



U.S.A
North Carolina
Charlotte



Charlotte



Hi, My name is Josh Stralow; I am 17 years old and am from Charlotte North Carolina in the U.S. if you didn't already figure it out. I'm a senior in high school and I am home schooled. I enjoy snowboarding, going to the movies, and hanging out with my friends. In the future I would like to go into robotics engineering at North Carolina State University. My email address is zuluzeugma@msn.com



Hello, my name is Katie Dodd. I am 16 years old and a junior at Providence High School in Charlotte, NC. Visit our web site at <http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/allschools/providence/index.htm>. I enjoy playing lacrosse at my school and I am also involved with the choir. I also like to act. My email address is aspickle@aol.com



This is John Dodd, President of the Jesse Helms Center (<http://jessehelscenter.org>), and Marilyn Robertson, an economics instructor at

South Piedmont Community College (<http://www.southpiedmont.org>). Mr. Dodd has been an active sponsor of the Virtual Trade Mission's @APEC program, traveling to Malaysia and New Zealand for the APEC Meetings in 1998 and 1999. Mr. Dodd also coaches the Men's Lacrosse Team at Wingate University. Marilyn is the winner of numerous teaching awards and serves as Director of the Jesse Helms Center's Free Enterprise Leadership Conference, which will hold its first international conference in Monterrey in April of 2002.

We also want to introduce Senator Jesse Helms, who was first elected to the United States Senate in 1972 and until recently served as Chairman of the U.S. Foreign Relations Committee. He loves young people so much that since coming to the Senate he has personally met with over 100,000 North Carolina students when they visited Washington. For more info on Senator Helms, visit <http://www.senate.gov/~helms/>

Lets play a little guessing game, what state is home to the world's greatest basketball player, the furniture capital of the world, and the second largest banking city in the U.S.? If you guessed North Carolina you would be correct. Michael Jordan himself was born and raised in NC, High Point NC produces more furniture than any other city in the world, and Charlotte NC (our home town) is the second largest banking city in the U.S., aside only from New York City. However, North Carolina is not all basketball and furniture though. North Carolina is the friendly smiles on people's faces in the cities, it's the cool breeze blowing through ones hair,



the beautiful blue ridge mountains, and it's the breathtaking sunrises at the beach. This is North Carolina!

Aside from the wonderful people and great attractions of North Carolina, it is also an exporter of the following things machinery, electrical machinery, tobacco, optic, NT 8544, knit apparel, vehicles (not railway), plastic cotton + yarn, fabric manmade filament, fabric, pharmaceutical products, and wood pulp. The total export numbers come up to \$128,369,593,90 (Visit <http://www.exportnc.com/> for more info). Aside from those exports to other countries NC also produces a large amount of agriculture, the agricultural products that are most commonly produced are bell Peppers, chili peppers, collard greens, cabbage, cucumbers, eggplants, lima beans, mustard greens, snap beans, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, tomatoes, turnip Greens, and watermelons. NC is also a big producer of the field crop these being wheat, sorghum, soybeans, and corn.

Poultry production is also big in North Carolina in fact the poultry industry plays a significant role in the economy of North Carolina. In 1992 it contributed more than 30 percent of the state's farm income, and the gross sale value of its products is over \$2 billion annually. In addition, more than 23,000 North Carolinians work in processing plants, hatcheries, feed mills, and other segments of the industry, earning more than \$300 million annually . Over 4,400 farmers grow poultry in North Carolina, and one of every six farms with annual sales of more than \$10,000 is engaged in poultry production.

(Visit <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/poulsci/techinfo/4Pst39.htm> for more info)

Hog farming is also an important in North Carolina. A local newspaper said it this way "North Carolina, hundreds of miles from America's traditional Midwest hog belt, has become the nation's No. 2 hog producer. Last year, hogs generated more than \$1 billion in revenue -- more than tobacco. This year, hogs are expected to pass broiler chickens as the No. 1 agricultural commodity." (For more info go to <http://archive.nandotimes.com/sproject/hogs/hoghome.html>)



Tobacco has always been an important part of North Carolina's economy. Many people raised in this state can find a heritage relating to some area of the tobacco industry. The golden leaf has been a bedrock to North Carolina' economy.

North Carolina continues to rank number one in the production of tobacco with an approximate annual farm income of \$814.1 million dollars. In 2000, North Carolina flue-cured tobacco farmers raised 163,000 acres with an average yield of 2,500 lbs. per acre. Burley tobacco farmers in the state raised 7,400 acres for an average yield of 1,650 lbs. per acre. There are approximately 286,500 tobacco farms with assigned quota in the United States with North Carolina having 40,829 tobacco farms with quota. According to the 1997 census there are 89,706 tobacco farmers in the United States and 12,095 tobacco farmers in North Carolina. Employment relating to tobacco is 662,400 in the United States and 255,000 in North Carolina. The tobacco industry's estimated spending-induced impact on America's GNP was over \$64.0 billion. North Carolina's tobacco economic impact is over \$7.0 billion.

North Carolina also has a number of Christmas tree farms, 1600 to be exact. Christmas tree sales last year in the U.S. totaled \$78 Billion.

As previously said, Charlotte, (the biggest city in NC) is the second largest banking city in the U.S. It is the headquarters for Bank Of America, First Union, and several other large banks.

Very few of these successful operations could happen with out the assistance of the Mexican community. From the tobacco picker to the construction worker, North Carolina would not be nearly as successful as it is with out the hard working Mexican migrant population.

Three Union County companies that trade directly with Mexico are *Grainger*, a company that imports hand tools and Electrical Components to Mexico and *Vidas&Company Inc.* who exports meat and poultry to Mexico. The last company is *CBS forklift, Inc.* who exports forklifts to Mexico. (For more info visit <http://www.unioncountycoc.com>)



On the lighter side of things anyone who has ever heard a rock song from the 70's 80's or 90's on the radio has been effected by the Mexican people. The reason is that Mexico designed and produced one of the most popular and best sounding guitars ever made, the Fender Strat.

When we come to Mexico there are a few things we would like to accomplish. First, we expect to increase our knowledge of how the APEC organization functions as a whole. Second, we hope to leave Mexico with a better understanding of the Mexican culture and people. Third, we desire to leave Mexico with lifelong friends worldwide. Fourth and last, we hope to learn how the U.S. interacts with the Mexican commerce.

We hope that this has been informative to all that read it.