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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) UNC-TV's Shannon Vickery with Secretary of Commerce Sharon Decker on the set of "North Carolina Now"

Decker appears on WUNC-TV's 'N.C. Now'

N.C. Department of Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker appeared on the March 21 edition of UNC-TV's "North Carolina Now." UNC-TV's Shannon Vickery interviewed Decker about her background, the state's plan for job creation and branding, the need for financial incentives to recruit businesses, and plans for privatizing the Department. The video is posted on UNC-TV's website. Decker's interview begins at 11:54 of the [video](#).

[View the video.](#)

Governor appoints three to Tourism Board

Governor Pat McCrory has appointed three new members to the [N.C. Travel & Tourism Board](#). Art Schools, from Carteret County, has been appointed as the rural area representative. Schools serves as mayor of Emerald Isle. He has worked as a CPA and as a U.S. Air Force Hospital Administrative Officer. Schools will replace Vimal Kolappa on the Board.

Sabrina Bengel, from Craven County, has been appointed as the cultural resources and activities representative. Bengel is president of New Bern Tours & Convention Services. She has served as chairman and past president of the Friends of the New Bern Firemen's Museum. She currently serves on the Travel and Tourism Board as an appointee of Senate



(Left-right) DuPont Chair and CEO Ellen Kullman, Lenoir County Economic Development Executive Director Mark Pope, and DuPont Kinston Plant Manager Harold Thomas (photo courtesy of Terry G. Gooding)

DuPont celebrates 60 years in Kinston

DuPont Chair and CEO Ellen Kullman was the headline speaker at the DuPont Kinston plant's celebration of 60 years of operations in Lenoir County on March 26. About 110 people — including employees, retirees, community leaders and special guests — attended the celebration, which was held on the plant premises.

"This is a great day for DuPont, a great day for Kinston and a great day for this community and the state of North Carolina," Kullman said. "Operating a manufacturing plant for 60 years is a major accomplishment."

She expressed appreciation to the community residents and leaders, state and local elected officials who have supported the site in various ways during the six decades in Lenoir County.

"Every DuPont business is supported by one or more of DuPont's three strategic 'pillars' of scientific capability: agriculture and nutrition, industrial bioscience, and advanced materials," Kullman said. "In each of those fields, we are a world leader with results to show for it. The Kinston site plays a large role in supporting our industrial bioscience business. The work of this site enables us to offer bio-materials to the world through our DuPont Sorona renewably sourced polymer."

"In fact," Kullman added, "Kinston is the only DuPont site in the world that produces Sorona polymer."

Harold Thomas has been Kinston plant

President Pro Tempore Phil Berger. Bengel will replace Chris Cavanaugh on the Board.

Vinay Patel, from Mecklenburg County, has been appointed urban area representative. Patel is president and CEO for SREE Hotels and is responsible for day-to-day operations and sales for the portfolio. He served as vice president for Microtel Inn & Suites prior to joining SREE Hotels. Patel will replace Susan Spangler on the Board.



April is N.C. Beer Month

With the most breweries of any state south of Pennsylvania and east of Texas, North Carolina is truly the South's beer stronghold. To celebrate the state's craftsmanship and the destinations where it's nurtured, breweries, hotels, restaurants and other businesses combine forces with the N.C. Brewers Guild and the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Tourism, Film and Sports Development for the inaugural N.C. Beer Month this month.

Throughout April, beer lovers will find special tours, tastings, dinners, classes and other events as well as lodging packages and deals on North Carolina craft beer. Travelers can chart a course from urban pub hubs and beer frontiers to lively towns with character to spare.

Visit www.NCBearMonth.com for highlights, details and activities.



ARC map guide seeking nominations

The Appalachian Regional Commission and American

manager since 2004 and at the site 44 years.

"This celebration is a tribute to DuPont innovation and the local and state leaders who have supported us over the years," Thomas said.

He said it was the innovation of Sorona polymer that breathed new life into the plant and is allowing it to grow.

Lenoir County Economic Development Director Mark Pope said DuPont has always been an important industrial partner of the community. He said Kullman coming to the anniversary celebration reinforced the collaboration between DuPont, the state of North Carolina and Lenoir County.

"It's very exciting to have the DuPont CEO here," Pope said. "That makes a strong statement about the positive partnership we have."

Sorona polymer was first commercially produced at the Kinston site in September 2000. In November 2005, DuPont announced the expansion of its Sorona polymer production operations at Kinston. The Sorona capacity expansion project was initiated in April 2007. In July 2007, DuPont began production of Sorona renewably sourced polymer at Kinston, when it introduced Bio-PDO to the polymer production process.

[DuPont celebrates 60 years in Kinston](#) (*The Free Press – Kinston, March 26*)

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 - April 1, 2013

New projects assigned:	115
Projects announced:	31
Jobs announced:	5,460
Capital investment announced:	\$493M
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	318
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	5,320

N.C. in the News

Heritage Publishing are collaborating on the production of a tourist-oriented "map guide" designed to boost tourism to Appalachia by showcasing its food-heritage and agritourism attractions.

Sites to be featured on the map guide will include local farms, farmers markets, farm-to-table restaurants, and other distinctive food-related destinations. The map guide will be available as a free insert in the Spring 2014 issue of American Heritage magazine.

Site nominations are now being accepted at appfoodguide.com. All nominated sites must be located in the [Appalachian Region](#), be open to visitors and represent a local food experience for travelers. The initial nomination period ends May 15. More information is available at appfoodguide.com and on the [ARC Web site](#) as the project develops.

This Week's Highlights

- [U.K. company to open U.S. HQ in Raleigh](#) (*Triangle Business Journal, March 28*)
- [Does the Piedmont Triad have its footing back?](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, March 28*)
- [Real Deals: Server farms are sprouting in N.C.](#) (*The News and Observer – Raleigh, March 27*)
- [State ports improve revenues, eye competitive advantages](#) (*Greater Wilmington Business Journal, March 27*)
- [BD to add 25 jobs in Wilson](#) (*Triangle Business Journal, March 27*)
- [Tides and Times Group adds 30 jobs to Charlotte headquarters staff](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal, March 26*)
- [Location announced for Shenandoah Furniture operation](#) (*Mount Airy News, March 26*)
- [AT&T: We've added 125 jobs in Greensboro](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, March 26*)
- [Providencia dedicates \\$60M addition to Statesville nonwovens plant](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal, March 26*)
- [Casino an economic boon to tribe](#) (*Winston-Salem Journal, March 25*)
- [State to replace aircraft used for job recruiting](#) (*WRAL.com, March 25*)
- [EDC team works to attract businesses to Stanly County](#) (*The Stanly News and Press, March 25*)
- [Getting job ready](#) (*The Sampson Independent, March 24*)

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