth in the nation for personal income growth since June 2009; and
- The stabilization of the construction and manufacturing industries, which are no longer losing jobs.

In addition to some 36,700 jobs created in the last 12 months, Perdue and her team at the N.C. Department of Commerce have secured commitments for 30,000 new jobs since last year and \$5.6 billion in investments. [See the full story.](#)

[See the full rankings for all states.](#)



Commerce sponsors textiles conference in Greensboro

(Top row, left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Director of Foreign Operations Derek Chen, Economic Developer Stuart Hair, Policy Development Analyst Meihui Bodane, Jim Leonard of International Market Solutions, Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Jorman Fields of International Market Solutions; (bottom row, left-right) Economic Developer Tammy Lester, Cece Leonard of International Market Solutions and Associate Economic Developer Meredith Uchida.

The N.C. Department of Commerce on Oct. 13 sponsored a textile conference in Greensboro that focused on the very important markets for military and performance textile and apparel products. International Market Solutions organized the conference. Commerce sponsored a similar conference in 2009.

This year's agenda included not only the active military market but also several non-military government agencies. Recent events such as the earthquakes in Chile and Haiti highlight the importance of government non-military markets for many of the textile and apparel products. N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco spoke on the textile industry and innovation and on the military opportunities in North Carolina. Approximately 150 people attended the event. [Learn more.](#)



NCEDA holds fall conference

(Left-right) Rick Morgan of T5 Partners, Stu Heishman of Duke Energy and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco

The [N.C. Economic Developers Association](#) held its fall conference Oct. 14 in Concord. The conference, titled "Don't Stand Still: Keeping North Carolina Competitive in a Global Economy," featured presentations and panel discussions from top professionals. Topics covered the future of energy in North Carolina, mission critical economic development projects and creative financial strategies. N.C. Department of Commerce Small Business Commissioner Scott Daugherty was one of the featured speakers.

Siemens holds Charlotte groundbreaking

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Siemens Global Fossil Generation CEO Michael Suess, Siemens



Energy U.S. CEO Randy Zwirn, and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll at the groundbreaking.

On Oct. 20, Siemens held a groundbreaking in Charlotte for their planned 825 employee facility to manufacture natural gas-fired turbines.

Governor Bev Perdue was recognized by Siemens Global Fossil Generation CEO Michael Suess for her decisive leadership during the recruitment of the project. Siemens Energy U.S. CEO Randy Zwirn and General Manager Mark Pringle were also recognized by Suess for their advocacy on behalf of the current workforce at the Charlotte facility and the competitive business climate in the community and North Carolina.

[Read the blog post](#) at the governor's e-Town Hall recognizing the teamwork on the recruitment of the Siemens project.

Commerce leads exhibit effort at solar conference

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Energy and Marketing divisions recently partnered with the N.C. Solar Center to mount a North Carolina exhibit at the Solar Power International conference and expo, the largest business to business solar energy show in North America. An estimated 27,000 business executives and managers attended the three day conference in Los Angeles, which focuses on solar technology, policy, and finance and included displays from major manufacturers in the industry. A diverse group of public and private sector partners, including LORD Corporation, ABB, Inc., Nature's Energy Solutions, Electricities and Progress Energy, joined the state booth.

Perdue leads N.C. delegation to SEUS/Japan Conference

Governor Bev Perdue led a delegation last week to Nashville, Tenn., for the 34th Southeast U.S./Japan conference. This annual joint meeting, held since 1976 between several southeastern states and Japan brings together senior leaders from both countries to discuss investment, trade, and mutually beneficial partnerships. More than 500 delegates attended this year's conference in Music City. In 2011, the conference returns to Japan and will convene in downtown Tokyo at the Imperial Hotel, October 16-18.

The Economist profiles N.C. biotech

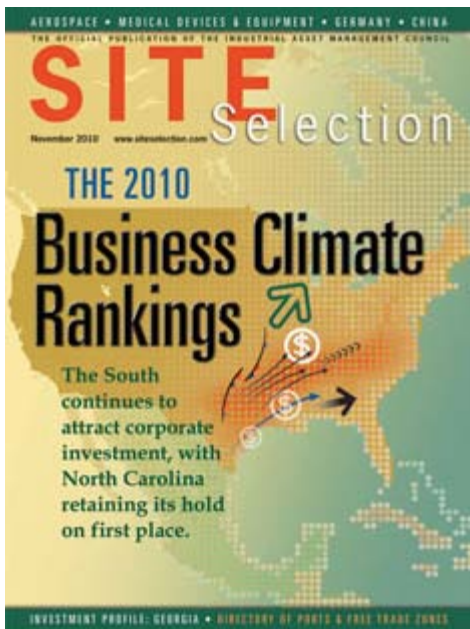
An article in the Oct. 21 issue of *The Economist* traces the transition of Winston-Salem's economy from tobacco-based to biotech-based. The article describes how scientists at the Piedmont Triad Research Park, which is located on property formerly owned by tobacco giant R.J. Reynolds, are finding new uses for the tobacco plant. The article mentions the work of companies in Durham, and also notes the N.C. Biotechnology Center's plan to increase North Carolina's agriculture sector by \$30 billion over the next decade. Learn more about N.C.'s [biotech industry](#).

[After tobacco](#) (The Economist, Oct. 21)

N.C. tops Site Selection rankings again

North Carolina is home to the nation's [Top Business Climate for 2010](#), according to the November 2010 issue of *Site Selection* magazine. For the ninth time in the past 10 years, *Site Selection* has awarded this distinction to the Tar Heel State. This year North Carolina also ranked first in the survey of corporate real estate executives.

Half of the final score is based on performance in Conway Data's New Plant Database, which tracks the activity of new



and expanded business facilities. The second half of the tally is derived from a survey of corporate site selectors from across the nation. Site selectors ranked the factors most important to them when choosing a location for a new business facility, and the top three factors for 2010 are workforce skills, transportation infrastructure and state and local tax schemes. The conclusion: North Carolina's overall business climate is the best in the country.

According to the research results, North Carolina's strengths include its extensive higher education resources, workforce training initiatives, moderate climate and transportation infrastructure, which includes extensive sea, rail and highway assets.

Another factor, according to *Site Selection*, is the proactive approach of Governor Bev Perdue to business recruitment.

"All states face economic and budgetary challenges these days, but this ranking reminds us that there are significant success stories, too," says Site Selection Editor in Chief Mark Arend. "North Carolina's first-place finish underscores its success across a wide spectrum of industries, from aerospace to life sciences to energy. We commend the governor and her economic development team for their focus on making and keeping their state business-friendly." [Read more.](#)



Biotech Center celebrates Hunt's \$64B biotech vision

N.C. Biotechnology Center President and CEO Norris Tolson watches as former Governor Jim Hunt cuts the ribbon at the new James B. Hunt, Jr. Leadership Annex. With Hunt are (from left) U.S. Rep. David Price, Governor Bev Perdue, Art Pappas of Pappas Ventures and Biotech Center chairman of the board, Carolyn Hunt, U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, and Robert Ingram of GSK

The N.C. Biotechnology Center celebrated the biotechnology vision of former Governor Jim Hunt with the dedication of the new James B. Hunt, Jr. Leadership Annex at Research Triangle Park on Oct. 27.

Thirty years ago, Hunt and other state leaders recognized the enormous impact that biotechnology could make on the state's economy, and they began to build a broad foundation for the industry by supporting research, business and education programs across the state.

Today 57,000 people work at 530 biotech companies in North Carolina. Including ripple effects, the industry contributes \$64.6 billion to the state's economy and supports more than 226,000 jobs.

"North Carolina is the third-largest state for biotechnology, and one of the most rapidly growing," said Norris Tolson, president and CEO of the Biotechnology Center.

Governor Bev Perdue, and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll were among those at the dedication ceremony. [Learn more.](#) Learn more about the [biotechnology industry](#) in North Carolina.

See the Biotech Center's [N.C.'s Biotech Vision video](#).

Perdue announces small business lending initiative

On Nov. 5, Governor Bev Perdue announced a new small business lending initiative at the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center's Rural Partners Forum at the North Raleigh Hilton. According to the Rural Center, the new program could provide up to \$800 million in capital for North Carolina's small businesses over the next two years.

The North Carolina Capital Access Program will support loan loss reserves that allow banks and other qualified financial institutions to make business loans that otherwise fall just outside of their normal underwriting standards.

The program is made possible by the State Small Business Credit Initiative, part of the federal Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. President Barack Obama signed the bill into law in September. Governor Bev Perdue designated the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center to administer \$46.1 million that North Carolina will receive under the initiative. [Read more.](#)

With the theme of "Ramping Up the Rural Economy," this year's forum provided a big-picture look at the forces that will drive the state's rural economy over the next decade. Participants also found out which sectors are likely to produce jobs, and heard from rural leaders who are transforming challenges into opportunities.

Lt. Governor Walter Dalton and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll were among the speakers.



Tanger opens 800-employee/\$65M Outlet Center in Mebane

(Left-right) Fashion consultant Stacy London, Tanger CEO Steven Tanger and N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll

On Nov. 5, [Tanger](#) held a ribbon cutting for their new 800-employee/\$65 million Outlet Center in Mebane. The outlet includes 80 stores built by 300 construction workers.

Celebrity fashion consultant Stacy London of New York served as the ceremony host. CEO Steven Tanger was presented the "Order of the Long Leaf Pine" by N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll on behalf of Governor Bev Perdue, who participated in the groundbreaking for the project last spring. The ceremony also included Mebane Mayor Glendel Stephenson and Alamance County Chamber President Mac Williams. The event concluded with Tanger presenting corporate donations for breast cancer research to the Alamance Regional Charitable Foundation, the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. Melissa Smith was the N.C. Department of Commerce developer on the project.



Facebook to build data center in Rutherford County

(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Facebook Director of Site Operations Tom Furlong, Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton and Chairman of Rutherford County Economic Development Commission Keven McCammon

Governor Bev Perdue announced Nov. 11 that Facebook, the world's leading social networking service connecting more than

500 million people, will locate a multi-million dollar data center near Forest City in Rutherford County. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Margie Bukowski was the developer on this project.

The facility is expected to create more than 250 construction and mechanical jobs during its 18-month building phase. When construction is completed, the data center will employ around 35-45 full-time and

contract workers. Facebook is expected to invest about \$450 million dollars in the new data center. Additional construction phases may be possible in the future, depending on business needs.

"We are proud that Facebook chose to make North Carolina a 'friend.' The feeling is certainly mutual," said Perdue. "You can't pick up a newspaper, read a magazine or flip on the television without hearing more great news about our state. The investment and jobs at the data center will be a boon to that region of the state, and will help confirm North Carolina's distinction as a global business destination."

Perdue said the state has been working with Facebook's representatives for about a year to help bring together the land, utilities and incentives to make the project a success. North Carolina has become a destination for data center projects including previous announcements by Apple, Google and IBM.

"After a rigorous review of sites across the East Coast, we are pleased to locate our new data center in Rutherford County. The team we will hire here will help us provide faster, more reliable and more robust service to people around the world who rely on Facebook to connect and share," said Tom Furlong, director of site operations for Facebook. "We are very grateful to the officials in Rutherford County and the State of North Carolina whose time, effort and commitment were instrumental in making this happen." [Read more. See more photos.](#)

[Facebook data center heads to N.C.](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Nov. 12)



Obama nominates Smith to regulate Fannie, Freddie

President Barack Obama said Nov. 12 he will nominate N.C. Banking Commissioner Joseph A. Smith Jr. to become chief regulator for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac as the administration prepares to overhaul the mortgage firms. Obama announced his intention to name Smith as director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency in an e-mail release. If confirmed by the Senate, the 61-year-old regulator will replace FHFA Acting Director Edward J. DeMarco at the helm of an agency that has overseen Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac since they were seized by the federal government in 2008.

[Obama to name North Carolina regulator Fannie, Freddie overseer](#) (Bloomberg, Nov. 12)



Fountain Powerboats to bring 411 jobs to Beaufort County

(Left-right) Fountain Powerboats founder and President Reggie Fountain, Liberty Associates CEO and Fountain Chairman Bill Gates, Liberty Associates Vice President and COO, and Fountain Powerboats COO John E. Walker, III, and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco

Governor Bev Perdue on Nov. 22 announced that Fountain Powerboat

Industries Inc., a designer and manufacturer of offshore sport boats, sport fishing boats and cruisers, will expand its current facility in Beaufort County. The company plans to create 411 jobs and invest \$5.1 million over the next five years in Washington. 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 Donna Phillips was the developer on this project.

"While companies around the globe are wisely choosing to open up shop in North Carolina, Fountain Powerboats is already one of our valued corporate neighbors," Perdue said. "Their expansion, and the many jobs that come with it, demonstrate that Fountain has long known what many other companies are concluding: that North Carolina has well earned our national acclaim for a top-ranked business climate."

Fountain Powerboat Industries has its executive office and manufacturing facilities on a 65-acre campus along the Pamlico River in Beaufort County. FPBI has been in business since 1979 and in 2008 added an entirely separate product line, Baja Boats. FPBI currently employs 75 full-time employees in North Carolina. Fountain is privately owned by Liberty Associates, LC. Liberty Associates is also the parent company of

Donzi Marine, LLC and Pro-Line Boats, LLC. Both of these Florida-based boat lines will move to the Washington location. [Read more.](#)

[Boat manufacturer to add 411 jobs in Beaufort County](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Nov. 22)

[Boat jobs to buoy county](#) (The Washington Daily News, Nov. 23)



Perdue helps celebrate Electrolux opening

Kevin Scott, president and CEO of Electrolux Major Appliances North America, and Governor Bev Perdue at the Electrolux North America Headquarters opening doors event (Photo: Business Wire)

Electrolux executives and employees, together with state, county and city officials, gathered Nov. 18 at Electrolux North America's new headquarters in Charlotte to commemorate the company's relocation to the city and officially celebrate the formal opening of the facility.

"It was just 11 months ago that we announced our decision to open our new North American headquarters in Charlotte," said Kevin Scott, head of Electrolux Major Appliances North America, "And four months ago, the first employees from our

Major Appliances and Professional Products sectors started working in this building."

"Today, Electrolux North America in Charlotte is 450 people – both long-time residents and new Charlotteans – working in this great, repurposed facility. It's fair to say that we've accomplished a lot in a short time," Scott said. "We are still hiring, and we are on track to meet our projection of 738 employees in Charlotte within five years." [Read more.](#)

[Appliance manufacturer brings hundreds of jobs to Charlotte](#) (WSOC - Charlotte, Nov. 18)



Perdue tours Daimler plant in Gastonia

(Left-right) ThomasBuilt Buses President and CEO Kelley Platt, Daimler General Manager for State/Local Relations David Trebing, Governor Bev Perdue and Plant Manager Andy Lukacs.

Governor Bev Perdue on Nov. 15 toured the Daimler Trucks North America Parts Manufacturing Plant in Gastonia. She met with COO Roger Nielsen, Plant Manager Andy Lukacs, ThomasBuilt Buses President and CEO Kelley Platt, Daimler Buses North America President and CEO

Rich Ferguson, and General Manager for State/Local Relations David Trebing. The governor learned about the company's investments in advanced manufacturing equipment and personnel.

Crisco participates in Uniboard ribbon-cutting

(Back row, left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, Bill Pappas of Parker Poe, and Lee County Economic Development Corporation Director Bob Heuts; (front row, left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Economic Developer Vivian Powell and Uniboard President and CEO James Hogg

On Nov. 23, Uniboard held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its \$177 million expansion at its North American headquarters in Moncure. The company employs 250 people. Uniboard supplies wood board products for industrial manufacturers



and the construction industry.

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and Economic Developer Vivian Powell toured the facility with Uniboard President and CEO James Hogg, Lee County Economic Development Corporation Director Bob Heuts, Research Triangle Regional Partnership President Charles Hayes, and Bill Pappas of Parker Poe.

Facebook announcement bringing attention to major data center corridor in WNC

The recent Facebook announcement by Governor Bev Perdue on Nov. 11 has generated hundreds of new stories around the globe. This coverage has brought attention to a major data center corridor in western North Carolina. On Nov. 24, the Asheville Citizen-Times published an editorial titled "Facebook Move a Huge Step Toward a New Economy in WNC." Facebook launched a page dedicated to the new data center project. Margie Bukowski was the N.C. Department of Commerce developer on the project. [Visit the Facebook data center page.](#)

[Editorial: Facebook move a huge step toward a new economy in WNC](#) (Asheville Citizen-Times, Nov. 24)



Obama talks about the economy in N.C.

President Barack Obama looks through a microscope Dec. 6 at Forsyth Technical Community College. (Photo courtesy of News 14 Carolina)

President Barack Obama used a visit to a North Carolina community college as a forum for a talk about the economy. He toured two biotech classrooms at Forsyth Technical Community College and talked to students, faculty and local business leaders.

The president's trip comes as lawmakers work on a compromise to temporarily extend Bush-era tax cuts for all income brackets and extend jobless benefits for millions of Americans.

During his visit the president and Governor Bev Perdue visited classrooms at Forsyth Tech, home to the National Center for the Biotechnology Workforce, which represents the state's biotechnology training programs on a federal level and tracks graduates' progress.

[President Obama talks about the economy at Forsyth Tech](#) (News 14 Carolina, Dec. 7 - with video)

[President lauds innovation at Forsyth Technical Community College](#) (Thrive, Dec. 7)

[Obama seeks revival of 'Made in America'](#) (The Winston-Salem Journal, Dec. 7)

[Obama highlights biotech jobs in N.C. visit](#) (N.C. Center for Biotechnology)



Perdue asks business leaders for ideas

Governor Bev Perdue seeks input from business leaders.

Governor Bev Perdue continued to solicit input from business leaders across the state this week when she led two roundtable discussions on her plan to reform the state's antiquated and cumbersome rules and regulations.

At UNC-Wilmington's [Center for Marine Science](#), she met with business leaders, educators and scientists and urged them to suggest examples of rules that defy common sense.

While there, she toured the center and discussed how the state can support continued growth in the biotechnology sector of the economy.

Later in Charlotte, the discussion of regulatory review continued at a similar event.

About 50 local government and area business leaders joined the governor to provide input on how the state can better support their efforts at economic development and job creation.

If you have ideas of rules or regulations that defy common sense, hamper business growth or get in the way of progress, visit the governor's [Setting Government Straight Web site](#).



Construction underway on \$900M Progress Energy facility in Wayne County

(Left-right) N.C. Sen. Don Davis, N.C. Rep. Efton Sager, N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, Progress Energy Senior VP Paula Sims, Progress Energy VP Bob McCall, Progress Energy VP Caren Anders, N.C. Sen. David Rouzer, Progress Energy Economic Development Director Katherine Thomas, Progress Energy Carolinas VP Charlie Gate, and Progress Energy Carolinas Plant Manager Kris Edmondson are shown at the Wayne County

groundbreaking ceremony.

The first wave of approximately 500 construction jobs has begun for Progress Energy's new \$900 million H.F. Lee Energy Complex in Wayne County. The 950 megawatt combined-cycle power plant will be fueled by natural gas furnished by a 38 mile pipeline extension by Piedmont Natural Gas. When combined these new Progress Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas projects in eastern North Carolina represent approximately \$1 billion of investments in tax base and economic development infrastructure for the future.

N.C. projected to outpace nation in job growth

USA Today recently posted Moody's Economic projections that show North Carolina is anticipated to outpace the national average in job growth over the next year. North Carolina is projected to see job growth of 1.3 percent as compared to 0.9 percent for the nation.

In addition, the most recent statistics for the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics show that North Carolina is still one of the top states in unemployment rate decline compared to the previous year. While those are positive trends, the unemployment rate is still too high and the N.C. Department of Commerce will continue its fight to create jobs across the state. [Read the blog post](#) by N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Communications Tim Crowley.

PAS to add 239 jobs in Beaufort County

Governor Bev Perdue speaks to an employee at PAS in Washington, N.C., during a tour of



the plant.

Governor Bev Perdue on Dec. 14 announced that the [PAS Group](#), a leading developer and manufacturer of cable and panel systems for household appliances, will expand its manufacturing facility in Beaufort County. The company plans to create 239 jobs and invest \$3.2 million

during the next five years in Washington. The project was made possible in part by an \$800,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Martyn Johnson was the developer on this project.

"Manufacturers worldwide are looking to North Carolina thanks to our skilled workers, custom training programs and top-ranked business climate," said Perdue. "I thank PAS for its commitment to the communities of Beaufort County. These new jobs will help hundreds of families in Beaufort County and Eastern North Carolina to get back on their feet."

The PAS Group is a worldwide manufacturer of cable and panel systems for household appliances with facilities in Germany, Poland, Turkey, Mexico and the United States. Subsidiary PAS USA Inc.'s manufacturing facility in Washington, N.C. currently employs 137. The new investment will enable PAS USA to win a new supply contract for 250,000 dishwasher panel systems with a major home dishwasher brand. Manufacturing includes injection molding, printing, high speed milling, assembly and electronic testing.



Perdue announces new vision for state government

Governor Bev Perdue on Dec. 9 announced her vision to restructure state government, marking the most significant change in a generation.

In a speech to Moore County officials and chambers of commerce representatives, Perdue outlined her plan, which includes a proposal to consolidate 14 high-level state government functions into eight.

"North Carolina is at a defining moment in our history," Perdue said. "We must be leaner, more nimble, more responsive to citizens and less bureaucratic as we focus our limited state resources on our core missions."

[Learn more](#) about the governor's plan.

Partnerships between UNC, military honored

(Left-right) U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, Gen. William F. "Buck" Kernan, USA (Ret.) of the N.C. Military Foundation, and N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco

Since August 2009, the University of North Carolina System and North Carolina-based military commands have formalized multiple collaborative partnerships to augment training, increase access to education and provide research opportunities for UNC students and faculty. These collaborations – unique to North



Carolina and the UNC System – were promoted by Gen. James Lindsay, USA (Ret.) and Gen. William F. "Buck" Kernan, USA (Ret.), both founding members of the [N.C. Military Foundation](#).

On Nov. 15, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco participated in an event to mark five historic collaborative partnerships between the UNC System and the military.

U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, UNC System President Erskine Bowles, Marine Special Operations Support Group Commanding Officer Col. Richard Anders and the N.C. Military Foundation's board of directors also participated in the event.



Tillis addresses N.C. Travel and Tourism Board

House Speaker-Designate Thom Tillis (far right) addresses members of the N.C. Travel and Tourism Board on Dec. 7.

N.C. House Speaker-Designate Thom Tillis addressed the N.C. Travel and Tourism Board Dec. 7 at its December meeting, giving an overview of the challenges facing the General Assembly next year and voicing support for the state's tourism industry and its role in economic development.

Tillis said the state faces a \$3.5 billion deficit during the next fiscal year and that the primary focus of the upcoming session would be "getting our fiscal house in order."

Having served on the board of the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce, Tillis said, "I know the value and importance of [tourism]." As the General Assembly reviews programs and enacts the budget for 2011-2013, Tillis said tourism is "one of the industries that we've got to take care of and, hopefully, grow and position to be a part of the front end of the recovery."

Tillis, who attended the meeting at the invitation of board member Sally Ashworth of Lake Norman, demonstrated a detailed knowledge of the tourism industry from the mountains to the coast, inviting questions from board members and encouraging the industry to make its voice heard to legislators between now and the opening of the General Assembly on Jan. 26.

Perdue, Crisco tour Bosch plant

(Left-right) BSH Commercial Director Thomas Hartwig, BSH Home Appliances CFO and Executive Vice President Stefan Koss, Governor Bev Perdue, N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco, and Craven County EDC Executive Director Jim Davis at the Bosch plant in New Bern

Governor Bev Perdue and N.C.



Department of Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco toured the BSH Bosch dishwasher plant in New Bern on Dec. 14.

BSH Bosch und Siemens Hausgeräte GmbH is a corporate group operating worldwide, which posted annual sales of

about 8.5 billion euros in the year 2009.

Over the last 12 years, BSH has invested more than \$120 million in its New Bern appliance park where Bosch washers, dryers, dishwashers, ranges, ovens and cook tops are manufactured. This facility has been responsible for the creation of 800 full time and 110 temporary jobs in the community and helped local suppliers expand their businesses. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Martyn Johnson was the original developer on this project.

Digital services provider to create 408 jobs in Buncombe County

Governor Bev Perdue on Dec. 20 announced that Arvato, a leading provider of digital services, will expand its call center facility in Buncombe County. The company plans to create 408 jobs and invest \$1.8 million during the next three years in Weaverville. The project was made possible in part by a \$200,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Bill Payne was the developer on this project.

"Creating jobs is my number one priority and North Carolina continues to be an attractive market for the growing high-tech and customer service sectors," said Perdue. "These four hundred new jobs are great for Buncombe County and proof of North Carolina's top-ranked business climate."

Arvato Digital Services is a leading provider of a range of comprehensive services and integrated solutions to business partners in the IT, high-tech, gaming, video and audio sectors. Arvato Digital Services is part of Arvato AG, a division of Bertelsmann AG, headquartered in Germany. Arvato has over 60,000 employees in 35 countries; including 575 in Weaverville. The One North Carolina grant will help the company shift its focus towards customer service by expanding its call center in Weaverville. The move will result in a net gain of over 400 jobs. [Read more.](#)



SAS to open government Analytics Lab

(Left-right) SAS CEO Jim Goodnight greets Governor Bev Perdue during the announcement on Dec. 21.

SAS is committing extensive resources to helping state and local governments in their time of greatest need. The SAS Analytics Lab for State and Local Government plans to add 100 new technology and government experts and arm them with the data analysis power of SAS' new 38,000 square-foot cloud computing center.

The lab partners with state and local leaders to improve government services with the latest in advanced analytics technology. It currently devotes the resources of more than 200 professional, mostly doctoral-level SAS experts to devising technology solutions to critical state and local government issues, such as fraud, waste, abuse, tax collection, public safety and education.

"At a time when we must maximize the use of every state dollar, we are grateful to have a company like SAS in the fight against fraud, waste and abuse in state government," said Governor Bev Perdue. "Saving

tax dollars and creating jobs are certainly high on my priority list."

Confident that interest in analytics by state and local governments will only increase, SAS plans to add more than 100 positions to the lab over the next two years. In addition to North Carolina, SAS plans to place technology and subject matter experts throughout the country, where new projects are announced.

"The SAS Analytics Lab for State and Local Government focuses some of our most brilliant minds on today's most urgent challenges," said Paula Joshi, Vice President of SAS State and Local Government Practice. "The current model falters in an internationally competitive environment, as state and county governments face daunting budget deficits. Government technology leaders are not just looking for new solutions to old problems, but new strategies for technology investment." [Read more.](#)

[SAS taking governments to the 'cloud.'](#) adding jobs (WRAL - Raleigh, Dec. 21)



N.C. energy leaders explore sustainability and job creation in Europe

N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Energy Jennifer Bumgarner (third from left) is pictured with members of the North Carolina delegation during a tour of the Nordex wind-blade manufacturing facility in Rostok, Germany

N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Energy Jennifer Bumgarner recently joined nearly two dozen energy

business and policy leaders in a fact-finding overseas mission to explore the development of energy sustainability and green job creation in the European Union. The delegation, which also included members of the N.C. Energy Policy Council, the N.C. Utilities Commission and members of the General Assembly, traveled to Brussels, Belgium, Hamburg and Rostok Germany, and Paris, France. The mission, which ran Nov. 6-15, was organized by North Carolina's Center for International Understanding's Global Leaders Program. [Learn more.](#)

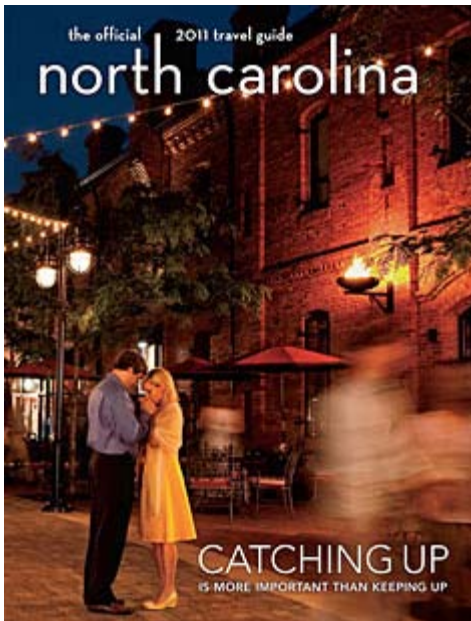
The delegation focused on four key objectives:

- Expand the vision and conversation of what is possible in North Carolina, based on observations in the European Union, from an energy policy perspective.
- Engage with international experts about ways to expand renewable energy and promote energy efficiency.
- Understand the role of economic policies and incentives in promoting energy goals overseas and evaluate how they might apply to North Carolina.
- Learn more about France's nuclear energy policies, including the management of nuclear waste and the public acceptance of nuclear energy.

2011 Official N.C. Travel Guide unveiled in Durham

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development unveiled the Official 2011 North Carolina Travel Guide, which features Durham's Brightleaf Square on its cover, during a joint press conference on Dec. 15 with the Durham CVB. Director of Tourism Marketing Wit Tuttell spoke to reporters about the importance of the guide as a tool to generate travel to North Carolina, and he highlighted the enhanced features of the new online guide. Shelly Green, president & CEO of the Durham CVB, spoke about Durham's vibrant urban culture and its growing significance as a culinary destination and major tourism attraction for North Carolina.

About 600,000 travel guides will be distributed through the state's nine Welcome Centers, sent to callers of 1-800-VISIT-NC, ordered by visitors to [VisitNC.com](#), and distributed at travel shows. The 2011 Official North Carolina Travel Guide is also available to CVBs, TDAs, chambers and other tourism



entities for distribution. To order bulk Travel Guides, contact Wally Wazan at (919) 715-2098.

[N.C. upgrades travel guide with online features](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, Dec. 15)

N.C.'s success attracting high tech companies in national news

On Dec. 22, Fox News featured North Carolina's success in attracting high tech companies in their "Road to Recovery -- What's Working" series. The story highlighted the \$2 billion of planned data center investment in North Carolina by Google, Apple and Facebook. [View the segment.](#)

Lincoln EDA and Commerce welcome new German-owned company to N.C.

On Dec. 21, the Lincoln County EDA and the N.C. Department of Commerce welcomed German-owned Hydac Technology Inc. at a special event in Lincolnton. Hydac Executive Thomas Cott, manager of International Process, announced the company will build an advanced manufacturing facility in the new Airlie Business Park.

[New manufacturing company coming to Lincoln County](#) (The Lincoln Tribune, Dec. 21)