

RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

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North Carolina's Industrial Center

July 2009

Keith Crisco, Secretary of the NC Department of Commerce headlined the 24th Annual Meeting of the Randolph County EDC. Crisco challenged attendees to bold leadership and innovative strategies in economic development. He cited the NC Zoo as a unique asset that has been overlooked as an economic development driver. Crisco said that Randolph County's mid-Atlantic location coupled with the interstate highways, rail, and airport provide a competitive advantage to transportation, logistics, and manufacturing operations but only if the region, cities and counties work together.

JobLink Center was named the **2009 Partner in Progress Award** winner for the commitment to skill based assessment and training in Randolph County's six high schools using the Career Readiness Certificate program. Based on the nationally accredited WorkKeys program, the Career Readiness Certificate program focuses on job related skills such as applied math, reading for information and locating information. A total of 1,367 students participated with 785 earning certificates that certify their competence.

JobLink secured a WIRED grant from the Piedmont Triad Partnership to fund the program. Partners include the Asheboro City and Randolph County Schools, Randolph Community College, and PTP. Randolph County is Number 3 in the state with 1,816 certificates awarded last year to students, dislocated workers and incumbent workers.

Workforce development is key to future economic development and to pulling our local economy back to growth and not decline. An educated and skilled workforce is what will keep our community successful in the future...in fact it's the most important asset we have. Director Nancy Landis accepted the award on behalf of the JobLink team.

Outgoing Directors were recognized for outstanding service including Stan Byrd, Stan Byrd Realtors in Archdale; J B Griffith, Liberty Advisors; Duffy Johnson, Carolina Bank; Gene King, Seagrove Pottery; Steve Ridgill, Dart Container; and Rhonda Winters, Randolph Community College.

New Logo and Branding

The Randolph County EDC has a new look and brand in the economic development marketplace. It captures a key advantage, Randolph County's strategic location in the center of North Carolina. NC is consistently named as the preferred location for business and industry by CEO surveys, site selection consultants, and the international business community. Located in the Heart of North Carolina, the logo and brand clearly showcase our place, our economic position, and our welcome mat for business and industry.

In partnership with the Randolph County Tourism Development Authority we proudly proclaim in unison, "**Locate in the Heart of North Carolina and Escape to the Heart of North Carolina**". We hope you embrace the new look and message.



The Heart of North Carolina's Economic Future

Recovery Zones

Randolph County has a new tool for economic development. On June 12, 2009, the IRS released information on two new financing options created by the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009. The two programs are an effort to stimulate economic growth and jumpstart the availability of financing critical for economic recovery.

Individual states, counties and cities received an allocation based on the relative decline in employment during 2008. Randolph County's allocation is **\$7,247,000 for Recovery Zone Economic Development Bonds and \$10,870,000 for Recovery Zone Facility Bonds.**

A recovery zone is defined as any area designated by the issuer as having significant poverty, unemployment, home foreclosures, or general distress. Activities financed by each program must be located in an area designated as a Recovery Zone by the county and the bonds must be issued before January 1, 2011.

Recovery zone economic development bonds are available to local governments to fund a range of economic development activities that include education and training, infrastructure, and property development. The US Treasury will pay 45% of the interest directly to the issuer as a subsidy for financing qualified economic development projects. Interest on the bonds is taxable to investors.

Recovery zone facility bonds are a new category of tax-exempt private activity bonds that can be used to finance an extremely broad range of depreciable capital projects in recovery zones. These bonds are similar to industrial development bonds in that the private taxpayer is the borrower and has responsibility to pay the interest and debt. The government has no obligation to repay the debt or interest. The advantage to the borrower is a lower cost of financing in that the bonds are tax-exempt, meaning that the bondholder pays no taxes on the interest.

The EDC and Randolph County are working on criteria and a process to utilize the bonds to stimulate our local economy. For more information, contact Bonnie Renfro at brenfro@rcedc.com.

Immigration & "No Match" Enforcement

The Randolph County EDC and the The HR Group will offer a workshop on **what employers need to know about Federal immigration regulations and how to respond if you receive a No Match letter. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 25 from 8-9:30 am at The Exchange.** The Exchange is located at 204 S. Fayetteville Street in Asheboro, 27203. There is no charge to attend but reservations are requested by calling 336.626.2233 or email hlane@rcedc.com. Refreshments will be served. Watch for more information.

Topics include recent developments in enforcement by the Obama administration including worksite enforcement actions. Presenters will offer recommendations for employers to ensure compliance and consistency. Other issues will include No Match letters, E-verify, and the SSNVS system. Reserve your seat at this very important and informative workshop.

2009-2010 Officers and Directors

New officers and directors for the coming year were elected at the Annual Meeting in June.

Dale Lambert, Executive Vice President of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation was named Chairman. Dale Lambert has served as Executive Vice President and General Manager for Randolph Electric Membership Corporation for the last 9 years of his 24 years with the corporation. REMC is an electrical cooperative serving a five county area in central North Carolina. Lambert is a native of Pinehurst, North Carolina and graduate of Randolph Community College. He and his wife Regina have three children.

Laura Wilson, Vice Chairman is President of Pyramid Services, a government services contracting firm. She is a native of Alamogordo, New Mexico and graduate of New Mexico State University. She is Past Chair of the Otero County Economic Development Council. She was recently recognized as owner of the largest female owned business in North Carolina. Wilson received the 2007 Enterprising Women of the Year Award, Triad Fast 50 Award in 2007 and 2008, and 2008 Department of Homeland Security Small Business Achievement Award. She and her husband Dr. James Wilson live in Asheboro and have three children.

Lynwood White was reelected Secretary Treasurer. White has served as Vice President of Finance and CFO of Randolph Hospital for 13 years. He is a native of West Virginia and graduate of West Virginia State University and the University of South Carolina. He and his wife Valerie have four children and four grandchildren and live in Asheboro. White is a CPA, Fellow in Health Care Financial Management Association and winner of the Founders Medal.

Greg Spainhour will serve as Past Chairman. Greg Spainhour is Regional President of Community One Bank with regional responsibilities across seven counties. He has been with Community One, formerly First National Bank for seven years. Prior to that, he was with Wachovia Bank for 16 years. Spainhour is a graduate of High Point University and attended graduate school at Louisiana State University. He and his wife Celia have two children.

H R Gallimore is Broker / Owner of RE/MAX Central Realty in Asheboro. An Asheboro native, he is Past President of the Asheboro Rotary Club and was named the Top Producing RE/MAX Commercial Team in North Carolina for 2006, 2007, and 2008. He and his wife Vickie have two children.

Don Harter is Vice President and General Manager for Rheem Parts Operation in Randleman. Harter is a native of New York and a graduate of Canton College in Canton, New York, Clarkson College in Potsdam, New York and has an MBA from Syracuse University. He serves on the Board of the Asheboro Randolph Chamber of Commerce and has three sons.

Aaryn Slafky has been Marketing & Communications Director for Randolph Telephone for five years. A native of Traverse City, Michigan, she is a graduate of George Washington University in Washington DC. She serves on the Liberty Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Secretary of the Randolph Rotary Club, and Ambassador of the Asheboro Randolph Chamber of Commerce. She is married with two children.

Michael Somero is Vice President of Ace Avant Concrete Construction Company in Archdale. A native of Ashburnham, Massachusetts, Michael is a graduate of Randolph Community College and has worked for Ace Avant for 19 years, serving as Vice President for the last seven. He serves on the Board of Archdale Trinity Chamber of Commerce and as principal of the OTC Academy. Michael and his wife Kenda have eight children.

News & Announcements

EDC President Bonnie Renfro has been elected Secretary / Treasurer of the North Carolina Economic Developers Association. NCEDA is the leading statewide association of professional economic developers and their allies in North Carolina. Its nearly 600 members promote the state and their communities as places for new economic activity. They are on the front line of economic development in North Carolina. Based in Raleigh, NCEDA provides professional development, advocacy and information services for its members.

The EDC office will relocate to the Randolph County Historical Courthouse this fall. The Courthouse was first constructed in 1909 and served in that capacity until 2002. Randolph County is restoring the courthouse for office and meeting space. The EDC will relocate to a first floor office in the next three months.

Green Tech Renewable Solutions is planning an 8-acre solar farm in the Seagrove area that will generate up to 1 megawatt of electricity. Green Tech plans to sell the power to Randolph Electric Membership Corporation and will consider partnerships with private investors that will benefit from the tax credits generated by the solar operation.

Board of Directors

**Dale Lambert –Chairman
Randolph Electric Membership**

**Laura Wilson
Pyramid Services**

**Lynwood White –Sec/Treas
Randolph Hospital**

**Greg Spainhour – Past Chairman
CommunityOne Bank**

**Bonnie Renfro - President
Randolph County EDC**

**Donald Andrews
Randolph County Schools**

Ann Bailie -City of Trinity

Brad Craven – Fidelity Bank

**H R Gallimore
RE/MAX Central Realty**

**Don Harter
Rheem Parts Operation**

**Jorge Lagueruela
Trinity Furniture**

**Larry McKenzie
Branco Enterprises**

Mike Murray - Sealy

**Aaryn Slafky
Randolph Telephone**

**Larry Small
Acme McCrary Corporation**

**Michael Somero
Ace Avant Concrete Company**

Richard Wells– County Manager



Partnership News

The Randolph County Partnership is the member organization of the EDC. Through their dues, members support economic development in Randolph County in marketing, recruitment, existing business and industry services, and industrial product development.

Partner members are listed on the EDC website, included in existing business & industry directories, and receive services and referrals from the EDC. Please visit the website, www.rcedc.com for member information and click on Development Team.

Member invoices will be sent in August for the 2009-2010 year. The EDC salutes our members for their commitment to economic development as we work together to grow jobs and investment in Randolph County.

Check out the EDC website at www.rcedc.com for member information.