

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



*(Left-right) NCEDA Immediate Past President Scott Hamilton, former Gov. Jim Hunt, outgoing NCEDA President Katherine Thomas, NCEDA incoming Secretary Treasurer Linda Weiner*

## NCEDA wraps up annual meeting

The [N.C. Economic Developers Association](#) (NCEDA) held its annual conference June 14-16 at the Sheraton in Atlantic Beach. Nearly 300 economic development professionals from around the state attended the conference, which focused on the logistics of doing business in North Carolina. Speakers included N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll and Assistant Sec. for Tourism, Marketing and Global Branding Lynn Minges, N.C. State Ports Authority Director of Distribution Services James Yokeley, Piedmont Triad Partnership President Don Kirkman and Spirit AeroSystems N.C. Site Operations Director Rick Davis.

During the conference, the NCEDA presented a special President's Award to former Gov. Jim Hunt. The award is given to an individual who has gone "above and beyond to make a significant impact on economic development in our state."

The NCEDA also presented two "Economic Developer of the Year" awards, recognizing individuals who have made significant and measurable contributions to economic development in North Carolina. This award recognizes accomplishments in a calendar year, in this case 2009, that are significant and measurable.

Award recipients were Don Porter, from Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission, and Scott Millar, from the Catawba County Economic Development Commission.



*Jennifer Bumgarner*

## Commerce names assistant secretary for energy

N.C. Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco on June 17 announced Jennifer Bumgarner as the department's new assistant secretary for energy. Bumgarner comes to Commerce from Gov. Bev Perdue's policy staff, where she has served as deputy policy director with a special focus on energy and environmental issues. Bumgarner will oversee the N.C. Energy Office, the state's weatherization program and the state's Energy Policy Council, with a goal of creating green jobs and expanding the state's energy economy.

"Jennifer Bumgarner brings significant policy experience and expertise to this position," said Crisco. "We are pleased she is joining the Commerce team and know that she will continue to focus on moving forward our state's energy efforts and programs, especially as we work to get recovery dollars and jobs out into communities and to support energy- and green-related businesses." Bumgarner starts her new position July 1. [Read more.](#)

[N.C. energy official appointed](#) (The Charlotte Business Journal, June 18)

## Perdue addresses Global TransPark Board

Gov. Bev Perdue on June 16 addressed the



NCEDA Professional Development Co-chair Joanna Helms of Wayne County Development Alliance Inc., Don Porter from Raeford-Hoke EDC, Scott Millar from the Catawba County EDC, and outgoing NCEDA President Katherine Thomas of Progress Energy.



Gov. Bev Perdue delivers an address on North Carolina's preparations for any emergency response that might be required due to the oil spill.

## N.C. discusses emergency response to the Gulf oil spill

Gov. Bev Perdue on June 15 joined officials from the N.C. Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety, the N.C. Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources and the U.S. Coast Guard to discuss the state's ongoing preparations in the event oil from the spill in the Gulf of Mexico reaches North Carolina shores. A briefing in the Emergency Operations Center in Raleigh was held for state legislators and another session for local elected officials, local government managers and public safety officials from coastal counties.

Perdue stressed that experts, including the Coast Guard and U.S. Environment Protection Agency, believe there is only a remote chance that any oil will reach North Carolina shores. If any oil does reach North Carolina, the state is prepared. North Carolina had a plan in place to deal with an oil spill long before the situation in the Gulf, and that plan is being updated to handle the current situation. Perdue reminded participants that North Carolina beaches are clean and open for business this summer season.

"I believe North Carolina has the best emergency

board members of the Global TransPark (GTP) in Kinston, calling on them to develop both short- and long-term strategic plans for the growth and success of the GTP aerospace cluster.

"We must seize this opportunity to make the GTP a major job-creating engine for Eastern North Carolina," she said.

The governor attended the board meeting just two weeks before the planned ribbon cutting for Spirit AeroSystems, the park's first major anchor tenant and the world's largest supplier of commercial airplane assemblies and components. Perdue urged the board to create the kind of strategic plan that will support the Spirit AeroSystems of the world as well as other 21st century businesses.

[Read more.](#)

## N.C. Film Office debuts online movie location resource

North Carolinians may now showcase their properties as prospective locations for a movie or TV show, thanks to a new online resource announced June 16 by the N.C. Film Office. The Web-based portal allows residents statewide to submit their residences, businesses, farms and other property for possible use by film crews.

The Film Office, along with Charlotte-based ReelScout, a national film location management company, launched the online feature on the Film Office's Web site, [www.ncfilm.com](http://www.ncfilm.com). The system, called a location submission engine, lets residents showcase properties for use in movies, TV series and other productions.

## Perdue announces 25 Western N.C. projects

Gov. Bev Perdue on June 17 announced that 25 projects in Western North Carolina have been recommended to receive more than \$5.7 million in funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The projects will help bring needed jobs and economic development to 29 counties throughout Western North Carolina.

"North Carolina and the Appalachian Regional Commission are partners in bringing jobs and economic development to communities throughout western North Carolina," said Perdue. "These projects will support business and infrastructure that will strengthen local economies."

Project proposals were reviewed by the North Carolina ARC office and project partners to ensure they were consistent with ARC's goals. The Commission will make the final

management team in the country. We have proven over and over we can handle whatever emergency comes our way," said Perdue. "No matter how small the chance that oil could reach North Carolina, my goal, as always, is for us to be prepared."

Additionally, the N.C. Dept. of Crime Control and Public Safety has launched a Web page dedicated to providing information and useful links regarding the Gulf oil spill. The page is located at the department's home page at [www.nccrimecontrol.org](http://www.nccrimecontrol.org) and can be reached by clicking on the Gulf Oil Spill tab.

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## Babcock & Wilcox moves HQ to Charlotte

The Babcock & Wilcox Company is a U.S.-based company that provides design, engineering, manufacturing, construction and facilities management services to nuclear, renewable, fossil power, industrial and government customers worldwide. They are relocating their headquarters and the modular nuclear division from Lynchburg, Va., to Charlotte. More than 130 positions will be created through a combination of relocation and local hires. No state discretionary grants were involved in the project. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Ron Leitch was the project manager, and he worked with the Charlotte Chamber on this project.



LoriAnn Owen and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco shake it to "You're the One that I Want." Photo courtesy of Jerry Wolford and Randolph Community College.

## Crisco helps raise scholarship funds at Dancing with the Randolph Stars event

N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco was among 34 Randolph County civic and community leaders who participated in Randolph Community College's (RCC) June 5 Dancing with the Randolph Stars event, raising thousands of dollars for scholarships for RCC students.

Several costumed couples danced for 90 seconds to a song of their choice, soliciting cheers and applause from the sold-out crowd. Crisco and LoriAnn Owen, wife of renowned potter Ben Owen, dressed up as John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John from "Grease" and danced to "You're the One that I Want."

In addition to voting and ticket sales, scholarship money was raised through sponsorships from local businesses and

decision whether each project receives funding.

Two projects in Surry and Watauga counties leverage additional grants from the Golden LEAF Foundation to provide access to mobile technology in schools, including laptop computers for students and teachers in Watauga County. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) N.C. Dept. of Commerce European Investment Director Martyn Johnson presents a State of North Carolina commemorative plate to Cefla Group CEO Giovanni Scarlini and Cefla Finishing America Inc. Managing Director Walter Favruzzo

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## CEFLA Finishing opens new North American HQ

Cefla Finishing Group of Imola, Italy, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 10 for its new North American headquarters in Charlotte. The 150,000-square-foot facility is Cefla's largest investment outside of Italy.

Cefla Finishing has consolidated all its current North American operations in to the new facility. It includes 75,000 square feet of manufacturing and 15,000 square feet of application laboratory and machine showroom, making the new lab one of the largest in the world. Service, parts, finishing education, sales and administration of the consolidated companies will function as a single source for finishing solutions and related services.

Cefla Finishing supplies a complete range of spraying systems specifically designed to coat shaped panels and apply glue. The product range includes seven different models of automatic sprayers. Cefla Finishing's extended line of products supplies complete finishing lines for wood and plastic surfaces. [Read more.](#)

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## AdvantageWest announces winner of student entrepreneurial contest

A software application developed by a student team from Stanford University has emerged as the winning entry in the 2010

community groups. The event netted \$64,500, which will go directly to student scholarships.

RCC President Dr. Robert Shackelford said, "The Dancing with the Randolph Stars event has been the most successful fundraiser ever for the Randolph Community College Foundation. Our students will be the recipients of this wonderful outpouring of support from our community. We want to thank everyone who was involved, from the planning committee members, to the dancers, to those who sponsored the event, contributed monetary votes, and purchased tickets." [Read more.](#)

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## N.C. jobless rate drops to 10.3 percent

North Carolina's unemployment rate dropped for the third straight month in May to 10.3 percent, according to figures released June 18 by the N.C. Employment Security Commission. That's lower than the April rate of 10.8 percent. The government sector was responsible for creating the most jobs at 16,100. Trade, transportation and utilities also contributed 1,300 jobs.

[Unemployment rate drops: most new jobs in government](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, June 18)

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## NCMBC holding roundtable today

The N.C. Military Business Center (NCMBC) will host an N.C. Roundtable during the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic Industry Forum in Virginia Beach, Va. today (June 22). The roundtable will provide a unique opportunity for North Carolina construction, architectural and engineering companies attending the forum to engage in facilitated discussion with the NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic staff. NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic is acquiring and executing a \$3 billion military construction program at Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point and MCAS New River in North Carolina. Companies interested in attending the N.C. Roundtable and Industry Forum should visit [www.ncmbc.us](http://www.ncmbc.us) or contact [burrellj@ncmbc.us](mailto:burrellj@ncmbc.us) for more information and to register.

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## Pee Dee Region Workforce Board gives excellence award

Situs Outsourcing Solutions of Robbins was recently named the recipient of an Excellence in Partnering award for 2009-2010 presented by the Pee Dee Region Workforce Development Board. Linda Parker, director of the Pee Dee Region Workforce Development Board, recognized Situs at a June 3 banquet in Pinehurst where Jennifer Lang, director of Situs' Robbins office and Danna Powers, human resources manager, accepted the award on the company's behalf. Situs was nominated by the Moore County JobLink Career Center in Aberdeen.

Moore County JobLink offers workforce development assistance and resources to area businesses to help with hiring, training and retaining qualified workers. By partnering with a variety of local organizations, JobLink maximizes the range of services available to assist businesses. JobLink's partners include, among others, the Employment Security Commission, Sandhills Community College, FirstHealth Community Services and Moore County's economic

Juicy Ideas Collegiate Competition, a national contest challenging students to create a software application that uses publicly available data to benefit their community. The students' "Truth or Dare" entertainment application allows users to discover and research leisure activities, from places to take a date, to the best cookie recipes for baking, to movies available from the closest video store. [See a video demonstration of the app.](#)

Juicy Ideas, designed to engage students in entrepreneurship and encourage innovation and creativity, was organized by [AdvantageWest](#) with support from Google and in partnership with [DigitalChalk](#), developers of an online software platform for training and continuing education. [Read more.](#)

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## Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry (B&I) 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 - June 21, 2010

New projects assigned:	219
Projects announced:	60
Jobs created:	8,290
Capital invested:	\$1.41B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	635
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	11,608

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## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [State jobless rate declines again in May, to 10.3 percent](#) (Winston-Salem Journal, June 21)
- [ECSU scientist joins fossil fuel fight: to help make biodiesel](#) (Daily Advance - Elizabeth City, June 21)
- [Locals turning layoffs into business startups](#) (The Star-News - Wilmington, June 21)
- [Triangle to be proving ground for electric cars](#) (The News & Observer - Raleigh, June 18)

development organization, Partners in Progress. [Read more.](#)

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## Grove Park Inn on Condé Nast Traveller's Top Golf Resorts

Condé Nast has released its list of Top 80 Golf Resorts, breaking down the list in regions - and the Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa's course in Asheville is No. 13 on the Top 15 Southern U.S. Golf Resorts. The rankings are a result of the magazine's 14th Readers' Choice Survey, so all were chosen by resort golfers, not pros.

[Top 80 Golf Resorts](#) (concierge.com, June, 2010)

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