

# 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

## ***Ashe County Department of Economic Development***

A department within local government, Ashe County Economic Development is responsible for the recruitment, expansion/retention and entrepreneurial policies of the Board of Commissioners and County Manager.

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## ***City of Asheville Office of Economic Development***

The focus of the City of Asheville, Office of Economic Development, is to promote the City's economic development policies through linked and collaborative initiatives that leverage resources to create a vibrant and robust Asheville economy.

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## ***Business North Carolina***

We do what nobody else does - cover one very special place, this state, and its economy, which is as diverse as the people who call it home. We produce quality, in-depth journalism, digging behind the news, delivering what we uncover in a manner that, though at times provocative, is always fair, accurate and thorough. Our job at *Business North Carolina* is to reflect reality and, in doing so, both enlighten and entertain our readers.

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## ***Charlotte Regional Partnership***

A nonprofit, public/private economic development organization, the Charlotte Regional Partnership leverages regional resources to market the 16-county Charlotte region. The Partnership's business development activities position Charlotte USA for sustained, long-term growth, job creation and investment opportunities.

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## ***Chatham County Economic Development Corporation***

The Chatham County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is a private non-profit positioning Chatham as the preferred location for emerging growth companies. The EDC's policy-driven approach focuses on targeted attraction, retention, and entrepreneurship. With funding from both the private and public sectors, the EDC strives to ensure prospective and existing businesses get the support they need.

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## ***COMTech***

COMtech began operation in January 2001. It is responsible for developing an education and training center surrounded by 750 acres zoned for business and industry. The site in central Robeson County, North Carolina, will be the home of technology-focused business, industry, education, training and business incubation facilities.

The focus of COMtech is *capacity building* and development of a premier capability to support meaningful, long-term *workforce development*. COMtech directly impacts the growth of our economy and improvement in the quality of life for the people in our region. Its primary impact is regional job creation.

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## ***Duke Energy Carolinas***

Duke Energy Carolinas has a long history of supporting economic development in the State of North Carolina. Our first generating plants and transmission and distribution grid were built over a hundred years ago to fuel industrial development in the Carolinas. More recently, Duke Energy Carolinas has initiated various programs to stimulate new and existing industrial development in our service area, including our Economic Development and Economic Redevelopment Riders that offer credits for customers locating new load on the Duke Energy Carolinas system.

Our Economic Development and Business Development team has played a significant role in locating many major industries within the Carolinas service territory. Our team is highly qualified in providing hands-on, expert services tailored to meet the needs of our clients and their unique business requirements. Services are performed timely, accurately, confidentially and always *free-of-charge*. Duke Energy Carolinas continues to be recognized by *Site Selection* magazine as having one of the "Top 10 Best" utility economic development programs across the U.S.

For more information regarding Duke Energy Economic Development, please visit us at:

<http://www.ConsiderTheCarolina.com>.

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## ***ECS Carolinas, LLP***

ECS is a geotechnical, environmental, construction materials, and facilities engineering firm headquartered in Chantilly, Virginia. ECS' subsidiaries operate over 42 locations in the Midwest, Southeast, and Eastern states and employ nearly 1,000 people, including registered professional engineers and geologists, environmental scientists, certified technicians, field engineers, and support staff.

Recently ranked as the nation's 101<sup>st</sup> largest engineering firm by Engineering News Record (ENR, April 2009), ECS has earned a reputation for being responsive and having the ability to solve problems on major projects. Additionally, ECS was the only geotechnical firm ranked among the Top 100 Pure Design Firms by ENR.

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## ***ElectriCities of North Carolina***

ElectriCities is a membership organization including public power communities in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. ElectriCities also provides management services to the state's two municipal power agencies - North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1 and North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency.

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## ***The e-NC Authority***

Broadband is critical for communities to thrive in today's globally competitive environment. The e-NC Authority, the state's broadband authority, finds and advocates for solutions to ensure that all North Carolina citizens and businesses increase broadband adoption and usage and have equal access to affordable, high-speed broadband. e-NC is responsible for mapping and tracking broadband availability and providing technical assistance for local initiatives to support technology-based economic growth.

e-NC also promotes the benefits of broadband investments around commerce, education, healthcare, agriculture and government services to demonstrate greater economic opportunities. Its direct services and efforts to endorse greater broadband deployment - including the work that's done within the seven [e-NC Business & Technology Telecenters](#) that are affiliated with e-NC's Rural Technology Innovation System - continue to enable job creation. e-NC focuses on rural counties and distressed urban areas, accomplishing its work through public-private partnerships, targeted research and direct outreach and education.

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## ***Lend Lease***

Lend Lease is a world leader in project management and construction, operating in more than 30 countries across the globe.

Using industry best practices, we work with clients to create high quality, sustainable property assets and are committed to operating Incident & Injury Free wherever we have a presence.

Our operations span six continents, with regional businesses in the Americas; United Kingdom & Ireland; Continental Europe; Middle East & Africa; Asia; and Australia.

Across these regions, we hold strong market positions in the commercial, retail, residential, industrial and pharmaceutical sectors and also work closely with governments to deliver health, education and defense projects among others.

We offer multiple services across the breadth of the design and construction project delivery process and, while these vary by region, our core capabilities lie in our strong project management skills and our focus on value engineering to drive value and ensure certainty of delivery for our clients.

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## ***Lenoir County Economic Development***

**Lenoir County Economic Development Department** is a department of Lenoir County government and responsible for attracting or creating investment to expand the tax base; and increasing jobs, wages and personal incomes for all the citizens of Kinston/Lenoir County.

Our vision is to create an inclusive community where businesses, individuals and governments can reach their full potential and become positive contributors to Lenoir County's growth, economic well being and quality of life.

Our mission is to promote economic development in Lenoir County by establishing a diverse employment base with challenging and rewarding jobs for future generations, and a tax base that will support the enhancement of the community's foundation and quality of life.

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## ***North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives***

North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives provides trade association services to the state's 26 electric cooperatives. North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve nearly 30 percent of the state's population, some 2.5 million people, with more than 900,000 accounts. Their power distribution territory covers approximately 23,800 square miles, nearly half the state's land area, in 93 of the state's 100 counties.

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## ***North Carolina Biotechnology Center***

The North Carolina Biotechnology Center is the oldest new-tech organization of its kind in the world. Biotech was on the cusp of becoming a new industry in 1984 when Gov. Jim Hunt and other state leaders established the Biotechnology Center to capitalize on its economic promise. The goal was to secure a future of meaningful employment statewide, as the traditional tobacco, textile and furniture markets eroded.

It worked. Today North Carolina is among the top-three states in bioscience employment. Its biotech base is one of the fastest-growing among the major biotech states. It's the nation's leading hub for contract research and testing companies. And it's a world leader in vaccine research and manufacturing.

Specifically, to provide long-term economic and societal benefits to North Carolina through support of biotechnology research, business, education and strategic policy statewide.

The General Assembly funds the Biotechnology Center as a private, non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to biotechnology development. We're headquartered in Research Triangle Park, with regional offices in Asheville, Greater Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Greenville and Wilmington.

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## ***North Carolina Partnership for Economic Development***

The North Carolina Partnership for Economic Development (NCPED) consists of the state's seven regional economic development partnerships and the N.C. Department of Commerce. A private non-profit organization established in 1997, NCPED works to advance collaborative, innovation-based economic development solutions designed to bring sustainable jobs and global investment to North Carolina. In April 2011, NCPED received the Economic Development Partnership Award from North Carolina State University's Office of Extension, Engagement and Economic Development. For additional information, visit [www.ncped.com](http://www.ncped.com).

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## ***North Carolina State Ports Authority***

North Carolina's Ports in Wilmington and Morehead City, plus inland terminals in Charlotte and the Piedmont Triad in Greensboro, link the State's consumers, businesses and industry to world markets, and serve as magnets to attract new business and industry. Port activities contribute statewide to 85,000 jobs and \$299 million each year in state and local tax revenues.

**Top trading partners** are China, India, Brazil, So. Korea, Belgium, Taiwan, Mexico, Colombia, Great Britain and Venezuela.

**Primary exports** are phosphate, forest products, woodpulp, general merchandise, food products, wood chips and military.

**Top imports** are sulfur products, chemicals, grains, rubber, scrap metal, cement, metal products, machinery parts, ore, mica and schist.

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## ***North Carolina's Southeast***

North Carolina's Southeast markets the dynamic southeast region for economic development, comprised of eleven counties, the Port of Wilmington and Fort Bragg. Our mission: Provide strong economic development leadership in southeastern North Carolina through innovative marketing and collaborative regional initiatives that will create new jobs, generate capital investment, and secure new business locations.

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## ***O'Brien/Atkins Associates, PA***

O'Brien/Atkins Associates specializes in strategic planning and design for our clients. Our multidisciplinary staff assists clients with their capital improvement, site selection, master planning and architectural/engineering design needs. Quality design, proven leadership and actively building a relationship through collaboration with our clients, are the hallmarks of our project approach.

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## ***Parker Poe***

Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP has 230 lawyers in six offices located in major markets across North Carolina and South Carolina. The Firm provides legal counsel to large commercial and public organizations on litigation, corporate and regulatory matters. It has been recognized in recent years as one of the fastest growing law firms in the United States and as an award-winning leader in the use of technology to provide better and more efficient service to domestic and international clients.

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## ***Piedmont Natural Gas***

Piedmont Natural Gas is an energy services company primarily engaged in the distribution of natural gas to one million residential, commercial and industrial utility customers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, including 62,000 customers served by municipalities who are wholesale customers. Our subsidiaries are invested in joint venture, energy-related businesses, including unregulated retail natural gas marketing, interstate natural gas storage and intrastate natural gas transportation.

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## ***Progress Energy***

Progress Energy (NYSE: PGN), headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., is a Fortune 250 diversified energy company with more than 24,500 megawatts of generation capacity and \$9 billion in annual revenues. The company's holdings include two electric utilities serving approximately 2.9 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. Progress Energy also includes non-regulated operations covering competitive generation, energy marketing, natural gas production, fuel extraction and broadband capacity.

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## ***PSNC Energy***

PSNC Energy is franchised to serve a 28-county service area in North Carolina and distributes natural gas to approximately 485,000 winter-peak customers in 95 cities and communities ranging from the Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill areas in the north central part of the state; the Concord, Statesville, Gastonia, and Forest City areas in the Piedmont; to the Asheville, Hendersonville, Bryson City, Cherokee and Brevard areas in the western part of the state. More information about PSNC Energy is available through the company's web site at [www.psnenergy.com](http://www.psnenergy.com).

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## ***Randolph County Economic Development Commission***

Randolph County Economic Development Corporation is a public private non-profit that provides a full range of economic development services to the residents of Randolph County. The EDC is focused on industrial recruitment, business retention and expansion, product development, and marketing the advantages of doing business in Randolph County. Located in *The Heart of North Carolina*, the EDC has supported more than \$1.7 billion in new investment and the creation of more than 10,500 new jobs over the last 25 years. Successful projects include Malt-O-Meal Cereal, Sealy, Timken, Americhem, Energizer, Klaussner Furniture, and Rheem.

Randolph County has been named an outstanding development group by Site Selection Magazine four times. In 2011 for the fourth year in a row, the Greensboro-High Point Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) that includes Randolph County, earned a Top 10 national ranking for attracting new industry among similar-sized areas by Site Selection Magazine. For more information, visit [www.rcedc.com](http://www.rcedc.com).

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## ***Research Triangle Park***

The Research Triangle Park is home to more than [170 global companies](#), including **IBM, GSK, Syngenta, RTI International, Credit Suisse, and Cisco**, that foster a culture of scientific advancement and competitive excellence. RTP is located between three major universities: [Duke University](#) in Durham, [North Carolina State University](#) in Raleigh, and the [University of North Carolina](#) at Chapel Hill.

Through five decades, the Park still holds to its founders' aspirations: to generate economic activity, engage the talents of local graduates and citizens and carry North Carolina forward to ever-greater prominence and prosperity.

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## ***S&ME, Inc.***

S&ME is an award-winning engineering and environmental firm employing 1,000 professional and support staff in 25 offices throughout the Southeast. Founded in 1973, S&ME is headquartered in Raleigh, NC and has offices throughout the State. Principal service lines are geotechnical engineering; construction materials engineering and testing; environmental services, occupational health and safety, water resources and solid waste engineering, natural resources and cultural resources.

S&ME ranks 97<sup>th</sup> in Engineering News-Record (ENR) magazine's 2011 Top 500 Design Firms and is also in the Top 200 Environmental Firms list. Markets include industrial, power, education, federal/military, healthcare, petroleum retailers, ports and terminals, residential, retail/commercial, solid waste and transportation. The employee-owned company emphasizes an unconditional commitment to safety and engineering integrity.

Learn more at [www.smeinc.com](http://www.smeinc.com).

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## ***SEPI Engineering & Construction, Inc.***

SEPI Engineering & Construction, Inc. (SEPI) was founded in 2001 to provide engineering and planning services to private and public sector clients. SEPI, a full service civil engineering services firm, is 8(a) certified with the Small Business Administration and a certified Women Business Enterprise (WBE).

At SEPI, our professionals have extensive and varied engineering industry experience. As a result, we are able to provide our clients with site/civil design, environmental planning, traffic engineering and operations including traffic and noise analysis, construction management, roadway and structural design, water resources, natural resources/permitting, wetland/stream mitigation, public involvement and surveying services.

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## ***Thomas & Hutton***

THOMAS & HUTTON is a privately held professional services company founded in 1946. To provide quality services and project support to our public and private clients, Thomas & Hutton's technical competencies include civil, environmental, structural and marine engineering; land surveying; land planning; landscape architecture; Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and construction administration. With more than 150 employees in five offices along the southeastern coast of the United States, we provide local knowledge of the area including the unique aspects of working with wetlands and various permitting and regulatory requirements. Thomas & Hutton is recognized by clients as a tightly-knit professional group that works efficiently on projects, while maintaining close client-professional relationships.

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## ***Timmons Group***

Timmons Group is a multi-disciplined engineering and technology firm recognized for nearly twenty years as one of Engineering News Record's Top 500 Design Firms. We provide civil engineering, environmental, GIS/geospatial technology, landscape architecture and surveying services to a diverse client base. Timmons has North Carolina offices in Greensboro, Raleigh and Charlotte as well as five offices in Virginia. The firm has over 250 professionals with expertise in a number of site development specializations. The firm is unique in that it has a department and staff solely dedicated to economic development projects. We have managed a number of site certification and development projects both in North Carolina and Virginia.

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## ***W.K. Dickson & Co., Inc.***

WK Dickson is an ENR Top 500 multi-disciplined consulting firm specializing in community infrastructure solutions including: Transportation Planning & Design; Environmental and Water Resources Engineering; Land Planning and Development; and Geospatial Technology. The firm has been headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina since 1929 and we have grown to operate seven regional offices strategically located throughout the Southeastern U.S. The company maintains offices in Charlotte, Hickory, Raleigh and Wilmington, NC; Columbia, SC; Augusta, and Atlanta, GA.

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## ***Wayne County Development Alliance***

Wayne County works for expanding and relocating companies because of: superior logistics, large skilled workforce, lower costs, free job training, pro-business climate, generous incentives, great quality of life, strong economic base and turnkey assistance.

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## ***Wilkes Economic Development Corporation***

The mission of the Wilkes Economic Development Corporation is to facilitate the creation of new jobs and capital investment in Wilkes County, North Carolina through the recruitment of new businesses and the retention and expansion of existing businesses. The Wilkes EDC is a 501c3 public-private partnership located in North Wilkesboro, NC.

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## ***Withers & Ravenel***

Founded in 1983, Withers & Ravenel, Inc. provides consulting services in planning, civil and environmental engineering and surveying. Withers & Ravenel is located in Cary with branch offices in Wilmington and Greensboro, North Carolina. Our 100-person staff includes professional engineers, surveyors, GIS specialists, landscape architects, planners, CADD Technicians, IT developers, and construction administrators. In addition, Withers & Ravenel is a member of the US Green Building Council and has 18 LEED Accredited Professions on staff who help our clients create cost effective and environmentally sound designs.

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## ***Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice PLLC***

Our economic development team includes lawyers, financial and tax experts and seasoned political and public affairs strategists and tacticians. Led by the state's only four-term governor, we help companies and consultants navigate the maze of issues involved in site selection, and we work in concert with state, county and local economic developers to bring the project in. The success of your economic development program is our mutual objective.

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## *The Wooten Company*

Today we offer civil engineering, mechanical/electrical/plumbing engineering, planning, and architecture. In addition, we provide funding assistance for local government projects and pride ourselves on the fact that since the early 1990's, we have helped raise over a quarter of a billion dollars in grants for infrastructure improvements and community enhancements.

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