



Governor McCrory Announces 450 Jobs for Davie County

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) announced today (October 13) that Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc., (Ashley) plans to create 454 new jobs in Davie County during the next five years and invest at least 8.7 million at the current site through the end of 2019.

This announcement comes on the heels of Ashley's initial phase of development where it committed to create 550 jobs and invest \$80 million between 2012 and 2015. Ashley exceeded these commitments by creating more than 1,100 jobs and investing more than \$250 million into its new state-of-the-art furniture manufacturing and distribution facility and related training and development activities in Advance.

"America's leading furniture manufacturer is again investing in the South's leading manufacturing state," said Governor McCrory. "Ashley continues to be an enormously successful company, and we're proud that it has chosen North Carolina as the place to pursue its ambitious growth plans."

Ashley, based in Arcadia, Wisconsin is now the world's largest residential furniture company, employing 25,000 people worldwide. The privately-held company had nearly \$4 billion in sales in 2014. Ashley arrived in Davie County in April 2012 after an extensive search for a site that would serve its growing customer base.

"Furniture manufacturing is part of North Carolina's DNA," said Secretary Skvarla. "Our diligent workforce, excellent training programs and modern infrastructure are among the key assets that help sharpen the competitive edge of companies like Ashley."

Todd Wanek, Ashley's President and CEO remarked, "We are extremely pleased with the pro-business attitude of the State of North Carolina and the efforts of our entire team. It has been a challenging and fulfilling journey, and we look forward to a very bright future in North Carolina."



Top-Tier Automotive Supplier to Expand in Lee County

Magnet Marelli Powertrain USA LLC will expand one of its plants located in Lee County and plans to create 76 new jobs over the next three years. The company plans to invest \$12 million in the city of Sanford over two years.

"Global firms like Magnet Marelli find that nothing compares to the can-do spirit of North Carolina workers," said Governor Pat McCrory. "All the ingredients they need are right here, allowing companies to reach new heights."

Magnet Marelli Powertrain is part of the Magnet Marelli S.p.A. a global company headquartered in Corbetta (Milan), Italy that produces advanced systems and components for the automobile industry. Magnet Marelli Powertrain designs, develops and manufactures engines and transmissions components for cars, motorbikes and light vehicles. They include gasoline, diesel and multi-fuel engine control systems; automated manual transmissions; "Freechoice" gearboxes; and other components. Magnet Marelli NAFTA headquarters are located in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

"We welcome this additional investment from Magnet Marelli," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "The company operates 89 manufacturing facilities throughout the world, so I'm gratified they recognize the value of their North Carolina operations."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$225,000. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state.

An award from the state's Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG) program to Ashley will help facilitate its expansion. Approved earlier today by the Economic Investment Committee, the reimbursements may total as much as \$4.6 million from 2016 through 2027. The program by law must result in a net revenue inflow to the state treasury over the life of the award. In the case of JDIG-supported projects in Tier 2 counties such as Davie County, 15 percent of the award is directed to the state's Industrial Development Fund - Utility Account to help finance economic infrastructure in less populated Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties. Ashley's expansion could provide as much as \$511,900 in new funds for the Utility Account.

The project was also made possible by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina fund of up to \$829,500. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for OneNC grant funds. One NC grants also require and are contingent on financial matches from local governments.

In addition to [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Davidson County Community College](#), the [Davie County Board of Commissioners](#), [Davie County Economic Development Commission](#), [Duke Energy](#) and the [Golden Leaf Foundation](#).

[Read more.](#)



New Series: NCWorks @ Work

NCWorks is North Carolina's system to connect employers with talented workers. In communities like yours across the state, companies are seeing the benefits of the integrated workforce development network.

In Hickory, HardwareDirect, a furniture supplier, doubled its business thanks to the Web Information Specialist the company found through NCWorks and its partners.

Tom Zur, the company's owner, read an article in the Hickory Daily Record about On-the-Job Training (OJT) programs. Published by the Catawba Chamber of Commerce, the article explained that OJT programs allow employers to hire someone, train them for that position, and get partially reimbursed for the cost of their salary during the time of the training program.

"I was quite skeptical about a government program," Zur said. "But, in spite of my skepticism, the next morning we contacted the business service representative and were so impressed with her message that we scheduled an appointment during the conversation."

Participating businesses benefit by finding workers who have been trained according to the company's specific needs. In Zur's area, interested employers can set up an OJT program through the Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board.

Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds. One NC Fund grants also require and are contingent upon financial matches from local governments.

In addition to [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Central Carolina Community College](#), the [N.C. Department of Revenue](#), the [Sanford Area Growth Alliance](#), [Lee County](#), and the [City of Sanford](#).

[Read more.](#)



N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla (left) looks on as Gov. Pat McCrory signs NC Competes into law.

Governor McCrory Signs NC Competes

Governor Pat McCrory signed the NC Competes legislation (House Bill 117) September 30. NC Competes is a key component of the governor's comprehensive strategy to build and strengthen North Carolina's economy by putting more people back to work.

"This plan sends a signal that we're ready to compete with any state or nation to bring good-paying jobs to North Carolina," said Governor McCrory. "This plan coupled with the quality of life improvements we've made in education, health care and transportation, will demonstrate to companies that nothing compares to North Carolina when it comes to growing their business."

The governor signed the NC Competes bill at Culp, Inc. in Stokesdale during a Manufacturing Week celebration. Culp is a worldwide manufacturer and provider of mattress and upholstery fabrics and products. The bill is the first legislation Governor McCrory signed after the General Assembly adjourned for the year.

"This sends a message of certainty to business and industry that North Carolina is

HardwareDirect posted its position on NCWorks Online, the state's official job-search portal, and hired a candidate through the OJT program. As a direct result of this hire, the company has doubled its business and plans to bring on additional staff and introduce a manufacturing product line.

"We are now moving forward with an Internet program that would have otherwise not been possible," Zur said. "We are now making tremendous progress towards the digital world of business."

OJT programs and the online job portal are just two of the services available to employers from NCWorks. NCWorks Career Centers work directly with employers to determine what they need, then the NCWorks staff pre-screens potential candidates to find the people whose professional and soft skills make them the best fit for the job.

To connect with the NCWorks team in your area, search our [online directory](#) to find the NCWorks Career Center near you.

It goes without saying that people seeking work also find great value from NCWorks. Jordan Young, the candidate who got the job, is a graduate of UNC-Asheville. Young had been working at Dollar General and Food Lion while he searched for a full-time position. His parents encouraged him to use NCWorks Online, which is how he discovered the job opening at HardwareDirect.

"There are employers there, actively searching for someone to fill a position," said Young of the NCWorks Online site. "It's a great resource for someone looking to find work."

NCWorks @ Work is an occasional SYNC series highlighting success stories from North Carolina's integrated workforce development system.



N.C. Main Street training participants

N.C. Main Street Center Conducts Training

27 new Main Street directors, Small Town Main Street coordinators and downtown development volunteers from throughout the state attended a training conference conducted by the North Carolina Main Street Center, held September 29 through October 2.

The Main Street Basic Training sessions were held in Wake Forest.

Since the inception of the program in 1980, North Carolina Main Street communities have exceeded more than \$2.25 billion in downtown public and private investment, created more than 18,000 full-time and part-time jobs and opened more than 4,600 businesses.

committed to long term job creation," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "It is a tool that makes North Carolina competitive with our neighbors when it comes to creating jobs, either by recruiting new companies or by helping our existing industries expand."

NC Competes includes \$20 million in annual job creation reimbursements that will give North Carolina economic development officials more flexibility and more fire power to attract new jobs to the state. That reimbursement fund will increase by \$15 million annually should North Carolina land a major manufacturer which invests at least \$500 million in facilities and creates a minimum of 1,750 jobs.

The NC Competes law is one of many job creation measures Governor McCrory achieved during the legislative session.

Historic Preservation Tax Credits were extended. Governor McCrory fought hard for this program given many businesses use the tax credits to create jobs by rehabilitating and operating out of underutilized historic properties in many of North Carolina's smaller towns and communities.

The OneNC Fund will continue to provide matching funds for incentives to new and expanding firms and adds a provision for a higher state match for more economically challenged counties.

The corporate income tax rate will be lowered to four percent effective January 2016 after revenue triggers, established in Governor McCrory's tax reform plan, were hit. Additionally, the new state budget allows "single sales factor" in calculating corporate revenue, a method that aligns North Carolina with surrounding states.

[Read more.](#)

N.C. in the News

- [Biomarine Event Aims To Be Technology Showcase, Business Matchmaker](#) (*WilmingtonBiz.com* - October 8)
- [NCSU-based PowerAmerica soliciting uses for that \\$70M Department of Energy cash](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - October 6)
- [Freightliner plant works to interest students in manufacturing](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - October 2)
- [Gov. Pat McCrory signs incentives bill in Stokesdale](#) (*News & Record* - Greensboro - September 30)
- [McCrory signs JDIG bill, Triangle chambers say it gives new investment opportunities](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - September 30)

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