

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



## BlueScope Buildings Expansion to Add 115 Jobs in Scotland County

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla III and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. announced June 3 that BlueScope Buildings North America will be expanding its facility in Scotland County and creating 115 new jobs over the next three years. The company plans to invest \$9.2 million in the city of Laurinburg over the same period.

"Manufacturing continues to be one of North Carolina's bedrock industries," said Governor McCrory. "BlueScope Buildings' expansion of its manufacturing operation in Scotland County shows its commitment to continue to grow in our state."

BlueScope Buildings North America, Inc. is a subsidiary of Australia-based BlueScope Steel, Ltd. The company provides engineered building solutions for non-residential construction through its industry leading brands-Butler Manufacturing and VP Buildings. The company currently has more than 140 employees in North Carolina.

"BlueScope Buildings recognizes the value and talent of North Carolina's manufacturing workforce," said Secretary Skvarla. "Nothing compares to the quality of workers we have in our state."

"We are excited to announce the expansion of our Laurinburg plant," said Dan Kumm, President BlueScope Buildings North America. "We have a long standing history of operations in North Carolina dating back nearly 50 years with both our building brands, Butler Manufacturing and VP Buildings, and



(Left-right) James Speed, President & CEO, North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co.; Tara Kenchen, President & CEO, N.C. Community Development Initiative and Initiative Capital; Selina Mack, Exec. Director, Durham Community Land Trustees; John Parker, Initiative Capital Board Member; N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla

### Skvarla Meets Community Development Leaders

N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla met with community economic developers June 1 to discuss his vision and plan for creating jobs and economic prosperity across the state. Community developers urged Skvarla to include strategies that also expand economic opportunity to distressed areas.

The event was hosted by the N.C. Community Development Initiative, a Raleigh nonprofit focused on community economic development. The Initiative's lending subsidiary, Initiative Capital, provides loans and investments that support economic development in distressed and neglected communities.

More information about the N.C. Community Development Initiative is available on the web at [ncinitiative.org](http://ncinitiative.org).



Gov. McCrory and N.C. Secretary of Transportation Tony Tata participate in the ceremonial groundbreaking at the Port of

we look forward to growing our presence in a state that is dedicated to working closely with industry to develop talent in manufacturing."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$402,500.

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [NCWorks](#), [NC Revenue](#), [Duke Energy](#), [North Carolina's Southeast](#), [Scotland County Economic Development Corporation](#), and [Scotland County](#).

[Read more.](#)



Participants at ARC's How to Apply Workshop held May 27 at the Southwestern Commission offices located in Sylva

## ARC Hosts Distressed County Workshop

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) held a workshop in Sylva on May 27 for leaders in economically challenged counties designed to help those communities apply for funds available through the regional economic development group.

The North Carolina counties within ARC's region and designated by ARC as distressed for FY2016 include Cherokee, Graham, Rutherford, and Swain.

ARC is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local government. The Sylva workshop was hosted by federal and state program staff, including North Carolina ARC Program Manager Olivia Collier and Assistant Program Manager Libby Smith.

ARC uses an index-based classification system to compare each county in the nation with national averages on three economic indicators - three-year average unemployment rates, per capita market income, and poverty rates. Based on that comparison, each Appalachian county is classified within one of five economic status designations - distressed, at-risk, transitional, competitive, or attainment. Distressed counties are those that rank in the worst 10 percent of the nation's counties.

The day-long workshop, entitled "How to Apply," provided county leaders an overview of the grant application process and answers to any questions concerning the development of their project applications.

It's not too late to apply for this year's grant cycle. Information about submitting a 2016 NC ARC Distressed County Pre-application can be found [online here](#). More information about North Carolina's ARC program is also available at [nccommerce.com](#).

Wilmington

## Port of Wilmington Breaks Ground for New Cold Storage Facility

The North Carolina State Ports Authority broke ground on a new 101,000-square-foot cold storage facility June 2. The warehouse facility is located directly on terminal at the Port of Wilmington and is expected to create more than 100 new jobs.

North Carolina's agriculture business has always relied heavily on the Port of Wilmington and this specific construction, offering over 11,000 pallet positions, represents further development for that market.

"North Carolina is a major hub for global exportation of refrigerated pork and poultry products and a major player in the protein production export business," NC Ports Chief Executive Officer Paul J. Cozza said. "By utilizing this newly created cold storage facility, protein producers will be able to save a substantial amount on transportation costs to ship to their existing markets abroad."

Construction work is slated to begin in a few weeks with completion of the facility expected in the first half of 2016.

## N.C. in the News

- [\[Video\] Secretary Skvarla Appears On The Record](#) (WRAL-TV - June 6)
- [Wake Up Apex Event Featured John E. Skvarla, III](#) (Right Here in Apex.com - June 5)
- [North Carolina Sets 10-year Transportation Development Plan](#) (Transportation & Infrastructure Daily - June 5)
- [Electrolux to cut some jobs in Charlotte, elsewhere in effort to restore U.S. earnings](#) (Charlotte Business Journal - June 5)
- [The twists and turns of steering Volvo toward S.C.](#) (Charleston Regional Business Journal - June 3)
- [Charlotte developers see more room for growth but are concerned about N.C. incentives](#) (Charlotte Business Journal - June 4)
- [How to win an automaker like Volvo, S.C. style](#) (Triad Business Journal - June 4)
- [Meet the new person in charge of economic development of CLT property](#) (Charlotte Business Journal - June 2)
- [Governor Marks Symbolic Start Of Cold Storage Facility At Port](#) (WilmingtonBiz - June 2)
- [Raleigh company launches crowdfunding](#)

## Businesses Receive \$246,000 to Invest in Workers' Skills

North Carolina employers have received a boost in workforce investments, thanks to a grant program through NCWorks.

Thirty-one of the state's employers received grants in May totalling \$246,807 to train 612 workers. The federally funded NCWorks Incumbent Worker Training Grants are reimbursements awarded twice a year to employers who qualify for financial assistance in workforce training. As a result, more businesses enhance employee talent and workers sharpen their skills through training at no cost to themselves.

"When our workforce is strong, our businesses grow and boost our economy," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "This is a sound investment, and North Carolina will reap the benefits from this program for years to come."

During each funding round, employers work with their local Workforce Development Board to submit an application to the program. Each board reviews the applications and submits its recommendations for training grants to the Division of Workforce Solutions, a unit of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

The NCWorks initiative includes the Department of Commerce Division of Workforce Solutions, the North Carolina Commission on Workforce Development, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Community College System. The goal is to create a stronger alignment of services and resources to meet the workforce needs of businesses, connect North Carolinians to technical training and quality careers, and use data to monitor and assess program outcomes.

For more information about NCWorks, visit [nccommerce.com/ncworks](http://nccommerce.com/ncworks).

[resource, without waiting for N.C. lawmakers](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - June 2)

- [Volvo opens N.C. facility](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - May 29)
- [Apple, Facebook, Google warn N.C. General Assembly not to change renewable-energy requirements](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - May 28)
- [New Bern officially an N.C. Retirement Community](#) (*Sylva Journal* - New Bern - May 27)
- [Charlotte among Top 20 business-friendly cities but doesn't lead N.C.](#) (*The Sylva Herald* - May 27)
- [Charlotte among Top 20 business-friendly cities but doesn't lead N.C.](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - May 26)

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# (919) 733-4151

[Business Services](#) | [Community Services](#)  
[Tourism Services](#) | [Workforce Services](#) | [Press Room](#)

#### Building Location:

301 North Wilmington Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1058

#### Mailing Address:

4301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4301

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