

BUSINESS FOCUS

Briefs

Golden LEAF awards grant to heal state's ailing economy

In an effort to strengthen the state's economy, The Golden LEAF Foundation has awarded more than \$10 million in grant funding to organizations across the state.

During its Nov. 6 meeting in Asheville, board members awarded 40 grants to support a diverse set of projects, including programs to support agriculture, job creation and retention, and workforce preparedness. Grants were also awarded to support scholarships, technology for high school classrooms and community development.

Board members said the investments allow the foundation to continue serving as a strong partner in shaping the state's economic future. In just nine years, the organization has assisted communities in their efforts to transition from tobacco-dependent to more competitive economies by awarding more than \$366 million in grants to support local and statewide projects.

The Golden LEAF Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1999 to help transform North Carolina's economy. The foundation receives one-half of North Carolina's funds from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement with cigarette manufacturers and places special emphasis on assisting economically-distressed or tobacco-dependent communities across the state.

"Golden LEAF is pleased to fund projects that help develop the talent, knowledge and skill of North Carolinians and bring jobs and opportunities to the communities in need," said Dan Gerlach, Golden LEAF's president. "Golden LEAF stands ready to take advantage of every opportunity to make smart, targeted investments, both now and in the future."

Official to speak about economy

Lee Cornelison, North Carolina District Director of the U. S. Small Business Administration, will deliver a lecture at North Carolina A&T State University at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov 20, in the Merrick Hall Auditorium.



Cornelison

The topic is "Impact of the Financial Crisis on Small Businesses: What You Need to Know to Survive." The event is free and open to the public.

Cornelison joined the U. S. Small Business Administration in 1999 as the North Carolina District Director following his retirement from Peabody. During his 20 years at Peabody he held various positions from manager of contract administration to senior vice president - sales and marketing.

Prior to that, Cornelison worked for the Shell Oil Company in Detroit and for the Department of Defense in St. Louis. He is a Vietnam veteran and holds the rank of Colonel (retired) U. S. Army Reserve.

The lecture is sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Center for Entrepreneurship and E-Business (ICEEB), N.C. A&T School of Business and Economics, and the North Carolina District of the U. S. Small Business Administration.

McTeacher's Night raises money for local schools

McDonald's restaurant owners/operators across the Triad recently donated more than \$10,000 to local schools.

The donations came as a result of teachers and parents helping and "working" in their local McDonald's restaurant on Oct. 21 as part of the McTeacher's Night fundraiser where a portion of the proceeds from McDonald's restaurants from 5 - 8 p.m. were given back to the schools.

On McTeacher's Night, volunteer workers suited up in McDonald's aprons and hats and worked in the restaurants - taking customer orders, serving fries and drinks, helping out in the drive-thru, and even preparing hamburgers in many restaurants.

Green, FTCC gratified that voters supported bond

Dr. Gary Green, president of Forsyth Technical Community College, is expressing his gratitude to the community following last week's passage of the Educational Facilities Bond Referendum. The bonds passed by a 62 percent to 38 percent margin, receiving 90,930 "yes" votes.

"I want to thank the voters of Forsyth County, County Commission members, and supporters and friends of Forsyth Tech," Green said. "The incredible success of the bond referendum indicates the value the people of Forsyth County place upon their community college. It exemplifies an appreciation of the opportunity that Forsyth Tech provides the people of the county for education and training, opportunity to improve their lives, the lives of their children, neighbors and friends."

Passage of the referendum will allow Forsyth Tech to acquire the Career Center and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools' administrative offices on Miller Street and renovate them to create new lab and classroom space.



Dr. Green

UL to become major downtown jobs hub

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Urban League of Winston-Salem will ensure that job-searchers have a place downtown to turn to for help.

The Urban League's Trade Street headquarters opened a "Shared Access Point" yesterday in conjunction with the N.C. Division of Workforce Development. The Shared Access Point helps unemployed and underemployed individuals obtain job-search services under the North Carolina SHARE Network. The Urban League site will offer Internet access, electronic job search capabilities and resume preparation assistance.

The Urban League site is especially critical now, according to Urban League officials, since the Employment Security



Commission has relocated from downtown to a new location on University Parkway. The Shared Access Point is a more central location for many, especially those who use public

transportation.

"The Urban League is committed to providing quality employment services to the community," said Urban League President and CEO

Keith Grandberry. "At a time when we are facing an employment crisis, the Urban League is pleased to partner with the Employment Security Commission to make these services more accessible to the community."

Local Urban League employment counselors received special training to man the jobs hub. Job seekers who come to the Urban League will go through an intake and assessment process conducted by an employment counselor. The Urban League Access Point will then provide comprehensive employment services.

For more information, call the Winston-Salem Urban League at 336-725-5614.



Harris Teeter Photo

Some of the volunteers that helped to feed 5,000 people in Raleigh.

Grocery chain's food drive is now underway

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Nearly 5,000 people were fed last week in Raleigh during a kick off event for the annual Harvest Feast Food Drive, a collaboration between Harris Teeter, the Triangle United Way and the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.

Harris Teeter stores set up bins at its entrances late last month to allow shoppers to donate non-perishable food items. The grocery chain is also giving its customers the option of giving to the effort by purchasing \$5 and \$20 food donation cards.

At the conclusion of the Harvest Feast Food Drive, Harris Teeter will distribute gift cards to its food bank partners based on

the amount that was raised in their particular service area. The food partner agencies will use the gift cards to purchase the items they need to serve their clients.

"Harris Teeter is committed to ending hunger in the communities it serves," said President Fred Morganthall. "Our shoppers have proven their generosity in the past. By giving them an opportunity to donate I know we will be able to make a difference this holiday season."

All 176 Harris Teeter stores throughout the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic will participate in the food drive. The items donated will stay in individual communities. Dozens of food banks and agencies in several states will benefit from the effort.

Event Planners' Expo is planned

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The N.C. A&T State University Foundation Inc. has announced plans to host its first-ever Caterer's & Event Planner's Expo.

The event is slated to take place on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 2 - 5 p.m. at the Alumni-Foundation Event Center, 200 N. Benbow Rd. The 30,000-square-foot



center is a premier facility for events and functions. It boasts amenities such as a Grand Ballroom and library.

A large number of professional catering and event planning businesses from the Triad and beyond are expected to take part. Each business will have an opportunity to showcase its foods and services to the guests on hand.

Event Coordinator Julie Melikpor says this event is an effort to bring the best and the brightest in the business to the customers. "We really wanted to offer our customers and potential clients an opportunity to see and taste what local vendors have to offer," she says.

The event will also serve a dual purpose. Admission is \$10, however, attendees can bring an unwrapped toy and receive a 50 percent discount off the ticket price. Toys will be donated to families in need that live in the Triad. Other door prizes will be made available.

To register go to www.aggieeventcenter.com or send your request to info@aggieeventcenter.com, or call Julie Melikpor at 336-433-5566 or Audretta at 336-862-6491.

A NEW DAY



PRNewsFoto/USW

Pennsylvania members of the United Steelworkers (USW) celebrate the win of President-Elect Barack Obama. The USW, which represents 850,000 workers in the U.S. and Canada employed in industries such as metals, rubber, chemicals and paper, endorsed the Democratic senator and worked to get him elected.

Truliant to use grant to continue program

TruOpportunity Builder nurtures small businesses

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Truliant Federal Credit Union will use a \$22,840 from the National Credit Union Foundation (NCUF) to continue a program that offers advice and guidance to potential entrepreneurs.

The NCUF also funded the pilot program for Truliant's TruOpportunity Builder Program earlier this year. The program has offered financial literacy classes to new and existing credit union members. Marjorie Rorie, director of community services for Truliant, calls the program a "holistic approach to building financial strength through saving, credit building, account management and finan-

cial education."

The pilot has seen great success, she added.

"We have seen success with this pilot, with credit scores rising significantly."

With the new "Innovation Grant," Truliant aims to establish and mentor more small businesses through entrepreneurial education, credit counseling and strategic planning. The credit union will use the grant to nurture small business owners in five underserved areas of North Carolina and Virginia.

"Rural entrepreneurs in particular need greater access to equity capital," said Rorie. "Our program aligns with the mission of NCUF to 'improve consumer financial independence through credit unions,' by increasing access to loans for low-wealth and rural-based entrepreneurs in underserved communities. We want to broaden financial options for start-ups and growing businesses. We will make a concerted effort to provide financial literacy among adults and youths to prepare them better for entrepreneurship."



Rorie