

RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

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The Heart of North Carolina's Economic Future

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EDC 26th Annual Meeting Scheduled

Mark your calendar for June 23 at 8 am for the Randolph County EDC Annual Meeting. The meeting will feature speakers from three companies that announced major locations and expansions during 2010. Americhem, Malt-O-Meal and PEMMCO (formerly Allen Precision Industries) will share their story of business growth and why they selected Randolph County for investment and job creation. 2010 was a record setting year for announced investment with strong job creation from 25 companies.

New directors will be elected and new officers introduced to lead the EDC for the coming year. During the meeting, the EDC will present the 2011 Partner in Progress Award to recognize the business or person that has gone the extra mile in support of economic development. Invitations will be mailed next week to community leaders, elected officials, partnership members, and state officials.

Business Announcements

Technimark has announced a major expansion of its Asheboro operation, investing \$20 million to expand production capacity over the next four years. The company will also expand its research and development division in Asheboro, adding 30 new jobs in four years with annual salaries more than twice the Randolph County average. Technimark is a plastic injection molder that supplies Fortune 500 companies such as Wal Mart, Proctor & Gamble, Estee Lauder, and Black & Decker. Technimark is already one of Randolph County's largest employers with 639 workers and a global presence with operations in the US, Mexico, Germany and China.

Congratulations to Southern Classic Seating, recognized with the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) award by the NC Department of Labor. NC Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry presented the award designed for small to mid-sized companies to recognize their commitment to the safety and health of their employees. Southern Classic is located on US 311 in the Sophia community.

Happy 50th Anniversary to Samet Corporation, celebrating 50 years of success as a leader in the construction and development industry. Norman Samet founded the company in 1961 and it has grown to be one of the Triad's largest construction companies. The company is now led by the next generation with Arthur Samet as President.

Pyramid Services Inc. is proud to announce the addition of a new division, **ENACT**. ENACT has been formed to provide a wide variety of consulting services to businesses interested in doing business with the Federal Government, or expanding their market share with the Federal Government. Pyramid Services will leverage its 21 years of experience and knowledge of the arena to leverage the strengths of our clients in meeting the needs of the Federal Government. You can find the web site at www.enactsuccess.com. Laura Wilson, President and CEO of Pyramid Services and ENACT is the Chairman of the Randolph County EDC.

Asheboro City Schools has been awarded a \$375,000 grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation to fund a new STEM initiative. STEM is a curriculum focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics to prepare students for careers in those sectors. Asheboro's STEM project will initially focus on students in grades 4-9. This is a great opportunity for industry and community partners to participate in action based planning and implementation. Contact Asheboro City Schools at 336.625.5104 for more information.

CommunityOne Bank has announced a plan to merge with Bank of Granite to create one of North Carolina's largest community banks. Pending approvals from shareholders and regulators and investment from private equity groups, the two banks will combine by the end of 2011 with the headquarters remaining in Asheboro. The combined bank would have \$2.9 billion in assets and operate 63 branches across central and western North Carolina. This is great news for Asheboro, home to FNB United, parent of CommunityOne for more than 100 years.

Leggett and Platt has reorganized its operation in Liberty under the division of **CINCRO**. The reorganization includes moving equipment and personnel to accommodate their processes. The present employment is approximately 30 people.

Exporter Forum

Senator Kay Hagan, along with the Export-Import bank of the United States, will host an exporter forum for small and mid-sized businesses, technical assistance providers, and others involved in economic development in Charlotte on June 3rd at Siemens Energy. Hear from ExIm President Fred Hochberg, Senator Hagan, and other Charlotte leaders, as well as small businesses who already work with ExIm about how your small businesses can get involved in exporting.

**Friday, June 3, 2011
8:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Siemens Energy, Inc.
5101 Westinghouse Boulevard, Charlotte**

Learn How to Increase Your Company's Foreign Sales By:

- Obtaining protection against the risk of nonpayment
- Accessing vital working capital
- Finding new markets and customers
- Understanding how other companies have used government resources to export

No Cost -- Registration Required at <http://www.exim.gov/gash>

To View the Agenda, [click here](#).

Marketing and Accolades

CEO Magazine named North Carolina as the Number 2 best state in the US for business for the second year in a row. North Carolina received five stars for living environment and four stars each for workforce quality and taxation and regulations in the rankings compiled from surveys of 550 CEOs from across the country. The CEOs considered the factors most critical to an environment where business can thrive.

EDC President Bonnie Renfro participated in **Experience North Carolina**, sponsored by the Friends of NC. The annual event hosts site selection consultants from across the US and globe to showcase North Carolina's competitive advantages for business and industry location and growth. The three day event was held at Pinehurst and Fort Bragg.

Renfro also participated in a three day visit to Dallas Texas with the **Piedmont Triad Partnership** to promote Randolph County and the Triad to Dallas based site consultants and brokers. Most consultants indicated increased activity as businesses across all sectors are investing in growth and market opportunities.

Legislative Outlook

It is a very busy season in Raleigh this year with implications for economic development and business growth. North Carolina's legislative leadership is pursuing legislation to strengthen the economy and stimulate job creation through a variety of bills that improve the overall business climate. Bills have been introduced to reform the workman's compensation program (HB 709 and SB 544) and implement tort reform (HB 732). Studies are underway for tax modernization and a joint regulatory reform committee has been formed to look at identifying and relaxing specific, overly restrictive statutes and regulations. Reforming state government through efficiencies and agency consolidations is a key initiative of Governor Perdue as well. Both the Governor and General Assembly have made lowering the corporate income tax as a key initiative to make North Carolina more competitive in business growth. The House and Senate budgets include a measure to lower the state tax burden for small businesses by exempting the first \$50,000 income from taxation. Stay tuned for more information. Visit the website for the General Assembly at www.ncleg.net for more information and to track individual bills.

Partnership News...10 new members and counting

Thanks to the membership committee led by Kim Markham, the Randolph County EDC has secured ten new members this year. 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 for member information and click on Development Team. Thanks to our committee members for their hard work.

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

- ✓ **Four Seasons Furniture** - Seagrove based upholstered furniture manufacturing company
- ✓ **Roberts and Associates** – Real estate development and appraisals
- ✓ **Stonewall Construction Services, LLC** – Commercial and industrial construction

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

Diamond

Malt-O-Meal

Silver

RubberMill

StarPet

Thomas Built Buses

Bronze

Asheboro Nissan, Inc.

BJ Con-Sew, Inc.

Liberty Advisors

McKenzie Properties & Investments

Piedmont Natural Gas Company

Powder Works, Inc.

Sapona Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Strider Buick GMC Subaru

Stuart-Bowman Auto Centre, Inc.

Suntrust Bank