

RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

A publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation

The Heart of North Carolina's Economic Future

November 2011

Numbers tell our story and our future

The US Census paints the picture of demographic and economic changes underway in Randolph County. Although only a portion of the data has been released, trend lines are evident in our community. Combined with local economic and statistical data, there is both hopeful and sobering news.

Our population is growing, but the growth is slowing. Randolph County's population experienced 33% growth over the last 20 years but only 8.7% since 2000. During the last ten years, Archdale experienced the fastest growth followed by Asheboro. Four communities lost population, Franklinville, Liberty, Seagrove, and Trinity. We are a more diverse community, with 15.3% of our population classified as Hispanic, compared with 66.6% White and 5.5% Black.

The NC Rural Center has just released a profile of our state's next generation, the young adults and youth that are our future workforce and citizens. Statewide, 47 rural counties lost young adult population during the last two decades in the 24-30 age range. Randolph County's population under 18 grew by 35% during that time, with the 18-23 segment growing by 7.4% and a decline of 11.5% in the 24-30 age range.

Why does this matter? This demographic group is our future workforce, residents, and community leaders. It's vital to retain their energy, talent, and values in our community. The research and follow up focus groups across the state delivered several key messages about our youth and young adult population. You can view the entire report at http://www.ncruralcenter.org/images/PDFs/youthresearch_final-lr.pdf and <http://www.ncruralcenter.org/images/PDFs/dataforumpg2.pdf>.

- Jobs are the driving force of change. Job and career options ranked first among all concerns from youth surveys and focus groups. Randolph County's employment change from 1990-2010 is 5.4%, positive, but more job opportunities are needed.
- Amenities or quality of life ranked second in the survey of youth and young adults. Entertainment, recreation and shopping were the improvements desired by survey respondents. Our scorecard is improving in this area in parts of our county
- Many young people want to stay in their community if quality career or business ownership opportunities were available. They value the family, friends, and community connections.
- Continued educational improvements are critical to our youth. Randolph County has much to celebrate with graduation rates of more than 82.8% countywide and more than 86% of our graduates planning to continue their education beyond high school. Yes, we have room for improvement but the trend line is headed in the right direction.
- Young people want to get involved. 80% of the young people that participated in the survey and focus groups said they want to volunteer and become involved in their communities. Are we open to their input?

The challenge is clear but the answers are more complex and interconnected. Investment and innovation in our schools is vital to our community's future. Support job creation and career opportunities through the recruitment, retention and start up of businesses across the county and region. Continue good efforts to improve the quality of life with downtown development, recreational facilities, retail growth and family friendly neighborhoods. Create pathways to leadership and community involvement that include multiple ages and backgrounds.

Randolph County has a great story to tell and assets to build upon. We are "Alive and Well" and ready to share our good news. A group of community volunteers has launched a multi-prong outreach to our high school population to inform

them about our business and community assets and challenge them to share the story in a video contest scheduled for spring 2012. Be ready to share your good news and welcome our students and future workforce to your business.

Business Announcements

Congratulations to **Dr. Diane Frost**, Superintendent of the Asheboro City Schools, named **North Carolina's Superintendent of the Year**. Dr. Frost will compete for the national recognition in early 2012. Asheboro and Randolph County are blessed with her outstanding leadership and commitment that all students will be prepared to succeed in the 21st Century.



PEMMCO Manufacturing opened their new manufacturing facility in south Asheboro in November. The precision machining company constructed a new 50,000 square foot facility, investing \$3 million and creating 28 new jobs. The project was aided by state grants to extend water and sewer to the site on Veteran's Loop Road.

Florida Production Engineering NC will benefit from a Building Reuse Grant from the NC Rural Center to renovate and repair the former Moll Industries facilities north of Seagrove. Grants are funded on a new job basis and must be matched by the private company.

PEMMCO President Rick Powell and Mayor David Smith

Pilgrim's Pride plans to relocate its Staley feedmill, displacing 25 workers. Pilgrim's Pride will retain its administrative offices, hatchery and breeder operations in Staley, employing 48. The feedmill relocation is driven by transportation costs of raw materials.

The **City of Archdale** broke ground on November 28 on a new City Hall facility. The facility will be built on the same site as the former offices that have been razed. The new offices will be energy efficient and accommodate the municipality's departments. Archdale Mayor Bert Stone said that the city had outgrown its former facility years ago and the maintenance cost was prohibitive.

Economic Development News & Feedback Opportunity

The NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NC DENR) has established a new service and they are asking for your feedback. Jamie Ragan is the new Outreach Coordinator for the Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach. She has asked for our help in letting you know about the [Environmental Assistance Center](#). The EAC is a customer-focused program providing technical assistance and guidance through regulatory, permitting and compliance processes as well as help in reducing overall environmental impacts. The Center serves as a single point of contact for our customers and is a liaison between the customer and the regulatory agencies to improve customer satisfaction.

Your input is needed. DENR is currently conducting a customer service feedback survey in order to serve customers and clients better and the EAC will play a vital role in that. This survey will allow DENR to improve its environmental assistance and customer service in the future.

You can reach DENR's home page where a link will take you to the survey at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/guest/>. You can also reach the survey directly at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EACExternal>.

EDC President Bonnie Renfro participated in a Friends of North Carolina marketing trip to New York City for a luncheon and sales calls on site consultants this month. More than 38 site consultants joined the NC Department of Commerce and state and local representatives for the event. Renfro will travel to South Carolina next week for additional sales outreach to company advisers active in economic development.

The **EDC Membership Committee** chaired by **Big Dave Whitaker** is planning a special event for spring 2012 featuring a business speaker and networking opportunities for EDC Partnership members. The committee has recruited 8 new members this year with planned outreach to businesses across the county.

Partnership News...

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 the following new members of the Randolph County Partnership:

- ✓ **Alan V. Pugh, Attorney at Law**
- ✓ **Stimmel Associates, PA**

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

Platinum

Energizer Battery
First Bank

Gold

BB&T
CenturyLink
Samet Corporation

Silver

Hyosung USA
Randolph Bank
The Timken Company

Bronze

Asheboro City Schools
Asheboro Recycling Center
Best Cartage/Best Logistics
Bossong Hosiery, Inc.
Euliss Propane Company
Insurance Associates of the Triad
JL Furnishings East, LLC
Metals, USA
Oliver Rubber Company, LLC
Personalized Products & Promotions
The John Plant Company
UltraCraft
Wayne Industries, Inc.

134 people like our page and the EDC has 252 friends –Like our page.

facebook

[Randolph County Economic Development Corporation - Organization - Asheboro, NC | Facebook](#)