



MEDIA RELEASE

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**North Carolina's
Northeast Commission**

119 West Water Street

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State of the Region Event in North Carolina's Northeast

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 20, 2009 from 9:30AM-1:00PM. The event will highlight statewide experts who will discuss the future of the economy in North Carolina's Northeast Region.

“During these uncertain economic times, we at the Northeast Commission decided that the best support we can give to employers and employees is to provide as much information as possible about the future of the region's economy,” states Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission. “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,” continued Rogerson.

Featured speakers at the State of the Region event include the NC Secretary of Commerce, J. Keith Crisco, who will address rural economic development from a statewide perspective, and Elizabeth City State University Chancellor, Dr. Willie Gilchrist, who will present a demographic overview of the region. Don Graunstadt, CEO of Lotus Engineering, and Bill Williams, Director of Aviation for NC Department of Transportation, will present plans within the region to enhance the automotive and aviation industries and to develop the global presence of both.

E. Norris Tolson, President/CEO of the NC Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park will speak during lunch and will discuss the future of agricultural biotechnology within the region. Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission will review the impact of all regional clusters including marine industry and tourism, with a special emphasis on Hub and Spoke group tour marketing.

The State of the Region event is open to the public, but reservations are required. Registration is \$10. Visit www.ncnortheast.com for the registration form or email 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.



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

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