

# sync<sup>®</sup> NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



*N.C. Secretary of Commerce welcomed workforce professionals to the NCWorks Partnership Conference last week.*

## State Workforce Professionals Gather in Greensboro

The NCWorks Partnership Conference drew nearly 1,000 workforce development professionals from across the state to Greensboro last week for the 30th annual edition of the conference. Attendees come from many areas of the workforce world, including labor groups, the state and federal governments, community-based organizations, educators and private-sector companies.

**N.C. Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland** offered welcoming remarks at the conference's opening session on Wednesday (Oct. 11), highlighting the 30 year milestone and encouraging workforce leaders to look to the horizon to better understand and prepare for the dramatic changes to the nature of work that can be expected over the next 30 years. The introduction of new technologies, such as electric cars, will call for new ways to prepare and train the future workforce.

Thursday evening (Oct. 12), a wood veneer manufacturer, a regional collaborative for economic development, and four individual North Carolinians were awarded the Governor's NCWorks Awards of Distinction for outstanding accomplishments and contributions in workforce development. The ceremony, hosted by **Napoleon Wallace, Deputy**



## Superion Expansion in Guilford County Brings 80 New Jobs

Superion, LLC will expand existing operations in Guilford County, creating 80 new jobs over three years, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced October 5. The software company, which provides services to public sector groups, will invest \$3.46 million with this project.

"Our state's software and IT industry is strong and getting stronger," said **Governor Cooper**. "Jobs like Superion's are in demand, and we're committed to increasing the pool of talented tech professionals in North Carolina ready to fill that need."

Superion provides comprehensive software solutions to address the specialized and complex needs of municipal and county governments and agencies in the areas of public safety and justice and public administration.

"We are thrilled to be expanding our operations in High Point and building out a national Center of Excellence for our public safety software business," said **Simon Angove, Chief Executive Officer of Superion**. "The business-friendly environment and access to a wealth of technical talent means we've enjoyed a lot of success in Guilford County."

Superion currently has 155 full-time employees in High Point. The new jobs will include product support, professional services, and software development. The project will require office upgrades and new IT equipment. Salaries for the new jobs will vary by position but will average \$57,829. The average wage in Guilford County is \$45,602.

"Superion has found success already in High Point, and I know they are making the right decision to expand here," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "The customized training our community colleges will conduct, as well as

**Secretary of N.C. Commerce for Workforce and Rural Development**, featured three awardees from McDowell County, an unprecedented accomplishment.

"These programs and people are helping North Carolinians get the skills and training needed to get and keep good jobs," said **Governor Roy Cooper**. "I congratulate these honorees and thank them for their dedication to improving our workforce."

Dates for next year's conference have already been set. The 31st annual edition will convene October 10, 2018.

[Read more, including details about each award winner.](#)



*N.C. Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland inspects the facilities at GF Linamar in Mills River.*

## Secretary Copeland Visits GF Linamar for Opening Ceremony

**N.C. Commerce Secretary Tony Copeland** joined hundreds of excited people gathered in Mills River October 5 for the grand opening of GF Linamar's modern manufacturing facility in Henderson County. The plant, located in the Ferncliff Industrial Park, marks an important milestone in a joint venture between GF Automotive and Linamar to manufacture light, high-quality automotive parts.

In his remarks, **Secretary Copeland** thanked company officials on behalf of **Governor Cooper** for their confidence to invest in the state. The Secretary also noted that economic development doesn't happen by accident and the effort requires talent and vision, along with partnerships between community colleges and high schools that help create the workforce companies need.

In February of last year, the company was awarded a Job Development Investment Grant in support of the project and the additional 350 jobs the company will create.

our business climate and the health of our IT industry, will support Superior's continued success."

A performance-based grant of \$160,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Superior's expansion in Guilford County.

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

[Read more.](#)



*Electricians are just one of many apprenticeship groups competing for statewide visibility this week at the North Carolina State Fair.*

## Cotton Candy? Check. A Showcase for the State's Apprenticeships? Absolutely!

North Carolina's Apprenticeship programs take center stage once again amidst the hustle and bustle of the North Carolina State Fair this week.

In recent years, apprentices and pre-apprentices have showcased their professional skills in several annual contests staged during the fair. Battling their peers in friendly but intense competition, apprentice brick masons, carpenters, electricians and others complete tasks relevant to their respective industries. The winners are awarded a plaque of recognition, a monetary award, and other prizes.

A full slate of contests are underway this year. Tomorrow (October 18), the 33rd Annual Electrical Apprentice Contest will be held. Everyone is invited out to see 32 electrician apprentices from across the state compete on physical projects as well as North Carolina building code knowledge. Representing nine renowned companies and organizations in the state, you're invited to

come see their skill and workmanship at the Apprenticeship tent from 8:00 am to 12 noon. An awards ceremony will honor our state's best skilled electrical apprentice at 2:30pm.

[Read more.](#)

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## N.C. in the News

- [Optimism bodes well for economy](#) (*Rocky Mount Telegram* - Oct. 15)
- [CGGC Now Duke University Global Value Chains Center](#) (*Duke Today* - Oct. 12)
- [Students tour Transpark on National Manufacturing Day](#) (*WNCT-TV* - Oct. 10)
- [N.C. consumer spending ticked up in 2016, new report says](#) (*Triad Business Journal* - Oct. 5)

### 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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