



# Growing Interest in North Dakota

---

## ND WOVES DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONALS AT SEATTLE RECEPTION

North Dakota hosted a fabulous reception for the Industrial Development Research Council Congress in May — the first reception we've offered for that group.

The IDRC is comprised of corporate real estate and development professionals from around the world, vendors and service providers to professionals, and other states competing with North Dakota.

The organization, which meets twice yearly, held its Spring Congress in Seattle. North Dakota Gov. John Hoeven and Lewis and Clark's guide, Sakakawea, were the biggest attractions at the reception, held at the Seattle Sheraton Towers Hotel. Even though three other states hosted events at the same time, North Dakota attracted 600 of the 1,700 Congress attendees.

It's unusual for a governor to be present, and Gov. Hoeven's interest and knowledge made an impression on our guests. Sakakawea was featured on invitations and signs, as an ice sculpture, and as a reception gift on a chain or in a velvet case.

Co-sponsors for the reception included Montana-Dakota Utilities, the Bismarck-Mandan Development Association, the Minot Area Development Corporation, the Fargo-Cass County Development Corporation, and the Grand Forks Area Development Corporation. ■

---

## NEW ED&F STAFF

Kelly Potts is the new credit officer for the ND Development Fund. Her background includes managing Western Financial in Mandan and serving as a consumer loan officer and marketing director at a South Dakota credit union. Contact Kelly at 701/328-5349 or kpotts@state.nd.us. ■

---

## ED&F CO-SPONSORS MAJOR DEVELOPMENT EVENTS IN WILLISTON

Hundreds of developers eager to learn about food-production and IT opportunities in North Dakota are expected to participate in the Fourth Annual Ag Open (Aug. 7-9) and the Second Annual IT Open (Sept. 11-13) this year.

The events, held in Williston, will each feature several days of networking activities, business tours, golf at the Red Mike course, and boating or fishing.

The Ag Open is expected to draw 250 participants. At the event, processors from across the US gather in an informal setting to learn about opportunities to secure crops and build plants in northwest North Dakota and northeast Montana. The event is co-sponsored by ED&F, development groups from North Dakota and Montana, financial institutions from Iowa to Washington, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, and many vendors to the dry land and irrigation industry from the northern plains and Pacific northwest.

Last year's First Annual IT Open attracted about 175 information technology-related participants, and many more are expected this year. The event gives attendees a chance to relax and network while they explore the benefits of moving or expanding their business to North Dakota. ED&F and the Williston Area Development Corporation are co-sponsors. Last year, participants included information technology companies from out-of-state, as well as North Dakota companies ranging in size from the largest (Microsoft/Great Plains) to small start-ups.

For information on either of these events, contact Tom Rolfstad, Williston Area Development Corporation, 701/572-8161 or trolfsta@dia.net. ■



**ED&F WILL EXHIBIT AT NEW ORLEANS FOOD TECHNOLOGY EXPO**

ED&F, with participation commitments from the Bismarck-Mandan Development Association and the Minot Area Development Corporation, will be an exhibitor at the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) annual meeting and food expo in New Orleans June 23-27.

IFT, founded in 1939, is a nonprofit scientific society with 28,000 members working in food science, food technology, and related professions in industry, academia, and government. ■

**EDND SUMMER SEMINAR SET FOR JUNE**

The Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND) will hold its Summer 2001 seminar in Bottineau

June 17-20. Featured events include a keynote address Sunday night, June 17, by Lee Peterson, commissioner of the newly formed ND Department of Commerce, as well as extensive IEDC (International Economic Development Council) training sessions. For more information on the seminar, contact the Bottineau County EDC, 701/228-3922 (phone) or 701/228-5130 (fax). ■

**“North Dakota continues to have an advantageous environment in which our cooperative can operate. The quality, dependability, and work ethic of North Dakotans have helped us grow our business into the largest beet sugar company in America. North Dakota means progress and American Crystal is proud to be part of defining that progress.”**

Jeff Schweitzer, PR manager  
American Crystal Sugar Co., Moorhead, MN

**STAFF LISTING**

Lee Peterson, Director ..... 328.5300  
 Linda Butts, Deputy Director ..... 328.5342  
 Sheila Auch, Administrative Assistant ..... 328.5310  
 Celeste Engelhard, Account/Budget Specialist ..... 328.5306  
 Chuck Fine, Senior Project Manager ..... 328.5331  
 Cory Finneman, Research and Intelligence Coordinator ..... 328.5328  
 Lance Gaebe, Agricultural Products Utilization Commission ..... 328.5350  
 Cornelius Grant, Rural Development Council Director ..... 328.5313  
 Bob Gruman, ND Development Fund Consultant ..... 328.5308  
 Jim Hirsch, Workforce Development Director ..... 328.5345  
 Tara Holt, Women's Business Program Director ..... 328.5885

Leigh Ann Huether, Research Analyst ..... 328.5336  
 Leroy Jacobs, Communications and Information Systems Manager ..... 328.5352  
 Sandy Opp, Associate Project Manager ..... 328.5338  
 Kelly Potts, Credit Officer, Development Fund ..... 328.5349  
 Dean Reese, ND Development Fund/Rural Fund Director ..... 328.5334  
 Brad Rosenfeldt, Computer Network Specialist ..... 328.5362  
 Inez Ryberg, Administrative Assistant ..... 328.5318  
 Eileen Schneider, Administrative Assistant ..... 328.5312  
 Randy Schwartz, Business Services Director ..... 328.5314  
 Lavonne Stair, Administrative and Support Coordinator ..... 328.5317  
 Laura Willard, Associate Project Manager ..... 328.5337