

RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

A publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation

The Heart of North Carolina's Economic Future

November 2013

NC Economic Development Transition Update

North Carolina is underway with implementation of a new economic development delivery system that is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2014. The NC Department of Commerce has filed incorporation paperwork for a new public private partnership that will oversee services for business recruitment and retention, international trade, marketing, small business, and tourism across the state. A new CEO will be hired by the end of the year.

Commerce has also established a new rural economic development division that will assume some of the grant programs previously performed by the NC Rural Center. Those include grants for construction of public infrastructure that supports job creation, renovation and repair of vacant buildings for reuse in support of job creation, and rural innovation. Dr. Pat Mitchell is the new Assistant Secretary for this division.

The NC Economic Development Board is developing a new 10-year strategic plan for North Carolina that will be unveiled in mid-January. Work groups are focused on six key areas: NC cluster branding, workforce development, business climate, innovation and entrepreneurship, talent and retiree recruitment, and rural prosperity. You are invited to share your ideas by participating in a survey.

Request from the N.C. Department of Commerce: We are eager for your thoughts, and ideas, on priorities for North Carolina's 10-year Economic Development Plan. We are interested in the barriers and threats to progress and the opportunities you see for economic growth. We want to know the tools you feel we need in order to help grow our economy in the most effective way. They are requesting your input.

Please complete this survey <https://surveymonkey.com/s/B6PRKVY> to share your ideas.

Legislative Forum



The EDC hosted a first annual legislative forum in September and invited the Randolph County legislative delegation to share their perspective on the 2013 session and its impact on economic development. Sixty EDC stakeholders attended to hear Senator Rick Gunn and Representatives Pat Hurley and Allen McNeill. Senator Jerry Tillman was unable to attend.

All three legislators agreed that job creation and economic development were a key priority in the legislative session. Tax reform, regulatory reform, transportation funding reform, unemployment reform, and the overhaul of the state's economic development programs were all focused on a stronger state economy.

Senator Gunn outlined four key goals of the legislative agenda - 1) create a stronger business environment 2) fix the foundation 3) improve customer service

and 4) become more efficient. Rep. Hurley cited H 74, Regulatory Reform Act of 2013, to streamline and amend regulations. Transportation funding changes should support 35% more projects with the same funds. Rep. McNeill said the session was a learning curve and that he supported legislation designed to create jobs especially in rural areas.

Questions arose about the impact of the unemployment changes on cyclical and temporary unemployment, as in the construction industry. It was noted that Community College funds are impacted by a change to a three year enrollment average from a two year average. When asked to comment about state support for megasite development, Gunn said that accessing state funds would be very competitive but is a viable economic development strategy. Tourism advocates asked legislators to remember the value of tourism as an economic engine.

Looking forward to the 2014 session, four pending bills were mentioned - H 797, Business Facilities Bill to assist with economic development product development, SB 127, a bill to reorganize the NC Department of Commerce and create 8 prosperity zones and to kick down the silos of state government, SB 522 to enable NC New Market Tax Credits that would bring \$500 million in capital access into rural and economically distressed areas, and H 680, a bill to authorize New Market crowd funding. Finally, each legislator urged folks to stay in touch and to share their concerns and needs. The Forum will become an annual EDC event.

Business News & Announcements

Randolph Community College received a \$1.7 million grant from the US Department of Labor to develop and expand training programs. The grant will be used to train workers in welding, machining, and manufacturing, key areas of job growth and skills gap in Randolph County. RCC is one of seven institutions that received USDOL grants to help North Carolinians find jobs in key job growth areas in their communities.

Sapona Manufacturing Company is expanding with a building addition to its Cedar Falls location. Sapona is the second largest synthetic yarn manufacturer in the US, behind Unifi. They are adding 25,830 square feet to the facility and employment is up by 70 over recent years. Sapona began operation in 1917 and is locally owned along with sister companies, Acme McCrary Corporation and Sapona Plastics.

The Town of Liberty, Randolph County EDC, and property owners have completed a preliminary master plan for the 300 acre Newlin site in north Liberty. The Newlin site is one of the largest rail served industrial sites in the Triad. Plans include road access, utilities, rail access, and various parcels to provide a roadmap for future marketing and development. Triad Design Group assisted on this project.

Flexible Foam Products Inc. has added a new 50,000 square foot warehouse at its High Point operation in Randolph County. The new addition will allow former distribution space to be converted to expanded manufacturing capacity. FFP supplies the bedding industry and plans to add 5 new jobs with the manufacturing expansion.

Congratulations to **Technimark** on their 30th Anniversary. Technimark is one of the 25 largest plastic injection molding companies in the US and operates two divisions, packaging and manufacturing. Headquartered in Asheboro, Technimark is a private company with 10 global operations in Asheboro, Mexico, Germany and China. They employ over 700 workers at their Asheboro operation.

The N.C. Recycling Business Assistance Center (RBAC) announces the opening of the [2014 Recycling Business Development Grant](#) round. Please visit the website at ncdenr.org to download the RFP or contact Wendy Worley at wendy.worley@ncdenr.gov. Contact the EDC by email and we'll forward the announcement to you.

Applicants may request any amount of funding up to a maximum of **\$40,000**. Applicants must provide at least a **50 percent cash match** to the requested amount. RBAC has committed **\$690,000** for this grant cycle. RBAC is seeking viable, well-planned and effective proposals and encourages North Carolina recycling businesses to consider applying for this grant. The goal of this grant program is to build lasting, private-sector capacity to divert materials from the waste stream and create North Carolina jobs. Deadline to apply is January 16, 2014.

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. **Partnership members are listed below in their billing cycle.**

Please visit the website, www.rcedc.com for member information and click on Development Team.

Welcome to the new members of the Randolph County Partnership.

Waste Management is the nation's largest environmental solutions provider with over 20 million customers. The company is also the nation's largest recycling operation.

Weaver Cooke- Kirkland Construction Company is a construction management, general contractor, and design builder serving the Triad, North Carolina and the Southeast US.

Thanks to the following companies that recently renewed their membership with the Randolph County EDC Partnership.

Diamond

Duke Energy

Gold

CenturyLink

First Bank

Randolph Hospital

Silver

CommunityOne Bank

Randolph Bank

Bronze

Asheboro Recycling Center

Best Cartage/Best Logistics

CPP Global

Deep River Fabricators, Inc.

Express Employment Professionals

Ferree Trailer

Heart of NC Visitors Bureau

Insurance Associates of the Triad

North State Communications

Randolph County Schools

Shaw Enterprises

Shelco, Inc.

Stimmel Associates, PA

The John Plant Company

The Wooten Company

UltraCraft

Wayne Industries

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