

sync[®] NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



N.C. Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland greets Governor Cooper at the Climate Change Interagency Council meeting held last Friday.

Commerce Publishes Clean Energy Workforce Report

The North Carolina Department of Commerce published a comprehensive assessment report last Friday (September 27) on the state's clean energy workforce, part of **Governor Roy Cooper's** directive to reaffirm the state's commitment to fighting climate change and lead the state's transition to a clean energy economy.

"I'm committed to fighting climate change and securing more clean energy jobs for our state and these plans help us do both," said **Governor Cooper**. "Our state is taking strong action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and grow renewable energy sources, which will create jobs and support innovation."

Commerce's workforce study was one of four reports or plans initiated by the Governor's Executive Order 80, signed in October of last year. Also published Friday were the



Sessions Underway to Gather Perspectives for New Economic Development Plan

Rich and productive discussions are now underway across the state to shape the future of economic development in North Carolina, and your input is needed as well.

The State of North Carolina will publish a new strategic plan for economic development early next year that will guide policymakers and practitioners in their work to bring more economic prosperity to the state. Gathering input from a wide group of stakeholders is critical to the plan's ultimate success.

On behalf of the North Carolina Department of Commerce, the nclMPACT Initiative at the UNC School of Government is hosting eight regional sessions to collect input from stakeholders across the state that will inform North Carolina's Strategic Economic Development Plan. Two sessions were held in Kannapolis and Fayetteville over the last two weeks, and a third gathering convened earlier today in Raleigh.

Each session begins with an exploration of key regional and sub-regional economic data. The session leaders then seek feedback on several proposed priorities to ensure that the regional findings are both accurate and tell the full story of each region's economy. Planners seek to learn what works in each region and what additional supports from the state could maximize opportunities.

Lunch will be provided at the sessions and registration is free. However, capacity is limited so you're encouraged to sign up today for one of the remaining sessions across the state.

Remaining Sessions:

- [Williamston](#) • October 3
- [Kernersville](#) • October 9

Department of Environmental Quality's *Clean Energy Plan*, a *Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Plan* from the Department of Transportation, and the *Motor Fleet ZEV Plan* from the Department of Administration.

The workforce study identifies the relevant industries contributing to the Clean Energy and Clean Transportation sectors, as well as the relevant occupations within each sector - a diverse roster that includes electricians, operating engineers, and HVAC mechanics and installers. The study also measures the supply as well as the demand for these workers.

Among the report's key findings, the study found that nearly 300,000 people in North Carolina work in clean economy related industries, and that the industries employ workers in a wide range of occupations, with jobs available at all education, skill and wage levels. One out of three people currently working in the clean economy has participated in a community college education or training program and over 29,000 credentials were granted at all post-secondary institutions in the state in relevant curricular programs.

Additional information:

- [Read the complete Clean Energy and Clean Transportation Workforce Assessment Report.](#)
- [Governor's Press Release on the Climate Change Interagency Council meeting](#), including a link to the *Clean Energy Plan* from DEQ.



Chief Deputy Secretary Liz Crabill in Greensboro September 16.

Finish Line Grants Focus of Symposium

Almost 250 workforce development and education professionals attended the first-ever statewide Finish Line Grants Symposium, which was held September 16 in Greensboro on one of the campuses of Guilford Technical Community College.

The Finish Line Grants program helps community college

- [Jacksonville](#) • October 24
- [Lenoir](#) • October 29
- [Cherokee](#) • October 30



Governor Cooper touring the Collins Aerospace plant earlier today.

Governor Cooper Celebrates Manufacturing Week Today in Winston-Salem

This week (September 30 - October 5) is Manufacturing Week in North Carolina. Governor Roy Cooper issued a proclamation declaring the milestone and celebrated the week at an event earlier today (October 1) at Collins Aerospace in Winston-Salem.

North Carolina ranks as the fifth largest manufacturing economy in the United States, with North Carolina's manufacturers contributing \$104.9 billion to the state's gross domestic product. Studies show that for every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, \$1.82 is generated for North Carolina's economy.

In 2018, 95% of North Carolina's record-breaking \$32.7 billion exports were manufactured goods spanning pharmaceuticals, transportation equipment, aircraft and automotive components, machinery and technology industries.

Collins Aerospace is a world leader in designing, developing and manufacturing cabin interior products and services across a wide range of civil, commercial and military aircraft. The company's Interiors business, with headquarters in Winston-Salem, employs approximately 13,000 people across 25 locations worldwide. The business has been part of the Winston-Salem community for nearly 50 years and has created many jobs for the state of North Carolina, and has been a dedicated partner in advancing

students complete their training when facing unforeseen challenges. Experience proved that all too often, financial emergencies like unexpected healthcare costs, childcare expenses, or car breakdowns were preventing community college students on the cusp of completion from reaching graduation. Governor Cooper launched the program in July of last year.

Sponsored by the John M. Belk Endowment and the Lumina Foundation, the recent symposium was organized by the Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research at N.C. State University, in partnership with the Governor's office, the Community College System and the Department of Commerce.

Commerce **Chief Deputy Secretary Liz Crabill** applauded North Carolina's community colleges, workforce development boards, NCWorks Career Centers and Commerce Department staff for collaborating to make Finish Line Grants a success. Since 2018, approximately 2,000 Finish Line Grants have been awarded to North Carolina students.

Several resources from the event are available on the [Finish Line Grants Symposium website](#), including presentation slides and a video of the morning session, including the keynote by Dr. Madeline Pumariega, Executive Vice President and Provost at Tallahassee Community College. Pumariega praised community colleges and workforce boards as "the talent engines for America."

Read more: [Finish Line Grants: Lessons learned over the past year](#). (EdNC - September 17)

Read more: [Community College Professionals. Workforce Development Boards Share Best Practices. Build Relationships During Finish Line Grants Symposium](#). (N.C. State - - September 18)

manufacturing. Currently there are about 2600 employees in Winston-Salem.

Since Governor Cooper took office, North Carolina has added 22,210 manufacturing jobs with \$6.44 billion investment, growing the state's manufacturing workforce to more than 470,000 people for 10,219 manufacturers.

On Our Radar

- [REGISTRATION CLOSING SOON: Southeast U.S./Japan Conference • Savannah, Georgia](#) - October 20-23
- [Trade Wars Taking Toll on Global Growth](#) (*Chief Investment Officer* - October 1)

N.C. in the News

- [How well is North Carolina prepared for a recession?](#) (*Carolina Public Press* - September 30)
- [Town Leaders Learn About Attracting New Businesses](#) (*Goldsboro Daily News* - September 30)
- [Region's future tied to silicon carbide \(Cree story\)](#) (*Observer-Dispatch* - Utica, NY - September 29)

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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