



Japan-North Carolina Ties



Politics

The State of North Carolina established its Japan Office of the Division of International Trade, Department of Commerce, in Tokyo in 1978. The state government actively participates, along with state agencies and private corporations, in the Annual Meetings of the Japan-U.S. Southeast Association, which was founded in 1976. North Carolina seeks to broaden its relationship with Japan not only in political terms, but in two-way economic, cultural, and educational terms as well, and harbors great potential for the expansion of meaningful exchange programs.

Economy

North Carolina has attracted Japanese industry for years. This is indicated by the fact that Japanese-affiliated companies have invested \$4.5 billion in North Carolina, where currently 167 Japanese-affiliated companies operate. These companies in total employ 19,196 workers. Some major Japanese firms in North Carolina are Mitsubishi Electric & Electronics USA, Inc., Konica Manufacturing USA, Inc., Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc., ASMO North Carolina, Inc., YKK (U.S.A.), Inc. and Reichhold Chemicals. North Carolina's exports to Japan in 2006 amounted to \$1.7 billion, making Japan its 3rd largest export market.

Cultural and Educational Organizations

Asian/Pacific Studies Institute at Duke University
Jacksonville Okinawa Kenjin Kai
Japan-America Society of Charlotte (founded 1991)
Japanese American Association, Triad Chapter
Japanese Amity Association
Japanese Association in Charlotte
Japanese Association of Chapel Hill – Durham
Japanese Supplemental Schools in Charlotte and Raleigh
Nippon Club of the Triangle
North Carolina Japan Center in Raleigh (founded 1980) with 6 chapters in Fayetteville, Boone, Laurinburg, Wilmington, Winston-Salem, and Buies Creek
North Carolina Japan Partnership Initiative (founded 1998) with school exchanges throughout NC and Japan
Piedmont Japanese Business Association
Triangle East Asia Colloquium
Triangle Japanese Business Association

Sister City

Durham-Toyama-shi (Toyama) (Since June 13, 1989)

Japanese Studies

Appalachian State University (Major and minor in Asian Studies)
Duke University (Major in Asian Languages and Literatures, minor in Japanese, master's degree in East Asian Studies; exchange programs with International Christian University, Kyushu University, Kansai Gaidai University, Kyoto Center for Japanese Studies, Nanzan University, Waseda University)
Elon University (Exchange program with Kansai Gaidai University)
Guilford College (Exchange program with International Christian University)
North Carolina Central University (Exchange program with Chukyo University)
North Carolina State University (Minor in Japanese; Exchange program with Sophia University, Nagoya University, Hiroshima Shudo, Shizuoka Sangya University, Chukyo University and Kansai Gaidai University)
St. Andrews Presbyterian College (Major in Asian Studies)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Major in Asian Studies, Minor in Asian Studies, Minor in Japanese; Exchange program with Keio University, Kwansei Gakuin University, Nanzan University, Sophia University, International Christian University)
University of North Carolina at Charlotte (Minor in Japanese)
University of North Carolina at Greensboro (Minor in Asian Studies; Exchange program with Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, Nara Women's University)
Wake Forest University (Minor in Japanese, Minor in Asian Studies, Concentration in East Asian Studies; Exchange program with Kansai Gaidai University)

Annual Events

Setsubun Festival in Charlotte (February)
Southeastern Japanese Speech Contest at Duke University (April)
Bon-odori in Charlotte (August)
Trade conference in Raleigh (November)