

THE NORTHEAST VISION

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Message from the President

North Carolina's Northeast Commission previously emphasized job creation and investment, but now we encompass a broader focus that revolves around diversifying our economy and creating capacity for new jobs.

As the economic development commission for the northeast, we see opportunities in the region that require a long-term commitment; the result will be a "new economy" for our sixteen-county region.

Our most important goal is to diversify the economy and create high-impact jobs and investment that will improve the unique quality of life in North Carolina's North-

east Region. While some strategies will bring immediate results within short time frames, our strategy related to targeted business clusters and tourism takes development over a period of years. Our focus is to develop and market well-respected industry niches that can compete globally and bring a sustainable future to the citizens of northeastern North Carolina.

North Carolina's Northeast Commission has implemented an aggressive marketing plan that incorporates traditional business recruitment and development activities with new and innovative strategies related to the following targeted busi-

ness cluster focuses:

Automotive, Aviation, Biotechnology, Marine, Inner Banks Development, Southeastern Virginia, and tourism.

In future newsletters we will be highlighting progress in each of these clusters.

- Vann Rogerson,
President/CEO



NEED explores the
Ocracoke Seafood Industry

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Recent Press Releases:

- **Spec Building Program** geared to assist counties' industrial recruitment—July 2007
- **GVA Advantis** opens industrial recruitment office—July 2007
- **Hub & Spoke** program to help boost tourism revenue—Aug 2007
- NCNE Tourism officers blitz **AAA Travel Offices** in Virginia—Aug 2007
- NCNE looking to partner with **SE Virginia** for expansion opportunities—Sept 2007
- Commission forms alliance to help farmers and pursue additional **biotech companies**—Sept 2007
- **Microcell** manufacturer next-generation hydrogen fuel cell opens—Oct 2007
- **NCCAR and NCNE** participate in North American Automotive Testing Expo—Oct 2007

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for complete articles

Biotech Initiative Underway

A regional grant from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center along with funds from the Northeast Commission has enabled the region to look at the development of the biotech industry in the Northeast Region from a scientific and economic perspective.

RTI, a Raleigh based world renowned independent research organization with a distinguished history in scientific research and technology development, is studying the region and will

make recommendations for biotech development specific to North Carolina's Northeast. RTI will assess the assets of the region and match the strengths of North Carolina's Northeast to projects in the industry.

"We expect that the RTI study will confirm the viability of biotech development in the region. The farming community is excited about this opportunity that the Northeast Commission initiative offers," said Joe Landino, a mem-

ber of the Blackland Farm Managers Association.

The group is also working to develop a plan for new technologies to be researched and to determine how to better link these resources together to collectively offer an enticing business venture to prospective bio companies. Dr. Ron Heiniger oversees NCSU's agricultural research and support operating at the Vernon James Research Center in Roper and is a strong proponent of the regional initiative.



NEED Group Travels to Ocracoke



The Northeast Economic Developers (NEED) of our 16-county region met in Ocracoke during October to work on joint projects and to build alliances.

The group toured Ocracoke Seafood, a fish house that works in conjunction with local fishermen to maintain Ocracoke's fishing industry. The group spent time learning about the industry and what can be done to help it survive and thrive in our region.

Microcell Brings 100 Jobs



On October 22nd, Martin County celebrated the official announcement of Microcell's 80,000 square foot fuel cell production facility opening. The company's headquarters, including research & development, will remain in the Research Triangle Area.

Located in Robersonville, the facility, equipped with clean room production areas, will focus on manufacturing the company's automotive and distributed generation fuel cells to meet product orders from its strategic partners and other customers.

"Our trained workforce often leaves the area for higher paid technical jobs, but this is an opportunity in our backyard. It's an opportunity to allow our most well-trained people to remain in Northeastern North Carolina," said Gene Rogers, Chair of the North Carolina's Northeast Commission.

"Our partnership with the Committee of 1000 is vital to our ability to market the region to prospective businesses."

***- Vann Rogerson,
President/CEO of the
Commission***

Committee of 1000 Tours USCG Base

The Committee of 1000 held their recent quarterly meeting at the US Coast Guard base in Elizabeth City. Members were introduced to the work of the Coast Guard and saw first hand the impact of this base to our region.

The group toured the aircraft hangers, and entered the cockpit of the C130, the plane used by the Coast Guard for ice recognition and rescue missions.

The Committee of 1000 members were shown the skill levels available at the base and were introduced to the various services offered by the base.

North Carolina's Northeast Committee of 1000, Inc. is made up of business and community leaders that work collaboratively with the North Carolina's Northeast Commission to market the northeast region as a location for new and expanding business and tourism development.

Members pay annual membership dues and commit to improving economic conditions in northeastern North Carolina.

The Committee of 1000 also has the ability to acquire, develop and sell industrial sites in the region and install utilities and other infrastructure needed to support economic development in the region.



Hub & Spoke Route to Attract Visitors

The Northeast Tourism Group (NET) chaired by Nancy Nicholls, is currently working on proposed itineraries, marketing materials, and familiar-

ization tours for motor coach and group tour operators. This marketing initiative will bring tour groups to the hubs of Roanoke Rapids, Washing-

ton, Elizabeth City, and Manteo with day trips planned to historic sites, nature trails, recreation and entertainment areas within an hour's drive.

Tom Richter retired from the NC Dept of Commerce, Division of Community Assistance in 2003, after 33 years as a Community Planner/Chief Planner of the Washington NC Field Office. He actually got a masters degree in the very field he ended up working in.... from New York University in 1967. Then it was off to the US Army for an all expense paid tour of Viet Nam in '68-'69 where his Combat Engineer Battalion was building the Viet Nam version of an Interstate (QL-1)....which looked just like the two lane parts of US-17.

Tom teaches an occasional course in Regional Planning at ECU. He does some consulting work in planning and is working 1/3 time now for the ECU Regional Development

Institute. This work involves developing Strategic Economic Development Plans, with NC Rural Center support, in Plymouth, Swan Quarter, Columbia, and Grifton.

Mostly, Tom says, he "works with non-profits that don't pay nothin'." He is a Board member on the Beaufort County EDC, the President of the Beaufort County Committee of 100, a Board member of the Partnership of the Sounds, and an advisor to the Board of Downtown Washington on the Waterfront. As of last month Speaker Hackney appointed Tom to the NC Northeast Commission Board. He is the Mayor of the Town of Washington Park, and has been for 30 years.

In his spare time he plays golf, sails boats, and plays competitive Senior and SuperSenior League tennis. He is married to Doreen, and has been for 42 years. She is still working as the Beaufort County Community College Planner; Tom says he is proud of her for that. Doreen is a ten year member of the NC DOT Aeronautics Council, which functions like the DOT "Big Board," handling aviation related policy and assets. Tom has two grown children, both gainfully employed, neither living at home!! Jay works for SouthTech in New Bern which was just recruited to the new Beaufort County Industrial Park in Chocowinity. Lyndsay works in the City of Charlotte DOT as the assistant administrator of their multi-million dollar Public Art Program.



Tom Richter joined the commission board in September 2007.

"Having grown up in Rocky Mount, NC, I feel that serving on the Commission Board is a way to give something back to an area that has been home to me for over 50 years. I look forward to working with the North Carolina's Northeast Commission Board, President, and staff to assure we give the people of the Northeast Region every opportunity to prosper."

- Eddie Lynch

Eddie Lynch Joins Board

Eddie Lynch began his sales and marketing career as a Directory Salesman for Carolina Telephone in 1977. He then moved to a Senior Account Representative position with Directories America and later became a Manager for Sprint Publishing and Advertising. Since 1996, he has worked with the Embarq Corporate Division as a Public Affairs Manager where he is responsible for public rela-

tions in seven counties in North Carolina. His service area includes Dare, Currituck, Tyrrell, Hyde, Washington, Bertie, and Martin Counties.

Since 1994, Eddie has worked directly with local, state, and national political figures, and he lobbies regularly on state and national levels for Embarq. In addition to serving on The North Carolina's Northeast

Commission board and chairing the Commission's Committee of 1000, Eddie serves on other community boards including the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island Advisory Board.

Eddie lives in Kilmarlic, NC with his wife, Barbara, and their two Shih Tzu's. They have two daughters, one son, and two grandsons.



Eddie Lynch joined the commission board in September 2007.

New Communications Director

Our newest member of the North Carolina's Northeast Commission is Anita Johnson, who joined our team in September 2007. After working for the past few years in Human Resources for manufacturing companies, she will now serve as Communications Director for the North Carolina's Northeast Commission.



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We're on the web!

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The North Carolina's Northeast Commission is dedicated to increasing the standard of living for citizens in its 16-county region through tourism, industrial, and business development. Representing: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington.



Dr. Ron Heiniger of the Vernon James Research Station performing field tests

University Collaboration

North Carolina's Northeast Commission and our local universities are collaborating to bring economic enhancements to the Northeast Region.

In addition to hosting the Regional Economic Development Summit in September 2007, Elizabeth City State University is collecting regional demographic data and economic indices to assist the commission in assessing current strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in the region. ECSU's unique placement near Hampton Roads, VA enables them to study the impact of the Hampton Roads economy on North Carolina's Northeast region.

In an ongoing collaboration, East Carolina University is also working with the commis-

sion to develop additional demographic and economic metrics that can be used to report growth in the region and the capacity for new jobs. ECU and ECSU are also involved in working jointly with the commission to develop the biotechnology cluster.

By supporting the Vernon James Research Station in Washington County and providing extension agents throughout the region, North Carolina State University affords the commission convenient access to research and academic expertise in many fields including plant-made biotechnology and economic development. NCSU professors and staff work together with the commission to expand the biotechnology niche and to find additional compa-

nies and resources within Biotechnology.

The commission's collaboration with the universities is vital to the future expansion of the marketing clusters.

Industry Cluster Trade Shows attended:

- **Aviation Trade Show** in Atlanta—Ray White, Regional Marketing Director & Peter Bishop, Currituck Co
- **Auto Testing Expo** in Detroit Ray White NCNE & Bill Early, Hertford Co
- **Ft. Lauderdale Boat Show**—Steve Biggs, Bertie Co & Bob Peele, Dare Co