



RANDOLPH COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

A publication of the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation

The Heart of North Carolina's Economic Future

March 2014

Greensboro-High Point MSA Achieves #4 in National Ranking

Top ten, seven years in a row

The Randolph County EDC and our three neighboring economic development partners announced that the Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is ranked #4 in the nation for economic development projects in 2013, up from last year's #6 ranking. This is the seventh year in a row that the MSA, composed of Guilford, **Randolph**, and Rockingham counties, has earned a Top 10 national ranking from Site Selection magazine for attracting new industry among similar-sized areas (metros with populations of 200,000 – 1 million).

Site Selection magazine is a leading national publication catering to executives responsible for site selection and facility planning decisions around the world. Site Selection's ranking was based upon the number of corporate real estate projects of \$1 million or greater announced in the MSA area in 2013.

Bonnie Renfro, President of the Randolph County EDC, said, "We have much to be proud of in our area, and this ranking reflects the strong regional push to increase our tax base and create new job opportunities. We have a very good educational system, affordable cost of living, and an outstanding quality of life; these things create a strong business climate."

The Right Location, Right in the Heart of North Carolina

The EDC has commissioned a new video, highlighting "What's Right with Randolph County?" The film will debut on the EDC website, Face Book page and You Tube channel later this Spring. Featuring our community's unique assets of place, people, and products, the initial video will introduce Randolph County to both internal and external audiences. Future films will feature our workforce, companies, and sites. Randolph County has the right combination of location, business friendly communities, outstanding transportation network, and rich quality of life for businesses and people and this project will showcase what we have to offer.

The project is led by the EDC Marketing Committee, chaired by Eddie Burks, Owner of The Burks Agency. Other committee members include Steve Foley, First Bank in Archdale, Kim Price, owner of Safe-T-Works in Asheboro, Talmadge Baker, Asheboro City Councilman, and EDC staff members. w2 Entertainment will produce the films.

Stay tuned for more information on the debut. Visit our Face Book page and follow us on Twitter @Randolph_EDC.

New Signage Welcomes Visitors



Randolph County's Historic Courthouse got a new look last month with the installation of a granite marker in front of the building. The new sign is consistent with the architectural and historic look of the courthouse, built in 1909 and once housing all of the county's functions. The sign was installed during one of the brief lulls in winter weather and adds to the recognition of the EDC, Tourism Development Authority, and County meeting room for our visitors. Come and visit our office for a tour of this beautifully renovated facility.

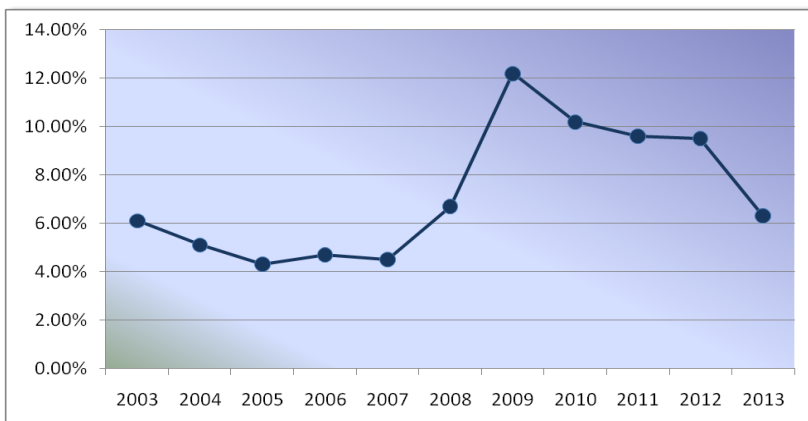
Business News & Announcements

Brookline Furniture LLC has purchased a 102,000 square foot industrial facility in Archdale Industrial Park to relocate and consolidate its contract furniture manufacturing operation. Brookline will relocate from High Point, transferring 72 jobs and has committed to 11 new jobs over the next 18 months. The company will invest \$2 million to purchase, renovate and equip the facility to accommodate strong growth in product demand.

Wells Hosiery & Apparel is a 40 year old success story, a leading US based manufacturer of hosiery, seamless-body wear and cut and sew apparel headquartered in Asheboro. Leg Resource Inc has signed an exclusive multiyear manufacturing and service contract with Wells Hosiery to produce and distribute its fashion hosiery and apparel. The two companies produce legwear and apparel for some of the world's most recognizable brands.

Kevin Franklin, Existing Business & Industry Coordinator, received the 2014 James E. Holshouser Economic Development Scholarship from the NC Economic Developers Association. The scholarship provides \$1,000 per year for three years toward tuition and costs to attend the Economic Development Institute, recognized as the premiere economic development program in the nation. The scholarship honors former Governor Holshouser, a strong supporter of economic development throughout his public and private service to our state.

Unemployment has dropped significantly in Randolph County over the last 12 months. The latest rate (released March 21) is 6.6%, down from a high of over 12% in 2009, but up from 6.3% last month. The EDC's internal tracking data for



2013 shows that growth in the industrial sector increased 3.2% over 2012 in the number of jobs with 509 more employees and a 3.1% increase in the average private county wage. This is a very encouraging trend to see consistent job and income growth. But we need more job growth for the unemployed, underemployed, and emerging workforce. Randolph Community College is working to close the training gap and the EDC is working on new projects and with existing industries to support new job creation.

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 the new members of the Randolph County Partnership.

AIM Integrated Solutions – Subsidiary of Village Printing that provides cross channel marketing services.

Datamark Graphics, Inc. – Flexographic printer of commercial labels, tags and packaging.

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

Diamond

Technimark

Platinum

Energizer Battery

Gold

Ace/Avant Concrete

Construction, Inc.

Arrow International

BB&T

Braxton Culler

Samet Corporation

Silver

Acme McCrary

Dart Container Corp.

ECS Carolinas, LLP

Oliver Rubber Company, LLC

The Timken Company

Bronze

Asheboro City Schools

Asheboro Nissan, Inc.

Bank of the Carolinas

Chief Express

Elastic Therapy, Inc./DJO Global

Euliss Propane Co.

Executive Hotels, Inc./Fairfield Inn & Suites

Four Seasons Furniture

Gavin & Cox

JL Furnishings, East LLC

Liberty Advisors

Meredith Transport

Metals, USA

NC Zoological Society

Personalized Products & Promotions

Ready Telecom/Community Web

Randolph Packing Co., Inc.

Piedmont Natural Gas Company

Summey Engineering Associates, PLLC

Sunbelt Business Brokers

Tower Components, Inc.

318 people like our page

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