



The Heart of North Carolina's Economic Future

July 2014

Welcome to Randolph County

The Randolph County EDC debuted a new video at our 29th Annual Meeting on June 24. The YouTube video features our location in the center of North Carolina, our great people and places, and our unique assets. We hope you will take a look at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xa725ocj1BY> and share with your friends and colleagues. We plan more videos this year that focus on our workforce, training programs, companies and real estate. All of them will be hosted on our website at www.rcedc.com. W-2 Entertainment produced the video with input from our Marketing Committee, chaired by Eddie Burks.

Randolph County and its cities are great places to live, work and play. There is nothing like pictures to showcase all that we have to offer. We are proud of our community and enthusiastically welcome people, businesses, and visitors.

NC Economic Development Structural Changes

Governor McCrory signed a bill last month authorizing the establishment of a new public private partnership that will work on business recruitment, existing industry services, and travel and tourism. This is a key priority for the Governor to create a more flexible, nimble organization to be even more responsive to growing the NC economy. Some former state employees will transfer to the new entity and others will be hired. It will be funded by both public and private dollars and report to the Secretary of Commerce.

Many functions will remain with the public Commerce Department, including financial assistance programs, research, rural development programs, and workforce development. The two agencies will work cooperatively with complimentary roles.

The legislation established eight regional prosperity zones across the state and require that state and state related agencies such as Commerce, Transportation, DENR, and the Community Colleges work together to respond to economic development opportunities. Randolph County will remain in the Triad zone.

The state also eliminated funding to the former regional partnerships that provided marketing and research support to regional county groups. The new prosperity zones will have a different function, more on the line of a one-stop center aligned to meet the regional economic development needs in specific regional geographies.

These are big changes and already having an impact on our work. The great news is that our clients' needs will be served in an efficient and seamless process with all parties committed to cooperation and a timely response. We will stay focused on job creation, business investment and delivering great customer service to our existing industries.

EDC elects Officers and Directors

Officers and new directors were elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 24. They will lead the organization next year and provide outstanding guidance and direction that will lead to business growth and job creation. New officers for 2014-2015 are:



Chairman **Rick Powell** is President of PEMMCO Manufacturing in Asheboro. Rick and his partners purchased a precision machining company 8 years ago and have expanded into a new facility. His company has been named to the Triad's Fast 50 for the fastest growing private companies in the region for the last two years.



Vice Chairman is **Steve Foley**, Senior Vice President of First Bank in Archdale. Steve has been with First Bank for 14 years, the last 8 as the City Executive in Archdale. He is very active in the Archdale Trinity area, serving as Past President of AT Rotary and the Trinity High Booster Club, and Past Chair of the City of Archdale Appearance Commission.

Secretary Treasurer is **Reynolds Lisk**, President of Insurance Associates of the Triad in Asheboro for the last 9 years. He is a very active community leader, former Chair of the United Way Board and Campaign, Asheboro Randolph Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Committee, and recognized as Randolph County Citizen of the Year.

Past Chair is **Dr. Bob Shackelford**, President of Randolph Community College and current President of the Year for the NC Community College System. As President of RCC, he led the winning campaign to adopt a voter approved 1/4 cent sales tax increase to fund needed capital needs at the community college and restructured the program in 2014 for a more focused emphasis on workforce development.

New Directors include:

John Geib, Director of the NC Economic Development team for Duke Energy. He is responsible for new and expanding industrial and commercial business recruitment for Duke Energy's Carolinas Service territory.

Jeff Gerlock, President of Blue Ridge Geological Services in Archdale. He has more than 25 years of experience in geology and environmental consulting in Charlotte, Greensboro, and Randolph County.

John Grey, Branch Manager of The Wooten Company in Asheboro. He has 26 years experience as a civil engineer, leading The Wooten Company office in Asheboro for the last 9 years.

Kennan Hill, President and Owner of Chief Express in Seagrove. Chief Express provides LTL and logistics services in the eastern half of the US with 60 current trucks and plans for 25% increased capacity to meet growing demand.

Continuing Directors include:

Natasha Dowdy, Director of Administration for United Brass Works in Randleman

Steve Eblin, President and CEO of Randolph Hospital

Vickie Gallimore, Broker / Owner of RE/MAX Central Realty in Asheboro

Robert Jarrell, Vice President of Canteen Vending in Asheboro

Eric Luckenbach, President of Deep River Fabricators and Randolph Industries in Franklinville

Tracy Matson, President of Ace Avant Concrete Construction Company in Archdale

Nelson Straughn, General Manager of Manhattan American Terrazzo Strip Company in Staley

Bert Lance Stone, Mayor of Archdale

Carolyn Vickrey, Owner of Carolyn's in Liberty

Richard Wells, Randolph County Manager

Business News & Announcements

Hughes Furniture Industries will expand its upholstered furniture operation to the former Energizer building on Central Avenue in Asheboro. HFI is one of the largest private employers in Randolph County with most of its operation in Randleman. The 152,000 square foot facility will accommodate growth driven by its Quick Ship program that delivers customer orders within 72 hours.

Ambella Home Collection plans to acquire the former 47,000 square foot Currin building in Archdale for its first manufacturing operation. The Dallas Texas based company designs, sources, and sells case goods with all manufacturing conducted off-shore. The project would create a new upholstery operation with 12 full time employees. The building has been vacant for 20 months and the City of Archdale has applied for a building reuse grant to assist with the costs of repairs.

Kraftsman Inc. will expand its specialty utility and equipment trailer business on US 64 east of Ramseur. The company plans to add 16,250 square feet to its existing operation. Started in 2000, the company has supplied specialty trailers for homeland security and public safety as well as industrial and commercial uses.

PetPro Resources LLC is planning a new manufacturing operation to produce pet food and animal feed ingredients at the former Lucks/Seagrove Foods plant in Seagrove. The start-up company plans to convert NC grown sweet potatoes and poultry parts to a flour / powder consistency. Randolph County has applied for a building reuse grant to assist with the cost of a roof mounted solar installation for energy production due to the lack of natural gas.

Congratulations

Harold Holmes was named the 2014 Partner in Progress at the EDC Annual meeting in recognition of his many years of service to Randolph County and his rock solid commitment to economic development and positive growth. Holmes is not running for reelection to the County Commission, a position he has held for 20 years, the last 11 as Chairman. The EDC also recognized three outstanding individuals on their retirement after decades of service to the community - **Dr. Diane Frost**, Superintendent of Asheboro City Schools, **George Gusler**, President of the Asheboro Randolph Chamber of Commerce, and **Jerry Yarborough**, Archdale City Manager.

Nick Holcomb has been named the new Randleman City Manager after serving as Interim City Manager since January. He came to Randleman as an intern following his graduation from Clemson with a master's in city and regional planning.

Zeb Hanner has been named the new Archdale City Manager effective August 1, 2014. Hanner has been Davidson County's Assistant County Manager since 2009. He is a graduate of High Point University and a CPA.

EDC President Bonnie Renfro has been awarded re-certification by the International Economic Development Council effective July 1, 2014. She first achieved the Certified Economic Developer designation in 1999 with recertification required every 3 years through continuing education and service to the profession.

Randolph Hospital has been recognized as one of 18 in the nation for quality health care in six key areas by Premier Inc, a Charlotte based health care company. The QUEST award evaluates hospital performance measures.

Technimark has been recognized by Proctor and Gamble as a Supplier of Excellence for six years in a row as well as a Super Supplier, ranked in the Top 15 of 80,000 global suppliers.

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 based on their renewal dates.**

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

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

Platinum

MOM Brands

Gold

AEC

Silver

Supertex/Liberty Industries

Bronze

Blue Ridge Geological Services, Inc.

Bossong Hosiery, Inc.

Davis-Martin-Powell & Associates, Inc.

PEMMCO Manufacturing

PIP Printing of Asheboro

Powder Works, Inc.

S&ME, Inc.

Strider Buick GMC Subaru

Committee volunteers are welcome. The Industrial Product Development, Marketing and Membership Committees are forming. Email Lisa Bennett at lbennett@rcedc.com or call the office at 336.626.2233 if you are interested in serving on an EDC Committee this year.

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