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Attention WNC manufacturers: Great opportunity to showcase your made-in-NC products with upcoming state tour & rallies

Regional manufacturers have a great opportunity to gain visibility for their products by participating in the "Manufacturing Makes *It* Real Tour," starting Sept. 27. The tour will stop at 12 sites across the state, including two in WNC, where local manufacturers can bring samples of their products for a "show 'n' tell" celebration of manufacturing.

Products will then be loaded onto a tractor-trailer and put on display for the next stop. The load of manufactured-in-NC goods will convoy to a final celebration on Oct. 1 at the State Legislative Building in Raleigh to be presented to state leaders. Some goods will then be chosen for a NC Museum of History exhibit, recognizing North Carolina's diverse and abundant array of products and the people who make them.

HERE'S HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA: In our region, rallies will take place on Sept. 27 at 4:30 p.m. at [PolyChem Alloy](#) in Lenoir and on Sept. 28 at 8:30 a.m. at [Arvin Meritor](#) in Fletcher. Manufacturers are encouraged to bring a sample of what you make to one of these rallies (and invite your employees, friends and family as well!). Those manufacturers who make large-scale items, such as buses or boats, can participate as a member of the convoy.

All events are free and open to the public, and state and local leaders are expected to attend. This celebration of manufacturing in NC is hosted by NC State University's Industrial Extension Service. For more details, call 800.227.0264 or [go here](#).

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Apply now for AdvantageGreen Energy Internship Program; one-year positions start in October

The application process for positions with the 2010-11 AdvantageGreen Energy Internships Program is well underway and has generated significant interest and enthusiasm across the region. Nine internships and three fellowships are available under the program. Positions are 12-month commitments that start in October and pay a competitive stipend. The goal of the program is twofold: to help create pathways to meaningful employment in clean energy companies for students, and to help grow Western North Carolina's clean energy economy. [DETAILS AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS CAN BE FOUND HERE](#). For more information, contact [Matt Raker](#).

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Find out how to become a Certified Entrepreneurial Community - deadline extended!

Western North Carolina now has seven communities that have earned AdvantageWest certification as "entrepreneur-ready." The following communities have completed the rigorous five-step Certified Entrepreneurial CommunitySM program: Haywood, Watauga, Transylvania, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Mitchell, Polk and Burke. Communities nearing completion include the Town of Black Mountain and Macon County.

ADVANTAGEWEST'S SECOND ROUND OF CEC LEADERSHIP TRAINING IS COMING UP. Entrepreneurism can be a valuable strategy for economic growth. If your community is ready to make a commitment to encourage and support entrepreneurship while improving the business climate for existing companies, **now is the time to schedule an AdvantageWest CEC presentation to get your questions answered about the process.** Key dates:

- Oct 27: Letters of intent to participate in the program due to AdvantageWest
- Nov 3-5: CEC Leadership Training

For more information, or to schedule a CEC presentation by AdvantageWest to your community leaders, contact [Pam Lewis](#).

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Save the dates! AdvantageWest Economic Summit is Nov. 15; Carolina Connect is May 5

Planning for two of AdvantageWest's most popular events is in the works, so mark your calendar now. The next **Economic Summit** will be held on the evening of November 15 at Diana Wortham Theatre in downtown Asheville. Once again columnist and UNC-TV host D.G. Martin will serve as moderator, for a panel of distinguished guests that will include Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton.

Meanwhile, **Carolina Connect**, the region's signature event for entrepreneurs and investors, returns for the eighth time May 5, 2011. Feedback from last spring's event was the best we'd ever gotten, so we're excited about building on that momentum.

Stay tuned for more details on both of these important networking and professional development opportunities.

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ERC Broadband to build "middle mile" of fiber optic cable across 5 WNC counties with stimulus money

ERC Broadband is a sub-recipient of stimulus grant funds awarded to MCNC by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) of the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA). As a sub-recipient, ERC Broadband will construct and own approximately 105 miles of fiber optic cabling in Avery, Buncombe, Madison, McDowell and Mitchell counties. This "middle-mile" network can be viewed as the Interstate highway of connectivity that gives local cable and Internet companies an on-ramp for providing individual customers with broadband services. [Learn more.](#)

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Sign up now for Blue Ridge Food Ventures' wintertime CSA; interest is high in Winter Sun Farms program

Enjoying healthy, locally grown food is possible even in the wintertime with Winter Sun Farms, a program of Blue Ridge Food Ventures. Once a month, December through March, members of this Community Supported Agriculture program (CSA) receive fruits and vegetables from local farms, frozen at the peak of freshness. The program provides subscribers local food year-round, while also giving WNC farmers the opportunity to grow for a committed market and sell produce at harvest for a fair price. A limited number of subscriptions are available and they're going fast, so sign up now. [Learn more.](#)

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Tourism organization launches new website to promote WNC as a destination, just in time for fall visitors

Blue Ridge Mountain Host, a nonprofit coalition promoting the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains as a visitor destination, has launched a new website featuring compelling new photography, real-time updates, easier navigation, a social media section, and a more user-friendly layout. The new site at www.ncblueridge.com serves as a one-stop shop for information on the attractions, lodging, eateries, recreation areas, cultural offerings and other points of interest in a region that includes Buncombe, Burke, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Transylvania and Yancey counties.

High Country Host, the tourism organization that promotes Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Watauga and Wilkes counties, launched a new site last year: www.MountainsofNC.com. The third host organization in the AdvantageWest region is Smoky Mountain Host, providing information on travel, activities and attractions in Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon and Swain counties and the Qualla Boundary. Visit it here: www.visitsmokies.org.

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Mark your calendar now for these upcoming events

Sept 14, 7pm: "Building NC's Future on its Past: Three Ingredients for Success," with Anita Brown-Graham, Director of NC's Institute for Emerging Issues - Warren Wilson College Chapel. Free public event is part of Warren Wilson's 2010 Sustainability Speakers Series presented in partnership with AdvantageGreen and the AB Tech Global Institute for Sustainability Technologies. Discussion will address growth in NC and the challenges and opportunities such growth will bring. [More info here.](#)

Sept 28, 6-8pm: NC STEM Community Collaborative Statewide Kickoff, NC Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh. The NC STEM Community Collaborative helps communities throughout the state ensure all students engage in rigorous and relevant science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education that provides them with good choices in life and bolsters the economic strength of their communities. This

program and networking event will connect NC educators, business leaders, and public officials with STEM leaders from around the country. [Register by September 22 here.](#)

Oct 8: Clean Energy Now Conference - Blue Ridge Community College. Intensive one-day event will provide WNC manufacturers, companies and local governments with an overview of opportunities for using energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean vehicles to create and sustain a competitive edge. Sponsored in part by AdvantageGreen. [Info or to register.](#)

Oct 21, 2pm: AdvantageWest Board of Directors Meeting – AdvantageWest Offices. Regular bimonthly meeting of the 21-member Board of Directors. Open to the public. Call 828.687-7234 for more information.

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In the news: Local company makes CNN; Raleigh paper features Blue Ridge Food Ventures; WCU film professor wins Telly Award

-*CNN*: Two local green businesses and their project were featured recently on CNN and Discovery News. [More here.](#)

-*Raleigh News & Observer*: A recent article about food business incubators included Blue Ridge Food Ventures. [More here.](#)

-*Western Carolina University News*: A WCU cinematography professor recently won a Telly Award for his work as director of photography on “Wesley,” an historical movie about a co-founder of the Methodist Church. Film locations included Burke County and 16 WCU students worked as crew on the film. Tellies recognize excellence in local, regional and cable TV commercials and programs as well as video and film productions and work created for the Web. [More here.](#)

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Got news?

We welcome your announcements about economic development activities within the 23-county region of Western North Carolina. Submit news for consideration to the [newsletter editor](#). AdvantageWest reserves the right to modify submissions to conform to editorial guidelines, space constraints, timeliness and other circumstances.

Editor's note: AdvantageWest is transitioning to a new newsletter system. Thank you for your patience as we work out bugs in the new process. If you have problems with newsletter delivery or other concerns, please [contact us](#).



AdvantageWest is the regional economic development partnership serving the 23 westernmost counties of North Carolina. Chartered by the state General Assembly in 1994, AdvantageWest is a nonprofit, public-private partnership governed by a 21-member board of directors. Our program of work focuses on advanced manufacturing, entrepreneurial development, agribusiness, and the green economy. AdvantageWest also maintains the WNC Film Commission.

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