

# Watson to Leave Partnership Early for Parton Project



(02/16/06 -- EDENTON) - The head of a regional economic partnership says he'll leave his job early to sign onto a \$129 million entertainment project.

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Rick Watson has been president and CEO of the Northeast Partnership. He's been criticized by some officials in eastern North Carolina since he said in October that he would leave to become involved with an entertainment project run by Dolly Parton's brother.

Randy Parton's business has been a client of the Northeast Partnership, a nonprofit economic development group. He plans to build an 800-acre theater and entertainment facility near Roanoke Rapids.

Watson was due to leave the partnership early next year, but now says he'll step down in June.

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