

# sync<sup>TM</sup>

Weekly highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left - right) RCC President Dr. Robert Shackelford, Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, NASCAR legend Richard Petty, RCC Board of Trustees member Jim Campbell, Randolph County Board of Commissioners Chairman Harold Holmes, Sterling Building Group President Brandin Wrisley, SchenkelSchultz Architecture project architect Jon Steindorf (Photo by Greg Stewart, RCC)

## Richard Petty Center opens at RCC

Randolph Community College in Asheboro opened its \$1,750,000 Richard Petty Education Center July 21 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Named in honor of the NASCAR legend, the building houses the college's Automotive Systems Technology and Autobody Repair programs. It more than doubles the space the programs had in the old buildings.

Platform speakers included Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco, Dr. Bob Shackelford, RCC president, Jim Campbell, chair of the RCC Board of Trustees, and Harold Holmes, chair of the Randolph County Board of Commissioners.

Over 100 community members, student, faculty, and staff gathered for the 9:30 a.m. ceremony held in the automotive shop in the heart of the new building. [Read more.](#)

## Private clubs bill goes to Perdue

The N.C. Senate has approved a bill that eliminates a three-day waiting period for new members to enter private nightclubs and bars. The bill was presented to Gov. Bev Perdue, who has 10 business days to sign it into law. Otherwise it will become effective without her signature.

Proponents of the bill say it makes North Carolina more attractive to tourists and convention business. State law classifies most bars as "private clubs," limited to members and



(Left-right) Todd Avery of the U.S. Embassy in Singapore, and Commerce's Kuldip Wasson

## Commerce participates in Singapore seminar

More than 30 people participated in a [seminar](#) on "Doing Business in Singapore," held July 22 in the Research Triangle Park. Todd Avery, commercial attaché with the U.S. Embassy in Singapore, provided an overview of business opportunities for North Carolina companies interested in exporting to the country. Avery's presentation was followed by a panel discussion of local business leaders who offered their perspectives and success strategies. Singapore is the 12th largest export market for the United States. In 2008, North Carolina exported more than \$259 million worth of products and services to Singapore. Key sectors and best prospects for North Carolina exporters include medical devices, telecommunications equipment, pollution control devices, education/training services, aircraft and parts. The seminar was organized by the N.C. World Trade Association in partnership with the U.S. Commercial Service. Commerce's International Business Development Managers Joe Conaty, Jim Roberts and Kuldip Wasson participated in this event

## Edgecombe receives community development grant

Edgecombe County has received a \$75,000 [Talent Enhancement Demonstration Grant](#) from Commerce's Office of Rural Development Programs. The grant is part of a joint program between Commerce and East Carolina University designed to strengthen less-prosperous communities in Eastern

their guests. Establishments that generate at least 30 percent of revenue from sales of food and nonalcoholic beverages don't have to operate as private clubs with the waiting period. Executives from the tourism industry in Raleigh and Charlotte have complained that the three-day restriction upsets visitors attending conventions and sports events. "It denies the hospitality industry revenue," said Dennis Edwards, president of the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The restaurant industry doesn't oppose the bill, said Jon Carr, a lobbyist for the N.C. Restaurant and Lodging Association. But the industry wants the legislature to re-examine the restrictions restaurants must obey to sell alcohol. Carr and Creech suggest exempting out-of-state patrons from the three-day rule.

[State Senate votes to make it easier to go drinking](#) (The Fayetteville Observer, July 21)

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## SEUS//CP concludes in Newfoundland

The Second Annual Joint Meeting of the Southeast United States and Canadian Provinces Alliance (SEUS//CP) was held July 26-28 in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco led the North Carolina delegation, which included 20 business and economic development executives. There was a total attendance of over 200 delegates from a wide array of business sectors and government, including state governors, provincial premiers and ambassadors.

Canada is North Carolina's number one trading partner, and the state is a founding member of this new alliance, created to strengthen economic relationships between the Southeast and Canada. The conference focused on three industry areas of particular importance to North Carolina's future: ocean and marine technology, energy (including oil, gas, wind, tidal power and other alternatives) and advanced manufacturing. Canadian member provinces include Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Québec. Southeast member states include Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Visit [www.seuscp.org](http://www.seuscp.org) to review the 2009 Annual Meeting materials or to learn more about the SEUS//CP Alliance.

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## Perdue signs order to restrict spending, ensure balanced budget

Gov. Bev Perdue on July 24 signed Executive Order 20, restricting state spending to ensure a balanced budget while legislators work to finalize a budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

"Until a budget is signed, this order will ensure that North Carolina maintains a balanced budget and that state agencies continue to follow the strict spending guidelines in place during the previous fiscal year," Perdue said.

The executive order directs the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to prioritize spending on mandatory obligations and to restrict state agency spending on travel and purchase orders for goods and services. It also restricts agency spending to fill vacant positions.

To protect the state's core responsibilities in education and public safety, the order allows OSBM to make exceptions for direct expenses for classroom instruction and emergency

North Carolina. The Talent Enhancement Demonstration Grants program is designed to provide technical assistance and financial resources to increase competitiveness and build stronger, more vibrant and more capable communities.

Other grant winners were the Town of Aurora, Beaufort County, Hyde County, Jones County, Lenoir County, Pamlico County and Pitt County.

Local governments may apply for the grants, which focus on new endeavors a community has not had the resources to undertake, and increasing the productivity of existing community programs such as housing development and community revitalization.

The grants are available to units of local government in Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Chowan, Dare, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, Washington, Wayne and Wilson counties.

[County accepts grant to boost community development](#) (Rocky Mount Telegram, July 26)

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## Charlotte forum to focus on energy industry

The Charlotte Regional Partnership will present a global perspective on the growing energy efficiency industry and an update on the Charlotte USA energy sector initiative during its quarterly investors forum on July 29. The event will be held at the Harris Conference Center, and Kateri Callahan, president of the Alliance to Save Energy, will make the opening remarks.

The partnership is spearheading an energy initiative that is an outgrowth of the Duke Energy summit. Since the April summit, four work groups – in economic development, workforce development, technology development and public policy – have been setting goals and development tactics to expand the regional energy base. During the investors forum, work area leaders will provide updates on their areas. The forum is open to the public, but space is limited; those wishing to attend should contact Kathy Lazarides via phone at (704) 347-8942 or e-mail at [aklazarides@charlotteusa.com](mailto:aklazarides@charlotteusa.com) to reserve a space. [Read more.](#)

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## Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the Division of Business and Industry (B&I) that illustrate some of the recent activities of the Division. The metrics include the number of

situations related to law enforcement, health care and public safety. The order rescinds the governor's previous executive order to restrict spending for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

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## Bayer wins biotech leadership award

The N.C. Biotechnology Center has named Bayer CropScience as the 2009 winner of the N.C. Industrial Biotechnology Leadership Award. The award was given at a breakfast reception during the sixth annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing in Montreal.

A committee of representatives from the Biotechnology Center, the Biofuels Center of North Carolina, and state departments of agriculture and commerce selected Bayer CropScience from a field of 16 nominees. In addition to its support of academic research and online science-education materials, the company garnered acclaim for its enhancements of agricultural technology, strategic partnerships for the development of advanced seed technologies, and advances in pest- and disease-control chemicals.

Bayer CropSciences' American-region headquarters are in Research Triangle Park. In May, the company announced an expansion that will bring 128 additional jobs in research and development to that site. Overall, Bayer CropScience has 18,300 employees in more than 120 countries, and its 2008 sales totaled more than \$9 billion. The company was formed in 2002 as a result of Bayer's acquisition of Aventis CropScience.

This is the fourth year that the Biotechnology Center has given the leadership award at the annual World Congress meeting. Previous recipients included DuPont, Novozymes and Syngenta. [Read more.](#)

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.

January - July 27, 2009

New projects assigned:	251
Projects announced:	61
Jobs created:	6,387
Capital invested:	\$1.803B
Direct account interactions (industry visits by existing industry staff):	958
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	15,300

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## N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [N.C. biotech center spurs medical devices companies](#) (The Associated Press, July 23)
- [Entrepreneur magazine says Chapel Hill a top startup town – or is it Raleigh?](#) (Triangle Business Journal, July 22)
- [County improves incentive: Freightliner says Rowan 'right place' for business](#) (Salisbury Post, July 21)
- [\\$1 billion Apple project moves forward](#) (Hickory Daily Record, July 21)

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