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## Candidate makes local stop

Tours Triangle North hub sites in four area counties, also stops at VGCC

**BY AL WHELESS**  
DAILY DISPATCH WRITER

State Sen. Walter Dalton (D-Rutherford), who is running for Lieutenant Governor, toured the four hub sites of Triangle North in Vance, Warren, Granville and Franklin counties Tuesday afternoon.

Accompanied by Sen. Doug Berger, Dalton was given a look at the buildings of VanceGranville Community College by President Randy Parker.

Dalton had initially been invited by Berger to attend a vote-raiser event in the candidate's honor Tuesday night at Sassafra in Stovall.

Berger described it as one of his favorite "gourmet restaurants."

He mentioned that Dalton, who is co-chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, had wanted to spend part of the day looking at the hub sites.

"It's always great to travel through North Carolina and see signs of investments the legislature has made," Dalton said in a brief interview outside the VGCC administration building.

"I represent an area that is very similar to Vance," he added. "I represent both Rutherford and Cleveland counties, which have lost a lot of textile jobs. We were in the top five (in unemployment) in the state for about five years." Dalton said he has always been impressed with the concept of the hub project. "This is going to be a model. This is doing things in a different way, but a good way."

Triangle North has the collaboration and cooperation of four different counties, he noted. Dalton referred to the hub sites as "a good thing, in my opinion."

Berger said Dalton understands "what it is going to take to close the gap between rural and urban North Carolina."

The two senators and Crawford were shown part of Building 1 at Triangle North in Vance County. They didn't visit the only tenant so far, which is Affiliated Computer Systems. The company occupies 33,000 square feet and has 250 employees.

The three legislators toured the adjacent shell building which has 49,000 square feet of available space.

Those who met with Dalton, Berger and Crawford included Danny Wright, a Vance County commissioner and chairman of the Kerr-Tar Economic Development Corporation which serves as the board of directors for Triangle North, State Rep. Jim Crawford, Benny Finch, executive director of the Vance County Economic Development Commission and Sam Watkins, chairman of the Embassy Cultural Center Foundation in Henderson.

Contact the writer at [awheless@hendersondispatch.com](mailto:awheless@hendersondispatch.com).

**Tours Triangle North hub sites in four area counties, also stops at VGCC**

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DAILY DISPATCH/ **ASHLEY STEVEN AYSCUE**  
**Sen. Walter Dalton talks to local leaders during a visit to Vance-Granville Community College Tuesday afternoon. Dalton is running for Lieutenant Governor.**

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