

How might we create and build a community of innovators and ambassadors?

1.	In terms of being “wired,” our higher education institutions don’t necessarily represent that. Must make “changing” its priority.
2.	“Become a North Dakotan for a Day” for out-of-state people.
3.	“Burma Shave” type signs promoting ND.
4.	“Club” newsletter, WEB site, mailing list, continuous communication.
5.	“Creative Carl” should visit grade schools.
6.	“Daytrips” tourism for business owners to come visit a city they would like to consider.
7.	Add innovation award to high school seniors at graduation.
8.	Advertise ND on every ND product.
9.	All terminals, highways with signage promoting ambassadorship and responsibilities.
10.	Ambassador Websites with pics of every ambassador.
11.	Annual beach party in Beach ND.
12.	Annual Innovation Growth Day.
13.	Ask Junior High students what would help keep them in the state.
14.	Bring faculty into companies as part of their learning.
15.	Bring speakers into your business and discuss things not related to the business – staff learns about new subjects (ND related).
16.	Build in “family” time to staff meetings – allow specific time for people to talk about what is happening with them personally.
17.	Build incentives to be the best at several targeted things so the work thinks of ND like VWs in Germany.
18.	Capitalize on winter. Have a winter fest – ice sculptures, skating, cross-country skiing – outdoor winter picnic.
19.	Celebrate people who stay – nominate people who make a difference.
20.	Celebrate youth innovations at elementary and high school levels.
21.	Central WEB location for ND residents (each assigned a unique #?) to share business ideas.
22.	Change state motto to “Innovation Creates a Better Future”.
23.	Clearinghouse for interns available to companies in ND.
24.	Community leader development program.
25.	Connect small business people in small communities with larger communities.
26.	Connect with professional groups who would also like to encourage people to stay in or move back to ND for jobs.
27.	Contract with former and fellow North Dakotans with successful businesses to mentor and finance business start-ups.
28.	Convene ambassador round table.
29.	Create “thinktanks” across the state and post ideas in local papers.
30.	Create a buzz so that the general public knocks down your doors for this training.
31.	Create a central database for the ideas.
32.	Create a city, state and county program. Work together!
33.	Create a fun building, downtown workspace, think space, for companies to rent.
34.	Create a marketing campaign for ND license plates; i.e. “Follow Me Home.”
35.	Create a ND Student exchange program.
36.	Create an “Innovator’s version” of Boy’s State/Girl’s State.

37.	Create contests between cities and/or schools to sign up the most people to be ambassadors.
38.	Create resource “Data” base in ND – what is here?
39.	Develop a calendar with an idea per day.
40.	Encourage students to work on their own ideas and seek advise from entrepreneur centers.
41.	Find famous NDs for ambassadors: Phil Jackson; Darrin Erstad; Rich Karlsgard (Forbes magazine); Kleinsasser; Sheldon Meidinger; Pelusse, you may get National publicity.
42.	Form a creativity institute that can be rented by companies or individuals.
43.	Give a Knowbrainer tool to legislators.
44.	Give communities a giant light bulb for successful innovation. “We’ll light up ND.”
45.	Grow innovative – thinking groups across the state, like company of friends.
46.	Have a traveling wall of ND ideas stop in many cities for people of ND to see (and think about)!
47.	Have ads of ND people in summer clothes, at a picnic in the winter saying: “What’s wrong with a little snow?”
48.	Hold thinkathons in rural ND communities.
49.	Incentive – like a cool shirt or certificate for being a ND ambassador (membership card?).
50.	Innovation” meetings at work, school.
51.	Innovative ideas to make ND #1 in returning graduates from our colleges and universities.
52.	Innovative Science Fair.
53.	Innovator license plates
54.	Innovator Newsletter
55.	Kids quotes on their favorite thoughts about where they live.
56.	Let our slogan be “There is no bad weather. Only inappropriate dressing.”
57.	Make an across the state bike path or trail.
58.	Make things easier, i.e., finding things to do on the internet; starting new businesses, promoting entrepreneurs.
59.	Market Lake Ashtabula to Fargoans.
60.	Market ND as the “Party on the Prairie”.
61.	Market to the students – they don’t want to stay for low crime rates and great place to start a family – they stay because there are trendy places and events.
62.	More and larger loan programs for young entrepreneurs (under 25).
63.	More incubation offices/factories like John Deer at NDSU – a great idea.
64.	National PR – plan a crazy event that will raise awareness.
65.	ND alumni entrepreneur associations.
66.	ND prizes for starting or landing new ND primary sector businesses.
67.	Offer incentives to companies to hire UND/NDSU students.
68.	Offer KnowBrainer training in organizations.
69.	Paint water towers with innovative ideas.
70.	Pay a finders fee (tax break) to North Dakotans who return with spouses and children.
71.	Radio spots in other states.
72.	Recruit talent from outside the state.
73.	Rename a ND town as “Innovation”.
74.	Renovate old brick schoolhouses to be rural spas...massage, facials, celebrities would love the isolation.
75.	Run success stories of innovation in state newspapers that are not local stories to inspire others.
76.	Scholarships incentives for high school grads who have an award winning idea.
77.	Send emails to university alumni asking them to become ambassadors.
78.	Series of billboards on ND innovation.

79.	Showcase innovative North Dakotans who really know the people in our Hall of Fame. They are amazing people.
80.	State declared innovation day/week.
81.	Statewide contests promoting incentives and creativity.
82.	Student exchange program to get students “out of the box” and then with open arms welcome them back.
83.	Take the focus beyond just business. What does ND have to offer people in the 25 to 40 age bracket?
84.	Tax incentives for new business.
85.	Teach Innovativeness in schools.
86.	Teach kids not to fear failure – they may learn something even better.
87.	Think of snow as white sand.
88.	Tour-de-North Dakota bike race.
89.	Train the trainer courses to push this movement into more organization.
90.	T-shirts or other logo wear (business shirts) for ambassadors to wear when traveling.
91.	UMary Schafer Leadership Program – type program in ND University system.
92.	Use public service announcements to share successes in ND – both large and small.
93.	Utilize students in experimental learning opportunities to get them involved in business.
94.	Venture capital fund targeted at ideas from this process.
95.	WEB community for ND “Alumni” and those with business leads.
96.	Work ethic. We can expect it.
97.	Write about people who have returned to North Dakota in the Fargo Forum, make North Dakotans appreciate what they have.
98.	Yearly state recognition for top ten innovators
99.	Youth is the key. Develop innovative educational programs.
100.	Youth need mentorships to real paid careers.