



## Perdue Foods Invests \$10.9 Million to Expand Operations in Richmond County, Creating 30 New Jobs

Raleigh, N.C. - **Governor Pat McCrory**, **N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III**, and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. announced February 8 that Perdue Foods, LLC, will expand its Richmond County production facility and hire an additional 30 workers during the coming three years. The popular name in consumer poultry and pork products plans to invest \$10.9 million at its site in the City of Rockingham.

"North Carolina welcomes the decision by this long-time consumer foods leader to grow jobs and expand operations in North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "Perdue Foods' commitment to quality and innovation continues to make it a great fit for our food manufacturing community."

Perdue Foods, whose parent company is Perdue Farms Inc., provides chicken, turkey and pork products under a variety of well-known food brands. The family owned, Salisbury, Md.-based company maintains operations in 27 U.S. states. In North Carolina, the company's workforce currently totals more than 3,400 people.

"North Carolina's food manufacturing industry continues to add jobs and companies of all sizes," said Secretary Skvarla. "This industry employs nearly 57,000 North Carolinians, with meat and poultry processors accounting for over half that."

"We are pleased to continue to invest in the Rockingham facility and in our associates," said **Kendall Casey, Perdue**



*A large crowd gathered in Wilkesboro for Commerce's first NC Competes for Jobs event*

### First NC Competes for Jobs Event Highlights Available Solutions to Assist Local Communities

More than 100 local community leaders gathered in Wilkesboro February 11 to hear N.C. Commerce Secretary **John Skvarla** and his rural economic and workforce development leaders outline the many solution-oriented programs Commerce offers local communities in the pursuit of economic growth.

The *NC Competes for Jobs* events offer attendees a fast-paced, information-packed session outlining the solutions N.C. Commerce offers to address common challenges that get in the way of meeting the needs of businesses, such as a lack of available buildings or public infrastructure.

Attendees at the *NC Competes for Jobs* events learn more about:

- Grants and loans available for local economic development
- Available assistance to plan and build local infrastructure, water and sewer
- Finding and training local workers, using the state's NCWorks system
- Regulatory reforms to the state's business climate
- Changes in the state's tax rates
- The team at N.C. Commerce, and how to contact the right people who can help

To RSVP for the next event in Louisburg February 24, send an email to [rsvp@nccommerce.com](mailto:rsvp@nccommerce.com). For information about future tour stops, [email James Estes in the Secretary's office.](#)

The tour event planned for Ellerbe on

**Foods' director of operations** in Rockingham. "This expansion brings additional jobs and new capabilities to strengthen the Rockingham plant going forward. We appreciate the county and state's support to help make this happen. Governor McCrory and Agriculture Commissioner Troxler have been wonderful partners in this initiative."

Perdue Food's expansion in North Carolina was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$90,000 from the One North Carolina Fund. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance in support of local governments in creating jobs and attracting economic investment. Companies receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for grant funds. All One NC grants require a local government match.

Also supporting the expansion was a \$1 million grant from the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority to Richmond County for assistance with upgrades to a water treatment plant that serves Perdue Farms, the county's largest employer.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [Richmond County Board of Commissioners](#), [Richmond County Economic Development](#), the [City of Rockingham](#), [Lumber River Workforce Development Board](#).

Since Governor McCrory took office in January of 2013, North Carolina has witnessed the net creation of more than 260,000 private-sector jobs.

[Read more.](#)

## Republic Services Plans to Hire 350 Customer Service Professionals in Charlotte

Republic Services, Inc. will open a full-service Customer Resource Center in Mecklenburg County, creating in excess of 350 new jobs during the next three years. Republic plans to invest more than \$6.8 million at the Charlotte center over the same period.

**Governor Pat McCrory** made the announcement February 11.

"North Carolina is pleased to welcome another Fortune 500 name to its corporate roster along with the hundreds of new jobs it plans to bring our economy," said Governor McCrory. "Republic Services is a top name in its industry and has a large, growing national customer-base it will serve and support from Mecklenburg County and the City of Charlotte."

Republic Services (NYSE: RSG) is an industry leader in U.S. recycling and non-hazardous solid waste. Through its subsidiaries, Republic's collection companies, recycling centers, transfer stations and landfills focus on providing effective solutions to make proper waste disposal effortless for their commercial, industrial, municipal, residential, and oilfield customers.

"Republic Services' choice of Charlotte for this significant new center is additional evidence that our state's accessibility, strong workforce and moderate operating costs put us in competition for just about any company," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**. "We welcome this prominent new addition to North Carolina's business community."

February 15 and postponed due to weather will be rescheduled in the near future.



*The UNC School of Government, one of the universities participating in the Commerce Fellows program*

## Commerce Fellows Professional Development Opportunity Now Accepting Applications

Local communities build their capacity to attract businesses and grow their economies in many ways. One key way is increasing the knowledge and ability of local leaders to pursue the important work of community building.

The *Commerce Fellows/Community Capacity Building* program offers grants to local governments so they may offer high-quality professional development and training opportunities to local administrators.

Fellows in the program gain access to a training curriculum in grant administration and public management that covers a range of related topics including:

- Grant Writing
- Strategic Planning
- Budgeting
- Program Evaluation
- Policy Analysis
- Leadership Development and Economic Development.

The fellows program is the result of a collaboration between N.C. Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, [East Carolina University](#) and [UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Government](#).

More information about the program,

Republic's operations in Charlotte will facilitate customer interaction via telephone and the Internet. Newly-created positions at the center will include sales professionals, quality assurance specialists, customer care consultants and other professional staff. The company expects the Customer Resource Center to be a significant contributor to the local economy with an annual payroll of more than \$20 million over time.

"The state-of-the-art Charlotte CRC will bring advanced technologies and additional professional customer service jobs to the community, and will allow Republic to focus on delivering consistent and superior service to our valued customers," said **Joe Burkel, senior vice president, Customer Experience of Republic Services.**

The recruitment of Republic Services was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$216,000.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [NCWorks](#), the [City of Charlotte](#), the [Charlotte Chamber of Commerce](#), [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#), and [Mecklenburg County](#).

[Read more.](#)



*Quilting students attend the first class held in Quilt Lizzy's refurbished downtown facility in Warrenton*

## Main Street Grant Solves Business Growth Challenge in Warrenton

Supporting business growth means clearing away obstacles that hinder companies from growing in your community. Especially when a company is poised for explosive growth and your community stands to benefit from all the economic benefits that follow such potential.

In Warrenton recently, the bustling business facing an obstacle was Quilt Lizzy, which provides extensive supplies and training for quilt fabrication. **Business owner Susan Harris** offers a unique service to the region, meeting head-on a shortage of quilting equipment dealers and expertise in the eastern part of North Carolina and southern Virginia. Her business quickly outgrew its first downtown location. Could a solution be found to help her meet the demand for expanded space?

N.C. Commerce's Main Street Solutions Fund offered the answer - providing a grant to assist with the purchase and

including this year's [application is available online](#). Applications must be received no later than May 13, 2016.

## NCWorks @ Work: Career Advisors Who Care

Sometimes, a person's job search hinges on who they know. For **Alexander Devreaux**, the right people to know were the caring career advisors who were available to him at his local NCWorks Career Center.

Prior to his employment at BB&T, Devreaux was a long-time resident of Louisville, Kentucky and came to North Carolina for a fresh start. However, he lost his position with the bank and found himself unemployed for six months. Unaware of the services available at NCWorks Career Centers, a few friends suggested he check one out. He decided to visit the career center in Cabarrus County.

"I wanted to try and get a job fast and apply myself and I was able to do that here," said Devreaux. "It was really NCWorks that helped me get a job."

For the last three months of his unemployment, Devreaux visited the center at least three times a week. The NCWorks team was warm and welcoming on his first day - and he received the same level of service during every visit.

"When you come in here, they talk to you," he said. "They treat you like a person. They listen to you. And at the same time they give you feedback and help. It's not like you come in here and nothing happens."

Devreaux's break came when he spoke to the **career center leader, Gary Mason**, about what he was looking for in his next job.

"He said he knew of a few people who were looking for new hires and he was able to call someone," said Devreaux. "That same week, I was able to get an interview shortly afterwards."

That response was a stark departure from his interactions with businesses in the past. In the past, Devreaux had waited months to hear back from employers. In this instance, the business replied after three days.

"This happened so fast," said Devreaux. "The same week I talked to Mr. Mason, he got the interview lined up for me, and I got hired on the spot. At first, I thought this was too good to be true, but this was all a blessing in disguise."

Today, Devreaux enjoys his new position at Convergys, where he handles accounts for clients who have questions about their insurance policies.

rehabilitation of a nearby abandoned building. The rehabilitation of that building was not going to be cheap, running to \$265,000, but the \$75,000 grant from Main Street made it possible for Harris to move forward. In the end, the expansion would create 3 new full time jobs. But that's not the end of Quilt Lizzy's growth story or the spark plug impact the company has made in Warrenton.

During the course of construction in 2015, Harris realized she needed even more space. Working with the team at N.C. Commerce's Main Street Center, the original Main Street grant was increased by \$50,000 to assist in the rehabilitation of another historic downtown building, creating an additional two permanent full time jobs.

Quilt Lizzy has positively affected the economy of Warrenton by drawing in quilters for training. These students are staying in local bed and breakfasts and enjoying meals in downtown restaurants. "The project in Warrenton expands an existing quilting shop and training center that attracts students from North Carolina and Virginia," said **Liz Parham, North Carolina Main Street Center Director**. "With our grant the business now has a campus of three historic buildings in downtown Warrenton."

N.C. Commerce's Main Street Center provides downtown growth solutions all across the state. North Carolina Main Street downtown districts generated 662 new jobs, 291 new businesses, and \$131.5 million worth of investment in Fiscal Year 2014-15. To find out how to tap into these opportunities in your community, visit [nccommerce.com/rd/main-street](http://nccommerce.com/rd/main-street).



The prototype of a licence plate featuring North Carolina's new brand. Artist concept subject to change.

## Pride on Your Ride: NC Brand Plate Campaign Continues

Applications are pouring into the N.C. Brand Team from people across the state interested in displaying their state pride on their 'ride,' whether car, truck or other licensed vehicle.

The Pride on Your Ride campaign aims to create and issue a new specialty license plate. Along with the inspirational tagline "Nothing Compares," the plate will prominently feature the new state brand logo, a green and blue "NC" encompassing the outline of a long leaf pine, symbolic of our state's deep historic roots and scenic diversity from the mountains to the sea. The plate will be the latest option for motorists under the N.C. Department of Transportation's specialty license plate program.

To begin the process of claiming your new 'Nothing Compares' plate, visit this special page on the department's website: [nccommerce.com/nc-license-plate](http://nccommerce.com/nc-license-plate).

Show your pride on your ride in North Carolina: where

"There were many nights I wouldn't go to bed until four o'clock in the morning, just because I had a hard time going to sleep thinking about employment," said Devreaux, "but when Mr. Mason actually took time out of his day to come and talk to me, my life changed and that's when the door finally opened."

*NCWorks @ Work is a SYNC series highlighting the solutions available from North Carolina's integrated workforce development system and how they're being successfully applied all across the state.*

## N.C. in the News

- [VIDEO: Commerce Secretary John Skvarla \(apx. 12 minutes from program start time\)](#) (Capital Tonight, Time Warner Cable - February 10)
- [Skanska USA announces executive leadership changes in Virginia and North Carolina](#) (Virginia Business - February 15)
- [N.C. Commerce Secretary Visits Morrisville](#) (Cary Citizen - February 9)
- [Wilmington Makes Play in North Carolina's Startup Scene](#) (Startup Southerner - Nashville, TN - February 2)

## About Us

SYNC is the North Carolina Department of 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.](#)

everything is possible and Nothing Compares!

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