



MEDIA RELEASE

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**North Carolina's
Northeast Commission**

119 West Water Street

Edenton, North Carolina 27932

State of the Region Event in North Carolina's Northeast

Edenton – North Carolina's Northeast Commission held the first State of the Region event at the Bob Martin Agricultural Center in Williamston on Friday, February 20, 2009. The event showcased speakers from various segments of the economy and brought to light some of the exciting projects that are in process for the northeastern region of North Carolina. The event brought together 300 guests from throughout the state.

“Even though fewer companies are relocating or expanding right now, we are positioning the region for an economic comeback by building our industry niches, and establishing collaborations with university researchers, educators, economic developers, and private companies, so we can build strong niches, diversify our economy, and expand the capacity for good-paying jobs,” stated Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission.

Dr. Willie Gilchrist, Chancellor of Elizabeth City State University and Dr. Scott Bradshaw presented statistics for the region and showed the opportunities for growth within the population. The presentation can be found on the Northeast Commission website at www.ncnortheast.com.

The NC Secretary of Commerce, J. Keith Crisco, addressed rural economic development from a statewide perspective and talked about the strengths of the region and the potential for growth.

Bill Williams, Director of Aviation for NC Department of Transportation, presented ideas for the future of aviation business in North Carolina. Simon Cobb, COO of the North Carolina Center for Automotive Research (NCCAR), showed aerial photos of the construction work being done at the NCCAR site in Northampton County and talked about the international market studies that all point to the need for a facility like NCCAR. (www.nccar.us)

E. Norris Tolson, President/CEO of the NC Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park spoke during lunch and emphasized the future of agricultural biotechnology within the region. Agriculture is a strong asset within the region, and value-added crops can bring additional income and jobs to the region. Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission summarized the impact of all regional clusters including marine industry, aviation, automotive, agricultural biotechnology and tourism, with a special emphasis on Hub and Spoke group tour marketing.

Table decorations were provided by Northeast Tourism (NET). The centerpieces were samples of the many tourism and historic sites available throughout the region and reminded participants of the rich heritage and cultural resources that are available in the region within a short drive.

Presentations from the event can be found by visiting www.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.

Photo credits, Peggy Rogerson



NCDOT Director of Aviation
Bill Williams



ECSU Chancellor
Dr. Willie Gilchrist



NC Biotechnology Center
President/CEO
E. Norris Tolson



NC Secretary of Commerce
J. Keith Crisco



ECSU
Dr. Scott Bradshaw



NCCAR COO
Simon Cobb

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