

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) N.C. Department of Commerce Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges with Eastern Band of the Cherokee Vice Chief Larry Blythe at Sequoyah National Golf Course, which is owned by the Eastern Band of the Cherokee.

Commerce officials attend Cherokee Business Summit

On July 28, the Sequoyah Fund, the Cherokee Business Development Center, and the N.C. Indian Economic Development Initiative co-sponsored the "Native Pathways Collaborative 2011 - Cherokee Business Summit and Expo." N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll participated in the ribbon-cutting with Principal Chief Michell Hicks of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee. During his comments, Carroll presented Governor Bev Perdue's small business priorities to the attendees including an update about the N.C. Capital Access Program. Assistant Secretary for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges, Tourism Development Manager Andre Nabors and Senior Policy Advisor Libby Smith participated in Business Summit sessions with leaders from around the state. In addition, Minges visited attractions and met with tourism officials on the reservation and in the surrounding counties along with Public Relations Manager Margo Metzger.



Aero conference to connect N.C. companies with contractors

Senator Richard Burr, the N.C. Aerospace Alliance and the N.C. Military Business Center are pleased to announce the 2011 N.C. Aerospace Suppliers Conference to be held at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on Aug. 24 from 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

"The Supplier Conference is an outstanding opportunity for companies that can supply the aerospace industry to network with and learn about current and future requirements of prime and first tier subcontractors," said Scott Dorney, NCMBC executive director.

"Businesses that can supply the aerospace industry should definitely attend."

The conference's goal is to promote and grow North Carolina's aerospace industry by bringing together North Carolina users, purchasers, manufacturers, and suppliers through education, networking and growth opportunities. The conference will also provide a forum for sharing "best practices" in order to promote job growth, financial stability and a stronger industry in our state. [Learn more.](#)





N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll speaks at the ribbon-cutting (Courtesy Scott McKie B.P. of Cherokee One Feather)



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

Dessert maker holds ribbon-cutting in Pembroke

Frozen Food producer Steven Roberts Originals and Tickleberry Desserts held a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 28 for its new facility in Pembroke. The company plans to create 342 jobs and invest \$4 million during the next five years in Pembroke. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary Dale Carroll, and N.C. Rural Economic Development Center President Billy Ray Hall made comments on behalf of the State of North Carolina. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Ken Allen was the developer on this project. [Read the original jobs announcement.](#)

Groundbreaking held for green energy facility

EJE Recycling & Disposal Inc. in partnership with Energy-Inc. LLC, recently broke ground on a 9,300-square-foot facility

New study: N.C. Ranks No. 2 in nation for cost-efficiency in manufacturing

According to an American Institute for Economic Research (AIER) study, North Carolina has the second lowest manufacturing costs in the nation, coming in fourth for most cost-efficient manufacturing state after the three states that tied for first. AIER research fellow Lei Chen, PhD, completed the study using 2007 economic census data as well as Data Envelopment Analysis.

North Carolina was the only Southern state in the top ten as well as in the list of states that came in with costs lower than the national average. In an earlier study by Chen, North Carolina was second in a state-by-state comparison of the cost of producing a dollar's worth of goods. [Read more.](#)



Governor's Forum on Small Town Competitiveness announced

The N.C. Governor's Forums on Small Town Competitiveness will take place at three locations this fall: Sept. 16 at Martin Community College, Sept. 28 at Davidson Community College and Oct. 6 at Haywood Community College. Please contact Olivia Collier at (919) 571-4900 or ocollier@nccommerce.com for more information.

Sign up for e-news alerts from ThriveNC.com

The N.C. Department of Commerce's business development website, ThriveNC.com, recently launched a new service to deliver industry-specific news from across North Carolina straight to your email inbox. The ThriveNC.com News Alert service tracks news announcements in key industry segments. Whenever a news item is published, subscribers immediately receive an email containing a key summary of the item along with a link to read more details about the story.

which will house cutting edge waste to energy technology.

In November of 2010, representatives from both EJE and Energy-Inc. held a demonstration at the Greenville facility of the Advanced Thermal Conversion Technology which was developed by Energy-Inc.

Since the November demonstration, EJE Recycling has secured a permit by the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Division of Air Quality for the 100 tons-per-day facility that will convert waste to energy (biodiesel fuel).

Registration open for entrepreneurship summit

Registration is now open for the N.C. Governor's Entrepreneurship Summit: Breaking the Mold, Sept. 21-22 in Durham. The program includes dozens of North Carolina entrepreneurs speaking about how they are breaking the mold and strengthening the state economy, as well as a policy chat with Governor Bev Perdue. Keynote speakers include Donna Fenn, author and *Inc.* magazine editor, and Louis Foreman, Charlotte-based producer of the PBS show Everyday Edisons. [Learn more.](#)

Commerce reaches out to site selection consultants

Developers from the N.C. Department of Commerce will host a reception for site selection consultants Aug. 2 in Atlanta. The reception will be held at The Wimbish House in midtown from 6 -9 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Commerce Secretary Keith Crisco and to develop and strengthen their networks with economic development executives from across North Carolina. This event is generously sponsored by members of Friends of North Carolina. [View the invitation.](#)

Durham company wins Facebook prize

A North Carolina company is one of only five to win a nationwide Facebook contest [designed to promote small businesses](#). Spoonflower of Durham will go to Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto for a special training session and to collect a \$20,000 prize.

['Friends' produce a \\$20,000 victory for Durham startup](#) (WRALtechwire, July 26)

HomTex to expand in Jackson County

HomTex Inc., a family-owned global textile company headquartered in Vinemont, Ala. is expanding in Jackson County. The company was founded in 1987 initially as a contract sheeting supplier. Today, HomTex has two domestic production and distribution facilities located in Vinemont, Ala., and Sylva, N.C. HomTex also has a design center, showroom, and distribution facility located in Roebuck, S.C. as well as an office located in Hangzhou, China.

HomTex has been primarily a supplier to the furniture and mattress retail channel with its patented line of luxury linens. The company has expanded its focus and product offerings to include the more traditional channels of distribution by bringing

Industry segments being monitored include aerospace, automotive and heavy equipment, life sciences, energy, business and financial services, and information and communications technology. Visitors can sign up for one or more industry segments and can always change their subscription settings by visiting the ThriveNC.com website.

To begin your subscription to the News Alert service, visit the [subscription center](#) at ThriveNC.com.

Medical software developer announces expansion in Durham

Governor Bev Perdue on July 27 announced that Health IT Services Group, the developer of intuitive software tools to assist nephrologists in the practice of medicine, will open an office at the American Tobacco Campus. HITSG plans to create 45 new jobs and occupy 12,000 square feet on the campus.

"Over the past 20 years, North Carolina has transitioned to a diversified global economy driven by information-based enterprises, such as biotech and financial services," said Perdue. "Our investments in education and workforce development have truly paved the way for the kind of innovative thinking happening at companies like HITSG."

Acumen nEHR, which boasts 5,000 daily users in 32 states and provides real-time access for almost 2,000,000 patient records, allows nephrologists and their staff to access patient data via the Internet while remaining HIPAA compliant for privacy. The company is a unit of Fresenius Medical Care, the largest provider of renal services in the world. [Read more.](#)

Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development 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.

Jan. 1 - Aug. 2, 2011

New projects assigned:	233
Projects announced:	101
Jobs announced:	9,464

fashion bedding, its patented basic bedding, filled products and luxury brands to this market segment.

HomTex recently purchased the empty Stonewall Packaging building in Jackson County and plans to hire 50 to 75 people immediately and up to 125 in six months to a year. The N.C. Department of Commerce's Cindy Messer was the developer on this project.



Video: TIMCO on N.C.'s transportation infrastructure

Kevin Carter, CEO, TIMCO Aviation Services in Greensboro, discusses North Carolina's interstate and air access as a gateway for convenient worldwide distribution. [See the video.](#)

Capital investment Announced:	\$1.687B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	940
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	11,023

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [Harrah's Cherokee Casino to hold job fair in Asheville area](#) (The Citizen-Times - Asheville, Aug. 1)
- [N.C. could be home to 4,000 acre solar project](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, July 31)
- [Shaw University restored after damage from spring tornadoes](#) (News 14 Carolina, July 31)
- [Preserving history from moonshine mecca in N.C.](#) (The Virginian-Pilot - Norfolk, July 31)

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