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Kinston, North Carolina

DuPont receives award for Sorona fiber

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Kinston's DuPont facility was recognized for its efforts in the production of its bio-based Sorona fiber.

DuPont became the second recipient of the Industrial Biotechnology Leadership Award given by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.

"We're pretty proud of it," said Harold Thomas, Kinston's plant manager.

The award honors outstanding corporate achievement in technical endeavors, business leadership, the translation of new technologies into commercial markets, support for education and community service.

"This award recognizes the company overall for what they have done and are doing in North Carolina," said Barry Teater, director of corporate communications for the North Carolina Biotechnology Center. "DuPont fits the model quite well."

Kinston's DuPont plant is the only plant in the world equipped to manufacture Sorona, which can be used to make resilient fibers for carpets and clothing and also heavy-grade plastics used in vehicles and hardware.

Thomas said the use of Sorona in carpets keeps growing and he hopes to have more capacity in the near future.

"We are producing a good quality product," he said.

DuPont was chosen for the award by a joint nominating committee with representatives from the Biotechnology Center, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services because of the company's achievements in industrial biotechnology.

Ray Miller, business development director for DuPont Bio-Based Materials, accepted a crystal obelisk award Thursday in Orlando, Fla. during the World Congress meeting.

DuPont has been a part of the North Carolina economy for more than 50 years, first as a manufacturer and supplier of materials to the textile fibers industry, and today as an environmentally sustainable supplier to the global electronics, transportation and bio-based materials industries.

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