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**Fairmont Designs to Establish New Operations
and Create 200 New Jobs in Hickory**

HICKORY, N.C. — Case goods and upholstery producer Fairmont Designs has selected Hickory for a project that will create 200 new jobs over the next four years with a minimum investment of \$1.5 million. Fairmont Designs acquired a former 215,000 square foot Thomasville Furniture facility where they will manufacture upholstered furniture.

Fairmont Designs has 25 years of expertise in manufacturing home furnishings and furnishings for the hospitality industry. They have a 200,000-square-foot upholstery plant in Rancho Dominguez, California, where they are headquartered. The North Carolina location will allow Fairmont Designs to better serve customers east of the Mississippi. The Hickory location, with its proximity to major interstates, will make Fairmont Designs more competitive by reducing transportation costs to East Coast customers.

"It is another show of investment for Fairmont Designs," said Brian Edwards, President. "Where other companies are shedding workers and looking for ways to divest, we are taking steps that will make us a stronger company and have stronger offerings in the industry."

"We are very pleased that Fairmont Designs is investing in Catawba County by creating 200 jobs that will help put our skilled upholsterers and furniture makers back to work," says Kitty Barns, Chair of the Catawba County Commissioners. "We know that Fairmont Designs will be impressed by the hardworking employees they will find here."

"Fairmont Designs is giving new life to an empty building and new opportunities to many workers who are eager to show them the great qualities of our workforce," said Hickory Mayor Rudy Wright. "There are many people in our area that need and deserve these jobs and we are extremely excited to welcome Fairmont Designs to Hickory."

"We've been working with Fairmont Designs since October 2010 as they considered different areas to locate their new manufacturing operation. Our skilled furniture workforce and furniture manufacturing heritage made Hickory and Catawba County an obvious choice," said Julie Pruett, Director of Business Recruitment for the Catawba County Economic Development Corporation.

Fairmont Designs plans to begin production in April. To apply for these jobs please contact Catawba County JobLink Center at 828-466-5596 or apply in person at the NC Employment Security Commission on 3301 Hwy 70 SE, Newton, NC, 28658. Any state and local assistance will be based on job creation and investment performance standards.

More information about Fairmont Designs can be found online at www.fairmontdesigns.com.

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