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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



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

Obama talks about the economy in N.C.

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 Gov. 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)



Gov. Bev Perdue seeks input from business leaders.

Perdue asks business leaders for ideas

Gov. 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](#).

Shaw adding 225 jobs to Charlotte workforce

Textile firm to bring 76 jobs to Caldwell County

Gov. Bev Perdue on Dec. 3 announced that the global textile firm Sattler AG will locate in Caldwell County. The company plans to create 76 jobs and invest \$4.56 million during the next three years in Hudson. The project was made possible in part by a \$150,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Dallas Hardenbrook was the developer on this project.

"North Carolina is a world-leader in textiles, and international firms continue to tap into North Carolina's skilled workforce and top business climate," said Perdue. "Our state is leading the nation out of the recession because companies like Sattler AG appreciate the value of the investments we have made in education and workforce training."

Sattler AG, an Austrian-based, family-owned global textile firm will acquire the Outdura brand from North Carolina-based textile maker Shuford Mills LLC. The new company will be called "Outdura Corp."

Sattler AG is the world's leading supplier of sun protection fabrics used in products such as umbrellas, awnings, tents, stadium roofing, advertising banners and outdoor furniture. Sattler AG plans to hire Shuford Mills' current 60 employees and expand for a total of 76 jobs within three years.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$39,934 not including benefits. The Caldwell County average annual wage is \$28,340. [Read more.](#)

[Textile firm to bring 76 jobs to Caldwell County](#) (Asheville Citizen-Times, Dec. 2)

Auto parts maker set to grow in Iredell County

With more than 160 companies that employ more than 17,000 highly skilled workers, North Carolina is home to an extensive motor vehicle parts industry that continues to grow. A recent article in *The Charlotte Observer* announced that NGK Ceramics is nearing the completion of a \$43 million expansion at its Mooresville plant. NGK's 12th addition since 1988 at its South Iredell Industrial Park plant will add 60 new jobs, according to company officials. Approximately 430 full-time workers are currently employed at NGK's Mooresville operation, which manufactures ceramic inserts for automobile catalytic converters. The expansion is scheduled to be completed by December 2011. [Learn more.](#)

[NGK to expand Mooresville plant, add 60 jobs](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Nov. 30)

Energy engineering and construction firm Shaw Power Group announced Nov. 30 at the Charlotte Chamber's annual meeting it plans to add 225 jobs to its Charlotte workforce, furthering the city's goal of becoming an energy hub.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to increase the size of our staff here in what has become our nation's new energy capital," said Shaw Power Group chief executive Clarence Ray in a statement before the meeting.

[Shaw adding 225 jobs to Charlotte workforce](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Dec. 1)



(Left-right) Juleigh Sitton, Governor's Western Office director, Cindy Carroll, Hailey Carroll, Troy Ball and Kaye Myers, Western Residence Association chair

Open house held at governor's western residence

On Dec. 4-5, an open house was held at the Governor's Western Residence in Asheville. On Dec. 4, more than 100 citizens and tourists visited the residence, which was decorated for the holidays. The Western Residence Association members served as hostesses for the tours on Dec. 4, and the afternoon schedule on Dec. 5.



N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco (fifth from left) participates in a groundbreaking ceremony at The Chef's Academy in Morrisville.

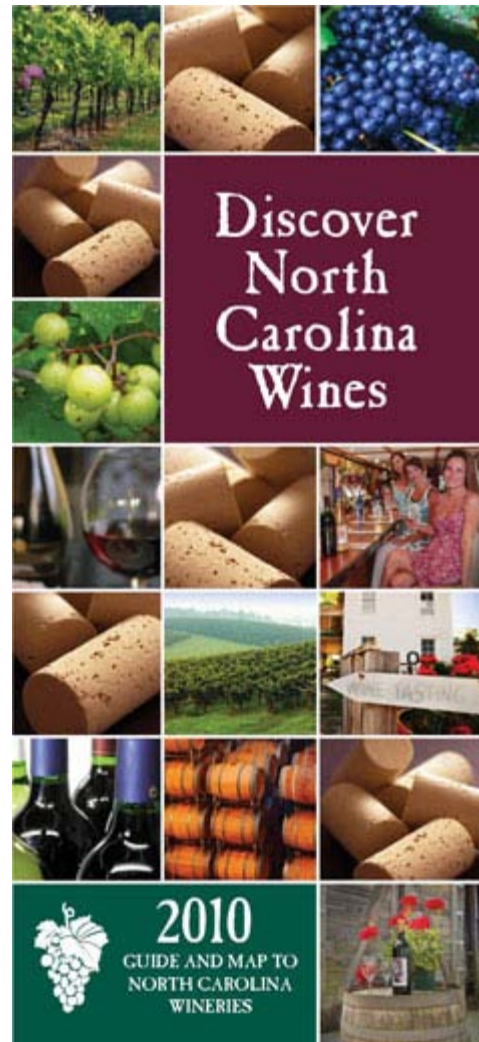
Chef's Academy to expand in the Triangle

The Chef's Academy held a groundbreaking Nov. 30 at the Morrisville campus. The program is part of the Culinary Division of Harrison College, a 108-year-old, nationally accredited institution that offers more than 30 degree programs in five schools of study. N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco and Morrisville Mayor Jackie Holcombe both gave speeches at the ceremony. Several city council members and elected local officials were also in attendance.



(Left-right) N.C. Sen. Don Davis, N.C. Rep. Efton Sager, N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. 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.

Construction underway on \$900M



Commerce Graphics team wins PICA award

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Graphics Team continues to be recognized for its outstanding work in design and printing. This week, the team won a Printing Industry of the Carolinas award for The 2010 Guide & Map to North Carolina Wineries. This comprehensive guide to North Carolina's [almost 100 wineries](#) was selected as Best of Category from among design entries from across North Carolina and South Carolina. PICA is committed to recognizing excellence in graphic arts in the Carolinas, and Commerce is proud to have its Graphics Team recognized by such an esteemed organization. Earlier this year, the Commerce Graphics Team (Angela Marshall, Roberta Rose, and Whitney Goulding) also received a first place award from the Association of Film Commissioners International for the team's design of Gov. Bev Perdue's invitation to the North Carolina Film Industry Reception in Los Angeles.

Progress Energy facility in Wayne County

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.

More funds allocated to popular Energy Star appliances program

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Energy Office has reallocated \$1 million to the popular North Carolina's ENERGY STAR Appliance Replacement and Rebate program to cover applications currently on the waiting list as well as new rebate applications for the program that is set to end Dec. 31. The injection of the additional dollars will allow consumers to continue to apply for appliance purchase rebates and help them take advantage of the many special offers that appliance retailers are making available during this holiday season. Consumers can go green and save some greenbacks while also cutting their energy bills by replacing older, less-efficient appliance models. Appliances must have been purchased June 1 or after to qualify for rebates, which are available until funds are exhausted.

This is the second addition of funds, bringing a total of \$2 million the Energy Office has been able to reallocate from other federal Recovery Act dollars to extend the program during this holiday season. Consumers may go online or call a special telephone number to start the application process to receive their rebate. The link to the N.C. Energy Star Appliance Replacement and Rebate Program can be found on the [Energy Office's website](#). Look for the blue Energy Star logo and the words "Appliance Rebate & Replacement Program." Consumers without Internet access may call (877) 379-7323. The application and the telephone line are currently active.

Currently, there have been 75,000 appliances purchased at a total retail value of about \$86 million through the N.C. Energy Star Appliance Replacement and Rebate Program. [Learn more.](#)

[More rebates available for Energy Star appliances](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, Dec. 6)

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



In SYNC: Henry McKoy

Henry McKoy was appointed the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Assistant Sec. for Community Development in August, 2010. A native of Fayetteville, McKoy graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a B.S. in Business Administration and has pursued graduate studies in Environmental Management and Policy at Duke University. Prior to coming to Commerce, McKoy worked in the banking industry, but he says he has always been drawn to community development and service. He says that witnessing community challenges such as poverty and health issues as a child made him decide he wanted to make a difference in the world.

"Great community development is the foundation of great economic development," McKoy says. "Without community development, you cannot have economic development. Community development is about building capacity, about infrastructure and housing, about small business and entrepreneurial development. All of those things are imperative to a strong, thriving state. Innovative community development can be North Carolina's competitive advantage as we seek to create 21st Century Communities."

McKoy says that there are many great projects driving community development in our state.

"The Appalachian Regional Commission is doing incredible work in our western counties as part of a multimillion dollar health initiative called Rural Hope," he says. "The Office of Rural Development is providing support in partnership with East Carolina University that is helping county governments build community development capacity. The Division of Community Assistance is providing grant money to housing rehabilitation projects from the mountains to the coast through the Community Development Block Grant Program; assisting local governments with visioning and land use planning via five Community Planning Offices across the State; and Main Street Solutions is providing small towns and distressed communities with comprehensive historic downtown

year. While those are positive trends, the unemployment rate is still too high and the N.C. Dept. of Commerce will continue its fight to create jobs across the state. [Read the blog post](#) by N.C. Dept. of Commerce Assistant Sec. for Communications Tim Crowley.

Commerce grant to help rehab Mount Holly homes

The N.C. Dept. of Commerce has awarded the City of Mount Holly a \$1 million grant, which will be used to revitalize a portion of the River Street Park area.

City Manager Danny Jackson and Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates, an engineering, planning and surveying consulting firm with an office in Charlotte, prepared the grant application and submitted it last September.

"I was happy and elated because when you think of a statewide grant, that kind of makes you a little nervous," Jackson said of his reaction to winning the grant. "But we were very happy about being awarded the grant. We feel like we had a good application."

[Mount Holly to rehab 25 homes with \\$1 million grant](#) (Mountain Island Weekly - Mount Holly, Dec. 2)



Durham No. 4 on Portfolio brainpower list

Portfolio.com has ranked Durham as No. 4 on its list of America's Brainiest Cities. The Bull City was ranked behind Boulder, Co., Ann Arbor, Mich., and Washington, D.C. Raleigh was also on the list at No. 12. The study's objective was to identify those markets with the strongest collective brainpower, as indicated by their residents' educational attainment.

[Brain bounty or brain busted?](#) (Portfolio.com, Dec. 1)

Mack Trucks CEO goes 'undercover' for hit TV show

Greensboro-based Mack Trucks will add to its film and television resume when company CEO Denny Slagle is featured in the Emmy Award-nominated series, "Undercover Boss."

CBS television announced that Slagle will participate in the second season of the show, which follows executives as they leave the "comfort of their corner office for an undercover

preservation and revitalization. All these activities that partner the Community Development Division of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce with local government leadership is a collaborative model for statewide economic growth and success."

McKoy lives in Durham with his wife, Euba, who is a career educator with the Durham Public School System, and their two children, 11-year-old Jamila and 9-year-old Jalen. In his free time he enjoys spending time with his family and running along the American Tobacco Trail.

Wake Forest gets \$2.2 million DOD grant

Researchers at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center have received a four-year grant from the U.S. Dept. of Defense worth \$2.24 million to study the use of keratin gel in the regeneration of damaged nerves in the hands, arms and feet.

The gel was invented at the Institute for Regenerative Medicine at WFUBMC, and has been shown to promote the growth of severed nerves. The gel is a biomaterial derived from human hair. Learn more about the [life sciences industry](#) in North Carolina.

[Wake Forest gets \\$2.2 million DOD grant](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triangle, Dec. 2)

Raleigh, Charlotte on list of Best Cities for Telecommuters

Raleigh has been ranked No. 5 and Charlotte No. 8 on the *Daily Finance* list of 11 Best Cities for Telecommuters. The list looks at places that provide a big-city experience at a small-town price.

[The 11 Best Cities for Telecommuters](#) (Daily Finance, Dec. 2)

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry that illustrate some of the recent activities of the division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing industry staff had with businesses throughout the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

mission to examine the inner workings of their companies," according to a press release.

[Mack Trucks CEO goes "undercover" for hit TV show](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, Dec. 2)

Commerce, regional partnerships unite to boost job growth

To boost coordination of state-supported job creation efforts, the N.C. Dept. of Commerce has joined the state's seven regional economic development partnerships as a full member of the North Carolina Partnership for Economic Development.

The board of directors of NCPED, a private nonprofit organization that promotes best-practice sharing and collaboration among economic development organizations, approved the department's request for membership at its fall meeting in Research Triangle Park.

[Regional partnerships unite to boost job growth](#) (The Daily Southerner - Tarboro, Dec. 2)

Jan. 1 - Dec. 6, 2010

New projects assigned:	412
Projects announced:	133
Jobs created:	15,112
Capital invested:	\$3.11B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,452
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	20,954

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [High Point OKs incentives for Polo expansion](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, Dec. 1)
- [Global Schools Network launches in North Carolina](#) (Localtechwire, Dec. 7)
- [Deal to open unused railway chugs forward](#) (The Gaston Gazette, Dec. 2)

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