



Gov. Pat McCrory (right) presents a handcrafted wooden bowl to Clarence Gooden (left), CSX President and Michael J. Ward CSX CEO/Chairman.



Relias Learning COO Mark Belles (left) accepts a symbol of North Carolina craftsmanship - an oak bowl - from Gov. Pat McCrory. The wood for the bowl came from a tree originally located on the state capitol grounds

Gov. McCrory Announces CSX Intermodal Hub to Locate in Edgecombe County

Governor Pat McCrory announced today (July 19) that CSX will open a new intermodal terminal in Edgecombe County. Known as the Carolina Connector (CCX), this critical infrastructure project will bring jobs and economic opportunity to eastern North Carolina and position the state as a leader in enhanced freight movement.

CCX will transfer containerized cargo between trains and trucks, processing more than 260,000 containers per year initially. Building the facility is expected to create 250 to 300 short-term jobs in engineering, technical services and construction. Conservative estimates indicate that the hub is expected to create 1,500 jobs throughout North Carolina as a result of the terminal's operations.

"This historic project is part of our 25-year vision for transportation because it facilitates efficient and cost-effective movement of goods, which is critical for job creation and economic growth," said **Governor McCrory**. "The Carolina Connector will be a game-changer for our state's economy, supporting North Carolina's agriculture, ports and position as

450 Jobs Coming to Cary in Relias Learning Expansion

Relias Learning LLC, a leading provider of training and professional development for healthcare professionals, will add more than 450 jobs over the coming five years in Wake County. The company plans to invest \$4.5 million at its location in the Town of Cary through the end of 2020.

"North Carolina and Relias Learning share a common commitment to innovation in lifelong learning," said **Governor Pat McCrory**. "Our tech-savvy workforce, engaged community colleges and universities, and unmatched quality of life help connect companies like Relias to their long-range business objectives."

Relias Learning, founded in 2002, offers online training to more than 5,000 organizations and 3 million individuals in the United States and has recently expanded to offer its services in the U.K. and Germany.

"Since moving to Cary in 2012, Relias Learning's staff has grown twenty-fold and we now have almost 300 Relians here at our company headquarters," explained **Jim Triandiflou, CEO of Relias Learning**. "Our people and the culture they have helped

the Southeast's No. 1 state for manufacturing jobs."

CSX will invest \$160 million in the project. CSX serves nearly two-thirds of the American population through a rail network spanning 23 states, two Canadian provinces and the District of Columbia. CCX will directly employ 149 workers at salaries averaging \$64,047 per year. Currently, the average annual wage in Edgecombe County is \$32,725.

"In partnership with the State of North Carolina and Rocky Mount, CSX is proud to bring this transformational project to eastern North Carolina which will provide cheaper, faster and more environmentally-friendly connections for North Carolina's businesses and ports to domestic and international markets," said **CSX Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Michael J. Ward**. "Rocky Mount's vision for economic development, strategic location on the CSX network, and our existing rail operations and long-standing community ties make it an ideal choice for the Carolina Connector."

Helping facilitate CSX's choice of North Carolina for the project is a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) approved earlier today by the Economic Investment Committee. Under the terms of the grant, CSX is eligible to receive as much as \$4.3 million in total reimbursements."

"The Carolina Connector intermodal hub will do far more than provide new jobs in Rocky Mount," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III**. "It will enhance connections among suppliers and buyers in a way that spins off exciting opportunities for job growth throughout North Carolina."

Many partners were involved in the development of this project including North Carolina's [Commerce](#), [Transportation](#), and [Revenue](#) departments as well as the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), [Edgecombe County](#), [Carolinas Gateway Partnership](#), and [North Carolina Wesleyan College](#).

[Read more.](#)



New Direct Intermodal Rail Service to Connect Port of Wilmington and Charlotte

Governor Pat McCrory joined officials from N.C. Transportation and CSX Corporation today at the Port of Wilmington to announce the debut of the new *Queen City Express*, an intermodal rail service between the Port of Wilmington and CSX's intermodal terminal in Charlotte.

"The *Queen City Express* will be the only direct freight rail service into the Greater Charlotte area from a port in the Southeast," said **Governor McCrory**. "The introduction of this new service will facilitate the efficient, cost-effective movement of goods between the global marketplace and one of the most significant economic centers in the southeastern United

States." build are the leading drivers of our success and this grant will be instrumental to our continued growth and expansion plans."

"This significant expansion by Relias Learning underscores the value of North Carolina's strong support for our existing businesses," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "In helping companies like Relias address their strategic expansion goals, North Carolina facilitates the job growth that makes our economy one of the best-performing in the nation."

Relias Learning's expansion will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). Under the JDIG terms, Relias is eligible to receive up to \$5.36 million in total reimbursements over 12 years, pending verification the company has met its job creation and investment targets. In addition, thanks to JDIG program requirements, the expansion by Relias could also provide as much as \$1.79 million in new funds for the state's Utility Account, which funds infrastructure development in North Carolina's Tier 1 and 2 counties.

Several partners joined [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [EDPNC](#) in supporting Relias Learning's expansion. They include the [Cary Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Town of Cary](#), [Wake County](#), [Wake County Economic Development](#) and [Capital Area Workforce Development](#).

[Read more.](#)

Dynamic Air Engineering to Open Corporate Headquarters in Catawba County

Governor McCrory and **Secretary Skvarla** announced yesterday (July 18) that Dynamic Air Engineering Inc. will establish corporate operations in Catawba County. The company intends to build a 46-person workforce in Claremont during the next three years, investing over \$6.8 million. The company has also set further goals of adding at least seven more positions in years four and five following their relocation.

"North Carolina - where aviation was born - welcomes this family-owned manufacturer as the newest member of our defense and aerospace sector," said **Governor McCrory**. "Dynamic Air Engineering shares our state's commitment to innovation, quality and customer focus. The corporate headquarters will be a great fit for our business community."

Founded in Los Angeles in 1942, Dynamic Air Engineering (DBA DAE Systems) is currently headquartered in Santa Ana, California where the company designs, develops and manufactures specialty components and systems for the aerospace

States."

CSX will eventually provide direct access from the Port of Wilmington to the Carolina Connector intermodal terminal in Edgecombe County that Governor McCrory announced earlier today. That facility is expected to create 1,500 jobs throughout North Carolina.

The Carolina Connector intermodal terminal, along with the *Queen City Express*, will lower transportation costs for businesses while taking trucks off the road. Transporting goods by rail will reduce congestion and wear and tear on the state's highways, as well as improve safety and air quality. One intermodal train can eliminate as many as 280 trucks from the highway.

"The return of intermodal rail to the Port of Wilmington expands our reach into an under-served market," said **N.C. Ports Authority Executive Director Paul J. Cozza**. "The *Queen City Express* will provide premier rail service over competing ports for existing and future container customers."

[Read more.](#)



Consumer Foods Leader Launches \$7.6 Million Expansion in Yadkin County

B&G Foods Snacks will create 58 jobs over the next three years as it expands its bakery operations in Yadkin County. The company plans to invest \$7.6 million at its Yadkinville facility over that time.

Governor Pat McCrory made the announcement on July 6.

"Our strong infrastructure, convenient access to millions of North American consumers and competitive costs make North Carolina the ideal location for companies like B&G Foods," said **Governor McCrory**. "B&G Foods produces some of the nation's most popular brands and is a prominent name in our food and beverage manufacturing industry."

B&G Foods Snacks is a subsidiary of publicly-held B&G Foods, Inc. (NYSE: BGS), based in Parsippany, N.J. The company manufactures and distributes a range of packaged food products across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Its popular brands include Green Giant®, Ortega®, Mrs. Dash®, Cream of Wheat®, Pirate's Booty® and many others.

"North Carolina is the #1 state in the Southeast for manufacturing employment, and that includes the 62,000 workers who make our food and beverage manufacturing industry a global player," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**. "North Carolina is a state where companies and people make things, and that includes good food."

B&G Foods Snacks has operated its Yadkinville facility since

and defense industries. Its customized, highly engineered solutions find extensive use in military, commercial and law enforcement applications, on the ground, in the air or over the water.

"After extensive research over the past two years, Dynamic Air came to the conclusion that North Carolina offers the best backdrop for the next chapter in our company's legacy," said **Jeremy I. Morrison, President of DAE Systems**. "The State's dedication to promoting the professional growth of its citizenry through education, combined with a willingness to work in partnership with the business community made our choice a clear one. All of us look forward to a long and prosperous relationship with the great State of North Carolina and the wonderful community of Catawba County."

Dynamic Air Engineering's new operations in the City of Claremont will employ 46-people. Positions will include engineers, machinists, and senior executives among others. Annual salaries will vary by position but will average at least \$66,931. Overall wages in Catawba County currently average \$38,238 per year.

"North Carolina's commitment to the military, our affordable business costs and strategic talent pipelines make us a natural choice for future-focused companies like Dynamic Air Engineering," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "Aerospace products and parts manufacturing job growth has increased 32.5% since 2013 making North Carolina the fastest growing state for aerospace jobs in this timeframe."

Joining [EDPNC](#) and [N.C. Commerce](#) in supporting Dynamic Air Engineering's location plans are the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Catawba County](#), the [City of Claremont](#), the [Catawba County Economic Development Corporation](#), and the [Charlotte Regional Partnership](#).

[Read more.](#)



N.C. Jumps to No. 5 in CNBC's 'Top States for Business' Rankings

North Carolina is one of America's top five states for business, according to the national business television network CNBC. The

2012. The company currently employs 172 locally, before this expansion. The new jobs will add nearly \$1.6 million to B&G Foods Snacks' annual payroll in Yadkinville.

"As we evaluated options for the growth of our manufacturing operations, Yadkin County and the State of North Carolina stood out as the ideal partners, both in terms of their longstanding support to date and their commitment to our future growth," said **Robert C. Cantwell, president and CEO of B&G Foods**. "Our employees throughout the country, and here in Yadkinville, are some of the most dedicated in the business. Each employee in this facility is a testament to the hardworking culture of the region, and we are thrilled to be adding more local employees that embody that same drive and commitment to excellence."

The expansion was made possible in part by a performance-based grant of up to \$105,000 from The One North Carolina Fund.

Numerous state and local allies worked with the [EDPNC](#) and [N.C. Commerce](#) in supporting B&G Foods Snacks' expansion. They include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Yadkin County](#), and the [Yadkin County Economic Development Council](#).

[Read more.](#)



Joining N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla at the Farnborough Airshow last week, (left-right): Phillip W. Dalton II, Latitude Aero; Chris Platé and Ron Mahle, Monroe-Union Co. Economic Development; Sec. Skvarla; Frank Holley and Kenny Anderson, BE&K Building Group; Brent Christensen, Greensboro Partnership.

State's Advantages for Aviation Sector Showcased at U.K. Air Show

N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla led a team of North Carolina economic developers and company executives at the Farnborough Airshow last week (July 11-15), the major European aerospace show held in the United Kingdom every other year. The Economic Development Partnership of N.C. organized the state's presence and exhibit space at the show.

Using preliminary estimates from the first few days of the event, organisers reported more than 80,000 industry executives attended the 2016 edition of the show. Attendance should top well over 100,000 industry representatives, once final

state's number five ranking in the closely watched measurement marks a significant improvement over its 2015 performance, where it ranked ninth among the states.

"Business leaders consistently recognize that North Carolina is an outstanding place to do business," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla**. "The CNBC ranking is just the latest example of our strength, highlighting the many competitive factors North Carolina offers companies so they can be successful."

CNBC's 'Top States for Business' award, now in its tenth year, ranks states against a range of criteria, such as the strength of the available workforce, cost of doing business, infrastructure, and the economy. The network notes its study is not an opinion survey but rather an analysis of more than sixty measures of competitive performance.

In the rankings, North Carolina is joined in the top five by Minnesota, Colorado, Texas, and Utah.

"North Carolina offers companies everything they need to achieve greatness," said **Secretary Skvarla**. "We have a superior tax and regulatory environment, a highly skilled workforce, and a transportation infrastructure that enables a company to gain quick access to their customers from our central east coast location."

The CNBC 'Top States for Business' rankings and award criteria is [available online](#).



Registration Now Open for Influential N.C. Manufacturing Conference

North Carolina's premier conference for manufacturing innovation, mfgCON, will take place in Greensboro October 18 and 19, 2016. Registration for the two-day gathering is now open.

The event includes presentations and breakout sessions highlighting the newest ideas and best tools and resources in manufacturing. Professionals from best-in-class companies - like large Original Equipment Manufacturers, small suppliers, and emerging makers - will weigh in on technology, sustainability, workforce development, market building, innovation and continuous improvement, and share practical

attendance figures are released later this month.

Elsewhere in *SYNC*, see our 'N.C. In The News' section to learn about the North Carolina aviation company bringing the Dornier 228 to the North American market.



Growing Momentum Seen for Apprenticeships

Governor Pat McCrory has secured an additional \$500,000 to support apprenticeships in the state, a key workforce development strategy hailed for its effectiveness in meeting the needs of business. In addition, the governor announced \$110,000 in tuition waivers for youth apprentices enrolled in North Carolina's community college system in 2016-17. The announcement was made July 14.

Under Gov. McCrory's leadership, the state has eliminated fees for participating businesses and doubled the number of new apprentices in a two-year period.

North Carolina will also use \$200,000 from the ApprenticeshipUSA State Accelerator Grant program to educate young adults at the high-school level on the benefits of apprenticeships. The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced the grants as part of its \$90-million initiative to expand apprenticeships in the United States.

In a separate announcement, NCWorks Apprenticeship reported it will host a statewide conference on the topic titled, "Learn and Earn: New Strategies for the 21st-Century." The conference will be held October 4-5, 2016 at the Joseph S. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

Employers can network with other businesses and learn about the benefits of apprenticeship programs.

[Read more about the federal grant.](#)

[Review the conference agenda and register.](#)

advice and takeaway tips that promise to capture immediate results.

[Register for mfgCON 2016 online now.](#)

N.C. in the News

- [Smart Products will move from West Coast to Mills River](#) (*Blue Ridge Now* - July 18)
- [North Carolina Aviation Company to Bring the Dornier 228 to the North American Market](#) (*PR Web* - July 18)
- [N.C.'s competition for Relias' 450 jobs expansion](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - July 12)
- [North Carolina jumps to No. 5 Top State for Business](#) (*CNBC* - July 12)
- [Funds to help add bakery, coffee shop](#) (*News Herald - Morganton* - July 7)
- [N.C. crowdfunding law would provide new way for companies to raise capital](#) (*News & Observer* - July 7)

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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