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## Edge Dental Laboratory Solutions to open home office in Lenoir County

**By Free Press Staff**

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Lenoir County and Lenoir County Economic Development announced Thursday that Edge Dental Laboratory Solutions, LLC will be expanding its operations in Lenoir County.

The Company will invest over \$500,000 and create seven new jobs in Kinston over the next year. Also, an additional \$850,000 has been earmarked for expansion into other states. The average salary is \$64,000 for these employees, and Lenoir County will be the home office for this business.

Edge Dental Solutions, a Wilmington based company offers Laboratory Owners and Technicians development opportunities in the marketplace by providing funding and support services intended to grow their business, capitalize on expansion opportunities, and ultimately improve client dentist satisfaction.

Edge has partnered with Stone Dental Laboratory in Kinston, empowering Stone to realize their growth aspirations and driving a 200 percent revenue increase over the first six months.

Corey Harrison, President of Stone Dental Laboratory, said the growth will continue.

“With Edge’s support and collaborative execution, Stone has completed a merger/acquisition, and expanded into additional markets in the Southeast - with plans to continue,” Harrison said. “The owners and founding members of Edge and Stone collectively represent over 200 years of experience in various phases of the dental service and management industry. This experience, along with deep industry

knowledge around dentists' service needs, have formed a vision that both companies believe will propel Edge Dental Solutions and Stone Laboratories into the future," stated Corey Harrison, President of Stone Dental Laboratory."

Mike Thomas, President and CEO of Edge Dental Laboratory Solutions, said the two companies understand the needs of dentists and patients.

"Edge and Stone passionately believe that all dentists and their patients deserve the highest product quality, and personalized service by individuals who understand their daily operation and patients' needs."

Edge Dental Solutions was formed by nationally certified dental technicians, and dental service professionals in collaboration with dentists.

Craig Hill, chairman of Lenoir County Commissioners, said "Adding an outstanding company that brings jobs that pay well above the average salary" to the community helps improve the quality of life for the citizens.

"Bringing a small corporate home office to our tax base will encourage other companies to locate here and will build momentum and positive energy for economic development here in Lenoir County," Hill said.

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from Lenoir County up to \$7,800. Companies receive no money up front and must meet investment performance standards to qualify for reimbursement.

Local governments utilize these grants to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity.

The Edwards family of Kinston and Whiteville, as owners and investors, also have played an important role in making the endeavor possible.

The family is historically known to and currently take a proactive interest in job creation and business development in Lenoir County, as well as, other N.C. counties.

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The family is historically known to take a proactive interest in job creation and business development in Lenoir County, as well as, other North Carolina counties, Koonce said.

“Lenoir County is pleased that Edge Dental Laboratory Solutions has decided to invest in our community,” Koonce said.