

volume 5, issue 4

this issue

- 11 projects funded
- ND remains safest state
- EDND speaker has strong North Dakota ties
- Bismarck, Fargo and Grand Forks top *Forbes* list

division of economic development & finance



commerce matters

Integrity Windows and Doors will expand

The North Dakota Department of Commerce committed about \$400,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to improve infrastructure around the proposed West Fargo expansion site for Integrity Windows and Doors, a division of Marvin Windows and Doors. The North Dakota Development Fund and Bank of North Dakota are also working with the company to see how they can help, according to Gov. Hoeven. "Marvin Windows and Doors is a model for the kind of expansion we're striving for in our state," Hoeven said. "I am excited by Integrity's announcement and proud that North Dakota is where they have chosen to once again expand their operation."

Current partners on the project include Marvin Windows and Doors, Integrity Windows and Doors, the city of West Fargo, the Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, Lake Agassiz Regional Council and the North Dakota Department of Commerce. ●



Marvin Windows and Doors looks to build more windows when the expansion of their new Integrity Windows and Doors facility in West Fargo is complete.

Partners await results of Coal Country Initiative

A collaborative effort launched nearly one year ago will prepare the way for industrial development in Coal Country – west central North Dakota. The goal of this partnership is to provide a strategic plan for industrial development in Coal Country using existing assets and resources.



Linda Butts, Director, Economic Development & Finance Division

The work began when Dr. Marian Chertow of Yale University; Cory Brinkema of Trillium Planning and Development, Minneapolis; the North Dakota Department of Commerce; and economic developers in Mercer County began to discuss ways to capitalize on the assets of Coal Country. The next step was to enlist an informal advisory committee representing all related partners. Meetings with the committee were held last fall and the overwhelming message was to proceed with the study.

Researchers from Yale University and Trillium Planning and Development will present the findings of the Coal Country Initiative Study this summer. In addition, a Yale student currently is interning at the Department of Commerce to collect final data for the study and build a web site for Coal Country. A consultant has been hired to assist in marketing the assets of the area.

This effort represents another way the Department of Commerce is listening to the needs of our partners and bringing key players together to move our economy forward. ●

division of economic development & finance



ND Development Fund Board funds 11 projects

At its last two meetings, the North Dakota Development Fund approved 11 projects for primary sector businesses across the state. They include the following:

- Antelope Homes, Richardton
- AWM Staffing, Inc., Hazen
- Buffalo City Wood Products, Inc., Jamestown
- City of Lansford (Schepp's Deli), Lansford
- Earth Harvest Mills, Inc., Harvey
- GYG Technologies, Inc., Fargo
- IMAR, Fargo
- Kidco Farms, Inc., Steele
- Packet Digital, Fargo
- PrimeBoard, Inc., Wahpeton
- Weather Modification, Fargo



One of the Development Fund's projects, Buffalo City Wood Products, Jamestown, builds cabins like this one.

For more information about the North Dakota Development Fund, contact Dean Reese at 701-328-5334 or dreese@state.nd.us ●

North Dakota remains safest state in the nation

North Dakota remains the safest state in the nation, an honor it has held for eight of the 12 years that *Morgan Quitno Press*, a Lawrence, Kansas-based independent research and publishing company, has produced the annual ranking. The 12th annual Safest State designation was based on basic crime factors reported in Morgan Quitno's just-released annual reference book, *Crime State Rankings 2005*. States are ranked based on how they compare to the national average for each crime category. ●

EDND speaker has strong North Dakota ties

Don Schjeldahl's parents grew up in North Dakota and raised Don in nearby Northfield, MN. On June 14, Don presented

"Aligning Your Community with Corporate Location Strategies" during the summer meeting of the Economic Developers Association of North Dakota in Wahpeton. For over 20 years Don has assisted companies in developing and implementing location strategies for manufacturing plants, office operations and distribution



Don Schjeldahl, The Austin Group, Cleveland, OH

facilities. He currently directs the location strategy consulting group at The Austin Company in Cleveland, OH. His expertise covers finance and insurance, food and beverage, general manufacturing, newspaper publishing, aviation/aerospace, broadcasting, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and automotive. According to Don, the traditional notion that competition between communities for business investment is played on a regional stage is outdated. "Corporate location strategies increasingly evolve around factors globally defined, community leaders are required to weigh competition in many forms and in many places," Don says. "The successful community is selective of the corporate investment strategies it pursues, being careful to align attraction efforts with local attributes."

Don discussed the changing nature of corporate investment and made the link to location selection. He covered several location alternatives and gave special attention to the strengths and challenges North Dakota communities present. ●

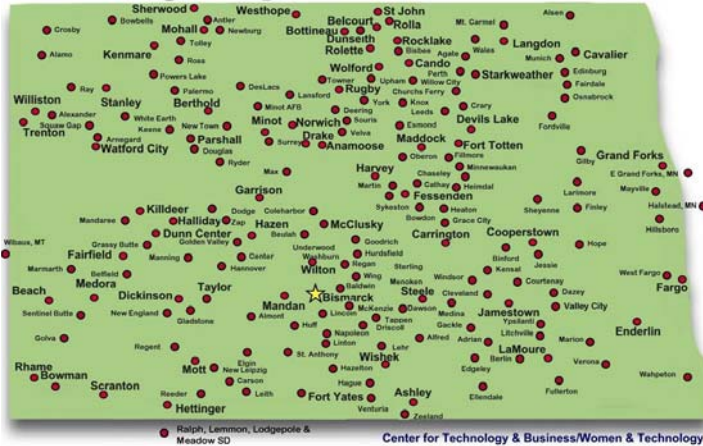
Commerce partner program serves over 11,000

The Center for Technology in Business (CTB) can take on most any project that impacts technology in rural areas, and demonstrate successful implementation. One of several programs that receives funding from the Economic Development &

division of economic development & finance



Community Computer Classes



Finance Division of the North Dakota Department of Commerce, CTB has offered professional development opportunities for more than 11,000 citizens representing 193 North Dakota communities. Recently, CTB delivered a session on “Creating Simplified Web Sites” in Napoleon for the Alternative Tourism and Rural Enterprise Conference; provided a procurement webinar for statewide participants; developed and presented a home-based business module for Work-From-Home project employees; and developed a curriculum for buying and selling goods on eBay. For more information about how CTB can assist your community’s technology-related needs, contact Tara Holt at 701-223-0707 or holt@trainingnd.com. ●

Bismarck, Fargo and Grand Forks top Forbes list

Bismarck and Fargo rank in the top five best small metro areas in the nation to do business and advance careers, according to the May 5 issue of *Forbes* magazine. Grand Forks ranked 30th out of the 168 communities included in the report. The 2005 *Forbes* list of “Best Places for Business and Careers” placed Fargo at 4th; Bismarck at 5th; and Grand Forks at 30th. Small metro areas are communities with populations of 345,000 or less. According to Gov. John Hoeven, the strong rankings

confirm that North Dakota’s economy continues to head in the right direction, building upon the progress we have made during the past several years. Commerce Commissioner Lee Peterson said a lot of hard work is going on across the state to grow the economy and the *Forbes* report proves it. “It confirms the kind of progress we are making toward creating quality, high-paying jobs for our citizens by building a business-friendly environment right here in North Dakota.” ●

APUC funds nine requests totaling \$313,850

The Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) approved \$313,850 in funding to nine projects at its quarterly meeting held May 19, in Valley City. Grant recipients include:

- **Pipstem Creek**, Carrington, \$31,650
- **Falkirk Farmers Elevator**, Washburn, \$32,200
- **Sunnyside Feeds, LLC**, Center, \$86,500
- **Specialty Export Production, Inc.**, East Fairview, \$25,000
- **Linton Industrial Development Corp.**, Linton, \$12,500
- **Bridgemart Meats**, Wyndmere, \$20,000
- **UND Department of Chemical Engineering**, Grand Forks, \$35,000
- **Topline Bison Company, LLC**, Churchs Ferry, \$10,500
- **NDSU Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics**, Fargo, \$60,500



APUC is a program of the Department of Commerce and administers four grant programs for researching and developing new and expanded uses for North Dakota agricultural products. For more information, contact John Schneider at 328-5350 or jfschneider@state.nd.us. The next APUC quarterly meeting will be July 21-22 in Walhalla. The deadline for grant applications is July 1, 2005. ●