

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



## Global Textile Company Selects Randolph Co. for First U.S. Manufacturing Location

MAS Holdings, a global apparel technology and manufacturing company, will locate its first manufacturing and development center in the United States in Randolph County, creating 133 new jobs. The company plans to invest nearly \$20 million in a facility located in Asheboro.

**Governor Cooper** announced the project yesterday (April 3).

"North Carolina enjoys a worldwide reputation as a center for textile research and workers," **Governor Cooper** said. "Our excellent business climate and location offer international firms an ideal place to reach and serve customers in the United States."

MAS is an innovative textile company headquartered in Sri Lanka, employing more than 85,000 associates worldwide, operating 48 state-of-the-art facilities in 15 countries including design offices, apparel and component manufacturing plants and private industrial parks. The company's selection of a North Carolina location includes a pending acquisition of Acme-McCrary, a 108-year-old textile manufacturer currently located in Asheboro with additional facilities in Chatham County and the Republic of Honduras.

"We are delighted to be associated with Acme-McCrary, whose values and philosophy are very much in alignment with MAS," said **Mahesh Amalean, Chairman of MAS Holdings**. "Our presence in the Western Hemisphere enables us to strengthen our value propositions of speed and flexibility offered through on-shore and near-shore operations to our customers. It also enables us to engage and strengthen our continued association with academia and research institutions in the U.S. We are appreciative of the support and assistance extended to us by the State, County, City and its officials and look forward to integrating and contributing to the community in North Carolina."



*N.C. Commerce's new Deputy Secretary Will Miller.*

### Commerce Welcomes New Deputy Secretary

Will Miller, an executive from Charlotte with extensive experience in the business, non-profit, and government sectors will serve as Deputy Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland named Miller to the post, effective yesterday (April 3).

From 1993 to 2005, Miller worked in commercial real estate at Beacon Partners, a large regional firm. During his time as a partner there, Miller worked extensively with economic development officials and real estate consultants to help these companies acquire suitable space to conduct their businesses.

In 2005, Miller founded Social Venture Partners (SVP), the Southeast's first venture philanthropy initiative. Based on a model developed on the West Coast, venture philanthropy seeks to bring professional, human capital to the non-profit sector. In 2010, Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx tapped Miller to lead the community effort to host the 2012 Democratic National Convention.

W.H. Redding Jr., Chairman of Acme-McCrary stated, "We are pleased to be a part of MAS Holdings' location of a manufacturing facility in our hemisphere. MAS Holdings brings to North Carolina an exemplary corporate culture and a growing business. Their concern for environmental impact is world class and keeping and growing textile jobs in North Carolina is exciting."

A performance-based grant of \$575,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate MAS Holdings' location into Randolph County. Companies awarded One NC grants receive no money upfront and must meet job creation and capital investment targets to qualify for payment. In the case of MAS Holdings' grant, in addition to its new job-creation target, the company is also required to retain 374 existing jobs currently located in North Carolina at Acme-McCrary.

All One NC grants are also contingent upon a matching grant from local governments.

Other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [North Carolina State University](#), [Duke Energy](#), the [City of Asheboro](#), [Randolph County](#), and the [Randolph County Economic Development Corporation](#).

[Read more.](#)

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## New Apprenticeship Program Offers Opportunity for Military Veterans with Medical Backgrounds

A new apprenticeship program will train apprentices, and veterans in particular, for high-paying clinical research careers.

Pharmaceutical Product Development (PPD) worked with [NCWorks Apprenticeship](#) to develop the new 12-month program, which combines on-the-job learning with classroom instruction to train participants for clinical research associate (CRA) positions. Open to all workers, the apprenticeship is especially useful for veterans in medical backgrounds in transitioning out of the military.

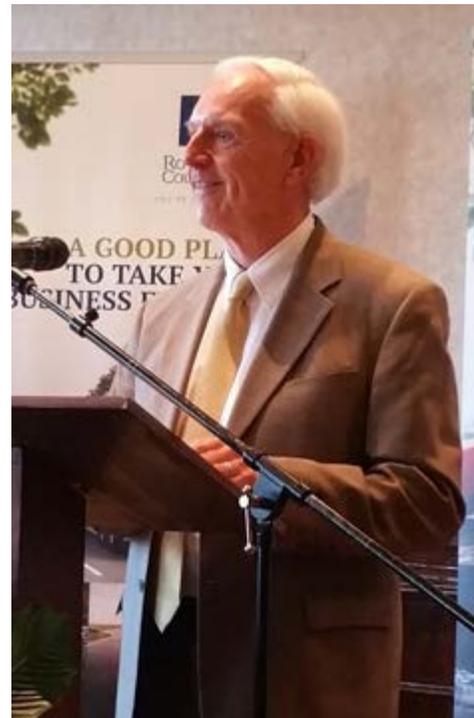
"Apprenticeships are a win-win for everyone involved," said N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland. "PPD will gain talented, passionate employees who contribute to the company's growth from the moment they start their jobs. Our veterans will get trained in high-paying jobs that will keep them working in North Carolina and eliminate the stress of transitioning out of the service."

"As a veteran who transitioned to the civilian workforce, I understand the need to provide viable career opportunities to those who have served," said William Sharbaugh, chief operating officer of PPD, in a statement issued by the company. "Our industry-first CRA apprenticeship program recognizes the skills of veterans and transitioning service members with medical backgrounds who, through their service, have developed the requisite skills of leadership and who are motivated to join us in helping deliver life-changing medicines."

NCWorks Apprenticeship helps employers and institutions create apprenticeship programs by providing assistance on the curriculum to be taught, the length of the program, and the wages apprentices will earn during their training. These programs are registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, and graduates receive a Journey worker certificate upon completing their apprenticeships.

Miller has served on over two dozen boards and commissions including the Charlotte Housing Authority, the Charlotte Region Commercial Board of Realtors and the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority. In 2011, Miller received the Cornerstone Award from the Commercial Board that is awarded annually to the individual in the community whose efforts significantly improved the economy of the region in that year.

A native of Winston-Salem, Miller is a graduate of Davidson College.



*N.C. Commerce Chief of Staff George Sherrill, speaking in Eden March 28.*

## N.C. Commerce Officials Visit Rockingham County

George Sherrill, N.C. Commerce's Chief of Staff and Will Collins, Commerce's Assistant Secretary for Workforce attended the Citizens Economic Development Annual Meeting in Rockingham County last Thursday evening (March 28). The event was held in Eden.

In his remarks, Sherrill discussed the many solutions Commerce offers local communities in order to both prepare and compete for new business and economic growth. Sherrill also reviewed highlights of Governor Cooper's budget proposal, one of the boldest state budgets ever offered in support of statewide economic development.

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## N.C. in the News

- ['Fuzzy' issues often determine where a](#)

In addition to North Carolina, PPD also launched its CRA apprenticeship in Texas and California.



For more information on launching or supporting apprenticeship programs in your area, go online to the [NCWorks Apprenticeship section of ncommerce.com](#).

[company lands, says Cabarrus recruiter](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - March 31)

- [N.C. Commerce ready to roll out welcome mat to expanding, relocating companies after HB2](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - March 30)
- [Report: NC life science sector employs 63,000, has \\$86B economic impact](#) (*WRAL TechWire* - March 29)
- [Triad economic developer to retire](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - March 29)
- [What is a film production worth to Wilmington?](#) (*Wilmington StarNews* - March 23)
- [Community colleges demo their power in workforce development](#) (*WRAL TechWire* - March 23)
- [NC Main Street program bestows 3 local awards](#) (*News & Record* - Greensboro - March 22)
- [Selling N.C.: Tourism leaders tap into state's assets](#) (*Daily Reflector* - Greenville - March 21)

### 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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