

**NC Ports Authority Addresses Local Industry Leaders**

KENANSVILLE, NC August 7, 2013 – The initial meeting of “Developing Duplin” brought together local business and industry leaders on the James Sprunt Community College campus Tuesday evening August 6, 2013, for a presentation and discussion by the North Carolina State Ports Authority, representing the ports of Wilmington and Morehead City, in addition to its Charlotte and Piedmont Triad inland terminals.

“Developing Duplin” is a series of meetings sponsored by James Sprunt Community College through the Customized Training Program, and the Duplin County Economic Development Commission (DCEDC) with the purpose of providing information to existing business and industry, and initiating new ideas for the economic development of Duplin County. JSCC was represented by Dr. Lawrence L. Rouse, President, and Mark Lennon, Director Customized Training Program. The DCEDC was represented by James Wolfe, Executive Director.

Jimmy Yokeley, Director of Community Economic Development with the NC State Ports Authority, addressed the group with a presentation about the vital role of the Ports Authority, serving business and industry in importing and exporting, and in recruiting business and industry into the state. It is the stated mission of the Ports Authority “to enhance the economy of the State of North Carolina.”

According to Yokeley, Duplin County is designated as a Strategic Economic Development Location having nearby ports in addition to highway and interstate infrastructure which provides desirable integrated transportation options for existing and new business and industry.

“The economic development of Duplin County and the growth of James Sprunt Community College are a symbiotic relationship. The success of either is a mutual benefit to the other. That is why it is vitally important that we

develop partnerships inside and outside the county that may result in improving service for existing business and industry, in addition to recruiting new industry to the area as well as," said Dr. Lawrence Rouse.

Those members of the business and industry community that were represented include Bunge North America, Cottle Farms, North Carolina Department of Commerce, The Duplin Times, Duplin Winery, the Duplin County Economic Development Commission, Guilford Mills, James Sprunt Community College, the Kenansville Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor of Warsaw, Murphy Brown LLC, National Spinning Company, North Carolina's Eastern Region, Southern Produce Distributors, Inc., North Carolina State Small Business and Economic Development Center, The Pork Company, the town of Faison, and the town of Kenansville, the town of Warsaw, and US Cold Storage.