



DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES

North Carolina consistently is recognized as having one of the best business climates in the nation. The state offers companies of all sizes – from entrepreneurial start-ups to multi-national Fortune 500 corporations – compelling business reasons for starting, locating or expanding an enterprise in North Carolina.

Skilled, Productive Workers and Great Labor Environment

With an expanding and diverse population, North Carolina's high-quality labor force meets the needs of today's advanced manufacturing and knowledge-based industries. The lowest unionization rate in the nation keeps wages affordable and the workplace flexible.

Comprehensive Workforce Development Network

North Carolina provides customized recruiting, screening and training services and lifelong learning opportunities through a coordinated network of state agencies.

Exceptional Educational Opportunities

New talent is developed through outstanding educational assets – beginning with nationally recognized preschool programs, accountable public schools, accessible state community college and university systems and a variety of superb private institutions.

Unequaled Proximity to Major Markets

North Carolina's central East Coast location and extensive transportation infrastructure put the state within a 700-mile radius of more than 170 million U.S. and Canadian consumers and provides global connections via deep water ports and international flights.

Global Connectivity

High-speed Internet access available throughout the state, 100 percent digital switching and many other significant technology infrastructure investments provide advanced, reliable voice, data and video communications and networking options.

Competitive Operating Cost Structure

Construction costs, electric rates, overall taxes and cost of living indices are all below the national average, providing an economical business climate.

A Great Place to Live

North Carolina's diverse geography and moderate climate allow a variety of outdoor recreation options. Add the state's cultural offerings, including a rich history and a variety of arts, with intense collegiate and professional sports rivalries to create a quality of life that provides a magnet for recruiting new talent.

A Government that Works for Business

North Carolina's progressive leadership has had the vision to make strategic investments in education, infrastructure and technology – and to emphasize sound fiscal policy through a constitutionally mandated balanced budget, reasonable tax rates and AAA bond rating.

Performance-Based, Targeted Incentive Programs

North Carolina offers eligible companies a number of state and local programs designed to lower costs and increase global competitiveness, including discretionary grants in competitive situations and statutory tax credits for job creation, investments and research and development.

Professional Economic Development Assistance

Whether starting a company, looking for a new location or expanding an existing operation, the North Carolina Department of Commerce Division of Business and Industry provides comprehensive support and expertise in the United States and around the world.



DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The companies below represent some of the most recent expansion and location announcements in North Carolina:

Fiserv Inc.		October 27, 2009
Industry sector: Business and Financial Services	Company description: Fiserv is a leading global provider of information management and electronic commerce systems for the financial services industry. The company, with more than 16,000 clients, serves banks, credit unions and lending institutions with online banking, bill pay and presentment, account processing, mobile banking, lending processing, risk and compliance, and source capture technologies. Employees at the new facility will provide customer support and other client services.	
New jobs: 419		
Financial investment: \$4.9 million		
Location: Hickory		
New or expanding: Expanding		



"We want to thank state and local officials in North Carolina for their encouragement and support as we locate in this area," Fiserv Division President Jardon Bouska said. "Hickory offers the resources we need, including the skilled labor to staff our current operation and the ability to expand to meet our company's future needs."

Premier Inc.		October 14, 2009
Industry sector: Health Care	Company description: Premier, the largest healthcare alliance in the nation, is owned by more than 200 not-for-profit hospitals and healthcare systems – ranging from small and rural to large inner-city facilities – which share clinical knowledge and leverage purchasing volume to improve healthcare quality while reducing costs. The alliance provides services to more than 2,200 U.S. hospitals and more than 63,000 other healthcare providers. The company will move its headquarters to Charlotte.	
New jobs: 300		
Financial investment: \$17.7 million		
Location: Charlotte		
New or expanding: Expanding		

According to Susan DeVore, Premier president and CEO, "Considering our existing presence and past history in the area, it is a natural fit for Premier to be headquartered in Charlotte."

Shalag Industries Ltd.		October 12, 2009
Industry sector: Textiles	Company description: Shalag Industries produces nonwoven fabrics primarily from polypropylene, polyester and viscose fibers. The fabric is used in the production of dry and wet wipes, diapers and personal hygiene products. The company plans to construct a facility in Oxford, where fibers will be thermo-bonded into nonwoven fabric.	
New jobs: 42		
Investment: \$7 million		
Location: Oxford		
New or expanding: New		

"Shalag is looking forward to becoming a successful corporate citizen in North Carolina and in Oxford," company CEO Ilan Pickman said. "North Carolina is a recognized center for nonwoven manufacturing and R&D and we have identified here a strong infrastructure to support our business."

DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

North American Aerodynamics Inc. October 6, 2009	
Industry sector: Textiles	Company description: North American Aerodynamics, headquartered in Person County, produces parachutes for the sports and military sectors. The company, which recently secured a new military contract, plans to expand and renovate two existing buildings to meet increased manufacturing demands. The expanded production will include cutting, sewing and assembly of cargo and flare parachutes for military operations in Afghanistan.
New jobs: 375	
Financial investment: \$900,000	
Location: Roxboro	
New or expanding: Expanding	

UFS Holdings-Premiere Fibers Inc. September 29, 2009	
Industry sector: Textiles	Company description: UFS, or Universal Fiber Systems, owns the Premiere Fibers plant in Ansonville. The plant produces synthetic continuous filament for diverse uses in the military, industrial, technical, apparel, hosiery, upholstery and other markets. The company plans to convert an existing yarn spinning line at its Ansonville facility to produce high-performance fabrics for the military.
New jobs: 20	
Financial investment: \$2.5 million	
Location: Ansonville	
New or expanding: Expanding	

EMC Corp. September 24, 2009	
Industry sector: Information and Communications Technology	Company description: As a leading developer and provider of information infrastructure technology, solutions and services, EMC provides a foundation for organizations of all sizes to manage and secure their vast and ever-increasing quantities of information; automate their data center operations; reduce power and cooling costs; and leverage critical information for business agility and competitive advantage.
New jobs: 397	
Financial investment: \$280 million	
Location: Apex, Durham & RTP	
New or expanding: New & Expanding	

“The decision to expand in Roxboro was made because of the community’s dedicated workforce and the enthusiastic support of the Person County Economic Development Commission, the state Department of Commerce, the managers and elected officials of Roxboro and Person County and their other development partners,” company President John Higgins said. “We are also very grateful to Gov. Perdue and North Carolina for their assistance in making this project happen.”

“We are very thankful to receive the One NC Fund grant,” said Company President John Amirtharaj. “We have an efficient operation in Anson County with a dedicated workforce. The desire to preserve this workforce and to create more jobs made the decision to reinvest in Premiere possible along with the support we are getting from North Carolina and Anson County, who are both interested in our success.”

“We’re very pleased to receive this generous grant from North Carolina,” said Bob Hawkins, vice president of North Carolina operations at EMC. “... the grant enables us to continue investing in and leveraging North Carolina’s world-class talent pool to drive EMC’s innovation and long-term growth.”



DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY SERVICES OVERVIEW

With one of the largest economic development networks in the nation, North Carolina is dedicated to giving companies the assistance and resources necessary to meet their unique business needs.

The N.C. Department of Commerce Business and Industry Division **leads North Carolina's business recruitment and expansion efforts.** The division's economic developers work across the state and through Regional Offices to attract new industries to the state. There are nine Regional Offices located throughout the seven regions of the state. Statewide and regional developers work closely with other public and private organizations and provide businesses with a tailored view of the location benefits and resources available.

Through the existing industry specialists located in each Regional Office, the division also **offers retention and expansion services to companies currently located in North Carolina.** Existing Industry Specialists are dedicated to building long-term relationships with area companies and make more than 3,000 personal on-site visits each year.

The division's expert development staff supplies

comprehensive facility location services from initial contact through site location to future growth and expansion. In essence they deliver confidential, thorough and professional assistance for a company's start-up, relocation and expansion needs.

The state's Department of Commerce also maintains six international offices. The function of these offices is to educate international companies about opportunities in North Carolina and respond to a company's initial inquiry about the state with relevant data and contacts. These offices work closely with the N.C. Department of Commerce staff to provide seamless location services.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

- Toronto, Canada
- Frankfurt, Germany
- Tokyo, Japan
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Seoul, South Korea
- Hong Kong





DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - CORPORATE AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

Corporate Presence

Twenty-four North Carolina companies were among the country's largest in 2009. These businesses earned inclusion in the *Fortune* 1,000, a list that ranks US companies by yearly revenues.



Photo courtesy of Charlotte
Center City Partners

- Alliance One Intl.
- Bank of America Corp.
- BB&T Corp.
- Belk
- Carlisle
- CommScope
- Duke Energy
- Family Dollar Stores
- Goodrich
- Hanesbrand
- Ingles Markets
- Laboratory Corp. of America
- Lowe's
- Martin Marietta Materials
- Nucor
- Pantry
- Piedmont Natural Gas
- Progress Energy
- R.H. Donnelley
- Reynolds American
- Ruddick
- Sonic Automotive
- SPX
- VF

Charlotte is home to many
companies on the Fortune list.

DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - CORPORATE AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

International Presence

North Carolina has the ninth largest foreign owned firms workforce in the US states with firms hailing from more than 30 countries around the globe. These firms employ over 225,000 North Carolinians and have invested over \$30 billion in North Carolina. The businesses represent almost every continent, and are from such nations as Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

They conduct business in a vast array of industries, from automotive technology to pharmaceuticals and are involved in activities from R&D shipping to manufacturing. Among the state's international companies are such global leaders as:

- *Aisin AW*

- *BASF Corp.*

- *Bayer Corporation*

- *Bosch Siemens Home Appliances*

- *Credit Suisse*

- *Daimler*

- *Eisai*

- *Firestone*

- *Daimler Trucks*

- *Frigidaire*

- *Fujitsu*

- *GlaxoSmithKline*

- *Hitachi*

- *Honda*

- *Kyocera*

- *Nortel Networks*

- *Novartis*

- *Novo Nordisk*

- *Oxford University Press*

- *RBC*

- *Sony Ericsson*

- *Thomas Built Buses*

- *Toshiba*

- *Volvo*



DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

During the past 20 years, North Carolina has undergone a transition from an economy based on the traditional industries of tobacco, furniture and textiles to one increasingly driven by knowledge-based enterprises.

North Carolina's strategic advantages have contributed to the national prominence of a number of industry sectors, including:

- ***Biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and life sciences***
- ***Information and communications technologies***
- ***Business and financial services***
- ***Automotive, truck and heavy equipment***
- ***Chemicals, plastics and rubber related products***

The state's economic transition also is evident within traditional industry sectors. Agriculture remains vital through shifts from tobacco production to new crops, such as grapes that fuel a growing wine industry. Textile manufacturing processes are evolving to capital-intensive, high-tech enterprises. For example, North Carolina is emerging as a world leader in the production of nonwoven textiles, which are engineered fabrics produced through a sophisticated bonding process.

With the fourth largest military presence in the nation, the defense industry plays a significant role in North Carolina's economic arsenal. To capitalize on these assets and leverage this strength, the state has mounted a concentrated effort to develop defense-related business for North Carolina companies.



In the past three years over \$400 million has been invested in North Carolina's non woven industry.

The economic impact of the military in our state alone is \$18 billion per year and growing with more than 300,000 jobs.

DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

Biotechnology, Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences

North Carolina has the third largest biotechnology industry in the nation, with more than 300 contract research organizations, medical device operations, and biotechnology and life science-related companies. Several major pharmaceutical firms maintain administrative, research and manufacturing operations in the state as well.

North Carolina ranks among the top four states nationally in contract research organizations, agricultural, biotechnology, bioprocessing or biomanufacturing, and pharmaceutical production. The state is home to some of the world's largest facilities, including:

- **GlaxoSmithKline and Merck**
Two of the top three global pharmaceutical companies

- **Biogen Idec** The world's biggest large-scale manufacturing biologic facility
- **Wyeth** The world's largest vaccine facility
- **Baxter** The world's largest intravenous solutions facility
- **Talecris Biotherapeutics**
One of the world's largest plasma-based products facilities
- **Diosynth Biotechnology**
One of the world's largest contract biologics manufacturers
- **Novo Nordisk** One of the largest insulin facilities
- **Novozymes North America Inc.** One of the largest multi-purpose enzyme manufacturing facilities

North Carolina's biotech industry ranks third in the country, and is home to some of the world's largest facilities.

Unique Workforce Initiative

More than 40,000 highly skilled workers, including some 5,000 biotechnology-related scientists and researchers, are employed by this sector. To help meet the industry's ongoing need for trained professionals, North Carolina has created the country's first comprehensive biotechnology training program that partners industry, government and academia through the N.C. Biomufacturing and Pharmaceutical Consortium.

The consortium includes three principal training programs through:

- **BioNetwork**, a statewide initiative that connects community colleges across North Carolina
- **The Biomufacturing Training and Education Center** at NC State University for hands-on experience using large-scale equipment
- **The Biomufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise** at NC Central University for training in process and analytical technology and development and quality control





DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

Extensive Research & Development Resources

After more than a decade of bold steps, North Carolina is one of the few states offering a unique, comprehensive environment for biotechnology firms where entrepreneurs can take an idea conceived in a laboratory, refine the product, produce and test it through the clinical trial phases, and then manufacture and distribute it to global markets. It offers expansive infrastructure as well as research and development resources:

- Nine research universities, five outstanding medical and veterinary schools, and one of the largest campuses of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- More than \$1 billion of sponsored research – mostly in the life sciences – conducted each year at the state’s major public and private universities
- The world’s greatest concentration of CRO and testing companies, including three of the world’s largest, LabCorp, Quintiles Transnational and PPD, which maintain headquarters in the state
- Research campuses with wet lab and office space for entrepreneurial firms

Information and Communications Technology

North Carolina is an international hub for telecommunications, networking and software development. It hosts 2,300 information technology companies employing more than 200,000 highly skilled workers, including roughly 15 percent of the nation’s networking engineers. During the last decade the number of patents issued in the state increased dramatically, almost doubling the national average.

North Carolina is home to many of the world’s largest IT facilities:

- **IBM** Largest presence in the world, including the headquarters for the Global Services Division
- **Red Hat** Headquarters for the world’s largest open source software company
- **SAS** Headquarters for the world’s largest privately owned software company
- **Cisco** Second largest presence in the world
- **Microsoft** Second largest domestic presence
- **RFMD** Largest producer of gallium arsenide semiconductors in the world
- **Cree** Headquarters to one of Fortune magazine’s fastest growing small businesses



DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

Software Development

North Carolina's software companies develop a wide variety of applications, including financial, security, human resource, gaming and clinical data processing. More than 550 software companies employ about 15,000 workers. Major players include *IBM, Keane Inc., Octagon, Peopleclick, Red Hat* and *SAS*.

Telecommunications

With industry giants such as *AT&T, Cisco Systems, Sony Ericsson* and *Embarq*, the telecommunications industry in North Carolina covers both traditional and advanced services, such as wireless, Internet telephony, fiber optics and cable television. North Carolina companies manufacture digital switches, fiber optic cable, network gear, cell towers and other equipment.

Networking

The control, access and distribution of voice and data systems are all managed by a network, which serves as the critical infrastructure that includes switches, routers, controllers, data processors, cables and other essential equipment. North Carolina is home to global industry leaders, including *Cisco*, as well as growing companies, such as *Alphanumeric Systems* and *Ciber*.



Research Triangle Park in central North Carolina grew up around such industry, but software and communications companies are found across the state.

Other major areas of specialization include:

- **Semiconductor and chip technology:** North Carolina hosts the headquarters for internationally acclaimed companies such as *Cree*, the world leader in the development and manufacture of silicon carbide, and *RFMD*, the world's largest producer of gallium arsenide semiconductors. *Infineon Technologies* and *Qualcomm* also have major R&D operations in the state.
- **Photonics:** North Carolina has emerged as a major center for global telecommunications and photonics with more than 300 telecommunications and optical networking companies, including *TESSERA*. Several major research initiatives to further enhance the photonics and optical industry have been created at three of the state's universities.
- **Security and data privacy:** Increasing demands in this field led the UNC-Charlotte eBusiness Technology Institute to emphasize data security and cryptology, earning designation as a Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency.



DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

Resources to Support Growth

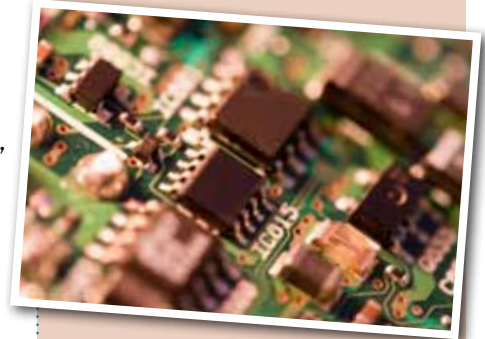
North Carolina has nine research universities with three excellent engineering schools, and the state ranks seventh nationally in research and development spending for science and engineering per student.

Many specialized organizations exist to serve the sector, including the N.C. Technology Association, which serves as the industry's leading voice and support; the Council for Entrepreneurial Development, created to stimulate growth of high-impact enterprises; MCNC, which provides grid computing and networking; and the N.C. Research and Education Network, the country's first and most advanced statewide, high-speed digital network.

Three research parks provide strategic advantages for technology companies. The Research Triangle Park is the

largest research park in the United States, Centennial Campus is adjacent to NC State University's main campus, and the Piedmont Triad Research Park is affiliated with Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem State University, and other area educational institutions.

In addition to the state's existing technology workforce, North Carolina is steadily expanding its highly skilled labor pool. More than 10,000 graduate students are enrolled in science and engineering at the state's universities, and 16,000 community college students are enrolled in engineering and computer science. In addition, North Carolina's 58-campus community college system provides customized training to new and expanding IT and electronics companies.



North Carolina ranks seventh in the nation for research and development spending for science and engineering per student.



DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

Business and Financial Services

North Carolina is the second largest financial center in the country. Banking and finance comprise one of the state's largest economic sectors, employing nearly 200,000 workers. There are also nearly 200 customer service centers located throughout North Carolina.

The state serves as headquarters for three of the nation's 10 largest banks: *Bank of America* and *Wachovia Corporation* in Charlotte and *BB&T* in Winston-Salem. Raleigh-based *First Citizens* is one of the largest family-controlled banks in the country. Foreign banks also are investing in North Carolina – Royal Bank of Canada acquired North Carolina's Centura Bank as its United States retail platform and operates under the name *RBC Centura*.

North Carolina also is a major mortgage and insurance center. The state offers employers a thriving headquarters and sophisticated back-office environment that includes some key players:

- *LendingTree* and *Deutsche Banc Mortgage Capital* maintain headquarters in Charlotte.
- *Genworth's Financial Mortgage Insurance* segment has headquarters in Raleigh.
- *Republic Mortgage Insurance Corporation* and *Triad Guaranty Company* have mortgage insurance processing facilities in Winston-Salem.
- *The Hartford, Kemper, Liberty Mutual, MetLife, Nationwide* and *Vanguard Group* all have customer service or processing centers in Charlotte.

- *Aetna, U.S. Healthcare* and *Cigna Medicare* have major claims processing centers in High Point.

One of *Credit Suisse's* Centers of Excellence is located in the Research Triangle Park and houses global support staff, including securities operations and information technology positions. *TIAA-CREF* has a major operations, data and customer service center in Charlotte, which employs approximately 1,000 people. One of *Fidelity's* major regional operations centers is located in facilities throughout the Research Triangle Region.

North Carolina's customer service centers support consumer, financial, insurance, telecommunications and other organizations. Major customer services operations in the state include *American Express, CitiCards, Microsoft, Replacements Ltd., Sitel Corporation, US Airways* and *Verizon Wireless*.



Photo courtesy of Wachovia



DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

Motor Vehicle Equipment

North Carolina ranks among the nation's largest auto parts manufacturers, with more than 1,000 auto industry companies and major commercial truck assembly operations. Approximately 80 percent of the motor vehicle assembly plants in the United States and Canada are within 600 miles and one day's drive of North Carolina.

About 130,000 North Carolina workers are employed with companies that provide parts for assembly plants in North Carolina and nearby states. The state also enjoys a skilled workforce in related industries, including plastics, metalworking and automotive textiles.

Major components of the state's motor vehicle and heavy equipment industry include:

- More than 160 original equipment manufacturers
- At least 190 aftermarket companies, which maintain, repair and upgrade vehicles after they are sold by car or truck dealers
- A \$6 billion racing and motorsports industry

More than 1,000 auto industry companies and major commercial truck assembly operations are located in North Carolina.



North Carolina's auto manufacturing workers perform a variety of jobs for a diverse list of companies, including:

- Assembling school and transit buses for **Thomas Built Buses**
- Manufacturing heavy duty trucks for **Freightliner**, a subsidiary of **DaimlerChrysler**
- Building transmissions for **AW North Carolina**
- Producing construction machinery for **Caterpillar**
- Making suspension components for **ZF Lemforder**
- Building small engines for lawn mowers and power equipment for **Honda Power Equipment Manufacturing**
- Manufacturing power train equipment for **GETRAG**
- Designing high-performance race vehicles for 2004 NASCAR championship winner **Jack Roush Racing**

In addition, several of the industry's North American headquarters are located in the state, including **Volvo Trucks**, **BorgWarner Turbo Systems**, and the **Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association**.

DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

Unique Workforce Training Opportunities

Highly respected engineering programs offered through the state's colleges and universities offer an abundant supply of skilled workers. In addition, the N.C. Community College System makes available automotive-specific programs at campuses across the state, including auto systems technology, heavy equipment and transport technology, and race car performance. Customized training programs also are available to address specific company needs through the state's community colleges.

Resources for Support

Recent legislative approval to create a nonprofit Advanced Vehicle Research Center will provide a variety of resources at a reasonable cost to businesses in the general automotive, motorsports and alternative fuel development sectors.

Chemicals, Plastics and Rubber-Related Materials

North Carolina is a national leader in plastics, rubber and related chemical industries. With about 44,500 employees working at more than 650 facilities, the state consistently is ranked among the top 10 plastics employers and manufacturers in the nation.



Highly respected engineering programs and automotive-specific community college training keeps the North Carolina workforce in abundant supply.

A Home to Industry Leaders

Some of the industry's leading companies operate facilities in the state, including **Fortron Industries**, the world's largest polyphenylene sulfide plant. Fortron creates a high-performance plastic for applications ranging from airplane wings to advanced electronic devices. Other companies include:

- **AlcatelBonset America**
- **Charlotte Pipe & Foundry**
- **Consolidated Metco**
- **Duke Energy**
- **DAK Americas**
- **Dupont**
- **GE Polymerland**
- **GE Sealants & Adhesives**
- **Kimberly Clark**
- **Microban**
- **Nampac**
- **NYPRO**
- **Silverline Plastics**
- **Southeastern Container**
- **Southern Film Extruders**
- **Technimark, Inc.**
- **Ticona**
- **Toter, Inc.**



DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGES - PROFILE OF INDUSTRY

A Custom-Trained Workforce

The state presents several programs to meet workforce needs ranging from plastics technicians to chemical engineers. Educational opportunities range from engineering, chemistry and related degree programs offered at some of the state's foremost colleges and universities to specialized plastics training programs at the state's community colleges. Such programs include:

- An N.C. Manufacturing Certification Program for Level II Plastics to prepare candidates for the National Certification in Plastics examination
- A Composites Center designed to educate students and businesses on performing a variety of tests on composite, plastic, fiberglass and metallic materials using specialized equipment
- A Plastics Technician Training Program to provide a foundation for understanding the operation, set-up and troubleshooting of plastics processing machinery such as blown film, injection molding, extrusion, blow molding and auxiliary equipment

- A Manufacturing Technology Plastics Curriculum that teaches students an understanding of polymeric properties and leads to an associate's degree
- An Eastern North Carolina Plastics Technology Consortium, which awards associate's degrees in manufacturing technology with a plastics concentration from community colleges in six Eastern North Carolina counties

Support for Industry Growth

The Polymers Center of Excellence is a not-for-profit organization that supports North Carolina's rapidly growing plastics and rubber manufacturing industry. The center provides test labs, hands-on training and continuing education in emerging technologies for these industries.

Chemistry is responsible for much of North Carolina's progress—both as a natural science and the way the state's components relate to one another.

