

# sync<sup>TM</sup> Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



N.C. Department of Commerce Business Development Manager Rick Hill (center-left) and Foreign Operations Director Derek Chen (center-right) with members of the Chinese delegation

## Trade division meets Chinese delegation

N.C. Department of Commerce Foreign Operations Director Derek Chen from the International Trade Division met Nov. 9 with a group of Chinese government officials who are participating in the Duke Center for International Development's State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs of the People's Republic of China Executive Education Program. Chen spoke about commerce and economic development, and entertained questions. Business Development Manager Rick Hill also assisted in the meeting.

DCID offers short-term executive education programs designed to meet the needs of mid-career public policy professionals in government agencies, international institutions, the non-governmental community, and the private sector. For the past several years, DCID has provided training for the SAFEA of the People's Republic of China. Each year, 30 mid- and senior-level officials from various ministries within China's central government live in Durham for 18 weeks and take courses on topics such as public finance, policy analysis, management, negotiation and conflict resolution, and environmental policy. As part of the program, they attend meetings with local, state and federal agencies, private companies, and non-profit and non-governmental organizations. These meetings are set to complement and supplement lecture content with interactive conversations with practitioners of the various subject matter.

## LEAD releases Nov. Economic Overview

The N.C. Department of Commerce's Labor and Economic



(Left-right) Dan Gerlach, of the Golden LEAF Foundation, former U.S. Ambassador Mark Erwin, Anita Brown-Graham of the Center for Emerging Issues, and Mike Adams of Moog Music, with moderator D.G. Martin and graphic facilitation by a representative of Blipstudio. (Photo by Sandra Stambaugh Photography, courtesy of AdvantageWest)

## AdvantageWest summit examines innovation in WNC

More than 400 people attended the 2012 AdvantageWest Economic Summit, sponsored by AdvantageWest Economic Development Group, on Nov. 19 at the Diana Wortham Theatre in downtown Asheville. The theme of this year's summit was "The Western North Carolina Innovation Ecosystem: What's Missing?" The evening event included a networking reception, program and panel discussion about innovation and economic development. Panelists addressed "ecosystem" challenges, such as infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, education, tech transfer and a host of other issues that impact how innovation drives job creation in Western North Carolina. N.C. Department of Commerce Deputy Secretary and COO Dale Carroll was recognized during the event.

[Economic summit focuses on innovation](#)  
(Mountain Xpress, Nov. 20)

## 'Manufactured in N.C.' online tool links businesses to manufacturers

The latest example of North Carolina's support for businesses that make things is

Analysis Division has released the November edition of the N.C. Economic Overview.

This month in the overview: North Carolina's unemployment rate fell to 9.3 percent while the economy added 8,000 jobs in October. Online vacancies fell in October but are up substantially for the year. In September, residential building permits rose while foreclosures fell to well below their yearly high. Nationally, third quarter GDP rose slightly higher than expectations on the strength of retail spending buoyed by steady consumer confidence. [Read more.](#)



A laboratory at the N.C. Research Campus in Kannapolis

## NCRC announces construction of ready-to-go lab space

Officials from the [N.C. Research Campus](#) in Kannapolis are constructing ready-to-go lab space in the David H. Murdock Core Laboratory building. The 1,500-square-foot wet laboratory is the first pre-built, flexible lab space to be constructed at the NCRC since the campus opened four years ago.

"We have experienced a significant increase in the number of inquiries regarding ready-to-go lab space," said NCRC Vice President of Business Development Clyde Higgs. "The spec space incorporates a level of flexibility and affordability that will increase the attractiveness of the campus and meet the needs of both small and large companies that find the campus a good fit for their business."

The ready-to-go lab will be available in February 2013 and will accommodate one to three companies. Space includes administrative areas, bench tops, fume hoods, sinks and storage. Located on the third floor of the David H. Murdock Core Laboratory building, companies will have direct access to the David H. Murdock Research Institute and UNC Charlotte Bioinformatics Research Services Division. DHMRI is home to six laboratories specializing in genomics, metabolomics, proteomics, analytical sciences and advanced instrumentation such as a Bruker 950 MHz NMR spectrometer.

## London Heathrow direct service to CLT begins in March

US Airways has won permission to start service between Charlotte Douglas International Airport and London Heathrow Airport in March, the airline said Nov. 21, a move likely to appeal to business travelers who would prefer to land at

Manufactured in N.C. – an online tool that makes it much easier to find a North Carolina manufacturer with the right capabilities for any job. With this tool, businesses can search a trusted database for manufacturers that are best suited for their supplier needs.

Manufactured in N.C. provides access to:

- World-class manufacturers' profiles
- A directory of manufacturers by name, specialization, equipment, and certification
- Information about the benefits of manufacturing in North Carolina

This tool creates an efficient way for businesses to connect digitally with suppliers throughout the state. It also collects data in one central location that is easily searchable and accessible to users anytime and anywhere. Visit [www.manufacturednc.com](http://www.manufacturednc.com) to learn more.

## Year-to-date Metrics

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Department of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry Development that illustrate some of the recent activities of the Division. The metrics include the number of 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.

### Jan. 1 - Nov. 27, 2012

<b>New projects assigned:</b>	357
<b>Projects announced:</b>	118
<b>Jobs announced:</b>	14,345
<b>Capital investment announced:</b>	\$3B
<b>Industry visits by existing industry staff:</b>	1,098
<b>Calls to Business Link N.C.:</b>	17,565

## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [Cary startup uses smart bugs to detect bedbugs - and someday, cancer?](#) (WRAL techwire - Raleigh, Nov. 20)
- [Triad economic developers cite property inventory as top challenge](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Nov. 20)
- [Winning location makes all the difference for this licorice company](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Nov. 20)
- [Motor manufacturer hosts statewide industry tour](#) (*The Shelby Star*, Nov. 19)
- [Outlook rosy for those seeking holiday](#)

London's main airport. Currently, US Airways flies direct from CLT to London's Gatwick Airport, about 30 miles outside of London. The new [Charlotte-to-Heathrow flights](#) will operate daily; a detailed schedule and fares will be released at a later date. US Airways said the new flights will supplement existing service from Charlotte to Gatwick, and hasn't reached a final decision on whether the Gatwick service will continue or be shifted to Heathrow. US Airways also is seeking permission to start direct flights from Sao Paulo, Brazil to Charlotte.

[jobs](#) (*Winston-Salem Journal*, Nov. 17)

- [Business breaks ground on expansion](#) (*The Stanly News and Press*, Nov. 16)

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