Industrial Extension Service

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Centennial Campus
Campus Box 7902
Raleigh, NC 27695-7902

**Southern Prestige Reports $6 million plus in Economic Benefit**

Statesville, NC—Southern Prestige Industries in Statesville, a computer numerical control (CNC) machining manufacturer, recently reported a $6 million plus in economic impact in the local economy, according to an independent third-party survey completed as part of the work Southern Prestige did with NC State University's Industrial Extension Service.

Barbara Williams of NC State's IES with Southern Prestige President, James Wilson and his wife Cookie Wilson, who directs the company's marketing efforts, as they display the 1B4NC Award.

NC State professionals worked with Southern Prestige to help them achieve AS9100 certification—a global seal of approval for quality management systems, recognized world wide as the gold standard. The University provided pre-assessment training and certification preparation. The economic impact figure includes nearly $5 million in retained sales and investments in new equipment and other business areas.

That $6 million plus impact was celebrated in NC State's 1B4NC campaign. Southern Prestige Industries was recognized on May 20, 2009 as a major contributor to the IES promise: to create $1 billion in economic impact for North Carolina by 2010. Since January 2006, IES' economic impact for the state of NC is more than $714 million. The celebration coincided with the company's 30th anniversary during a gala outdoor lunch.

The company that began making cartons in 1979 is now one of 45 certified AS9100 companies in North Carolina, according to the International Aerospace Quality Group OASIS database. "Growth is the reason for this certification," said President James Wilson. "AS9100 opens up doors for us that we haven't explored before. Our quality is superior and our systems are in place. Now we can back it up. My goal is that after I retire, you will all still be here."

Precision Processing Systems, a division of Southern Prestige Industries, provides CNC turning, CNC milling, and CNC screw machine capabilities to the aerospace, textile, electronic, medical, automotive and scientific industries. Machined components such as those found in fire suppression systems have up to 256 active dimensions with precision to a millionth of an inch.

Aerospace makes up 65 percent of the company's business. The AS9100 standard was created specifically for the aerospace industry and incorporates all the requirements of the ISO 9001:2000 quality management standard. It includes aerospace-specific requirements such as safety and reliability components.

With the expected increase in aerospace business, Wilson expects to grow his staff to 100 employees within two years. "This certification will help us do what we need to grow," he said. Bracing for this growth, Wilson recently bought the building behind the current facility.