

sync[®] NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



Manufacturer Selects Guilford County for New Facility, Creating 201 New Jobs

Amada North America, a manufacturer of precision sheet metal fabricating equipment, will develop a new product line in Guilford County creating 201 new jobs over the next five years, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced yesterday (May 7). Amada will invest \$87 million in High Point.

"Manufacturers choose North Carolina because of our existing skilled workforce and our commitment to training the workforce they'll need in the future," said **Governor Cooper**. "I join Guilford County and High Point communities in welcoming Amada's new facility and the opportunities it will bring."

Amada manufactures, sells and services a line of precision sheet metal fabricating equipment, including punch presses, lasers, press brakes, and flexible manufacturing systems, software and tooling. The company plans to purchase enough land to allow for a second facility at the same site in the future. Amada was established in Seattle, Washington in 1971 and has been located in California since 1973. Buena Park, California serves as the company's headquarters.

"Amada is excited to join the High Point, Guilford County business community" said **Yukihiro Fukui CEO at Amada North America Inc.** "We wish to thank the State of North Carolina, the N.C. Department of Commerce and the EDPNC, as well as the city of High Point, Guilford County, the High Point Economic Development Corporation, and Electricities, for their assistance in bringing this project to fruition. Amada believes success comes from listening to the voice of our customers, and locating our newest facility in this area allows us to be close to our customer base in the Southeast. We look forward to being an active, involved corporate citizen moving forward."

The North Carolina Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. (EDPNC) were



Governor Cooper discussed his NC Job Ready initiative and workforce training at Craven Community College's Havelock campus on May 3.

Gov. Cooper Proposes \$60M to Help N.C. Workers Get Job Training, Gain Skills for Success

Last week (May 2), **Governor Roy Cooper** offered recommendations to create the *NC Job Ready Fund* to train and grow North Carolina's workforce to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow.

In February, the Governor laid out his key principles for improving North Carolina's workforce: providing education and skills training, partnering with employers to prepare workers for evolving industries, and tapping into local innovation.

"Business leaders and CEOs across the state and the globe say that their number one need for creating new jobs is a well-trained workforce," said **Governor Cooper**. "The programs in the NC Job Ready Fund will help North Carolinians get the training and education they need to compete for jobs available today as well as those that we will recruit to North Carolina. These good-paying, skilled jobs will put more money in the pockets of North Carolina families."

The *NC Job Ready Fund* includes three main

instrumental in supporting the company's expansion decision.

"North Carolina has the workforce, infrastructure, sites and business climate that manufacturers need to succeed," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "Amada has big plans for this project, and I look forward to working with them as they grow in Guilford County."

A performance-based grant of \$200,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Amada's facility in North Carolina. Companies receive no money upfront, and all One NC grants require a matching grant from local governments.

In addition to [North Carolina Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [City of High Point, Guilford County](#), the [Guilford County Workforce Development Board](#), the [High Point Economic Development Corporation](#), [Guilford County Economic Development Alliance](#), and the [Greensboro Chamber of Commerce](#).

[Read more.](#)



Governor Cooper offers remarks at the opening of Biogen's Global Business Services unit at RTP. Inset: Joining the Governor to cut the ribbon (L-R), U.S. Rep. David Price, Susan Alexander, EVP for Biogen and Dr. Ginger Gregory, EVP for HR at Biogen.

Governor Cooper Cuts the Ribbon to Celebrate Biogen Expansion

Governor Roy Cooper and U.S. Congressman David Price cut the blue ribbon and offered remarks to celebrate the opening of Biogen's new Global Business Services Center in Research Triangle Park. The May 1 event drew local officials, local business executives and a group of Biogen employees and managers.

Biogen, founded in 1978, is one of world's first global biotechnology companies and a pioneer in neuroscience. The company has been doing business in North Carolina for 23 years and currently employs more than 1,400 people in RTP.

components to invest in North Carolina's workers

- NC GROW - (\$30 million) - Providing Financial Assistance for Job Training in High-Demand Fields. *Will help cover tuition and selected fees for students pursuing training in high-demand fields.*
- Finish Line Grants - (\$20 million) - Helping Students Complete Higher Education Degrees. *Will help students complete degrees when facing unforeseen financial challenges*
- Employer Training Fund - (\$10 million) - Supporting Employer Innovation and Workplace Training. *Provides money to assist employers in addressing workforce training needs and employee skill gaps.*

More information on the [Governor's budget proposal for this workforce development initiative is available online.](#)



Celebrate Tourism Week at the State's Welcome Centers

National Travel and Tourism Week is underway this week, and this year's theme - Travel Then and Now - is especially appropriate, as North Carolina's Welcome Centers commemorate 50 years of service to the state's visitors.

Every day since the doors opened at the I-85 North Welcome Center in Warren County in August, 1968, professional travel counselors have demonstrated North Carolina's famous hospitality, while promoting thousands of tourism-related businesses - attractions, accommodations, restaurants, events and more - to visitors already in the state actively seeking travel information.

Each year, North Carolina's nine Welcome Centers celebrate National Travel and Tourism Week by inviting travel partners to help thank visitors for traveling to the state.

A schedule for the [Welcome Center celebrations is posted on nccommerce.com.](#)

On Our Radar

The expansion will add 150 new jobs in North Carolina over the next two years.



Warrenton and Washington Win N.C. Main Street Funds for Downtown Revitalization

The Town of Warrenton and the City of Washington will each receive awards from the Main Street Solutions Fund, the N.C. Department of Commerce announced May 2.

"Our small towns have much to offer families and businesses looking to grow and create a sense of community," said **N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "The Main Street Solutions Fund grants will help businesses bring jobs and new life to these historic landmarks."

Warrenton will receive \$100,000 for its project. The Warrenton project will take a vacant corner building in the downtown historic district and renovate it to create the first combination brewery and meadery in North Carolina. The business intends to use ingredients sourced from local farmers and producers. Product names will honor other local businesses in the community.

Washington will receive \$200,000 to help rehabilitate the vacant National Register-listed Bank of Washington II building on a prominent corner downtown. This grant supports the first phase of the project which will restore the exterior and create a restaurant and gin distillery on the first floor. A future second phase not funded by this grant will construct 14 boutique hotel rooms on the second and third floors.

"We are pleased to partner with communities throughout the state," said Liz Parham, director of the North Carolina Main Street & Rural Planning Center. "Building renovations, facade improvements and new businesses ultimately help create new jobs in North Carolina."

In a separate announcement, the N.C. Main Street Center reported that the National Main Street Center has designated 47 North Carolina communities as accredited Main Street America programs for 2018. Each year, the National Main Street Center and N.C. Commerce's Main Street & Rural Planning Center partner to announce the list of all accredited Main Street America programs, recognizing exemplary commitment to preservation-based economic development and community revitalization through the Main Street Approach. The [full list of accredited downtowns can be reviewed online at nccommerce.com](#)

- [Former UNC board chairman will now lead NC community college system](#) (*News & Observer*) - May 1
 - [Upcoming Event: Economic Development Challenges and Opportunities: The Future of Work and Education in NC](#) (Hosted by the Triangle Chapter of the British-American Business Council) - June 5
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N.C. in the News

- [Outdoor Recreation Listening Tour coming to Troy](#) (*Montgomery Herald* - May 8)
- [CED moving from downtown Durham to RTP](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - May 1)
- [N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony Copeland talks Amazon, HB2](#) (*The Chronicle* - Duke University - April 15)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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