



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Release Date: February 15, 2010

**Contact:**

Anita Johnson

Phone: (252) 482-4333

**North Carolina's  
Northeast Commission**

119 West Water Street

Edenton, North Carolina 27932

### **Future Innovations is Main Topic at the NC's Northeast State of the Region Event**

**Edenton** – North Carolina's Northeast Commission is announcing a State of the Region event to be held at the Bob Martin Agricultural Center in Williamston on Friday, February 26, 2010 from 8:30AM-1:30PM. The event will highlight statewide experts who will discuss the future of the economy in North Carolina's Northeast Region.

Representing the Governor's office, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Dale Carroll is scheduled to speak at the regional event and bring a statewide perspective to economic development and job creation. The Deputy Secretary plans to share information regarding recent policies that are intended to increase jobs and investment within the state. Al Delia, also representing the Governor's office, will speak on behalf of the Governor's Innovation Council. This group is working to strengthen companies by recognizing and supporting statewide innovations that can create jobs and reduce the impact of an economic downturn.

Bill Ray Hall of the NC Rural Economic Development Center will discuss economic innovations from a rural perspective. From their website, "The mission of the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center is to develop, promote, and implement sound economic strategies to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. Created in 1987, the Rural Center operates a multi-faceted program that includes conducting research into rural issues; advocating for policy and program innovations; and building the productive capacity of rural leaders, entrepreneurs and community organizations."

Dr. George Jackson of Elizabeth City State University will provide a demographic and statistical analysis of some of the economic possibilities for the region. Dr. Jackson's department in the Walter B. Davis School of Business and Economics publishes the "Albemarle Business Report," a publication dedicated to reporting on the economic indices of the ECSU service area. Secretary of Cultural Resources, Linda Carlisle, will speak about heritage tourism and the tourism possibilities for the state.

E. Norris Tolson, President/CEO of the NC Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park will discuss the future of agricultural biotechnology within the region to include an overall vision of the impact of biotechnology innovations within the state. Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission will review the impact of all regional clusters and will provide an overview of the work currently underway to bring economic innovation and improvement to North Carolina's Northeast

Region. Also attending the event are NC Legislators, staff from our regional US Congressional offices, and the Secretary of the NC Department of Commerce.

The State of the Region event is open to the public, but reservations are required. Registration is \$20. Visit [www.ncnortheast.com](http://www.ncnortheast.com) for the registration form or email [info@ncnortheast.com](mailto:info@ncnortheast.com).

**About North Carolina's Northeast Commission:**

North Carolina's Northeast Commission is dedicated to increasing the standard of living for citizens in its sixteen-county region through tourism, industrial, and business development. The 16 counties that comprise the regional Commission are: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. For more information about the North Carolina's Northeast Commission, contact us at [www.ncnortheast.com](http://www.ncnortheast.com).



Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission

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