

# RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

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The Heart of North Carolina's Economic Future

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## Partner in Progress Award



**Randolph County** received the 2011 Partner in Progress Award and the EDC recognized County Manager **Richard Wells** for his leadership leading a unique project. The award celebrated the successful renovation of the 1909 historic courthouse, using an innovative and creative process to fund and complete the project. Randolph County funded the project through timber sales from the county landfill and employed a combination of public employees in skilled trades and local sub-contractors to complete the project. The renovated courthouse is now home to the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation and Tourism Development Authority and the location for county commission and other county and community meetings. The award celebrated the county's entrepreneurial and progressive approach to local government and continued support for a strong economic development program. Each year the award recognizes a person, organization or company that makes a unique contribution to support economic development.

## Annual Meeting Highlights

**Representatives** of three companies that announced major locations or expansions during 2010 shared updates on their projects and lauded the assistance and support provided by the Randolph County EDC. **Jim Huston Plant Manager of Americhem** said his company searched one year for a site for a new manufacturing campus to produce colorants and additives for packaging, automotive, and building materials. The company purchased three buildings in Liberty totaling 183,000 square feet and are underway with renovations to an 80,000 square foot facility for the initial phase. The hiring process is underway. Huston said the responsiveness and help from the EDC, Liberty, Randolph County and North Carolina has been a deciding factor in the project and its success.



**Dale Ducommun of Malt-O-Meal Company** shared the history of his company and the factors that led to the choice of Asheboro for the newest cereal production operation. They are underway with a major expansion that will lead to two additional cereal lines and add 80 new jobs beginning in the summer of 2012. Ducommun praised the EDC and the cooperative relationship with city, county and state government as instrumental in the decision to locate and expand.

**Rick Powell, President of PEMMCO**, said his precision tooling company considered multiple communities before selecting Asheboro for a new facility and expansion. A new 50,000 square foot facility is under construction and he too praised the teamwork and professionalism of the EDC and City of Asheboro in infrastructure improvements needed for the project.

**The EDC** held its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting on June 23 touting a record setting year of 554 new jobs, \$206,500,000 investment, and 1.1 million square feet of real estate impact. EDC Chair Laura Wilson thanked the numerous volunteers and the EDC Board and staff for an outstanding year. The EDC welcomed 11 new members during the year and initiated three new committees to focus on membership, marketing and product development.

## Legislative Actions aid job growth

The NC General Assembly passed several bills that will improve North Carolina's business climate and spur job creation and retention. Legislation passed will make strategic reforms, remove red tape, and lower the tax burden on all. Briefly, our state will be an even more attractive business location with these improvements:

- Workman's Compensation Reform
- Legal Reform for medical liability
- Reduction of red tape by limiting new rules and regulations and streamlining the regulatory process
- Small business tax relief by exempting the first 50,000 net income
- Retained economic incentive programs designed to create jobs and spur investment

For more information, visit the NC General Assembly website at [www.ncga.nc.state.us](http://www.ncga.nc.state.us). Stay in contact with your legislator and let your voice be heard. North Carolina has a great business climate that can still be made better.

## Want to be more involved in economic development?

EDC Chairman Wayne Thomas invites all interested EDC stakeholders to get involved by joining newly formed committees. Thomas challenged those attending the EDC Annual Meeting to share their energy and talent in support of our community's economic development program.

There are 3 active and successful committees and we want your involvement and perspective. More than 25 volunteers stepped forward last year to add their voice and effort:

**Marketing Committee** recommended targeting professional service based firms for recruitment and reaching out via multiple media to share the message that Randolph County offers a competitive advantage for businesses. The EDC launched a Face Book page, completed a new marketing brochure for direct mail, and added regional assets and mapping to our website at [www.rcedc.com](http://www.rcedc.com).

**Membership Committee** recruited 11 new members to the Randolph EDC. The EDC created a no-brainer sales sheet highlighting our successes and our outreach for our members.

**Product Development Committee** held a Development Summit to 1) increase the number of developable sites suitable for industrial, commercial and business growth and 2) ease development hurdles to stimulate additional development. The result is an action plan involving public and private stakeholders.

We need your help!!! Please contact Wayne Thomas for more information and let him know your interest. He can be reached at [wayne.thomas@waynethomaschevrolet.com](mailto:wayne.thomas@waynethomaschevrolet.com) or 336.625.2107 or you can send an email to the EDC at [lbennett@rcedc.com](mailto:lbennett@rcedc.com) or call us at 336.626.2233. Thanks in advance for your interest and support for economic development in Randolph County. Committee meetings will start before the end of August.

## EDC welcomes new officers and directors

The Randolph County EDC elected five officers and five new directors at the Annual Meeting. They will join returning Board members to provide leadership and direction to the EDC for the next three years. They are:

Wayne Thomas, Chairman	Wayne Thomas Chevrolet & Cadillac
Mike Whitehead, Vice Chairman	Randolph Bank
Duffy Johnson, Secretary Treasurer	
Laura Wilson, Past Chairman	Pyramid Services
Bonnie Renfro, President	

### New Directors are:

Dale Ducommun	Malt-O-Meal Company
Kevin Franklin	Town of Ramseur
Steve Greene	Braxton Culler Inc.
Kevin Hill	H&H Furniture, Four Seasons Furniture, & Fresh Cuts Grocery
Randy McNeill	Davis, Martin & Powell

### Returning Directors are:

Scott Darr	Darr Construction
Dr. Diane Frost	Asheboro City Schools
HR Gallimore	Re/Max Central Realty
Don Harter	Rheem
Walker McCrary	Acme McCrary Corporation
Ruth Ann Scott	Express Employment Professionals
Dr. Bob Shackelford	Randolph Community College
Aaryn Slafky	Randolph Telephone
Michael Somero	Ace Avant Concrete Construction
Richard Wells	Randolph County Manager

## Economic Development News

**EDC President Bonnie Renfro** was elected **President of the North Carolina Economic Development Association** for 2011-2012. 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.

Watch your inbox for a **member survey** in the next couple of weeks. We need your feedback about our service and your suggestions about how we can better serve your business.

The NC Department of Commerce has unveiled a new **State of the Workforce Report**. You can download or read the report at [www.nccommerce.com/workforce](http://www.nccommerce.com/workforce). The report examines the state of North Carolina's workforce in 2010-2011 as a result of in-depth analysis of economic and employment data as well as a number of interviews with key stakeholders across the state during the late fall of 2010. It also evaluates the impact of the 2008-09 recession (sometimes referred to as the "Great Recession") and the ongoing structural economic shifts described in the previous *2007 State of the Workforce Report*. An important goal is to assess North Carolina's readiness to meet current and future workforce challenges. In short, these challenges are largely tied to the rapid effects of change on the state's industries, their workers, and its communities.

## Partnership News...

**During 2010-2011 the Randolph County EDC welcomed 11 new members.** The Randolph County Partnership is the member organization of the EDC. Through their dues, our members invest in 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](http://www.rcedc.com) for member information and click on Development Team.

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

- ✓ **Americhem, Inc.** – Manufacturer of additives and colorants for plastics and resins, used in packaging, building materials, automotive and consumer products.
- ✓ **Davis-Martin-Powell & Associates, Inc.** – Full service civil engineering firm located in High Point.

Thanks to the following companies for renewing their membership with the Randolph County Partnership.

### Gold

Progress Energy

### Silver

Rheem Sales Company

### Bronze

CPP Global

Ready Telecom/Community Web

S&ME, Inc.

Supertex/Liberty Industries, Inc.

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