



*Governor's Rural  
Community Summit*

**2008** **ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
& COMMUNITY  
BEST PRACTICES**

*Making an impact on  
Rural North Dakota*

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●● **BISMARCK-MANDAN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**

Submitted by: RICHARD MOWER, CEcD 701-222-5530

**Project/Item Name: Business Retention & Expansion Program**

**Purpose of Project:**

The Business Retention and Expansion Program is a tool to assist with the retention and the expansion of the existing businesses through a visitation and data collection process. This data is used to track trends, identify strengths/weaknesses of the community, rate community services, and to assist in creating a healthy business climate.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

Nationwide trends show that 80 percent of new jobs in a community will be created by existing businesses. While the press and local boards like to focus on the attraction of new companies, there may be issues that keep your existing businesses from growing. This process allows local economic development organizations and boards to identify issues that could potentially limit a business's ability to grow. ●●

●● **JAMESTOWN/STUTSMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Submitted by: CONNIE OVA 701-252-6861

**Project/Item Name: Spiritwood Industrial Park**

**Purpose of Project:**

This project supports a local business (Cargill) needing to lower its cost of doing business by being able to tap into a cheaper, more efficient energy source: coal-fired steam from Great River Energy Spiritwood Plant. Along with this, a local entrepreneur worked with Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation to partner in development of a 100 million gallon ethanol project to provide a closer, better-paying corn market for the farmers in the area.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

In terms of dollars, scope of project and impact to Stutsman County and North Dakota as a whole, the Spiritwood project ranks as the third largest economic development project ever constructed in the state. The direct annual economic output, according to REMI figures, is \$360 million, with \$3 million in wages predicted for the 65 full-time jobs created at the park. An additional estimated \$90 million will be the resulting indirect and induced economic output, potentially creating an additional 396 jobs in various service sectors. Those jobs could pump another \$17.5 million in wages into the region.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

On May 1, 2006, JSDC Board of Directors, Jamestown City Council and Stutsman County Commission made a monumental decision to invest in a 100 million gallon ethanol plant with a local Jamestown businessman in a combined effort to develop the Spiritwood Energy Park. The industrial park is made up of strategic components that include Spirit Ethanol, a 100 million gallon ethanol plant; an expansion of the Cargill Malt facility, making this plant the largest malting plant in the world; and construction of a 92 megawatt coal-fired power plant by Great River Energy that will provide steam energy to both the ethanol plant and the malting plant. Total estimated project cost is \$500 million. This project brings together a long-time Jamestown, ND, entrepreneur, one of the largest agriculture companies in the world and a leading utility company. The plants will together use new technology in an environmentally sound, energy-efficient way. To quote one individual, "If the Spiritwood Energy Park were a person, it would be the one who was extremely resourceful, one who would know how to get the most out of every moment and every dollar. It would likely be an industrious leader, someone who has an uncanny ability for bringing visions and people together, a revolutionary who is forging the future, one who can see the big picture and one who has a knack for painting that big picture clearly for others to see." Governor John Hoeven commented on the project, "The Spiritwood Industrial Park, a \$350 million project, embodies our ongoing efforts to develop North Dakota's energy resources in tandem with other industries. Ethanol, lignite, value-added ag processing, farming and ranching – all of these industries are working together to create jobs and spur economic activity in other fields as well, like trucking, retail and services. The venture will benefit not only Jamestown, but the whole region." ●●

●● MCHENRY COUNTY JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Submitted by: MARIA EFFERTZ HANSON 701-626-2551

Project/Item Name: Accounting/Financial Services Package

Purpose of Project:

The Accounting/Financial Services Package allows a new or expanding business to seek professional accounting support. Often when a small business begins operation, managers are spending a good portion of their time working at the business and the accounting and record keeping becomes an after-thought. This program allows them to seek professional support immediately, getting them started on the right track. The participant shares 50/50 in the cost up to \$4,000. This allows at least one year of service or the ability to purchase programs and technical support to start their own systems.

Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

The Financial/Accounting Assistance Program allows the small business owner support along with starting the business on the right track instead of having to go back and fix something, sometimes after it is too late. The county feels this program will keep the small business owner in business and help provide one more incentive for the entrepreneur to consider starting out on their own.

Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

In the first three months, McHenry County had two small business owners take advantage of this program and they look forward to continuing the program to support additional growth in the rural communities. The business owners have expressed relief for the professional support that allows work to be done right the first time. ●●

●● BEULAH JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Submitted by: JOHN PHILLIPS 701-873-2110

Project/Item Name: Main Street Enhancement

Purpose of Project:

The Main Street Enhancement aims to promote and stimulate exterior maintenance and updating of commercial businesses, enhance the overall appearance, quality and vitality of the business community, and create a positive visual presentation to enhance marketing and customer loyalty.

Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

The project supports business growth and visual enhancements of Main Street. It provides a positive image to the city and develops a regional retail trade area.

Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

The program provides grants and low interest loans for a percentage of the Main Street Enhancement projects. It has created interest with building owners to improve their image and upgrade/modernize their structures. ●●



•• **GARRISON AREA IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

Submitted by: JUDE IVERSON 701-463-2631

**Project/Item Name: Community Betterment Grant and Business Betterment Grant Programs**

**Purpose of Project:**

The Community Betterment Grant and Business Betterment Grant Programs provide residents an incentive to improve lots where there are older, non-useable homes or other structures that need to be demolished, and for businesses to improve/cleanup the exterior or outdoor areas of their businesses, including improved access and signage.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

The project has encouraged citywide cleanup of many areas that are now ready for new projects. Residential lots can be considered for new uses and new construction. Businesses have improved their appearance and access, which has a direct effect on customer impressions and resale value.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

The Community Betterment Grant program was put into effect in April 2006 and the Business Betterment Grant program was established in January 2008. To date, 24 residential lots have been cleaned up. Uses for the cleared lots range from new garages, to gardens, to lots available for new homes such as a new spec home that is now on the market. With the recent establishment of the Business Betterment Grant program we have seen new concrete sidewalks in front of two businesses, new signage at one business and a newly paved parking area in one. We have five pending residential grants and two pending business grants and a total of \$12,500 has been disbursed. This is not a large investment considering the affects of the improvements. More effective than the money, the community has experienced a snowball effect of people seeing a neighbor or other resident make a positive move toward improving the community. Residents have renewed pride in how attractive our community is becoming. ••



•• **WAHPETON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Submitted by: LYNELLE AMOS 701-642-8559

**Project/Item Name: Mini-Match Program**

**Purpose of Project:**

The Mini-Match Program encourages new businesses to locate in Wahpeton and promote general cleanup of existing properties. It can be used for rent subsidy for new businesses, new signage, and/or demolition/cleanup. This program allows up to \$2,000 as a matching (dollar for dollar) grant which can be accessed one time. Application is made by sending a letter of request and attaching supporting documentation (proof of 50-50 match).

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

There has been a positive visual impact with improved store fronts, and new businesses have benefited from the assistance in rent as they are getting started.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

To date, 82 businesses have taken advantage of this matching grant program established in October 1999. For every dollar of Mini-Match \$3.63 has been spent on improvements (\$1:\$3.63). Mini-Match also served as a springboard for two other grant programs: Dakota Avenue Beautification Grants and Central Business District Grants. ••



## ●● ANAMOOSSE CIVIC CLUB

Submitted by: ALYCE HEER 701-465-3476

### Project/Item Name: Anamoose Area Community Fund

#### Purpose of Project:

The Anamoose Area Community Fund provides money to support future projects in Anamoose.

#### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

When the goal of raising \$25,000 is reached, 4 percent of the funds will be available to support projects such as for youth groups, park renovation, city use, etc.

#### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

In just a little over 2 months since a contract with the ND Community Fund was signed, \$23,000 has been raised. The Horizons program provided Anamoose a start with \$10,000. ●●

## ●● GRIGGS-STEELE EMPOWERMENT ZONE

Submitted by: BECKY J. MEIDINGER 701-797-3712

### Project/Item Name: Community Foundation Challenge Match

#### Purpose of Project:

The Community Foundation Challenge Match is a community foundation to help provide sustainability for nonprofits within the community.

#### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

The purpose of the project was to provide for sustainability of the nonprofit groups within the Empowerment Zone communities. The viability of many of these nonprofit organizations directly impacts the physical, social and mental welfare of community residents, and encourages new residents and businesses to look positively at our community. Having a local movie theater, an active garden club, and a good system of parks and recreational opportunities improves the overall satisfaction of the residents of the community, which helps return workers for the businesses and attracts new people to the community.

#### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

In 2007, the Griggs-Steele EZ was instrumental in developing a matching fund that helped the zone communities establish their own community foundations. Brenda Dissette, the marketing director, initiated this project. The individual zone communities raised \$15,000 locally, the zone matched this with \$20,000 and then the ND Community Foundation matched their \$35,000 with another \$15,000, so the communities were able to establish their community foundation with \$50,000 for the first year, and only \$15,000 came from the local donations. Three of the five zone communities raised their required funds in 2007, and the other two communities are working to raise their funds for 2008 to get their foundations established. The EZ has agreed to fund this same match in 2008, so the current community foundations will be given the opportunity to secure an additional \$50,000 in their community foundations for the second year. As a result of this first year's donations, the Cooperstown Community Foundation was able to grant out \$2,000 to five nonprofit groups in the community. These small grants provide important funds for nonprofits and help support sustainability of our community. The foundation board is made up of local volunteers and their responsibility will be to continue to raise funds each year that will help increase the base endowment fund. ●●

•• **WILLISTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/  
FRIENDS OF FORT UNION TRADING POST**

Submitted by: DARCI GRINDHEIM 701-577-6000

**Project/Item Name: North Star Caviar**

**Purpose of Project:**

North Star Caviar makes use of a previously unused and wasted resource: the roe of legally harvested paddlefish. North Star Caviar is a major charitable nonprofit entity in the Williston area which was created in 1993 as a joint venture of the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of Fort Union/Fort Buford. Their cooperative vision was to use this business as a revenue-generating mechanism, easing the stressed local economy of its pressure to fund worthy projects both groups were involved in promoting. Mission: To provide funding for projects of interest to the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce and Friends of Fort Union Trading Post. Projects must be historical, cultural, recreational or resource-related in nature.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

In its brief history, North Star has channeled \$468,335 to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's research of the paddlefish. In addition, local communities have seen an infusion of over \$1,261,000 in grants for projects enhancing the quality of life for people of all ages. The North Star Caviar Grant Fund supports historical, cultural, and recreational projects and efforts that improve conditions of habitat and land and water access for outdoor activities. There is an additional economic development and tourism aspect in that the majority of fish that come to us are brought by fishermen who do not live in our tri-county area; 25 percent are from out of state.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

Who would have thought land-locked North Dakota would be a major US caviar producer? Although the sport fishing season is technically a month long (May 1-31), it may be shortened if harvest caps are reached early. The past couple of years the entire caviar production occurred in just 5 to 8 days, so an experienced staff is mandatory. The vast majority of the caviar is exported; meaning totally new money is brought to the area. Japan has been the best customer; this year a shipment is bound for Ukraine. North Star Caviar has been featured in *Bon Appetit*, *Midwest Living*, and *O the Oprah* magazine. ••



•• **ASHLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Submitted by: SHERRECE ZIMMERMAN 701-288-3278

**Project/Item Name: Day Care**

**Purpose of Project:**

For many years the day care situation has been a problem in Ashley. There has always been a shortage. The project created a partnership between the local JDA and the Ashley School to provide more day care options for families.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

Day care is vital to attracting young workers to the community for new employment opportunities such as the wind farm. Ashley decided to facilitate and do a day care through the school and they found the right person to do it.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

The day care was approved on July 30, 2008, by the JDA and Ashley Public School Board. It is a great achievement and many people are so excited to have this opportunity now available. Ashley found the right person to do the day care and also found the right place. ••



### ●● CAVALIER COUNTY JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Submitted by: CAROL GOODMAN 701-256-3475

#### Project/Item Name: Learning Center/Langdon NDSU Research Extension Center

##### Purpose of Project:

The Learning Center/Langdon NDSU Research Extension Center provides a state-of-the-art technology transfer facility located at the Langdon NDSU Research Extension Center to serve the community and the 9-county region in northeast North Dakota. The project was authorized by the State Legislature at \$810,000, of which \$300,000 was provided by the Legislature, \$535,000 was raised by the local community, and \$160,000 was obtained through grants. The facility provides a large meeting room with video conference capabilities, a computer lab, a smaller conference room, two business incubator offices as well as offices for the LREC staff. The learning facility was named after long-time director Vic Sturlaugson.

##### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

Activities at the LREC are an integral part of the Cavalier County JDA Strategic Plan. The facility is the site of numerous agricultural and community-based conferences, meetings and training sessions that both do/do not require video conferencing. The JDA has used the facility for recruiting efforts, business incubator needs, and partnerships with the ND University System as well as community events. It has supported small conventions and area meetings.

##### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

Outcomes and Successes include:

- Conservative estimates that the facility serves no less than 4,000 people per year.
- Two LPN training courses have been completed since 2004, using video conferencing and the computer lab.
- The facility is scheduled to capacity almost 100 percent of the time.
- It served as the base of operations for the Langdon Wind, LLC project in 2007, causing the company executives to remark that the facility played a huge role in the efficient completion of the project.
- The facility has become a point of pride for the community.
- The facility has greatly enhanced the ability to carry out Cavalier County's strategic plan. ●●

### ●● CITY OF WATFORD CITY

Submitted by: GENE VEEDER 701-444-2804

#### Project/Item Name: City Development

##### Purpose of Project:

The city has focused on the recruitment and retention of a productive workforce by improving regional recreational and business infrastructure. The western North Dakota community is in the 10th year of an aggressive community development campaign aimed at recruiting and maintaining a diversified workforce to meet the needs of the region. Planners identified the need to improve infrastructure in the city as the second layer of economic development, following recruitment and retention of area businesses. An important tool in the redevelopment plan has been the Watford City Roughrider Fund. The fund is a city sales tax-funded program that provides assistance for businesses upgrading buildings in the Renaissance Zone. The community has raised funds and completed the Wild West Water Park, the Long X Visitor Center, the new golf course club house, the new children's play park, baseball field, nature park and walking paths. This fall will see the finalization of a complete rebuild of Main Street with new concrete road bed, decorative lighting and sidewalks. First International Bank and Trust has built an impressive facility on Main Street, including a substantial investment in Outlaws Restaurant and Shooters Theatre. Nine businesses along Main Street have improved property using Roughrider Funding and the community is partnering with other communities in the promotion of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Travel and Trade Corridor. Planning and development came prior to the current energy boom and the community now enjoys a resurging population of young families and retirement age citizens.

##### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

This project has helped expand workforce and increase the number of small businesses.

##### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

The importance of this planning effort is that it began in a very slow economic time in the area. Agriculture commodities were at a 10-year low, drought affected the area and oil production was at a standstill. The foresight of area leaders to plan and implement true community building set this community in a place to enjoy a thriving regional economy and the benefits that go with that growth. ●●



## DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT & PRESENTATION

### ●● HAZEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Submitted by: DUKE ROSENDAHL 701-748-6886

#### Project/Item Name: Commerce Center Building

##### Purpose of Project:

The goal of the Commerce Center Building is to attract commercial businesses which include retail, office or primary sector to the area. The Hazen Commerce Center is a 16,300 sq ft. structure that was built to stand ready for this purpose.

##### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

The Hazen Commerce Center has put Hazen in a unique competitive position for the attraction of almost any type of business excluding industrial. Hazen's business district is full and there are no commercial spaces readily available. The Commerce Center building stands ready to be in the front line for business recruitment with flexible terms and reasonable rates by today's standards. The building is available for sale (in all) or lease (in part or all).

##### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

The building is two years old and although it has no tenants it is not because there wasn't opportunity. There continues to be strong interest in the building with several potential tenants on the list. It's a fabulous addition to Hazen's economic development roster. It's not only very large but it is a very nice-looking facility in a great location. ●●



## DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT & PRESENTATION

### ●● HAZEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INC.

Submitted by: DUKE ROSENDAHL 701-748-6886

#### Project/Item Name: Main Street Improvement

##### Purpose of Project:

The goal of the Main Street Improvement process is to provide a street-scape atmosphere that becomes a destination point for patrons and becomes a showpiece for showing off Hazen to potential primary sector businesses, professionals and prospective home buyers.

##### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

Through the combined efforts of the HCD, Park Board, City and Chamber of Commerce over the past several years, a portion of Main Street of Hazen in the central downtown area has been converted from a dusty and barren small town street to an increasingly beautiful place for customers to mingle and shop. The transition is wonderful and more work continues.

##### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

This project is very successful in that the community now has a Main Street with all buildings filled, dressed up to create a "wow" factor when traveling through it with the promise of much more yet to come. ●●



### ● JAMESTOWN/STUTSMAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Submitted by: CONNIE OVA 701-252-6861

#### Project/Item Name: Zappas Building Renovation

##### Purpose of Project:

The Zappas Building Renovation revitalized a building that was vacated for 30 years through a public/private partnership with Lunde Properties II (Buffalo City Grille) and JSDC.

##### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

This project has served as a catalyst for downtown Jamestown development and helped trigger the following downtown projects:

- Babb's Coffee House
- The Continental Bistro
- Attitudes retail store
- Remodeling of Jamestown Business Center
- Remodeling of The Depot Restaurant in the Jamestown Business Center
- New location for Elks Club in The Continental Bistro
- Hiring a full-time Main Street Downtown director and a part-time assistant
- Renovation of Shape Shop for office space and upstairs apartment
- Purchase of former Motor Vehicle/Driver's License building for retail space

##### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

The JSDC entered into a public/private partnership with Brian and Barbara Lunde (aka Lunde Properties II) to tackle this project for renovation of the Zappas Building. This was the neediest and largest building, having been unoccupied for more than 30 years. Leaders determined that if nothing was done with the property and it became a burden to taxpayers, demolition would cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300,000 to \$500,000 and would leave a huge hole in downtown Jamestown. Thus JSDC recommended to the city and county to approve a \$350,000 grant and \$450,000 loan to turn this into a vital, tax-paying entity. What was once a building that made downtown Jamestown look like a ghost town has been transformed into a world-class restaurant and meeting space in the heart of downtown. ●●



### ● NEW ROCKFORD AREA COMMUNITY BETTERMENT CORPORATION

Submitted by: AMY WOBBEMA 701-947-2205

#### Project/Item Name: Putting the Pieces Together

##### Purpose of Project:

This project was developed to find an innovative way to solve more than one issue with one project.

In this case, there were four strategies that were combined for the benefit of the whole county:

- Residents cited a need for job skills training, technology training and other community education (no venue available locally).
- The librarian had indicated the library was running out of space for books as the library had seen a steady increase in circulation over the past few years.
- A local entrepreneur wanted to open a quilt shop and was having a hard time finding a location that would suit her needs.
- The community had identified vacant buildings downtown that could be utilized during the strategic planning process.

##### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

The contribution is two-fold. First, the library is in the process of being relocated to a previously vacant downtown building; the larger facility will also house a training center, making job skills training and other community education available to residents who want better jobs and to companies who need to train employees. Second, the local entrepreneur will find space for her quilt shop in the vacated library. The city placed the current library and adjacent former city hall (vacant for 12 years) up for bid after deciding to relocate the library. With this project the local entrepreneur will put the former city hall building back on the tax rolls and create additional sales tax revenue and traffic for the city of New Rockford.

##### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

Think outside the box-- rather than do one thing at a time, think of ways to do more with less. Utilize resources available to leverage funds; i.e. utility grant programs (we used MDU and NDTC), regional Resource Conservation & Development Council ([www.ndrcd.org](http://www.ndrcd.org)), and local government resources. In this case, New Rockford also had a generous property owner. The previous owner of the new library building was a hospital who had operated a clinic in the community years ago. After the community approached the hospital about purchasing the building, their board of directors offered to donate the building to the city, which really helped make the project come together. ●●

### ●● PRESERVATION NORTH DAKOTA

Submitted by: DALE BENTLEY 701-663-2763

#### Project/Item Name: Affiliate Program

##### Purpose of Project:

The affiliate program was created to assist in the development of local grassroots efforts to preserve, maintain, and adaptively reuse rural North Dakota's historic buildings. These landmark structures convey sense of place and are directly tied to our rural community's identity. The affiliate program provides an organizational template and opens the door for additional state and national resources that can further assist the local project.

##### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

In the past few years, Preservation North Dakota has assisted the development of over 36 local groups across the state. The buildings they work with are existing resources and infrastructure that is already in place. Often times they just need to be re-purposed to continue enhancing the local community's economy. Preserving and reusing them keeps rural North Dakota a vibrant, well-rounded, and interesting place; with increased potential to attract tourists, new businesses, and family's looking for a community to call home. North Dakota has struggled to bring tourism and community development to rural communities, it is through projects that attract visitors and new residents that our small towns can begin to see the effect that historic preservation can have in their area. Projects like this bring increased traffic to existing businesses, and create the need for new services. Local projects impact local economies.

##### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

Affiliate projects completed or underway in North Dakota include:

- Space for new businesses
- Expansion room for existing businesses
- Accommodations for tourists
- Centers for community activities, meetings, events
- Space for community organizations
- Centers for the performing arts
- Cultural Heritage Centers
- Tourist attractions

These projects often become the pride of the community and prove to rural areas that they too, can compete and play a vital role in today's developing economy in North Dakota. ●●

### ●● SITTING BULL COLLEGE

Submitted by: JONATHAN ANDERSON 701-854-3734

#### Project/Item Name: Entrepreneurial Center

##### Purpose of Project:

The Entrepreneurial Center contributes to a growing reservation economy by assisting in the creation, development and/or expansion of small businesses. In order for this mission to be successful, the businesses assisted must be able to become successful businesses in the community. The entrepreneurial training provided is designed to enhance the chances of success for business startups and expansions.

##### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

New businesses have been started and businesses have expanded and have been able to stay in business as well as add to the number of people employed/self employed in the community.

##### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

The completion of entrepreneurial training is a significant time commitment on the part of a funding program applicant. Even though the cost is paid by the business funding program, the applicant needs to be serious enough about the project to attend the class for 12 weeks. Applicants are guided through the process of evaluating project feasibility and will come to their own conclusions on whether or not the project should move ahead. Declines are less frequent with the self-screening process that takes place in the class. Most importantly, the successful applicants have a better understanding of managing the business after it has been funded. ●●



•• **UND – CENTER FOR INNOVATION**

Submitted by: BARRY STRIEGEL 701-738-4812

**Project/Item Name: Youth Entrepreneurship Education Project - Mini-Society Summer Camps**

**Purpose of Project:**

The Youth Entrepreneurship Education Project’s Mini-Society Summer Camps give youngsters ages 9-13 the experience of organizing their own town, starting up their own businesses and forming a town council to resolve issues among citizens. The goals are to help young people view entrepreneurship as a career option and to use entrepreneurial thinking as a successful strategy to face individual challenges and resolve community problems.

**Project’s Contribution to Economic Development:**

The project helped young people in three ways:

- Understand that kids can make things happen right now and in the future.
- Gain the skills associated with economic and social entrepreneurship, community development and civic leadership.
- Develop the resilience necessary for risking new ideas and creating successful ventures.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

This summer, with support from the Dakota Foundation, UND’s Center For Innovation, NDSU’s Center For Community Vitality, Turtle Mt. Community College, Three Affiliated Tribes’ Boys’ & Girls’ Club, DSU’s Strom Center and numerous local businesses, four camps around North Dakota in Grand Forks, Belcourt, New Town and Dickinson were held. Each camp had between 20-25 participants. Preliminary evaluations indicate strong support from participants, parents, teachers and business leaders. These four camps are now established as yearly events. There are plans to add at least one more camp venue next summer, possibly at Sitting Bull College in Ft. Yates. The unique innovation is that kids and adults learn together. Teachers, 4-H leaders and other youth group leaders enroll in the camp for graduate credit. They participate along with the kids as citizens and entrepreneurs. Adults learn how to introduce entrepreneurship into their classrooms and clubs. ••



•• **VALLEY CITY – BARNES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Submitted by: JENNIFER FEIST 701-845-1891

**Project/Item Name: Housing**

**Purpose of Project:**

This housing project has increased the availability of multi-family housing. Occupancy rates were running between 95 percent and 100 percent making it difficult for new employees to find housing. Rental units were needed especially in the first year to two years for new employees who were not willing or able to purchase property until employment was secure.

**Project’s Contribution to Economic Development:**

The Development Corporation used economic development funds on a first-come first-served basis to developers who would construct a multi-family complex (3 or more units). The Development Corporation awarded \$5,000 per unit up to \$250,000 as a 1 percent loan for 10 years with no principal payments during that time. Participants make a balloon payment at the end of 10 years or the interest rate is 15 or prime plus 4 percent whichever is higher. The loan was secured with a position against the buildings.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

Outcomes include:

- Two apartment complexes - 36 plex and 12 plex
- Increased vacancy rate; availability and selection improved
- Moved the rental market - historically the top end was \$550/month making it impossible to see new construction due to costs plus any kind of ROI
- Housing was the “gating factor;” the red flag was removed
- Companies like Eagle Creek, Malach USA, Forte USA and the Spiritwood Energy Park companies recruited employees with less pain - at least in this area
- One time construction impact was a plus
- Long term taxable value increased
- New employees with young families found housing and took positions with the companies such as Eagle Creek, Malach USA, Forte USA and Spirtwood Energy Park ••

## ●● COOPERSTOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Submitted by: BECKY J. MEIDINGER 701-797-3712

### Project/Item Name: Community Housing Partnership

#### Purpose of Project:

The Community Housing Project will build a single family home that will be affordable to a low to moderate-income family in partnership with the local city government, local contractor, local tradespersons, and the Eastern Dakota Housing Alliance.

#### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

This project supports construction of the first new home in Cooperstown in 10 years. Relatively few quality, affordable homes are available in Cooperstown. This project brings together several partners that will work so the new home will be affordable for a new family that we hope to attract to our community.

#### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

A variety of public and private partners are working together to build the home. The partners include:

- The Eastern Dakota Housing Alliance
- The city of Cooperstown who has given the lots to the project and has agreed to provide the water and sewer to the house
- The local contractor who will offer a substantial discount on services and materials
- The local power company who will help with the electrical and heating
- Local tradespersons who will provide services at a reduced cost
- Local banks and other businesses who will provide funds to help with specific aspects of the building
- The local EDC who is helping coordinate the project and will work to screen the families

This is a project that could be easily replicated using either the EDHA funds or the funds from the ND Housing and Finance, with support from the local players. This home should be completed in the spring of 2009. ●●

## ●● CITY OF WILLISTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by: TOM ROLFSTAD 701-577-8110

### Project/Item Name: Hometown Williston

#### Purpose of Project:

Hometown Williston builds and strengthens the connection of former residents, alumni, friends, and relatives with Williston. Former residents and alumni of Williston have displayed a deep affection for the community and a desire to remain connected and to give back in some way.

#### Project's Contribution to Economic Development:

It has created the ability to connect with former residents to draw them "Home" and entice them to either move back or promote to someone outside of the community the tremendous opportunity that awaits in Williston.

#### Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:

One of the most successful events of Hometown Williston is the "Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration." It plays host to several reunions and numerous families that return over the holiday. ●●



●● **NORTH DAKOTA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Submitted by: KEVIN STANKIEWICZ 701-328-5355

**Project/Item Name: Scenic Byways**

**Purpose of Project:**

The scenic byway program is a community-based, grassroots program. The program's vision is to create a distinctive collection of American roads, their stories, and treasured places. The program is founded upon local leadership for individual byways.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

The project contributed in a number of ways to economic development: It created investments in:

- + Historic preservation
- + Natural resource conservation and trail building
- + Planning
- + Construction
- + Operations related to byway amenities and their intrinsic qualities (recreational, historic, cultural, scenic, natural, and archaeological)
- + Marketing ventures

The project increased business, tax revenue and jobs from tourist dollars and improved educational, recreational and interpretive programs

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

North Dakota byways are successful because the byway leaders had a vision, formed partnerships, and found the resources to accomplish their goals. Often the success of the byway is a result of the countless hours of time and effort put forth by volunteers. Whether writing grants, researching historical data, developing interpretive information, or facilitating a town meeting, the commitment of the respective byway volunteers is admirable. ●●



●● **WILLISTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Submitted by: TOM ROLFSTAD 701-577-8110

**Project/Item Name: 2nd Annual Williston Chokecherry Festival**

**Purpose of Project:**

The Chokecherry Festival is the result of a project embarked upon by the 2006 sixth grade class and their instructor Nancy Selby at Rickard Elementary School in Williston. Their goal was to make the chokecherry North Dakota's official state fruit and in the process gain some valuable understanding of how the democratic process works. The result was the introduction of Senate Bill 2145, which was passed by the legislature and was signed into law by Governor John Hoeven. The annual Chokecherry Festival was created to keep the positive momentum going for this project and celebrates the hard work of the students.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

The project created political awareness of Williston, its education system, and hometown values. The festival will continue to grow and an increase in out-of-town visitors spending should result.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

There is a video available of the first Chokecherry Festival and can be provided upon request. ●●



**●● CITY OF WILLISTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Submitted by: TOM ROLFSTAD 701-577-8110

**Project/Item Name: The Williston Wire**

**Purpose of Project:**

The Williston Wire is an online newsletter distributed bi-weekly that allows people to receive current information regarding people, business and current events that are happening in the city of Williston.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

The Williston Wire sign up provides the economic development department with an online database of prospects that show a general interest in Williston.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

The Williston Wire membership database is currently 1,700 participants strong and growing at a rate of 2-3 new additions every other day. [www.willistonwire.com](http://www.willistonwire.com) ●●

**●● CITY OF WILLISTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Submitted by: TOM ROLFSTAD 701-577-8110

**Project/Item Name: Rockin the Bakken**

**Purpose of Project:**

Rockin the Bakken's goal is to promote the city of Williston as it experiences a prosperous oil boom due to increased drilling in the area known as the Bakken Formation. Rockin the Bakken is a logo/slogan campaign developed for increased exposure.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

The logo/slogan has provided a positive reinforcement of community support to existing and potential energy-related businesses that have located or are looking to locate their business in the Williston community. It has been the welcome sign for the energy sector in Williston.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

The program launched in April at the North Dakota Petroleum Conference in Minot. To date over 10,000 bumper stickers, 7,500 lapel pins, and 5,000 pens have been distributed. The sale of Rockin the Bakken apparel has been contracted through a local retailer who continues to receive orders regularly. People have sported Rockin the Bakken apparel at numerous cities around the country including Times Square in New York City where it was seen on Good Morning America. ●●



**NEW ROCKFORD AREA COMMUNITY BETTERMENT CORPORATION**

Submitted by: AMY WOBBEMA 701-947-2205

**Project/Item Name: Strategic Planning Process**

**Purpose of Project:**

The goals of the Strategic Planning Process are to identify needs in the community related to both economic development and community betterment. The project engages the community in a process to create a vision for the future and identify strategies.

PLAN OF ACTION- TIMELINE

November

- ✦ Conduct Community Assessment/SWOT Analysis research trends and statistics on the county; population, wage and income data, information on local resources and industries, and other facts relevant to understanding the current situation
- ✦ Distribute surveys to community members and business owners

December

- ✦ Tabulate and analyze survey data
- ✦ Send key stakeholders/organizations an invitation to workshops
- ✦ Hold Leadership Workshop designed to enlist members of each stakeholder group to actively participate in the strategic planning process; NDSU Extension will help facilitate

January

- ✦ Strategic Action Team Meetings split interested community members into teams; each team has an issue or topic to address and is responsible for drafting an action plan for that issue
- ✦ SAT monthly reports to NRACBC office by January 31st

February

- ✦ Strategic Action Team meetings continue
- ✦ All SAT meeting documentation to NRACBC office by February 28th

March

- ✦ Prepare draft
- ✦ Board meeting for review of the draft/award decisions

April

- ✦ Final plan approved by Board
- ✦ Send press release to the local paper outlining highlights of the plan
- ✦ Plan Unveiling Event in conjunction with another well-attended community event—Set up displays highlighting parts of the plan
- ✦ Provide copies of document to community organizations, local government and other interested parties

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

The project provided the local economic development group with a working document and guide for economic and community development activities.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

Deliver surveys by mail to every household in the county; include a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive better return. Start any month of the year. Doing it over the winter got more farmer involvement. Copies of the Strategic Action Team guide are available. Eddy County response: 40 percent of community member surveys were returned and 45 percent of business owner surveys came back. For workshops and SAT meetings, about 65 people participated. ●●



**RUGBY JOBS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Submitted by: BRENDA DISSETTE OR GARY SATERN 701-776-7655

**Project/Item Name: Computer Training Leads to Jobs and Community Engagement**

**Purpose of Project:**

The computer training program assists rural senior citizens, business owners, veterans and job seekers through technology training with web-based applications. Government agencies assume everyone owns a computer and knows how to use it. Senior citizens, job seekers (Job Service clients), veterans and Medicare recipients are expected to apply for benefits and research their options online. Rugby and many other progressive communities recognized that training would be an immense help for these folks who needed access to the Center for Technology and Business's (CTB) services.

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

Community members learned how to use technology in their work and personal life as a tool to leverage new jobs, higher-paying jobs and to fully access services they were entitled to. Greater income and access to services and benefits brought more spendable dollars into Rugby. Without the CTB's technology training and the local trainer expertise, MTI and Verety would not have had a talented pool of employees available in the Rugby area.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

Partnerships made these projects come together based on technology training:

- ✦ CTB from Bismarck, USDA-Rural Development, Small Business Administration, and the Small Business Development Center set up a four-station computer lab and entrepreneurship library in Merchants Bank, Rugby. This center is open to the public for computer research, business planning, and one-on-one counseling for clients starting and/or expanding a business. Assistance is also provided to senior citizens researching Social Security, veterans benefits and Medicare-related issues.
- ✦ Rugby Jobs Development Authority and the Heart of America Medical Center remodeled an obsolete nurse's dormitory for the addition of a community learning center and computer lab. Funds were acquired from USDA-Rural Development.
- ✦ Medical Transcription classes were conducted in 2000. Thirteen people were trained and after completion of class 13 computers were donated to several organizations and public facilities in Rugby.
- ✦ A computer survey identified current usage and needs of computer technology in the community of Rugby and the residents of Pierce County. A follow-up survey was completed in December 2001 after 150 people in the community had taken computer classes. NOTE: After taking the classes 28 percent of the class bought new computers, 19 percent signed up for the Internet, and 4 percent gained new employment as a result of the computer training.

- ✦ Three people from Rugby were hired as trainers and trained over 400 people on use of a computer (Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, Internet research and E-Mail). Curriculum was purchased from CTB. There was a net cost to the Rugby JDA of less than \$5 per each trained individual.
- ✦ The program staff assisted 263 farmers for filing their base and yield crop report under the 2002 Farm Bill (Pierce County and surrounding counties). NOTE: most in nation by single office.
- ✦ LPN classes were started and 21 graduated and are employed within a 60-mile radius of Rugby. LPN and RN classes were offered in 2005 and approximately 50 people expressed interest in the class. This program is a two-year RN program with a LPN degree after one year.
- ✦ In the fall of 2004 computer classes in Windows Management, Microsoft Office and Web Design were offered. Also, Excel was offered to city and county auditors from Pierce, Rolette and Wells counties. This class decreased the amount of time an auditor spent reporting, increased accuracy, and freed them up to work on other community projects.

●● VALLEY CITY - BARNES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Submitted by: JENNIFER FEIST 701-845-1891

**Project/Item Name: Valley Development Group Roundtable**

**Purpose of Project:**

The Valley Development Group Roundtable uses strategic planning modeled after the State Board of Higher Education Roundtable. Assisted by Roger Reiersen, Flint Communications, a series of meetings were held over six months involving 50 plus volunteers and leaders in the region. The VDG Roundtable established four Cornerstones:

- ✦ Quality of Place
- ✦ Valley City State University
- ✦ Sheyenne Valley Growth Alliance
- ✦ Partnerships

**Project's Contribution to Economic Development:**

The project focused efforts to grow the business base, create quality jobs and improve/enhance the quality of life. Resources in all areas are leveraged for the good of the Sheyenne River Valley. Without quality of place, quality jobs and quality companies will not materialize. Results include new jobs, new companies, new service and retail businesses, new amenities along the Sheyenne River, new K-12 educational improvements, new university programs and infrastructure, and new dreams to become even better. ●●



●● VALLEY CITY - BARNES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Submitted by: JENNIFER FEIST 701-845-1891

**Project/Item Name: VCSU/Eagle Creek Training Model**

**Purpose of Project/Contribution to Economic Development:**

VCSU, through a customized track within the university, delivered customer relationship management (CRM) courses and worked with Eagle Creek to implement an internship program. VCSU also delivered the training via another model called a five-week fast track session. Candidates participated in day-long training sessions for five weeks to receive CRM training. Today the company provides training in house; however, VCSU assisted it to gain critical mass enabling it to launch early operations in the Project Center and continue its training. Eagle Creek employs 100 consultants with plans to expand to 200.

**Outcome, Success, Unique Innovation, Etc.:**

Without VCSU's entrepreneurial spirit and willingness to respond, Eagle Creek would not have located in Valley City. Rapid City, SD, or Duluth, MN, would likely have been selected. The Project Center and its success is the driving force behind Eagle Creek's success and its ability to dominate the CRM industry. ●●



# Governor's Rural Community Summit



*Making an impact on*  
**Rural** *North Dakota*

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