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Carolinas Gateway Partnership News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jade Apparel to Begin Operations in Tarboro

The Glenoit Fabrics facility located in Tarboro, Edgecombe County, is going to be the new home to the NJ based, Jade Apparel.

Jade Apparel anticipates creating a \$2 million investment in equipment and renovations. The jobs in New Jersey will not be affected by this expansion. The company plans to create 100 new jobs within 24 months and expand employment to 250 in the third year (250 jobs over a 3 year period). The North Carolina facility will focus on the manufacturing of apparel for the military. This apparel includes parkas and trousers, jackets and pants, combat shirts and various field garments.

According to a representative of Jade Apparel, "We look forward to our new home in Tarboro. Glenoit and Jade Apparel have a long history of cooperation and friendship. Before garment sourcing moved to China, Jade was one of the largest users of Glenoit fabrics for Seventh Avenue companies, today we focus on producing high tech garments mainly for the military. Sharing the Glenoit factory in Tarboro allows us to expand our military business, but also re-invent the fashion garment supply chain. Being close to the fabric source allows us to cut out transportation time and cost. Being close to the customers, both military and fashion Houses on Seventh Avenue, coupled with Glenoit's value, quality, and quick response, will give us opportunities in this changing market. Uncertainties in retail and and escalating costs in China might just help to reignite the old faux fur magic! We would love nothing more. We would like to thank all our friends in North Carolina who have worked so hard to make this move possible, and have made us feel welcome. We appreciate your help and famous Southern Hospitality!"

Mayor Donald Morris welcomed the good news saying "I am very pleased with the company's decision to locate their operations in Tarboro in the Glenoit facility. The creation of new jobs and investment is great news for our community. It will be wonderful to see new activity at the facility and we welcome Jade Apparel to Tarboro."

County officials are happy to have this new local opportunity. "We are very excited about Jade Apparel's decision to locate operations in Edgecombe County," said Leonard Wiggins, Chairman of the Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners. "The creation of 250 new jobs and an investment of \$2 million is wonderful news for us."

Rep. Joe Tolson (D-Edgecombe) said, "I am really pleased to see this process come to a positive conclusion. It is good to see this number of jobs in our area that will help put people back to work. I hope this is the beginning of many such announcements over the next few months."

"The Partnership is pleased to have assisted Jade Apparel in its expansion and relocation We also thank the NC Department of Commerce for their assistance on this project.. With our available labor and positive business climate, this confirms the advantages of a Twin County location for companies doing business throughout the Southeast," said Carolinas Gateway Partnership Chairman Frank Harrison. "Jade Apparel will be providing jobs to the area's workers that is so important in these tough economic times."

The Carolinas Gateway Partnership, Inc. is a coalition of over 200 public and private sector investors from the Twin Counties, City of Rocky Mount, Town of Tarboro, and the Town of Nashville. For more information about the Partnership, call 252-442-0114, or email to cgp@econdev.org.

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