

# sync<sup>®</sup> NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS FROM N.C. COMMERCE



*N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland*

## Tony Copeland Named Secretary of Commerce

Tony Copeland is North Carolina's new Secretary of Commerce, named to the post by Governor Roy Cooper on January 12.

Earlier in his career, Copeland served as an Assistant Commerce Secretary, leading the recruitment of nearly \$12 billion in investment and the creation of nearly 100,000 jobs. In this capacity, he worked with numerous international companies in China, Japan, Europe, South Korea and Israel, as well as a variety of domestic companies.

Copeland's experience spans a wide range of economic development and business leadership roles. During the past decade, as part of a major law firm, Copeland has brought significant new corporate investment into North Carolina from both domestic and international sources. He brings an insider's knowledge of corporate investment and site selection decisions.

From 1992 to 2003, Copeland served as executive vice president, secretary and general counsel of BTI, a competitive telecommunications company, where he led the company's growth from \$38 million in revenues to more than \$250 million. He led the senior executive team that secured \$500 million in equity financing and planned, financed and installed more than 5,000 miles of fiber optic cable in the Carolinas and along the eastern seaboard.

A native of Hertford in the northeastern part of the state, Copeland is a graduate of Duke University and the Western



## Governor Cooper announces 65 new jobs in Scotland County

Governor Roy Cooper announced today (January 24) that Mountaire Farms will launch a feed mill operation that will bring 65 jobs to Scotland County. The integrated poultry processing company plans to invest nearly \$44 million at a site near Laurinburg over the next three years.

"These new, good-paying jobs mean better opportunities for hard-working people and their communities in Scotland County," said **Governor Cooper**. "Agriculture has a long and proud history in North Carolina and Mountaire Farms' new state-of-the-art operations are a sign that the agriculture industry has a bright future here."

The company's Scotland County operations will employ machine operators, maintenance specialists, drivers, and management personnel. Wages will vary by position, but the average compensation for the new positions will be \$51,408 per year. Scotland County's average annual wage is approximately \$34,037.

N.C. Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. were instrumental in the expansion project. **Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland** added, "Mountaire Farms is a prominent name in North Carolina food manufacturing and its latest expansion reinforces the state's \$5 billion poultry industry."

Founded in 1914, Mountaire Farms is a fully integrated producer of branded and private-label chicken for U.S. and international consumer markets. The Delaware-based company has production operations in four states. In North Carolina, Mountaire Farms employs nearly 2,700 people across seven locations.



## Gov. Cooper Recommends Eight Western N.C. Projects for ARC Funding

**Governor Roy Cooper** has recommended eight community and regional projects in Western North Carolina for Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funding. The recommendations total more than \$3 million in ARC funds.

"The Appalachian Regional Commission is a longtime, valued partner in regional economic development for our state," said **Governor Cooper**. "From enhancing STEM education to improving broadband access, these projects support jobs and local businesses in communities across Western North Carolina."

The North Carolina ARC program, part of N.C. Commerce, makes an initial review of funding requests in order to assure consistency with state and federal guidelines. Final recommendations are formally made by Governor Cooper. Then ARC makes the final decision on the grant recipients which will be announced later this year.

Governor Cooper recommended applicants and projects in the Town of Blowing Rock; Blue Ridge National Heritage Area; Haywood Community College; Land of Sky Regional Council; City of Morganton; Rutherford County; the Town of Sparta; and the Western Piedmont Council of Governments.

The U.S. Congress created ARC in 1965 to improve the lives of the people in Appalachia. Federal funding is allocated to North Carolina and 12 other states that make up the Appalachian region. North Carolina counties eligible to receive funding are Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Davie, Forsyth, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin and Yancey.

[Read more, including details on each project.](#)

According to Paul Downes, Mountaire's President and CEO, "We believe North Carolina is the ideal place for Mountaire Farms to grow. We are very encouraged by the support we have received from the State of North Carolina, Scotland County, Scotland Economic Development Corporation, Laurinburg Maxton Airport Commission, the local community, and others. This is a fantastic project and we look forward to getting started."

Mountaire Farms' expansion in North Carolina was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$200,000 from the One North Carolina Fund.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [N.C. Department of Transportation](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [North Carolina Railroad](#), [Scotland County](#), the [Laurinburg Maxton Airport Commission](#), the [Scotland County Economic Development Corporation](#) and [North Carolina's Southeast Regional Partnership](#).

[Read more.](#)

## New Federal Economic Development Grant Opportunities

The federal government's Economic Development Administration recently announced three new grant programs to assist communities.

The EDA's Technical Assistance Program supports local decision-making to drive effective economic development. Funds can support a range of activities, including feasibility studies, cluster studies, export strategies, and innovation assessments.

Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs are designed to support the construction or renovation of public infrastructure needed to advance job creation, the formation or recapitalization of revolving loan funds to provide needed capital, and the completion of specific studies to inform public policy for the purposes of advancing economic development.

The University Center program (UC) is designed to enable universities or consortia of institutions of higher education to establish and operate University Centers specifically focused on using university assets to build regional economic ecosystems that support innovation and high-growth entrepreneurship.

Details on each opportunity are available for download here:



(Left-right) Lynn Minges, President & CEO, NCRLA; Vinay Patel, SREE Hotels in Charlotte; Mike Martino, Sheraton Imperial Hotel & Convention Center in Durham, N.C. Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland; and Billy Sewell, Platinum Corral in Jacksonville.

## Copeland Meets Hospitality Industry Leaders

The North Carolina Restaurant & Lodging Association (NCRLA) hosted North Carolina's new Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland for a discussion with business owners and operators from the state's hospitality community on January 18.

- [EDA's Technical Assistance Program](#)
- [EDA's Public Works & Economic Adjustment Program](#)
- [EDA's University Center Program](#)

## N.C. in the News

- [Three economic developers named among Top 50 in their field](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - January 23)
- [Wilmington Chamber Selects New CEO](#) (*WilmingtonBiz* - January 23)
- [Grant program reaps big benefits for city](#) (*Daily Reflector* - Greenville - January 19)
- [Runners, Hop Swap Half Marathon to help tap North Carolina Beer Month](#) (*News & Record* - Greensboro - January 18)
- [New Apple investment in Catawba County could eventually push spending there to \\$5B](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - January 18)
- [TNT's 'Good Behavior' renewal to boost Wilmington economy](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - January 18)
- [Small Johnston County airport taking on RDU when it comes to corporate jets](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - December 28)

### About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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