

syncTM Weekly highlights from the North Carolina Department of Commerce

Biofuels Manufacturer to Create 65 Jobs in Sampson County

Governor Pat McCrory and North Carolina Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced Nov. 2 that Biochemtex will be locating its new cellulosic biofuels production operations in Sampson County. The company and its partners plan to create 65 new jobs and invest approximately \$200 million over the next three years.

[Dallas Hardenbrook](#) served as the project developer for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

"Biochemtex's decision is further proof that the biofuels industry is positioned for growth across our state," said Governor McCrory. "We have the qualified talent, strong business climate, and attractive quality of life that companies need to succeed. We also have the agricultural capacity and flexibility to provide profitable energy crop options for North Carolina farmers and cost advantaged cellulosic feedstocks for Biochemtex and the advanced biofuels industry."

Biochemtex is a global technology solution provider specialized in biofuels and renewable chemicals. Biochemtex will operate in North Carolina as Carolina Cellulosic Biofuels, which was established in early 2013 as a Special Purpose vehicle for delivering the first commercial scale cellulosic bio-refinery utilizing purpose grown energy crops in North America. This new plant will produce 20 million gallons per year of cellulosic biofuel from locally grown energy crops, agricultural residues, and woody biomass.

"Cellulosic Biofuels development is bringing new jobs to eastern North Carolina," said Secretary Decker. "Governor McCrory and I are committed to partnering with companies like Biochemtex to create jobs right here in Sampson County and throughout rural North Carolina."

Other partners that helped with this project include: the N.C. Department of Commerce, N.C. Community Colleges, Sampson County Economic Development Corporation, Sampson County, City of Clinton, N.C. Department of Agriculture, NCSU – N.C. Cooperative Extension and the Biofuels Center of North Carolina. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte Chapter President Astrid Chirinos, N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker, and LACCC Chairman Joaquin A. Soria

Decker Visits Charlotte's Latin American Chamber

On Nov. 20, N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker spoke at the Empowerment Forum and Annual Meeting of the Latin American Chamber of Commerce of Charlotte. Attendees of the successful event also heard from the Centralina Council of Governments, which presented an update on "Connect Our Future," a project set up to gather the input from the Latino community regarding future development in the 14-county region.

LACCC Chapter President Astrid Chirinos provided highlights of the many activities and achievements of the organization in 2013. Decker shared many insights on the impact of small business owners in the Charlotte region and the state.

LACCC offers a sustainable bilingual platform of programs, events and services that engages, empowers and supports both Latino and non-Latino businesses, entrepreneurs and professionals in order to accelerate their access to resources when navigating together this new economy.

2014 North Carolina County Tier Designations



Commerce Issues 2014 Economic Development Tier Rankings

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker announced [the county tier designations for 2014](#) on Nov. 27. The designations, which are mandated by state law, determine a variety of state funding opportunities to assist in economic development. [Download the county tier designations.](#)

"Our mission is to enhance job opportunities for all North Carolinians, no matter where they live in the state," said Decker. "The tier rankings provide critical tools that help us in various economic development programs and ultimately, help attract businesses to the state."

Using a statutory formula outlined in the General Statute § 143B-437., the N.C. Department of Commerce assembles required statistics for each of North Carolina's 100 counties, applies the formula and assigns a tier designation ranking from one to three. Tier 1 counties are the most economically distressed and Tier 3 counties are the least. Eligible businesses that locate in lower-tiered counties are eligible for some grant programs and larger tax credits than those that locate in higher-ranked areas.

Thirteen counties will change tier designations for 2014. Beaufort, Greene, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Surry counties will shift from a Tier 2 to a Tier 1 ranking. Cherokee, McDowell, Wilkes, and Yancey counties will move from Tier 1 to Tier 2 counties. Franklin and Haywood counties, currently Tier 3 counties, will shift to a Tier 2 ranking. Guilford and Lincoln counties will move from a Tier 2 to a Tier 3 ranking.

The law calls for the 40 most distressed counties to become Tier 1 counties, the next 40 counties to be designated as Tier 2 and the 20 most prosperous counties to become Tier 3 counties. [Read more.](#)



(Left-right) U.S. Ambassador to Germany John Emerson, ImmunoReagents CEO Dr. Ann Black, N.C. Department of Commerce Global Commerce Director John Loyack at the North Carolina exhibit at MEDICA

N.C. Exporters Meet New Partners in Germany

[MEDICA 2014](#) was held Nov. 20-23 in Dusseldorf, Germany. With more than 4,600 exhibitors from 66 countries showcasing a wide range of new products and latest technologies, the event brought together thousands of buyers and sellers to discuss various business opportunities involved in the healthcare industry. About 132,000 visitors attended the show, which has been held annually for more than 40 years.

More than 20 North Carolina companies promoted their products at the show, including Amtai Medical Equipment, Contour Products, Gilero Biomedical, Gateway Medical, ImmunoReagents, Joerns, Medical Murray, SunTech Medical, Vesoclude Medical and many more.

This was the second straight year that ImmunoReagents CEO Dr. Ann Black joined the N.C. Department of Commerce's International Trade Division at MEDICA. "Customer service is the driving force behind our business," said Dr. Black. "It is tremendously important that we meet with our customers face-to-face wherever possible. As a small company, our travel budget is limited, but by working with the International Trade Division, we are able to come to a show like MEDICA to meet with our customers from around the world. Events like this help us grow our business globally which will allow us to grow even more at home in North Carolina."

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



Acting Assistant Secretary for the Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development Wit Tuttell

Tuttell Named Acting Assistant Secretary for the Tourism Division

N.C. Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker has named Wit Tuttell Acting Assistant Secretary for the Division of Tourism, Film & Sports Development. In his more than seven years with the Division, Tuttell has developed and implemented high quality marketing programs, positioning North Carolina as a premier travel destination. He has directed all aspects of marketing efforts of the Division, including domestic, international and electronic programs, as well as managed the work of the Division's advertising agency.

In his new role, Tuttell will continue to manage all marketing efforts as well as oversee all day-to-day operations of the Division.

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 - Sept. 3, 2013

New projects assigned:	333
Projects announced:	119
Jobs announced:	15,310
Capital investment announced:	\$2.1B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	977
Calls to Business Link N.C.:	17,942

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [N.C. community colleges plotting new strategic focus](#) (*Triangle Business Journal*, Nov. 27)
- [Calling N.C. entrepreneurs: There's money available for your tech startup](#) (*Charlotte Business Journal*, Nov. 27)
- [NCWorks launches new job search website](#) (*The Dispatch* - Lexington, Nov. 26)
- [N.C. Chamber to unveil new software tools to track economic progress](#) (WRAL Tech Wire, Nov. 26)
- [Forsyth Tech plans 'Back to Work' info sessions](#) (*The Business Journal of the Greater Triad*, Nov. 26)
- [Programs to integrate military veterans into N.C. economy proliferate](#) (*The News & Observer* - Raleigh, Nov. 23)
- [Worker Health A Focus for Commerce Secretary Decker](#) (N.C. Health News, Nov. 18)



GIS Specialist Yongjun Lei of the N.C. Department of Commerce's Labor & Economic Analysis Division with his award-winning poster

LEAD Wins First Place in GIS Competition

The first time was the charm for the N.C. Department of Commerce's Labor & Economic Analysis Division as it received first place honors for best poster among other state government entries at the annual GIS Day held at the City of Raleigh Museum Nov. 20.

The poster, created by GIS Specialist Yongjun Lei of LEAD's Information Delivery team, featured analysis on North Carolina's industry makeup and was the first time LEAD had submitted an entry. Zack Oliver of LEAD's Economic Analysis team contributed data and information for the poster.

Each year, GIS Day serves as a forum for city, county and state government agencies to showcase the latest in interactive geographic information mapping and demonstrations. More than 120 people attended this year's event. Next year's event will be held Nov. 19, 2014.



Genome ID Group's new facility in Greenville

Advanced Forensic DNA Lab Opens in Greenville

[Genome ID Group, LLC](#) has established a state-of-the-art laboratory facility, known as The Center for Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis in Greenville. The company is known for developing practical applications for advanced DNA analysis methods to create unique solutions in the field of forensic human identification. The project was a joint effort of Pitt County and the City of Greenville with support from the N.C. Biotechnology Center.

CAFDA currently employs 10 highly qualified professionals, but plans to ramp up to 130 and expand within its 11,000-square-foot building in line with business growth.

The Center for Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis is a full service forensic genomics laboratory, offering advanced forensic analysis of biological evidence from crime scenes leading to comprehensive casework resolution. Fueled by the need for next generation technology solutions in the expeditious resolution of criminal casework, CAFDA supports law enforcement, local and federal government agencies and the intelligence community in the fight against crime and terror. The company is focused on identifying and applying proven scientific solutions to fit the challenging tasks and casework needs for DNA identification.

Genome ID Group's Chief Science Officer Dr. Kevin McElfresh is a recognized thought leader in forensic DNA analysis, and has played a key role in the development and evolution of technology and its application to crime scene casework analysis from the inception of DNA analysis within forensic science in the 1980s.

"We are committed to the sharing of ideas and technologies that raise the bar in forensic DNA science, that advance the industry through best practices and proven technology applications from medicine and other areas of science that can be applied to the field of forensic DNA so that we have the best tools available to serve those who fight crime and terror," said Genome ID Group CEO Michael Heffernan. "We are remarkably impressed by the level of support provided by Carl Rees and the City of Greenville, Wanda Yuhas and Pitt County Development Commission and Mark Phillips and his colleagues at the N.C. Biotechnology Center. Together they joined forces seamlessly to provide us every support and encouragement in selecting Greenville for our advanced laboratory operations. We are appreciative of all the support from the N.C. agencies who continue to provide us access and guidance as we accelerate our business."

The partners involved in this project include the N.C. Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division, Pitt County, Pitt County Development Commission, the Pitt County Committee of 100, City of Greenville, City of Greenville Economic Development office, and the N.C. Biotechnology Center. [Read more.](#)

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