

# Annual Report

July 2025 – June 2026



Ross Stores Distribution Center



Randolph County, NC  
Economic Development  
Corporation



*Expanding Opportunities in the Heart of North Carolina*

**FY26**

[RCEDC.com](http://RCEDC.com)



# A Message From Our Chair - Fred Smith

Hello everyone,

I am pleased to report that the regional focus on development in Randolph County remains strong and continues to generate meaningful momentum for our communities.

We are now witnessing the completion, or near completion, of several transformational projects, including Ross and Toyota Battery Manufacturing North Carolina. These investments represent a large part of nearly \$14 billion in capital investment and the creation of approximately 5,000 new jobs in Randolph County. The impact of this growth is already beginning to shape our local economy and improve the quality of life across our communities. More importantly, it represents a sustainable and genuine promise for a bright future. We continue to welcome new residents, investors, community partners, and allied organizations who recognize the tremendous opportunities available in Randolph County.

At the same time, we remain deeply grateful for the many legacy companies that have sustained our economy for generations. Their continued success is critically important to our future. For this reason, the Randolph County Economic Development Corporation remains committed not only to attracting new investment, but also to supporting and retaining the businesses that have long called Randolph County home.

As our county grows, the demands on community facilities, infrastructure, schools, transportation systems, and housing continue to evolve. Our municipalities, county and state governments, elected officials, and public employees are working diligently to manage the opportunities and challenges that accompany this growth. These partnerships are invaluable to economic development. Their leadership, dedication, and collaborative spirit help create pathways that enable continued investment and sustainable progress throughout our communities. We are sincerely thankful for their commitment to building a stronger Randolph County.

The Randolph County Economic Development Corporation is now entering the fourth year of our five-year strategic plan. Thanks to the vision, foresight, and leadership of our community partners, state leadership, and the RCEDC team, we have already achieved tremendous success in both investment attraction and job creation. Looking ahead, the availability of client-ready and near-ready sites will be essential to maintaining future growth opportunities. Developing these sites requires a unified vision among stakeholders, strategic capital investment, efficient planning, strong partnerships, and time.

I remain confident that Randolph County possesses all the ingredients necessary to continue growing in the right way — through healthy, balanced, and sustainable development that preserves the qualities that make our county strong, prosperous, resilient, and an exceptional place to live and work.

I am especially appreciative of the extraordinary talent and professionalism of the RCEDC staff. In addition, the knowledge, experience, and leadership represented on our Executive Committee and Board are truly exceptional. It has been both an honor and a humbling experience to serve alongside such dedicated professionals during my time as Board Chair. I remain incredibly proud of the work they continue to do on behalf of our community.

Respectfully,

Fred Smith  
Board Chair

# 2025-26 Highlights from RCEDC President Kevin Franklin

This past year has been one of internal transition and intentional long-term planning. As we strengthened our internal capacity and began preparing for the next chapter of our work, we remained focused on positioning our community for sustainable growth and long-term opportunity.

A major milestone of the year was the retirement of Lisa Bennett, our Marketing & Research Manager, who concluded 24 years of service with us on May 29. The longest-tenured employee in RCEDC history, Lisa joined our organization in 2002, and her role expanded over time from a focus on data and research to include marketing, bookkeeping, and office management. Beyond her many contributions, her warmth, humor, and institutional knowledge were often the glue that held our office together. We are grateful for her extraordinary service and wish her the very best in retirement.



**Lisa Bennett**

Following Lisa's retirement, we were pleased to welcome Malynda Shumaker to RCEDC. A long-time Asheboro resident, Malynda gained relevant experience and a strong understanding of the county's industrial landscape in her previous role at Asheboro Recycling Center. In her new role, Malynda will support internal operations, financial processes, and organizational initiatives that will enhance service delivery to existing and prospective industries as well as RCEDC investors.

With an eye toward the future, we launched two key planning efforts this year. In January, we engaged Greensboro-based Ricochet Growth Partners to develop a strategic marketing plan that will sharpen our message and develop effective, cost-efficient marketing that supports our ongoing business recruitment and retention efforts. In May, Kassie Richardson, a UNCG PhD candidate and North Carolina Economic Development Association Foundation fellow, began work on our next comprehensive strategic plan, gathering and synthesizing input from business and community leaders and other stakeholders. Her work will build on our current five-year plan and help keep us focused on clear priorities and measurable results.

Board Chair Fred Smith also formed a new Investor Relations Committee, led by Baxter Hammer of The Timken Company, to strengthen stakeholder engagement and identify opportunities for added value.

In business development, we announced two projects – Environmental Air Systems and Earth Retention Industries – demonstrating continued momentum. We also celebrated a grand opening and ribbon cutting at Gillespie Precast – an important milestone and another sign of the progress taking place in our community.

Thank you to our investors, partners, elected officials, and staff for your continued support. Your commitment makes this work possible, and we look forward to building on this progress in the year ahead.

## Our Impact 2025-2026



**Total New Jobs**  
**321**



**Investment**  
**\$22,000,000**



**Grants Awarded**  
**3**



**Site & Building Requests/ Responded to**  
**125/30**



**Marketing Trips**  
**6**



**Website Page Views**  
**54,000**



**Unique Industry Visits**  
**101**

# Existing Industry Support

**Supporting established industry remains our top priority**, anchored by a robust visitation program. Through ongoing, confidential engagement with industry leaders, we gather critical insights on workforce trends, supply chain needs, growth opportunities, operational challenges, and leadership transitions. These relationships enable us to connect businesses with the resources and support they need to thrive. This year, our Existing Industry Director, David Hursey, exceeded the annual goal of 100 industry visits.

## **Other Key Initiatives & Engagement included:**

### **- Industry Appreciation Month (October)**

- Hosted industry tours at Energizer and Tower Components, Inc.
- Conducted the annual Forklift Rodeo, with Jon Henry (Sedia Systems) taking top honors
- Celebrated business longevity at the Milestone Appreciation Luncheon, recognizing companies in five-year increments; United Brass was honored for 115 years of continuous operation in Randolph County



**Forklift Rodeo**



**Milestone Appreciation Luncheon**

### **- Workforce & Industry Collaboration**

- Completed an annual wage and benefits survey to benchmark regional competitiveness
- Convened an Industry Advisory Committee (in partnership with Randolph Community College) every six weeks to identify workforce, training, and operational needs
- Partnered with RCC to establish an ad hoc Workforce Development Committee

### **- Strategic Partnerships & Programs**

- Launched a rail-served industry market research study with the North Carolina Railroad Company to improve industrial efficiency
- Co-hosted an Economic Outlook event with the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce
- Facilitated an Entrepreneurial Operating System (EOS) session for local manufacturing owners and operators

# Marketing

## The RCEDC Team Expands Randolph County's Reach Through National and International Engagement

The RCEDC team has been on the road and in the air, actively promoting Randolph County as a premier place to do business and succeed. Over the past year, staff represented the county at key industry events across the country and abroad, including IAMC conferences in Indiana and Arkansas, the Southeast US (SEUS) Japan conference in Tokyo, the International Battery Seminar in Florida, the Carolina Core site consultant visit in Greenville, SC, and the Area Development Consultant Forum in Charlotte. These strategic engagements ensure Randolph County's message is heard by site selection consultants, decision makers, investors, and industry leaders. Thanks to the dedication of our team, our community continues to gain visibility and momentum in a competitive economic development landscape.



**RCEDC's Kevin Franklin in Tokyo with Toyota North America President and CEO Ted Ogawa, NC Governor Josh Stein, Toyota Battery Manufacturing NC President Don Stewart, and other NC officials**



**RCEDC's Crystal Gettys and other NC allies at the International Battery Seminar in Orlando**

## Showcasing Our Community: Workforce Videos Generate 600,000 FB Views and Growing Engagement

This year RCEDC launched a second round of workforce attraction videos, this time featuring 15 to 30-second clips highlighting local manufacturing and quality of life. The campaign targeted both the manufacturing workforce and military audiences. To date, the videos have generated more than 600,000 Facebook views and sparked strong community engagement in the comments. This effort has also driven a measurable increase in website traffic and contributed to a 2.5% growth in Facebook followers. Our audience demographics show strong alignment with our workforce targets – ages 25-34 (9%), 35-44 (19.3%), 45-54 (22.9%), and 55-64 (24%) – meaning we are successfully reaching and engaging the core working age population.

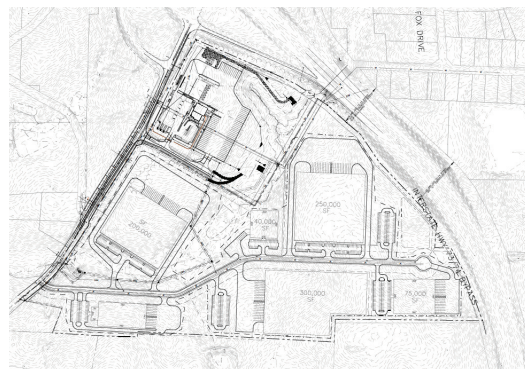
# Product Development

**Product development is essential to Randolph County and RCEDC** because available, market-ready buildings and sites allow the organization to respond quickly to business prospects, compete effectively, and secure new investment and job creation. Communities that aren't ready result in lost opportunities due to increasing uncertainty, higher costs, and a competitive disadvantage as companies choose communities that can meet their timelines. To ensure that we are ready, RCEDC is actively working with property owners and developers to identify and prepare sites for future development.

Pictured below are two sites that are actively being prepared for development.



**311 S. Site**



**New Hope Church Rd Site**

- The 311 S. site is a 67-acre rail-served property located at I-74 and US Hwy 311 across from the new Ross distribution center.
- The New Hope Church Road site is a ~60-acre industrial property conveniently located at the interchange of I-73/74 and New Hope Church Rd south of Asheboro.

# Announcements, Updates, & Celebrations



In November, **Environmental Air Systems (EAS)** announced a 300-job, \$20 million investment in Asheboro, just down the road from their High Point headquarters. EAS is a leading volumetric modular manufacturer of HVAC infrastructure, and this expansion will support key markets including the pharmaceutical, data, and semiconductor sectors. Driven by continued growth and increasing customer demand, EAS identified Asheboro as the ideal location due to its workforce availability, financial viability, and strategic speed-to-market advantages.



In December, Georgia-based **Earth Retention Industries** announced the company's first manufacturing operation in Ramseur, selecting a vacant former textile facility. Earth Retention Industries is committed to creating 21 new jobs and investing over \$2 million in the community. The company will support customers with the production of a geo-textile used in civil construction applications to increase soil stability, provide erosion control, or aid in drainage.



Construction on the massive **Ross Dress for Less** distribution center is nearly complete following the company's 2024 announcement. When fully operational, the massive 1.7 million square-foot facility in Randleman will employ 852 workers, making it one of the largest warehousing and distribution operations in the Triad region.



In November, **Toyota Battery Manufacturing North Carolina** hosted an official start-of-production ceremony attended by Toyota leadership and TBMNC team members along with federal, state, and local dignitaries and community partners. Work is well under way at the planned \$13.9 billion facility in Liberty with 3,000 employees on site and batteries shipping as of June, 2025. At the event, Toyota also announced a \$2.7 million Driving Possibilities grant to support STEM learning in the Asheboro City and Guilford County School systems.



In May, **Gillespie Precast** hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting event for its newest operation. A fifth-generation Maryland-based company, Gillespie selected Asheboro a year ago to better serve existing clients and to grow its customer base in the Southeast. Production is now underway with Gillespie manufacturing and shipping pre-cast concrete products such as box culverts, utility vaults, and manholes.



# Randolph Rises Investors 2025-2026

## Platinum

Joseph M. Bryan Foundation  
Randolph Electric Membership Corp.

## Diamond

Energizer  
Truist

## Gold

Ace/Avant Concrete Construction Co., Inc.  
Bob & Tiffany Crumley, 358 Real Estate  
Duke Energy  
Jowat Corporation  
Pallet Express Inc.  
Piedmont Natural Gas  
Pinnacle Financial Partners  
RE/MAX Central Realty  
Samet Corporation  
Sapona Plastics, LLC  
Toyota Battery Manufacturing North Carolina

## Silver

Bobbitt Construction  
East Coast Lumber  
Environmental Air Systems LLC  
First Bank  
Holiday Tours, Inc\*  
J.P. Thomas & Co., Inc.  
J L Darr & Son, Inc.  
Linear Solutions Inc.  
LS3P\*  
Myrick Construction  
North Carolina Railroad Company  
Randolph Community College  
Schwarz Properties  
Sedia Systems, Inc.  
StarPet/Indorama Ventures  
Summey Engineering Associates, PLLC  
Technimark  
Uwharrie Builders

## Bronze

Advisors Financial Center, LLP  
Apprenticeship Randolph  
Asheboro City Schools  
Asheboro Fire & Security  
Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce  
AVS Catering, Inc.  
Bank OZK  
Brubaker & Associates, Inc.  
Burge Flower Shop  
Carolina Bronze Sculpture  
Carolina Handling, LLC\*  
Chick-fil-A  
Commonwealth Hosiery Mills, Inc.  
Cone Health  
Costa Sanders  
C. T. Wilson Construction\*  
D & D Enterprises  
Datamark Graphics, Inc.  
Davis-Martin-Powell  
Deep River Fabricators  
Dewberry\*  
DS Smith Packaging Asheboro  
Dynamic Quest  
ECS Southeast, LLC  
Engineered Steel Products, LLC  
Euliss Propane Company  
Express Employment Professionals  
Fibertex Personal Care Corporation  
Fidelity Bank  
Fourth Elm Construction  
Gavin & Cox  
General Insulation Co., Inc.  
Graham Personnel Services, Inc.  
Harpley's LLC  
Howard Hanna Allen Tate Real Estate  
J H Batten, Inc.  
Kirkland, Inc.  
Lancaster Customworks  
Landmark Builders  
Liberty Trailers  
LUMOS  
Manhattan American Terrazzo Strip Co.

McKenzie Properties & Investments  
Movement Bank  
NC Zoological Park & Society  
New Atlantic  
PEMMCO Manufacturing  
Phoenix Precision Machining  
Post Consumer Brands  
Ralph's Frame Shop  
Randolph Communications  
Randolph County Tourism Dev. Authority/  
Heart of NC Visitors Bureau  
Randolph Land Development  
Ready Telecom  
Reworld  
Rheem Sales Company  
Ridge Funeral Home & Cremation Service, LLC  
RubberMill, Inc.  
S&ME, Inc.  
Sanford Contractors, Inc.  
Shelco, Inc.  
Smith Leonard Accountants & Consultants\*  
STV, Inc.\*  
Survey Carolina  
T & L Construction Company, Inc.  
The Timken Company  
The Wooten Company  
Tower Components, Inc.  
Toyota Tsusho America, Inc.  
TRC Staffing  
TREBIC\*  
Triad Design Group  
Trollinger Construction  
Trotters Sewing Company  
Trucordia  
United Brass Works  
Village Printing  
Waste Management  
Wayne Thomas Chevrolet

## Advocate

Four Saints Brewing Company  
Manor House Creative, Inc.  
Randolph County School System

\*Denotes new members  
in 2025-2026

# EDC Board of Directors 2025-2026

**Fred Smith**, Chair  
Randolph Electric Membership Corp.

**Daniel Morris**, Vice Chair  
Movement Bank

**David Ramsey**, Secretary/Treasurer  
Landmark Builders

**Darrell Frye**, Member at Large  
Chairman, Randolph County Board of Commissioners

**Bob Crumley**, Past Chair  
358 Real Estate

**Dr. Shah Ardalan**  
Randolph Community College

**Gary Betts**  
Mayor, City of Randleman

**Terry Caviness**  
T & L Construction Company

**Lewis Dorsett**  
Mayor, City of Archdale

**Frank Edmondson**  
Schwarz Properties

**Jamie Halstead**  
Toyota Battery Manufacturing

**Baxter Hammer**  
The Timken Company

**Zeb Holden**  
Randolph County Manager

**Art Martinez**  
Trucordia

**Shannon Morrow**  
Rheem

**Karen Scotton**  
Mayor, Town of Staley

**Hampton Spivey**  
Mayor, Town of Ramseur

**Joey Trogdon**  
Mayor, City of Asheboro

**Filmore York**  
Mayor, Town of Liberty

## Local Government Partners

Randolph County  
City of Archdale  
City of Asheboro  
Town of Franklinville  
Town of Liberty  
Town of Ramseur  
City of Randleman  
Town of Seagrove  
Town of Staley  
City of Trinity

Visit us at [RCEDC.com](https://www.rcedc.com) for more info and follow us on social media  
[Facebook.com/RandolphEDC](https://www.facebook.com/RandolphEDC)  
[Linkedin.com/company/randolph-county-nc-edc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/randolph-county-nc-edc)



## EDC Staff

**Kevin Franklin**, President  
[kfranklin@rcedc.com](mailto:kfranklin@rcedc.com)

**Lisa Bennett**, Manager, Marketing & Research (retired)

**Crystal Gettys**, Business Recruitment Director  
[cgettys@rcedc.com](mailto:cgettys@rcedc.com)

**David Hursey**, Existing Industry Director  
[dhursey@rcedc.com](mailto:dhursey@rcedc.com)

**Malynda Shumaker**, Office Administrator  
[mshumaker@rcedc.com](mailto:mshumaker@rcedc.com)



*Expanding Opportunities in the Heart of North Carolina*

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