



# RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

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## **Keith Crisco named NC Secretary of Commerce**

One of Randolph County's best-known leaders in economic development was named Secretary of Commerce by Governor Beverly Perdue. Keith Crisco is a founder and owner of Asheboro Elastics Corporation, a textile manufacturing company that has prospered and grown for more than 20 years. In addition, Crisco has served as an Asheboro City Councilman, Trustee of Randolph Community College, Board Chair of Pfeiffer University, and is a former Chair of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation. He has established operations in Central America, advised on US trade policies, and has a partnership with a textile company in India.

Secretary Crisco knows the benefits and challenges of globalization, the tension of balancing public and private interests, and how to meet payroll in a difficult economy. We are proud and delighted that one of our own will shape and implement policy to grow North Carolina's economy in these challenging times.

Crisco spoke at a recent conference of the North Carolina Economic Developers Association and outlined key initiatives for the Department of Commerce. They include a renewed effort to globally brand North Carolina for business growth, a focus on international recruitment, key partnerships with allies and stakeholders, and an emphasis on rural economic development. He said that NC's incentive programs will be modified; the budget outlook is dire, and he called on economic developers and community leaders for bold leadership.

## **Economic Outlook from the Front Line**

**Randolph County's** economic outlook is cloudy. Unemployment has risen to 8.9% and most businesses are working diligently to survive and find ways to prosper in a challenging economy. Yet all the news is not bad. There is also positive news from many of our businesses across multiple sectors.

The EDC has responded to 16 new project requests in 2009 with four clients visiting our county. The business sectors include manufacturing, distribution, center, office, mixed use, alternative energy and recycling, and retail. In addition, our office is working with six companies that are considering an expansion. buildings totaling 365,320 square feet have been acquired or leased by new end users in 2009.

We've documented more than 750 jobs lost from downsizing and three plant closures announced or implemented during the last 90 days. Many small businesses are being impacted by contractions from their larger customers as the impact multiplies down the supply chain.

A survey of business conditions for 46 existing industries reveals some challenges as well as positive signs. These companies received visits over the last 90 days by Harry Lane, our Existing Industry Coordinator. They represent all geographic areas of the county and diverse sectors in manufacturing, distribution, and wholesale trade. Of the 46,

- 8 companies saw record sales for 2008 with positive growth into 2009
- 8 companies are making new capital investments in technology, equipment, and facilities
- 8 companies are adding new jobs
- 11 companies describe sales as flat to stable for 2008-2009
- 20 companies see declining sales ranging from 5% to 70%
- 15 companies have cut jobs and many others are working reduced hours
- 4 companies are developing new product lines
- 7 companies are engaged in workforce training

The EDC is working diligently to market Randolph County, develop industrial product, increase workforce skills and capacity, and to meet the needs of our local businesses and industries. In 2009, we've visited with six site selection firms in Dallas, met with industrial brokers and site consultants in Charlotte, and presented information to the NC Department of Commerce. The EDC has delivered more than 750 copies of the 2008 Annual Report to site consultants, brokers, clients, and existing businesses.

## Help is on the Way!!!

Tough times require a strong response. There are several new and expanded resources that are available to help North Carolina companies weather the economic downturn. They range from new stimulus to technical support to web based access to assistance. Please call the EDC office at 336.626.2233 if you need more information on any of the following opportunities.

**Business Link to NC** at [www.blnc.gov](http://www.blnc.gov) is a new user friendly website sponsored by the NC Department of Commerce that provides a comprehensive link to multiple answers, resources, agencies and assistance for all NC businesses.

[www.ncrecover.gov](http://www.ncrecover.gov) is the link to North Carolina's access to the Federal Stimulus package. It's a one-stop access and tracking to NC's spending plan for the new Federal assistance available to our state.

**2009 Small Business Resource Summit** – Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at NC A & T Alumni Event Center from 8:30-12:30. Free. **To register online, go to <http://www.sasbtrc.com>** or call Gloria Fisher at 336.256.2110.

**Golden Leaf Foundation** will expand its economic development program to include a Fast Jobs Program focused on worker training for displaced workers to be rolled out by the end of March. They will initiate a Loan Guarantee program by the end of June 2009. They have opened the grants cycle for the economic development catalyst and other grants with no set deadlines for submission. They will give high priority to any grant project that leverages the stimulus.

**NC Manufacturing Workshop Event: May 28 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the UNC Greensboro, Jackson Library Jarrell Lecture Hall**

The purpose of this workshop is to provide NC manufacturing companies with pertinent information that will allow them to determine if they are capable of selling to the government. Panelists include Defense Logistics Agency, Industrial Extension Service, NC Military Business Center, US Commerce, large businesses, and government agencies.

**Contact Bob Crigler at 369-2210 or [bcrigler@isa.org](mailto:bcrigler@isa.org) to find out more information or to participate in any of the key date events.**

**NC offers a Renewable energy property tax credit up to 35% of the value of the property purchased, installed or placed in service up to a cap of \$2.5 million per installation. NC offers a tax credit for the production or dispensing of biofuels. The Federal stimulus program allocates \$72 million over two years for "green projects and job creation."**

Visit [http://www.ncsc.ncsu.edu/information\\_resources/renewable\\_energy\\_incentives.cfm](http://www.ncsc.ncsu.edu/information_resources/renewable_energy_incentives.cfm) or the NC State Solar Center for complete information on state and federal incentives and credits for energy conservation and alternative energy. You can find more information on [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org) about the Federal and state programs.

## Legislative Alert

### Take Action Today!!! Card Check Legislation introduced in Congress

The deceptively named Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) of 2009, more appropriately described as unions' "card check" legislation, was introduced in both the US House and Senate on Tuesday, March 10th. Of note, NC Senator Kay Hagan did not sign on as a sponsor, which while not a sign that she has switched her position, does continue to leave the door open for her.

**The Randolph County EDC is strongly opposed to this legislation.** We encourage you to call Senator Hagan and thank her for not signing on as a sponsor for Card Check and urging her to oppose the bill, because it is not right for North Carolina. Senator Hagan and members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation need to hear from you. Your personal outreach can have a direct impact. Senator Hagan's Office Number is: 202-224-8774.

It is absolutely critical that your North Carolina representative hear from North Carolina employers and employees (constituents) about why these bills are bad for North Carolina businesses, employees and our state economy.

#### **Contact Information for Your Representatives:**

Click on the following link to identify and contact members of the U.S. House:

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>.

Contact Sen. Richard Burr:  
U.S. Senate

Phone: (202) 224-3154

<http://burr.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.ContactForm>

Contact Sen. Kay Hagan  
U.S. Senate

[Senator\\_hagan@hagan.senate.gov](mailto:Senator_hagan@hagan.senate.gov)

Phone: (202) 224-6342

**Write or Call North Carolina's Congressional Delegation Now!**



## Partnership News

The Randolph County Partnership is the member organization of the EDC. 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](http://www.rcedc.com) for member information.

### Thanks to the following new members of the Randolph County Partnership:

-  **JL Darr & Son, Inc.**
-  **Bossong Hosiery**

### Thanks to the following members who have renewed their membership:

#### Platinum

Sealy, Inc.

#### Gold

Ace/Avant Concrete Construction, Inc  
Progress Energy  
Pyramid Services

#### Silver

Braxton Culler  
Dart Container  
Rheem Sales  
RubberMill  
Starpet  
Technimark  
Thomas Built Buses

#### Bronze

Acme McCrary  
Allen Precision Industries  
Asheboro Nissan  
Asheboro Ready Mix  
Asheboro-Randolph Board of Realtors  
Bank of the Carolinas  
Bossong Hosiery, Inc.  
Carolina Precision Plastics, LLC  
Cherry, Bekaert & Holland, LLP  
ECS Carolinas, LLP  
Elastic Therapy, Inc.  
Elite Real Estate Professionals  
Fairfield Inn & Suites  
Garco, Inc.  
Gavin & Cox  
Hampton Inn  
J L Furnishings  
NC Zoological Park & Society  
Powder Works, Inc.  
Powell Appraisers  
Randolph Packing  
Ready Telecom/CommunityWeb  
Sapona Manufacturing Co., Inc.  
Seagrove Pottery  
Security Savings Bank  
Strider Buick GMC Subaru  
Summey Engineering  
Suntrust Bank  
Wachovia

Check out the EDC website at [www.rcedc.com](http://www.rcedc.com) for member information.