



## Expansion to Create 600 Jobs in Durham County

Governor Pat McCrory, North Carolina Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III, and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) announced today (Oct. 27) that Fidelity Investments® will add 600 jobs during three years and invest a minimum of \$8 million across its Triangle facilities, including its Durham County campus.

"Fidelity investments is an innovative company that has chosen to expand in the place and state where innovation thrives," Governor McCrory said. "Fidelity has demonstrated to the business world that North Carolina is the place to find talent, technology and an environment that appreciates business."

Fidelity established a significant Research Triangle presence in 2002 with its acquisition of an employee benefits business. The firm later designated North Carolina as a regional technology center of excellence, added a data center, built a customer contact center and is also home to Fidelity Charitable and multiple operations groups. Fidelity employs more than 3,500 people across Durham and Wake counties, with walk-in investor centers in Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, and Raleigh.

"Fidelity's continued success and growth in the Research Triangle comes down to talent," said Secretary Skvarla. "When it comes to the latest technical and business skills, nothing compares to our workforce. Firms like Fidelity can count on North Carolina."

"Fidelity has found North Carolina to be a great place to grow and we are pleased to be adding 600 more jobs by the end of 2018, predominantly in technology," said Joan Vinas, senior vice president and North Carolina regional leader for Fidelity Investments. "More than half of our North Carolina employees are building careers in technology, operations and customer facing positions, and we plan to hire more of the state's diverse and talented workforce as we continue to grow. We thank Governor McCrory, Secretary Skvarla, the N.C. General Assembly, the N.C. Community College System and Durham County for their collaboration and partnership."



(Left-right) Scott Hamilton, ARC Executive Director; Earl Gohl, ARC Federal Co-Chair; N.C. Commerce Assistant Secretary Dr. Pat Mitchell and U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers.

## Appalachian Regional Commission Holds Fall Conference

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state, and local governments held its annual fall conference October 14-15 in Somerset Kentucky. Kentucky Governor Steven Beshear hosted the assembly.

This year's conference, entitled *Transforming the Region's Economy*, focused on emerging opportunities in the Appalachia region by highlighting best practices in e-infrastructure, workforce development and the cultivation of the next-generation of leaders. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the fifty year anniversary of the Appalachian Regional Commission, which was created under President Lyndon B. Johnson, on March 9, 1965.

Dr. Patricia Mitchell, N.C. Commerce's Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Development represented the state at the meeting, along with North Carolina's ARC Program staff members Olivia Collier and Libby Smith.

Federal and State ARC program staff members from the thirteen states also participated in the ARC Commission meeting and accompanied Kentucky Congressman Hal Rogers on a tour of two technology companies, Blackboard Inc. and the Kentucky Consular Center.

Under the terms of the company's Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG), Fidelity is eligible to receive more than \$15 million in total reimbursements. Payments will occur in annual installments pending verification by two state agencies that the company has fulfilled incremental job creation and investment requirements. This JDIG is contingent upon Durham County offering local incentives.

By law, JDIG-supported projects must result in a net revenue inflow to the state treasury over the life of the award. For projects in Tier 3 counties such as Durham County, 25 percent of the award amount 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. Fidelity's expansion could provide as much as \$5.17 million in new funds for the Utility Account.

Joining [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#) in supporting Fidelity's expansion is the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Durham County](#), and the [Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce](#).

[Read more.](#)

## RURAL FOCUS

### North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority Approves Nearly \$4 Million in Funding

The North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 14 grants or loans on October 22, totaling \$3,828,262. The requests include commitments to create a total of 272 new jobs.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)/loan approved:

- **Town of Denton (Davidson County):** A \$400,000 loan to support the reuse of a vacant building that will house Lionshead Specialty Tire and Wheel. The company, a manufacturer of specialty tires, will create 20 jobs. The building has been vacant for the past year. The grant is part of a total capital investment of \$1,900,000.

The Industrial Development Fund Utility Account grants approved include:

- **Richmond County:** A \$1,000,000 grant to assist with upgrades to a water treatment plant facilitating a 30-job expansion at Perdue Farms, the county's largest employer. The additional capacity is expected to preserve existing jobs and facilitate continued growth.
- **Town of Forest City (Rutherford County):** A \$148,900 grant to extend the city's water line approximately 1,000 feet to serve a new building on the Facebook campus, where water is used in cooling systems. The additional capacity will help preserve the 100 existing positions at the social media company and create another 10 jobs over the coming two years.
- **Town of Elkin (Surry County):** An amendment to add \$148,259 to an existing \$500,000 grant made in 2013 to help pay for pumping station improvements to benefit Pittsburg Glass Works (PGW). Bids for this project have exceeded the previously allocated grant. PGW, a manufacturer of automotive glass, employs 150 workers at the site.



*Leah Lasco understands first-hand how the state's NCWorks system helps job-seekers.*

### NCWorks@Work: Amount of Support Surprises Job Seeker and Her New Employer

When Leah Lasco helps someone find a job today, she makes sure to spread the word about NCWorks, the state's workforce development system. NCWorks offers a wealth of support she didn't even know existed until she needed it most.

In 2010, Lasco lost her job at a call center and was no longer able to complete her bachelor's degree program due to a lack of financial resources. Her family lost their home and alternated between staying in hotels and with friends. While she looked for work, Lasco entered the Work First program - a service offered by her local Department of Social Services - and discovered a work experience opportunity with a local non-profit organization called Grace-Mar. Grace-Mar is an organization that helps people find jobs. Lasco volunteered, knowing it was where she wanted to be - but she still needed to find a paying job to support her family.

Lasco found the opening she needed through Charlotte Works, a partner in the NCWorks initiative. She learned about the services that were available to help her find a job, such as the On-the-Job Training program, and was astounded at how much help was available.

"I thought, 'The world is my oyster now,'" said Lasco. "I felt like I had tapped into something that I couldn't get on my own."

The OJT program Lasco discovered enables an employer to hire someone to learn the skills of a position while working. The employer, in return, can get reimbursed for up to half the cost of a salary. When Lasco told Grace-Mar about the program, they jumped at the chance to use it and bring her aboard as a staff member.

Building Reuse Program grants/loans approved:

- **Town of Longview (Catawba County):** A \$500,000 grant to support the renovation of three existing buildings that will facilitate a 50-job expansion at Century Furniture, LLC.
- **Madison County:** A \$260,000 grant to support an addition to a building in Hot Springs that will facilitate a 26-job expansion by Punker, LLC.
- **Sampson County:** A \$110,000 grant to support the renovation of two existing buildings in Clinton that will facilitate an 11-job expansion by Brooks Brothers.
- **Town of Mocksville (Davie County):** A \$500,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building for use by AccuMED Corp., which will create 40 jobs.
- **Duplin County:** A \$63,603 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building in Warsaw that will facilitate a seven-job expansion by Villari Brothers Trucking, Inc.
- **Hyde County:** A \$60,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building in Swan Quarter for use by Dare to Hyde, LLC. The outdoor adventure and hospitality company will create six jobs.
- **Town of Smithfield (Johnston County):** A \$175,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building that will facilitate a 35-job expansion by Atlantic Resources Inc.
- **Pitt County:** A \$250,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building in Farmville that will house D.R. Burton Healthcare Products, LLC. The company, which manufactures respiratory, anesthesia and operating room products, will create 20 jobs.
- **City of Salisbury (Rowan County):** A \$162,500 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building that will facilitate a 13-job expansion by Morgan Ridge Vineyards.
- **North Wilkesboro (Wilkes County):** A \$50,000 grant to support the reuse of a vacant building that will facilitate a four-job expansion by Carolina Heritage Cabinetry.



The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic Development Division at the N.C. Department of Commerce to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in the state. For more information on how your community can benefit from these funds, visit our website at [nccommerce.com/rd](http://nccommerce.com/rd).

[Read more.](#)



N.C. Commerce Chief of Staff Cecilia Holden, on the deck of the USS North Carolina Battleship, welcomes attendees at the 2015

Lasco joined Grace-Mar as a job recruiter and its first-ever hired employee, where she continues to help people find work. For her employer, the OJT provided a great incentive to take a chance on someone - and yielded an employee who has helped the company grow.

"I was able to get a quality hire, and it gave me comfort in knowing I would have a partner who could help me grow at minimal cost," said Kenneth Smith, president and founder of Grace-Mar.

The non-profit has since managed to both expand its business and its staff through the OJT program. Four of its OJT hires are still with the company. For her part, Lasco is helping people find jobs and referring them to groups like Charlotte Works and services like OJT. She also helps businesses connect with other NCWorks partners so they can learn more about the program that made such a difference in her own life.

"It's a marriage made in heaven at that point," Lasco said.

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

## N.C. in the News

- [Best States for Business and Careers 2015](#) (*Forbes* - October 21)
- [New NCWorks Career Center now open in Concord](#) (*Charlotte Observer* - October 20)
- [What's North Carolina's key asset for developing its bio-marine sector?](#) (*WRAL TechWire* - October 15)
- [NC start-up funding rises 71 percent](#) (*Charlotte Observer* - October 14)
- [Wells Fargo to acquire \\$32 billion in GE assets and 3,000 employees](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal* - October 13)

## BioMarine Business Convention Spotlights Marine Biotechnology and NC's Strengths

Nearly 300 business executives, researchers, entrepreneurs, and economic development officials from more than 16 countries convened in Wilmington at the annual BioMarine International Business Convention. The convention is the global showcase for the latest knowledge and skills covering all sectors within the marine bio resources industry, such as marine ingredients, aquaculture and aquafeed, nutraceuticals, and marine renewable energies. As the only international investment platform dedicated to marine bio resources, the convention includes two days of one-to-one business meetings, live-streamed informational sessions, investment pitches, workshops, and networking.

This was the first time the convention has been hosted in the United States. North Carolina was selected due to its status as one of the top three biotechnology states in the country. Leading the state's efforts to plan the convention were Deb Mosca, CEO of the Marine Bio-Technologies Center of Innovation (MBCOI), Randall Johnson, Executive Director of the Southeastern Office of the N.C. Biotechnology Center (NCBiotech), and John Hardin, Executive Director of the Office of Science, Technology & Innovation in the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

"One of the things we wanted to do with this conference obviously was to shine a light on our city, on our state and our marine biotech community," said Johnson. "For the international folks, this gives them an opportunity to relocate their business possibly, but more likely to have a U.S. installation or U.S. location here, based out of Wilmington, based out of North Carolina."

[Biomarine Convention Spotlights Wilmington](#) *WilmingtonBiz*

[NC entrepreneurs pitch unique technologies to investors at BioMarine event](#) *WRAL TechWire*

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