

# RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

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## Economic Expansions

We have good news to share! Despite challenging economic conditions, several businesses are growing and investing in Randolph County. Real estate opportunities, government contracting, and strategic acquisitions are all drivers for recent positive announcements.

**Fox Apparel** is expanding into the former Hanesbrand facility in Asheboro. The 168,000 square foot facility will provide needed space for a new contract to produce Coast Guard uniforms as well as US Army and Firefighter uniforms. Fox expects to be fully operational by the end of May. The project will result in 40 new jobs over the next several months.

**Garco** has relocated corporate offices and warehousing into a 138,500 square foot industrial facility in north Asheboro. Garco purchased the former Klaussner Furniture facility to accommodate its growing environmental services and recycling operation and secure room for future growth. The company will continue its processing operation at the current location on 220 Business North.

**Stickley Furniture** is growing via acquisition of the Nichols & Stone Company. Public hearings are scheduled for May 26 and June 1 to consider a grant to extend natural gas service to an industrial facility at 701 Eden Terrace in Archdale that would be the location of a new production operation. Stickley Fine Upholstery would purchase and upfit the facility and create 20 new jobs over the next two years. They currently employ 175 at their Archdale production facility and showroom in High Point.

Larry McKenzie of **Branco Enterprises** has purchased the former Builders First Source buildings in Asheboro and is converting the space for lease for industrial or commercial users. Kim Markham purchased part of the Builders First Source property for expansion and rail access for **Asheboro Recycling Services**.

**Continental Carbonic Products Inc.** has leased a facility in Ramseur to manufacture and distribute dry ice and liquid carbon dioxide. The company has 31 locations across the US and Canada and customers include food processing and distribution, in-flight catering, laboratory research, and blood/plasma services among others. The company supplies dry ice, dry ice blasting equipment, and has sales and service operations. They currently employ five at the Ramseur location.

The Randolph County EDC is seeing increased business inquiries and opportunities. Stay tuned for more good news in coming months.

## Business Support Programs Expand & Innovate

**Workforce Development Service** providers received a boost from Federal Stimulus funding and are offering expanded services to respond to employer needs and displaced workers. The JobLink Center and Randolph Community College rolled out new and expanded programs in April. North Carolina received \$79 million in new funds that are available in the following programs:

**Youth Summer Employment** will develop work sites for disadvantaged and at risk youth from 16-24 years. 81 youth workers will be assigned to 52 non-profit and governmental sector employers this summer.

**12 & 6** provides a rapid training initiative for high growth job opportunities at the state's 58 community colleges. The program provides six months of intense training in twelve high growth careers. Selected careers include Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy, Medical Coding, Office/Clerical Support, Masonry/Tile Cutting, Plumbing, Carpentry, Welding,

Food Service, Auto body Repair, Manufacturing/Materials, and HVAC/Industrial Maintenance. Randolph Community College will provide training and JobLink counselors will work to connect graduates to jobs. For information contact Susan Milner at [svmilner@randolph.edu](mailto:svmilner@randolph.edu).

**On-The-Job Training** provides reimbursement of 50% of wages during a training period of three months or 520 hours maximum. Eligible workers must be enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act prior to hire in order to participate in this program. The program is coordinated by Howie Snotherly at JobLink at 336.633.0301.

**WorkKeys Skill** development system is available through the JobLink Center at RCC. WorkKeys offers individual skills assessment and the companion program Key Train is used to improve individual skill sets in key areas. WorkKeys is a national skill-credentialing program accepted by employers across multiple careers and industries. It empowers workers to learn or improve employability skills. Key Train at JobLink can be done on site, at home, or in the workplace at a cost of \$30 per person. For more information, contact Nancy Landis at [nalandis@randolph.edu](mailto:nalandis@randolph.edu).

**Financial service providers** are also responding to the economic downturn and need for innovative capital.

**SBA** has modified its 7(a) and 504 Loan programs. SBA has approved a 90% guaranty on standard 7(a), PLP, and CLP loans up to \$1.5 million. For loans in excess of \$1.66 million, the guaranty percentage will be calculated. Some loan guaranty fees have been eliminated for loans made after Feb 17, 2009. The changes will be effective through December 31, 2009.

**SBA 504** Loan program has also eliminated loan guaranty fees through the end of the year. In other changes, the 504 loans can now be utilized for refinancing of existing debt if it meets certain requirements. The job creation requirement is modified from one job per \$50,000 of SBA financing to one per \$65,000.

New **SBA 100% Guarantee Loans** will begin on June 15 when SBA will start guaranteeing America's Recovery Capital (ARC) loans. ARC loans are deferred-payment loans of up to \$35,000 available to established, viable, for-profit small businesses that need short-term help to make their principal and interest payments on existing qualifying debt. ARC loans are interest-free to the borrower, 100 percent guaranteed by the SBA, and have no SBA fees associated with them.

For more information, contact your lender or visit [www.sba.gov/recovery](http://www.sba.gov/recovery).

**A new Building Reuse and Restoration** program is now available through the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The program provides grant funding on a per job basis to purchase, improve or renovate an empty industrial or commercial facility. Projects must meet requirements of the Community Development Block Grant Program. For more information, contact the EDC at 336.626.2233.

## Marketing & Special Events

The Randolph County EDC has had a very busy spring filled with marketing trips and strategic initiatives intended to jump start the economy and lay a solid foundation for future success.

EDC President Bonnie Renfro traveled to Chicago in April, meeting with four site selection consulting firms over two days. Consultants reported the most active industry sectors are alternative energy, recycling, and food processing.

In May, Renfro participated in the International Supply Chain Management Annual Conference in Charlotte. More than 2,000 participants that manage purchasing and procurement responsibilities for a broad cross section of industries attend the conference. The bi-annual ISM survey is used to track and forecast trends within the national economy. The results of the April ISM survey show:

	Manufacturing	Non-Manufacturing
Operating Capacity	67%	80.1%
Change	-8.4%	-2.6%
Capital Expenditures	-22.7%	-13.5%
Prices	-6.8%	-1.3%
Employment	-2.6%	-6.4%
Revenues	-14.7%	-5.1%

Growth sectors include food, beverage & tobacco in manufacturing. Growth sectors include finance & insurance and other services in non-manufacturing.

**EDC Directors, staff and community leaders made a Benchmarking trip** to Hickory NC on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The impetus for the trip came from the annual planning retreat in December. The EDC's focus included: 1) diversifying our target sectors beyond manufacturing to the service sector 2) success and pitfalls in a retail development program and 3) tourism asset development. Among our findings...

Hickory has used very focused product development in key target sectors to recruit customer service centers, data centers, and distribution facilities. A collaborative regional approach has resulted in a new NC Center for Engineering Technologies, a Convention Center funded by regional occupancy taxes and event revenue as well as multi-jurisdictional product development. An in-depth labor study demonstrated a competitive workforce for customer service centers as well as manufacturing and distribution. To receive a summary of our visit, contact the EDC office at [lbennett@rcedc.com](mailto:lbennett@rcedc.com) or 336.626.2233.

**Mark your calendars for Tuesday June 23 for the EDC Annual Meeting.** NC Secretary of Commerce Keith Crisco will highlight our meeting sharing the perspective on the North Carolina economy and strategies and successes of the Commerce Department. Invitations will be mailed next week for the 8 am breakfast meeting. Please join us for this very special opportunity.

**Randleman** commissioned an economic development study of the 311 Corridor, looking at highest and best land uses as well as strategies to economically benefit from the Randleman Reservoir. Randolph County has a unique opportunity to benefit from two new interstate highways, the Randleman Reservoir, and two interchanges. Representatives of Randleman, Archdale, Asheboro, Randolph County and North Carolina are meeting to determine a plan of action to implement the study's recommendations. They include a multi-jurisdictional "Green Business Park" in the corridor. NC State representatives from the NC Solar Center are working with the group to provide information and contacts.

## Available Buildings

Several facilities and sites are now available across Randolph County. For more information call the EDC office at 336.626.2233 or visit [www.rcedc.com](http://www.rcedc.com).

Ramtex	Ramseur	761,000 square feet	72 acres
Darr Distribution	Archdale	285,000 square feet / I-85	13.8 acres
Times Fiber	Liberty	80,000 square feet / rail served	9 acres
RFI	Seagrove	54,740 square feet	8.5 acres
Truck Terminal	Trinity	43,875 square feet	9 acres
Kinro	Liberty	43,062 square feet	9 acres
Matlab	Asheboro	3 @ 4800, 12,000 & 21,000 square feet	
Pointe South	Randleman	5,000 square feet /office & w/h	

## Board of Directors

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Randolph Community College

**Richard Wells– County Manager**



## 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 members who have renewed their membership:**

### Platinum

Malt-O-Meal

### Gold

Duke Energy

### Bronze

CF Properties  
Petty Performance Group, Inc.  
Pugh Funeral Home  
Randolph Land Development  
S&ME, Inc.  
Supertex/Liberty Industries  
Wilhoit, Pugh & Allen, LLP

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