

Harris To Lead HTC Advisory Board

The Hosiery Technology Center Advisory Board has begun drafting a blueprint for the institution under the leadership of Nimrod Harris Jr., president of Pickett Hosiery Inc. in Burlington, chairman of the HTC board.

Harris will lead a 14-member board which held an organizational meeting in September. One of the first priorities adopted by the board was the development of a Strategic Plan. The model is the plan first rolled out in 1995, "Preserving Hosiery Manufacturing in North Carolina."

Paul Fogleman, longtime advocate for the hosiery industry, facilitated the sessions and wrote the plan almost 10 years ago. He is serving as facilitator for the current plan and will prepare the final document.

"That first plan was the driving force in our earlier years," said HTC Director Dan St. Louis. "The plan reflected the direction the industry was headed and the needs to be addressed. We want this current plan to

keep the center focused on challenges as identified by the industry."

During the initial planning session October 13, the board members analyzed trends having an impact on U.S. hosiery manufacturers. Globalization, industry consolidations, and constantly-changing marketing demands all will be addressed as the technology center gears up for the industry's future.

Sessions in November and January will look at opportunities and pinpoint weaknesses and their associated problems. The final document with an action plan will be reviewed in late February or March, Fogleman said.

Expected to affect the operations of the center is a possible new role with the Center for Applied Textile Technology in Belmont. A study of the center and its future was mandated by the 2004 General Assembly, with the HTC director named to the panel that will present recommendations.



Nimrod Harris, Jr.



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