

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce



U.S. Rep. David Price speaks Dec. 14 during the IEM announcement at Research Triangle Foundation.

Risk management consultant to create 430 jobs in RTP

Gov. Bev Perdue announced Dec. 14 that international risk management consultant IEM will move its headquarters from Baton Rouge, La., to Durham County, creating 430 jobs over the next six years. Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco and developer Bo Gregory, who worked on the project, were on hand with U.S. Rep. David Price for the announcement at Research Triangle Foundation in Research Triangle Park.

The announcement was made possible in part by a state Job Development Investment Grant and One North Carolina Fund award, and is contingent upon approval of local incentives.

“As a technology hub with a vast military presence, the relocation of IEM to North Carolina is a perfect fit that will benefit both the company and the state,” Perdue said. “This partnership is another step in creating the top-paying, knowledge-based jobs that I am committed to bringing to North Carolina.”

IEM is a privately held company that provides risk-based solutions for measuring and managing threats to people, infrastructure and information. Since IEM's founding in 1985, it has provided emergency management, homeland security,



Former Gov. Jim Hunt at the NCREN Community Celebration. Photo courtesy of SAS.

NCREN celebrates 25 years

More than 300 government officials, business leaders and educators from throughout North Carolina participated in MCNC's 25th Anniversary Community Celebration for the N.C. Research and Education Network (NCREN) Dec. 3 - 4 at SAS in Cary.

Former Gov. Jim Hunt was a driving force behind the initial launch of NCREN in the 1980s and provided keynote remarks on the first day. “NCREN is of great importance to public education in North Carolina,” said Hunt. He called NCREN's accomplishments “impressive” but said “we still have work to do. We have to be bold, be creative and continue to have the vision to support connectivity and technology in our schools.”

NCREN is one of the nation's first statewide education and research networks. It provides broadband communications technology services and support to K-12 school districts, higher education campuses and academic research institutions across North Carolina. MCNC offers the users of the NCREN network technology tools and services that guarantee equal access to 21st century learning and provides a technology network that is the foundation for change and innovation in North Carolina's educational systems. [Read more.](#)

[Jim Hunt: 'NCREN is more than a network. It is collaboration.'](#) (LocalTechWire, Dec. 7)

Perdue announces 24,000 census jobs

military and information technology solutions to federal governmental agencies including the U.S. Department of Defense, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, as well as working with individual cities, ports and the private sector.

The 430 new jobs will pay an overall average wage of \$62,778 a year, not including benefits. That is higher than the Durham County annual average of \$57,772.

[Risk management firm picks RTP for headquarters, 430 jobs](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Dec. 14)

Deutsche Bank opens Cary location

Deutsche Bank AG officially opened a technology development center in Cary Dec. 14. Operating as DB Global Technology Inc., a newly formed subsidiary, the company plans to invest \$6.7 million and create 319 jobs during the next five years.

[Deutsche Bank officially opens Cary office](#) (Triangle Business Journal, Dec. 14)



Gov Bev Perdue with Mebane Mayor Glendel Stephenson at the ground breaking of the new Tanger Outlet Center in Mebane.

Perdue helps break ground on Mebane outlet center

Gov. Bev Perdue was on hand Dec. 10 at the ground breaking ceremony for the new Tanger Outlet Center in Mebane. The outlet center will feature such brands as Saks Fifth Avenue Off 5th, Coach, Nike, Michael Kors and more. The center's architecture will be inspired by quaint small town main streets. Tanger is a North Carolina-based company that helped establish Burlington Manufacturers Outlet Center, also in Alamance County. Tanger Outlet Center is scheduled to open in fall 2010.

['Santa Claus has come to town': Shopping center seen as a big economic boost](#) (The Burlington Times News, Dec. 10)

Perdue signs executive order creating logistics task force

On Dec. 8, Gov. Bev Perdue signed Executive Order No. 32, establishing the Governor's Logistics Task Force. The task force will make recommendations to ensure that people and goods are able to move efficiently across North Carolina. The

Gov. Bev Perdue on Dec. 9 signed Executive Order No. 33 creating the North Carolina Complete Count Committee to coordinate Census activities at the state level. In addition, Gov. Perdue announced that 24,000 Census jobs will be available throughout North Carolina.

The decennial census will take place on April 1. It is administered by the federal government, but requires support at the state and local levels. The state's activities are coordinated by the state's Complete Count Committee (CCC). Individual localities also establish complete count committees in order to coordinate participation in the census.

Over \$400 billion in federal funds will be allocated annually based on the 2010 Census figures. Based on recent estimates, the state will receive approximately \$14,000 in federal funding per person counted over the next 10 years. In addition, Census data is the basis for the N.C. State Demographer's projections, which are used to determine the distribution of state funds.

The Census will also determine whether North Carolina will receive an additional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. North Carolina narrowly received a 13th congressional district after the 2000 Census by a margin of approximately 800 people. [Read more.](#)

Syrett and Griffin among AFCI's certified film commissioners

N.C. Film Office Director Aaron Syrett and Wilmington Regional Film Commission Director Johnny Griffin were honored as members of the inaugural graduating class of Certified Film Commissioners by the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI). The designation is awarded to those individuals who have completed all required training through AFCI University, the membership organization's professional development program. The program consists of a combination of required Master Classes, exams, a case study, and other service and educational activities. The designation signifies the recipient has achieved the highest level of accomplishment in his/her profession according to an AFCI certification committee. [Learn more.](#)

[Film commissioners achieve certification](#) (Wilmington Star News, Dec. 3)

U.K. clinical research company picks Durham for U.S. HQ

London-based clinical research organization Cmed announced recently that it has chosen

order was signed during a ceremony at the Raleigh headquarters of Longistics, a full-service provider of global logistics services.

The Logistics Task Force will review transportation systems in North Carolina including roads and highways, airports, ports, multimodal transportation and railroads. The review will focus on giving North Carolina a competitive advantage in economic development by maximizing existing transportation systems and defining priorities for future transportation investments. Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton will serve as Chair of the Logistics Task Force. [Read more.](#)

'Good Morning America' visits Biltmore

ABC's "Good Morning America" visited Biltmore to admire the traditional holiday decorations of the house. A staff of 1,800 people worked for a month, decorating 125 Christmas trees and placing hundreds of wreaths and bows, 1,600 poinsettias, and 30,000 lights in the house. An additional 150,000 lights, 10,000 feet of fresh garland and more than 25,000 ornaments were used around the estate. [Learn more and view the video.](#)

AAA Four Diamonds awarded to several N.C. hotels and restaurants

AAA has announced its Four Diamond awards for 2010 and several North Carolina hotels and restaurants are among the winners. N.C. awardees of AAA's Four Diamond Lodging include Asheville's 1900 Inn on Montford, Albemarle Inn, Grand Bohemian Hotel, Inn on Biltmore Estate, and The Grove Park Inn Resort & Spa; Lovill House Inn in Boone; Innisfree Inn By-The-Lake in Cashiers; Chapel Hill's Carolina Inn and The Siena Hotel; Charlotte's Hilton Charlotte Center City, Marriott-Charlotte SouthPark, Omni Charlotte Hotel, The Ballantyne – A Luxury Collection Hotel, The Duke Mansion Historic Inn & Meeting Place, and The Westin Charlotte; Durham's Arrowhead Inn Bed and Breakfast and Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club; Greensboro's Grandover Resort & Conference Center, O. Henry Hotel and Proximity Hotel; Old Edwards Inn & Spa in Highlands; Greystone Inn in Lake Toxaway; Pinehurst's Holly Inn and The Carolina Hotel; and Wilmington's Graystone Inn and The Verandas.

AAA's 2010 Four Diamond Restaurants in N.C. included Horizons in Asheville; Gamekeeper Restaurant and Bar in Boone; Herons Restaurant in Cary; Chapel Hill's Carolina Crossroads and Il Palio Ristorante; Charlotte's Bonterra Dining & Wine Room, McNinch House and Zebra Restaurant and Fine Catering; The Left Bank in Duck; Durham's Four Square Restaurant and The Fairview Dining Room; Di Valletta in Greensboro; Madison's Restaurant and Wine Garden in Highlands; 1895 Grille in Pinehurst; and Second Empire Restaurant & Tavern in Raleigh. [Learn more.](#)

Economic forecast forum set for Jan. 4

The 2010 Economic Forecast Forum, a program of the N.C. Chamber and the N.C. Bankers Association, is scheduled for Jan. 4 at the Progress Energy Performing Arts Center in Raleigh. This year's event is sponsored by Bank of America and co-sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina and Progress Energy.

a Durham location near RTP for its United States headquarters. The company expects to employ about 40 people, and is currently hiring data managers, statistical programmers and biostatisticians.

[U.K. CRO picks Durham for HQ](#) (Triangle Business Journal, Dec. 11)

Crisco participates in textiles roundtable

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco on Dec. 14 participated in a panel discussion on "Sustainability: Impacting Policy and the Future of Apparel and Textiles" at N.C. State University. The panel was presented by The International Oeko-Tex Association and Textile Insight, and moderated by Textile Insight editor Emily Walzer. The roundtable was intended to provide textile and retail executives and the media with insights into how sustainable practices are changing the nature of the apparel and textile industry. [Read more.](#)

Enrollment continues to climb in '12 in 6' program

The Division of Workforce Development continues to track the progress of Gov. Bev Perdue's JobsNOW "12 in 6" initiative. The community colleges have been asked to provide monthly reports regarding the number of students enrolled, courses offered and the number of jobs created and maintained. The numbers through Nov. 30 show that 5,433 students are enrolled in the program (up from 4,388 as of Oct. 31), and 691 courses have been offered (up from 524 as of Oct. 31).

Appalachian Region meets

On Dec. 7, Olivia Collier, N.C. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) program manager, held the annual ARC project meeting in Hickory, hosted by the Western Piedmont Council of Governments. Representatives from the six councils of governments in the ARC region attended, as well as staff of ARC funding partners including the Rural Center, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development, Commerce Finance Center, and the Division of Community Assistance. The group shared status reports on current projects and discussed the 2010 State Strategy Statement, funding and possible projects for the 2010 fiscal year, plus application processing improvements.

Ethan Allen CEO quoted in New York Times

A special session on health care, moderated by WRAL news anchor David Crabtree, will kick off the event at 9:30 a.m. Following the health care session, the forum will continue with economic forecast presentations from David C. Darnell, president of Global Commercial Banking and chairman of the Charlotte Chamber; Elizabeth A. Duke, governor of the Federal Reserve System; and John Connaughton, professor of economics and director of economic forecast at UNC-Charlotte. [Learn more.](#)

Armored vehicle company to expand in Mount Airy

Granite Tactical of Pilot Mountain has announced that it will expand into a 181,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in Mount Airy, creating 200 jobs in the process. Granite Tactical manufactures armored vehicles for law enforcement, government agencies and private security contractors. The Surry County Economic Development Partnership worked with several partners on the project including Commerce and the city of Mount Airy.

[Granite Tactical to create 200 jobs](#) (The Mount Airy News, Dec. 12)

Textile firm to bring 66 jobs to Burke County

Gov. Bev Perdue on Dec. 9 announced that Marves Industries, an international producer of nonwoven textile cushioning and insulator pads for use in mattresses headquartered in Mexico, will open a new North American facility in Burke County. The company will invest \$1.75 million and create 66 jobs in Hildebran. The announcement was made possible by a \$200,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

Marves Industries plans to open a plant in the former Bauer facility in Hildebran, using the existing building and equipment. The project's 66 new jobs will pay an average annual wage of \$33,636, not including benefits, which is higher than the Burke County average annual wage of \$30,628. Commerce's Cindy Messer was the developer on this project. [Read more.](#)

Piedmont Triad Partnership announces successful fundraising campaign

BB&T Chief Executive Officer Kelly King, who also chairs the Piedmont Triad Leadership Group, announced at the Piedmont Triad Partnership's Dec. 10 Annual Meeting that the regional "Clusters of Opportunity" fund-raising campaign had substantially exceeded its \$1 million annual goal for five years.

King announced that pledges from more than 30 investors totaled \$1,301,000 through Dec. 10, with additional commitments expected. Assuming pledges are maintained for the five-year campaign period, the campaign will generate over \$6.5 million in new resources to promote four industry clusters in the Piedmont Triad: furnishings, logistics and distribution, nanotechnology, and regenerative medicine.

The Piedmont Triad Partnership Annual Meeting was attended by over 300 guests. The program featured remarks by 2008-09 Chairman Keith Vaughan, 2009-10 Chairman Jim Morgan, and a keynote presentation by Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco.

Farooq Kathwari, CEO of Ethan Allen Interiors, was quoted extensively in the Dec. 12 New York Times article "The Do-It-Yourself Economy." He spoke about transferring the company's upholstery manufacturing to its North Carolina plant. The article looked at ways that various companies are using rapidly changing technology to help cut costs.

[The Do-It-Yourself Economy](#) (The New York Times, Dec. 12)



Commerce's pavilion at BIO 2008 in San Diego

Join the North Carolina Pavilion at BIO 2010

Sponsorship opportunities remain available for companies and other organizations interested in participating in the North Carolina Pavilion at the annual BIO International Convention in Chicago May 3-6, 2010. Commerce is sponsoring the Pavilion in partnership with the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, which is coordinating the state's participation this year.

In addition to providing the state critical marketing visibility in the biotech sector, the Pavilion program offers sponsors the ability to reach an international audience of 20,000 life science professionals at a fraction of the cost of exhibiting alone. Qualifying organizations can exhibit at BIO for as little as \$1,000. The North Carolina Pavilion has secured a prominent location on the exhibit hall floor and will feature a 2,000-square-foot design with video screens and a conference room. Sponsors can also attend and invite VIPs to the exclusive North Carolina Reception, being held in the tallest building in Chicago, the Willis Tower. Companies that exhibit in the Pavilion will also benefit from a feature article in Impact Magazine's special BIO edition.

Participating sponsors this year include Bayer, BASF, Quintiles and Talecris. Pinehurst Resort has also signed on to sponsor a putting green in the exhibit, a new feature designed to draw traffic. With over 50 percent of the Pavilion sold, interested groups should act fast to reserve their place.

To learn more or to sign up, visit the N.C. Biotech Center's [Web site.](#)

Crisco discussed the challenges North Carolina faces in a fiercely competitive global economy. He cited the importance of international engagement and partnerships and the commitment of Gov. Bev Perdue to aggressively pursue economic development prospects all over the world. He commended the Piedmont Triad Partnership on its leadership and on the successful fund-raising campaign to promote sectors in which the Piedmont Triad has differentiating and world-class competencies. [Read more.](#)

Crisco to speak at biotech event

Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco will be one of the featured speakers at the Feb. 10 Nu Tech 2010 conference at the Sheraton Imperial in Research Triangle Park. Sponsored by Nagoya University in Japan, Nu Tech is a technology conference focusing on life sciences, biotechnology and engineering. Other featured speakers include Ray Wood, VP of Research and Development for Eisai, and Nagoya University president Dr. Michinari Hamaguchi. Other partners include UNC-Chapel Hill and the N.C. Biotechnology Center. The conference is free. [Learn more](#)

Commerce represented at economic summit

Commerce Business Services Center Director Gene Byrd was one of several state and federal leaders in Laurinburg Dec. 14 for a "Federal Resources Summit." Byrd spent time talking to the group about entrepreneurship in North Carolina and [Business Link N.C.](#) (BLNC), Commerce's Web portal to help businesses succeed in the state.

[Southeastern N.C. jobs focus of economic summit](#) (News 14 Carolina, Dec. 15)

Forbes lists N.C. cities as 'fastest-recovering'

Forbes magazine recently listed several North Carolina metro areas on its list of "America's Fastest-Recovering Cities." The Raleigh-Cary metro area is highest ranked at No. 9. The Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News, Va. and northeastern N.C. area is No. 20. Greensboro-High Point is No. 53, and Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord N.C. and S.C. is No. 54. [Read more.](#)

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 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 - Dec. 14, 2009

New projects assigned:	423
Projects announced:	124
Jobs created:	13,786
Capital invested:	\$2.79B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,361
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	24,133

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [La-based disaster management consultant IEM moves headquarters to NC, plans to add 430 jobs](#) (Los Angeles Times, Dec. 15)
- [Venture capitalists bullish on Southeast](#) (Charlotte Business Journal, Dec. 14)
- [Hildebran expects 66 new manufacturing jobs](#) (Hickory Daily Record, Dec. 10)
- [Fight Over Titan Plan Goes to Court](#) (Wilmington Star-News, Dec. 10)

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