



# THE Voice

[www.gochamber.org](http://www.gochamber.org)

## Legislative Luncheon

**Current Legislators and legislative candidates from throughout Grand Forks County gathered at the Chamber office last week to begin planning for the 2025 legislative session. They were joined by The Chamber, EDC, UND, City and County leaders.**

Chamber Government Affairs Co-Chairs Garth Rydland, Valley Senior Living and Stacey Dahl, Minnkota Power both emphasized how important it is for our entire delegation to be on the same page of priorities for Grand Forks to continue the legislative success that has resulted in over \$1.3B in state funding coming back to Grand Forks for a whole list of infrastructure projects over the past decade.

On the horizon for 2025 is funding for such things as city infrastructure and quality of life items like the discovery Center; UAS Funding at Grand Sky, base retention funding, workforce and business development funding and several others. Finally, for UND the big priorities at this point are:



Pictured are current legislators and legislative candidates throughout Grand Forks County along with EDC, UND, City and County Leaders.

# CHAMBER NEWS

## I-29 Interchange at 47th Ave Approved

The US DOT approved a new interchange access at S 47th St on I-29 in South Grand Forks. This has been one of the five top transportation infrastructure priorities for the Chamber since 2019 when the Chamber's Infrastructure Committee was formed. The other four are the already in process 42nd underpass at Demers, an Interstate interchange at Merrifield Road, A bridge over the Red River at Merrifield road and an in town bridge. All five projects are necessary to keep our region connected, efficient and growing.

Congratulations to Mayor Bochenski, City Council and the City's engineering department including City Engineer, Al Grasser and Asst. City Engineer, David Kuharenko who spearheaded this effort along with City Administrator, Todd Feland. This is a positive step for growth of our community.

The Chamber would also like to recognize Dave Zavoral, RJ Zavoral and Sons and Sally Miskavige, Opp Construction who have chaired The Chamber Infrastructure committee since its inception. Also a big thanks to former GF Senator Lonnie Laffen and Senator Curt Kreun who each introduced Bills over the years calling for state funding of the 47th St Interchange. Both kept this project on the front burner for years while City leadership and the MPO worked with the DOT on technical details.

Chamber staff has submitted letters of support for and attended hearings for all five projects over the years. The Infrastructure Committee will continue its work with the Cities, Counties and MPO.

## Business Day at the Capitol

Business people from across Minnesota travelled to St Paul last month to meet with their local legislators to express their concerns relating to the ever changing business climate. It is clearly more difficult to business in Minnesota today than at any time in history. The messages were clear: Stop over regulating and over taxing businesses and the people of Minnesota.



# CHAMBER NEWS

## Minot AFB Tour

40 ND Legislators Toured Minot Air Force Base last month. The group saw the B52 and missile launch missions and the many changes both are undergoing. According to Chamber President Barry Wilfahrt who received a special invitation to the event as an Air Force Civic Leader "The Minot AFB Minuteman missile modernization program (the Sentinel project) is of particular interest to ND and especially western North Dakota." He also noted many legislators will be in Grand Forks as part of the annual UAS summit in October. The kickoff event is traditionally held at Grand Sky. "this is a great opportunity to show the legislators how Grand Sky, UAS and GFAFB benefit all north Dakotans."

The Chamber's and Base Retention Committees in Grand Forks, Minot and Fargo are working together the ND Congressional Delegation to ensure Department of Defense missions and installations are supported and sustained.



## Chamber Support Epitome Energy



*Tony Hodny*

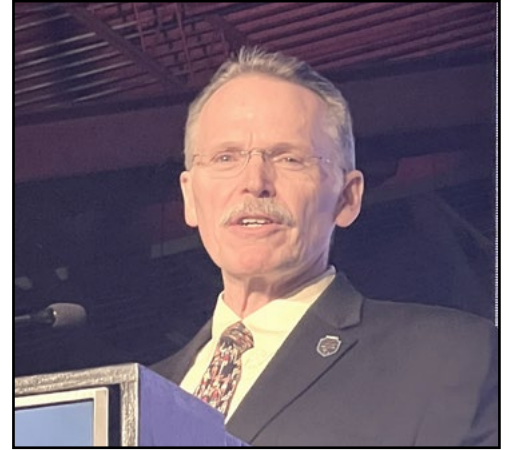
Chamber Board Chair Tony Hodny and Chamber President & CEO, Barry Wilfahrt both offered positive testimony during Epitome Energy's air permit hearing last week. This is the final major step to approval of the Soybean Crushing operation which is slated to be built just east of the waste water treatment pond on the far North end of Grand Forks. The \$500 million value added agriculture project is slated to break ground in early 2025 and operational by harvest in 2026.

# CHAMBER NEWS

## EGF State of the City Focuses on Change

Mayor Gander talked about his eight years as Mayor, and the progress the City has made. Various staff members talked about major projects ahead like the double boat ramp that will be going in at LaFave Park along with other improvements. The Cats Incredible Committee will be happy to see this project finally getting done! The City has been a catalyst for positive change in East Grand Forks. Thank you Mayor Gander for your leadership.

This was his final State of the City address since he is running for the Minnesota House of Representative seat in District 1B.



Pictured is Mayor Gander

## Fill Out the Air Service Survey

The Mayor's Office and Grand Forks International Airport (GFK) are launching an aggressive effort to attract new commercial service to the airport to help support the travel needs of its growing business sector. As part of this effort, we are forming a business task force to support on-going air service development activities to attract new airlines and expand service by existing carriers. In addition, it is imperative we understand and profile the unique and diverse business activity of Greater Grand Forks that includes private industry, public sector, the military and defense and defense-related companies.

The City of Grand Forks and GFK are conducting a survey to better understand the travel patterns of the local businesses. This includes your company's/organization's:

1. Air travel that originates in Greater Grand Forks, regardless of airport used
2. Air travel spend annually (estimate)
3. Top air travel markets
4. The air travel activity your business/organization attracts to Greater Grand Forks

We are requesting your time for our 3-minute online survey of your company's/organization's air travel requirements. The results of our survey will be kept confidential and used only in the aggregate during discussions with airlines to help attract nonstop service to GFK. The City of Grand Forks and GFK value your input. We thank you for taking our survey and serving on our Business Air Service Task Force.

[\*\*GFK Business Air Travel Survey\*\*](#)

# CHAMBER NEWS

## Chamber Tours and Talks a Huge Success

A diverse group of over 25 Chamber Members toured six businesses and heard their stories as part of the first ever Chamber Tours and Talks Event. The day long set of tours was aimed at sharing business success stories, organization processes and to take a firsthand look at some of the diverse business operations in our two communities.

Thank you to the following businesses that were part of the Tours and Talks: North Dakota Coffee Roastery, Cirrus, The Olive Ann Hotel, Alerus Center, Ideal Aerosmith and True North Equipment.

The Chamber plans to make this an annual event every April.

*"As a new business and resident of Grand Forks, I learned a lot and met some great people." Adam Nelson, Nelson Auto*

*"Thank you for putting this event together! It was excellent!" Mike Dunn, Construction Engineers*



Tours and Talks group at ND Coffee Roastery.



Tours and Talks group at True North Equipment.



Tours and Talks group at The Alerus Center.



Tours and Talks group at The Landing located in The Olive Ann Hotel.



Tours and Talks group at Cirrus.



Tours and Talks group at Ideal Aerosmith.

# THE Chamber

GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

BANK FORWARD

INSURE FORWARD

# 2024 GOLF

# TOURNAMENT

THE CHAMBER - BANK FORWARD/INSURE FORWARD GOLF CLASSIC

THURSDAY **MAY 30, 2024** VALLEY GOLF COURSE

4 PERSON TEAM SCRAMBLE



## SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

ADDED NEW THIS YEAR - BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR, LUNCH SPONSOR & DINNER SPONSOR! [CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS.](#)

- **GAME SPONSOR = \$510 + PRIZE FOR YOUR GAME**

SET UP A FUN INTERACTIVE GAME FOR GOLFERS AS THEY COME THROUGH THE COURSE. YOU ARE ALLOWED 2-3 STAFF AT YOUR GAME HOLE TO INTERACT WITH THE GOLFERS. MUST PROVIDE PRIZE(S) FOR YOUR GAME.

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REGISTER HERE NOW!

**\$540.00** / TEAM OF 4    **\$140.00** / INDIVIDUAL

Get More Info :

**701-772-7271**

[kimberlys@gochamber.org](mailto:kimberlys@gochamber.org)



# CHAMBER NEWS

## Candidates Forum May 21st

The Government Affairs Committee of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Chamber will host a candidate's forum on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Schedule as follows:

- 6:00pm Comments from Unopposed candidates for City Council and Mayor;
- 6:15pm Ward 3 and Ward 5 City Council Candidates; and
- 7:00pm School Board Candidates.

The Forums are held in the City Council Chambers at Grand Forks City Hall and are open to the public. Questions from the audience are submitted in writing. Chamber Government Affairs Co-Chair, Stacey Dahl, Minnkota Power Company will moderate the Forums.

## Grand Forks Region Company Spotlights




Greater Grand Forks employers set up for the Grand Forks Regional Company Spotlight

An afternoon full of conversation, connections, and showcasing Greater Grand Forks' local employers. A total of 28 companies participated in the event and interacted with 142 students about potential job opportunities. It was a successful pioneering event, with plans to continue improving it to meet the ever-changing demands of the workforce future: Grand Forks Region Company Spotlights, an event hosted by The Grand Forks - East Grand Forks Chamber, Job Service ND, Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation, UND Pancratz Career Development Center & UND Career Services a new informal event held April 16th at University of North Dakota's Memorial Union provided students with a unique opportunity for career exploration!

# Membership Drive Set for April/May

More than 40 Chamber volunteers will hit the streets in April and May to sign up new Chamber members. Currently the Chamber is the largest business organization in the northern Valley with over 1,000 members. If you know of a business who should be a member of the Chamber contact Janelle at the chamber so the volunteers can approach them about Chamber membership.



**THE CHAMBER'S ANNUAL**

2024 Membership Drive  
April 9 - May 14

**GO FOR THE GOLD**  
**BECOME A CHAMBER MEMBER & BE PART OF THE WINNING TEAM**

Launching the Games:  
April 9th at the Opening Ceremony  
as Membership Drive Volunteer  
Teams Choose Their Prospects!

During the drive, our volunteers will be contacting non-chamber member businesses about joining. If you know of a business our teams should visit or if you're interested in becoming a member, let Janelle know!  
janellew@gochamber.org or 772-7271

## Top **TEN** Chamber Membership Benefits

- 1. New Business Contacts** – Networking and new business contacts will help your business grow. With more than 100 chamber programs and events, you'll have no problem adding to your contact base.
- 2. Credibility** – Make a statement that you are committed to the future of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks region.
- 3. Leadership Development** – The Chamber offers learning and professional development opportunities to help you run a smarter, more profitable business.
- 4. Community Commitment** – Community involvement benefits you and the community and shows your commitment to helping our region grow.
- 5. Referrals** – The Chamber's referrals of our members are a great return on your investment.
- 6. Publicity and Exposure** – Publicity and heightened name recognition as a Chamber Member shows your customers and potential customers who you are.
- 7. Marketing & Advertising** – Targeted and affordable advertising offered by The Chamber help you promote your business effectively on a small budget.
- 8. A Healthy Local Economy** – Be a part of a group that is committed to creating a strong local economy to keep our business momentum moving forward.
- 9. Gain a Voice in Government** – The Chamber is your representative on a local, regional, state and national level. With over 1100 members representing thousands of area employees, The Chamber speaks with a strong voice for our business community on issues affecting your business.
- 10. Partnership** – You will be a part of an organization whose mission is to create an environment that encourages business success while enhancing the quality of life in our region.



# Stopping the Great

# Resignation

What employees look for continues to change, and the new Keys to Retention are shared, as well as strategies for how to implement them.

Hint – It is not pay!

Followed by a Q&A.



## Brown Bag Seminar **THE Chamber**

GRAND FORKS • EAST GRAND FORKS

**Wednesday, May 16, 2024**

11:30 am - 1:00 pm - Chamber of Commerce Board Room

*Presented by...*



***Mike Henke***

*Mike Henke Inc.*

Mike Henke is a national speaker whose passion for building strong teams led to the creation of Mike Henke Inc., and he works with organizations throughout the country in the areas of Leadership Training, Recruiting & Retention, and a Positive Workplace Environment. Mike has created over 50 training programs and was appointed by the Governor to be a Nebraska Diplomat. He is also a former SHRM Chapter President and has been selected to present at numerous SHRM State Conferences and Disrupt HR events!

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR SEMINAR](#)**

**\$20/Member & \$30/Non Member (Includes Lunch)**

*If you have questions, please contact the Chamber. [info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org) or 701-772-7271*

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## Las Delicias De La Abuela

701-757-0167

[lasdeliciasdelaabuela1212@gmail.com](mailto:lasdeliciasdelaabuela1212@gmail.com)

First of all, would you like to know what Las Delicias De La Abuela means? It means Grandma's Delights and we are an authentic Mexican restaurant with the whole staff being family and we take pride in that. Before we opened our authentic Mexican food restaurant we had a food truck in Grand Forks, we have had many loyal customers that now eat at Las Delicias De La Abuela Restaurant. We have recipes passed on from generations and want to share those family dishes with everyone who is a local or simple just visiting. But a little bit about us, our family is from Michoacan, Mexico and Arizona. Our owners are Belen Berber and Francisco Francis, head cooks are Elizabeth Berber and (Abuela) Guadalupe Duran. We are going to be welcoming a bar and will have a grand opening in a few weeks and we cannot tell you how excited we are!

Here at Delicias De La Abuela we have monthly specials and welcome everyone to try a new dish at a special price. Our Cooks really enjoy making Mole, Fajitas, and Carne Asada (Steak) Tacos. We even serve breakfast all day for my breakfast lovers! Corn Tortillas are all made by hand and served hot. Our Restaurant telephone number is 701-757-0167 or email us at [lasdeliciasdelaabuela1212@gmail.com](mailto:lasdeliciasdelaabuela1212@gmail.com), we are located at 601 University Ave, Grand Forks, ND 58201. Follow us on Facebook with updated specials.

## SafetySpect Inc

[solson@safetyspect.com](mailto:solson@safetyspect.com)

SafetySpect Inc. is the developer of an engineering platform system utilizing edge computing, optical sensors, and AI (Machine learning) in handheld devices. SafetySpect's products focus on surface contamination detection and food quality characterization. The company's CSI system provides real-time, reliable detection of harmful contaminants at a fraction of the costs of legacy technologies. Overall, SafetySpect is a software/data-driven company with proprietary sensing and diagnostic devices that promote safety, enabling the public to detect and disinfect contamination invisible to the naked eye in seconds.



**Member<sup>2</sup>Member**  
*The Chamber E-Promotion*

**CLICK HERE TO  
ADVERTISE**



*Barry Wilfahrt,  
Chamber President  
and CEO*

## Have Coffee with Chamber President

Drop me an email. I would love to stop by your business for a visit. Just email me at [barry@gochamber.org](mailto:barry@gochamber.org) and I am happy to come to your business to visit about what is all going on at the Chamber and also hear about what's going on in your business.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## **SSE Computer Services**

**312 2nd Ave North**

**Grand Forks, ND 58201**

**[nate@ssecomputerservices.com](mailto:nate@ssecomputerservices.com)**

### **Service**

Have a computer that could use a good cleaning because it's full of dirt, dust pet hair, or other gunk? If you don't like doing that, or are worried you might break something, SSE can help! If your computer's hard drive is loaded with junk software or is plugged up with useless data, SSE can safely clear it out.

### **Repair**

Is your computer acting weird or making funny noises? Don't throw it out just because it's acting stupid. SSE can help diagnose both simple or complicated issues and make repairs.

### **Data Retrieval**

Do you have a broken computer you need files saved from? How about a stack of CDs or Floppy Disks you'd like put on a more modern type of media? SSE has many ways to save your old data.

### **Upgrades**

If your trusty computer still works, but it's running a bit slow, SSE can help! You don't always have to get a new one. Today computers are lasting longer than ever, but software requirements keep getting bigger. We can help increase your computer's usable lifespan.

### **New Builds**

If you want a new PC made with quality parts made to your specifications come see SSE. If you don't know exactly what you need, Nate can help design the perfect PC for you.

### **Responsible Recycling**

Sadly, all good things end. If you have an old PC, Mac, Laptop, Tablet that's beyond repair and you don't know what to do with it, bring it to SEE. Any data left on the drives will be thoroughly destroyed so you don't have to worry about it getting into the hands of others. The computer's parts will be properly recycled to keep this stuff out of landfills. Free of charge of course!

### **Video Transfer**

SSE offers a video transfer service. If you have old VHS, VHS-C, Betamax, Hi-8, HDV, DVC, Mini-DV video cassettes, SSE can put your video on USB flash drives so they can be played on smart TV's, computers, tablets and others. You can also upload these digital files to video sharing sites like Facebook and Youtube. Sadly, tapes deteriorate over time, but SSE can save those memories.

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EMPLOYEES WHEN YOU CARRY BLUE.**

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[BCBSND.com](http://BCBSND.com)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Dakota is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

*Spring Into*  
**FITNESS**

Become a member at Choice Health & Fitness or the Altru Family YMCA anytime now through May 24, 2024 and be automatically entered to win awesome prizes!  
*\*Some restrictions apply*

[CHOICEHF.COM](http://CHOICEHF.COM) | [GFYMCA.ORG](http://GFYMCA.ORG)

**CHOICE** HEALTH & FITNESS | the **Y**

**NORTH DAKOTA  
CHAMPIONS GOLF TOUR**

<b>PARK RIVER   6.6.24</b> HILLCREST GOLF COURSE	<b>BISMARCK   6.13.24</b> HAWKTREE GOLF CLUB
<b>FARGO   6.26.24</b> ROSE CREEK GOLF COURSE	<b>DETROIT LAKES   7.18.24</b> DETROIT COUNTRY CLUB

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MONSTER TRUCK  
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# MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

April 1, To April 30, 2024

The following businesses know the value of their Chamber Membership and have renewed their membership in The Chamber GF/EGF.

Altru Rehabilitation Hospital  
American Family - Jeremy Fulton  
Amundson, Roger D.D.S.  
Anchor Marketing  
Assurity Finance &  
Development, LLC  
Big Sky Kennel  
Blue Line Custom Detailing  
BNSF Railway Company  
Border States Trophy & Awards  
Coleman Family Law  
Connecting Point  
DakMinn Technologies  
Empire Arts Center  
Executive Properties Construction  
Forks Frame up  
Grand Forks Subaru Kia  
Grand Sky Development Company,  
LLC  
Greenberg Realty-Lil Livingood  
Hebron Brick Supply  
Hugo's Wine & Spirits - 32nd

Hugo's Wine & Spirits - Columbia  
Rd  
Hugo's Wine & Spirits - East Grand  
Forks  
Love In Action  
Mangata Medical Spa  
Mike's Pizza & Pub  
Minne Movers  
Obernel Engineering  
Red River Watershed Management  
Board  
River Cities Speedway  
Sage Legal, PLLC  
Sanford Health 929 Central Ave  
Clinic  
SIN BIN Kitchen Bar Casino  
Skinner Roofing  
Steve Christian Insurance  
Professional  
Thunder Ray's Auto Repair

# SAND STEEL BUILDING CO.

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701-594-4435  
www.sandsteelbuilding.com

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Steel Fabrication  
Millwright Services



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more information

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[www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)

[Allegiant](http://www.allegiantair.com)  
[www.allegiantair.com](http://www.allegiantair.com)

[GFK](http://www.gfkairport.com/)  
[www.gfkairport.com/](http://www.gfkairport.com/)

WE'RE

# HIRING

## Family Child Care Providers

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- **FREE** child care insurance - (\$500 value) at initial certification and annual renewal
- **\$300** licensing bonus at initial certification and annual renewal
- **Free** childcare for FCC orientation
- **Earn up to \$250/week** for each child enrolled in care full time
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- **\$200** bonus for waitlist child enrollment
- **\$1,000** NAFCC accreditation bonus
- **FCC Transfer Program - \$1,000** when licensed within 90 days
- **\$500** recruitment bonus
- **Federal holiday pay**
- **Additional incentives for Household Members 0-7 years of age**

Call the FCC Office at (701) 747-5033 or email [Sara.gutierrez.1@us.af.mil](mailto:Sara.gutierrez.1@us.af.mil) to learn more!



**319TH Force Support Squadron  
Grand Forks AFB**



# AMBASSADORS MEETING

The Chamber Ambassadors extend a warm welcome to new businesses, actively participate in celebrating grand openings and special events, and engage in various Chamber activities.

*The Chamber Ambassadors play a crucial role in fostering a vibrant business community by actively encouraging and supporting new and fellow members. Their mission is centered around creating opportunities for businesses to thrive while simultaneously contributing to the community's well-being.*

*Their dedication involves promoting The Chamber to potential members, highlighting the benefits of membership, and showcasing the community as an excellent place to live and do business. Ambassadors commit to attending monthly meetings and participating in diverse events throughout the year, such as Ribbon Cuttings, Business After Hours, and Chamber activities. The qualifications for an Ambassador include embodying a positive and engaged spirit, enjoying interactions with new people, demonstrating enthusiasm, flexibility, and integrity, and possessing the ability to work effectively as both a team player and a team builder. Through their commitment and positive representation, Ambassadors actively contribute to the success and growth of the Chamber and its members.*



The Chamber Ambassador meet on the 3rd Monday of the month. Last month the Committee held their monthly meeting at The Speedway 805 Bar & Grill. It's evident that the Ambassadors play a crucial role in supporting the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Community.

Thank you to everyone on the Ambassador Committee for their dedication and efforts in making a positive impact on the community.



# RIBBON CUTTING

The Chamber Ambassadors would love to meet you and celebrate your business with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

If you are interested, please contact Tina at **772-7271** or [info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org) to schedule a ribbon cutting event.



Pictured are employees of Med Park Credit Union and Chamber Ambassadors

## **Med Park Credit Union**

2150 32nd Ave S, Suite E, Grand Forks, ND

Join the team. Become a Chamber Ambassador!

Being an Ambassador provides opportunities for you to promote your business, and network while doing something great for your community!  
*(Your business must be a current Chamber member to participate)*

If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador please contact Tina, [info@gochamber.org](mailto:info@gochamber.org) or call 701-772-7271.

# MEMBER NEWS

## Shari Olson Named Interim President of Northland Community & Technical College

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities has named Shari Olson to serve as interim president of Northland Community & Technical College. The appointment becomes effective July 1, 2024.



*Shari Olson*

“With her deep knowledge of Minnesota State, including her previous leadership role with Northland, I am confident Dr. Olson is the right person to provide leadership during this transition,” said Scott Olson, chancellor of Minnesota State. “She will make tremendous contributions to the well-being of Northland Community & Technical College — promoting a culture of collaboration and continuous innovation and improvement. I’m grateful that Shari is willing to take on this challenge and I look forward to working closely with her as she positions Northland for success well into the future.”

Dr. Olson is an experienced educator committed to the role that comprehensive community and technical colleges play in our society and brings with her a passion for continuous learning and self-improvement.

In her most recent role, she served as president of South Mountain Community College (AZ) from 2011 until her retirement in 2022. Under her leadership, the college achieved several important milestones, including a 10-year reaffirmation of Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation, securing a Department of Education Title V grant of nearly \$3 million, receiving HLC approval to offer a Bachelor of Science program in Behavioral Science, opening the SMCC Science Complex after a \$19 million remodeling, and recognition by the Aspen Institute as one of the nation’s top 150 community colleges four times from 2015 to 2021.

Previously, she served as interim president of Anoka Technical College from 2010 to 2011 where her many accomplishments included facilitating the creation of the college master technology plan and redesigning the organizational structure to maximize employee talent and create efficiencies. In 2011, she was recognized by the Minnesota State College Student Association (now called LeadMN) with the President of the Year award.

Dr. Olson succeeds Sandra Kiddoo who has served as Northland’s president since 2021 and chose not to renew her contract.

# MEMBER NEWS

## Northland Community & Technical College recognizes five 2024 NISOD Excellence Award recipients

*Recipients to be honored at NISOD's annual conference May 25-28, 2024, in Austin, TX.*

Northland Community & Technical College is proud to announce that five of its faculty and staff members have been named recipients of the 2024 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards. The distinguished awardees are Lisa Bottem, who serves as the Financial Aid Director, Caleb Curfman, a History Instructor, Andrea Moses, an Advisor, Mei Sather, a Nursing Instructor, and Joel Ziegler, a Welding Instructor.

NISOD Excellence Awards recognize academic leaders who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues. NISOD's International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence is the definitive gathering of community and technical college educators passionate about teaching and learning.

Since 1989, NISOD's annual conference has provided faculty, administrators and staff with the resources, ideas and solutions that drive excellence in all areas of community and technical college campuses.



*Lisa Bottem*

### **Lisa Bottem, Financial Aid Director**

"I feel truly honored to have been nominated and selected as a recipient of this award," said Bottem. "It is humbling to know that your colleagues recognize and appreciate your work and commitment to the college and the greater college community. I am also blessed to have worked with wonderful people over the years."

### **Caleb Curfman, History Instructor**

"I am honored to be recognized by a fantastic group of colleagues at Northland," said Curfman. "I have the opportunity to work with amazing students, and I strive to provide them with the best learning experience and environment that I can. In the classes I teach I work to provide a place where students have agency in their learning, and this motivates me to continuously innovate and improve."



*Caleb Curfman*

# MEMBER NEWS

## Northland Community & Technical College recognizes five 2024 NISOD Excellence Award recipients continued



*Andrea Moses*

### **Andrea Moses, Advisor**

"I take pride in developing and fostering relationships and bonds with each student individually," Moses said. "This award not only recognizes me individually, it also recognizes that it takes many people to take a student through the entire process from starting or continuing their education all the way through the culmination of earning their degree."

### **Mei Sather, Nursing Instructor**

"This award not only reflects my continuous efforts for high-quality education, but it's also a testament to the collective dedication of the entire nursing community," Sather said. "Whether advocating for healthcare equity, championing patient-centered care, or advancing nursing science through research, I'm fueled by the conviction that our collective efforts can improve lives and shape a better future for all."



*Mei Sather*



*Joel Ziegler*

### **Joel Ziegler, Welding Instructor**

"It was unexpected and an honor to know that they think I am deserving of this award," said Ziegler. "I just focus on my students and try to get them prepared to enter the workforce. Recognition is the furthest thing from my mind when doing that."



**NORTHLAND**  
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# MEMBER NEWS

## Alluma Honored as Rural Behavioral Health

Alluma, a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, is proud to announce it has been named the Rural Behavioral Health Clinic of the Year by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Center for Rural Behavioral Health. This award recognizes Alluma's unwavering dedication, innovation, and significant impact in delivering mental health services within rural communities.

The award will be formally presented to Alluma during a ceremony on April 25, 2024, in Mankato, marking a milestone in the organization's history of serving the northwestern Minnesota region.

"We are honored to receive the Rural Behavioral Health Clinic of the Year Award. This accolade is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our team at Alluma and the resilience and spirit of the communities we serve," said Shauna Reitmeier, Chief Executive Officer at Alluma. "In rural areas, where the challenge of accessing mental health services is compounded by distance, stigma, and scarcity of resources, every small step towards improvement can make a significant impact."

The Center for Rural Behavioral Health praised Alluma for its exceptional clinical work, comprehensive community engagement, and steadfast advocacy efforts that address the unique challenges faced by rural populations, including limited access to care, stigma, and workforce shortages.

Alluma's mission of promoting wellbeing and instilling hope resonates deeply with the award's criteria. Through its team of dedicated providers, Alluma provides integrated, evidence-based mental wellbeing and substance use services for everyone, focusing on resilience and recovery.



# BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

### Rydell

Chevrolet Dealership, 2700 S Washington, Grand Forks, ND

**Thursday, May 16, 2024 - 4:45pm ~ 7:00pm**

**Rydells** invites all Chamber Members and their employees to join them for a fun Business After Hours event!

**Free Admission**

**Complimentary hors d'oeuvres, 2 drink tickets & cash bar, door prizes**  
**Progressive cash drawing is at \$1200.**

Stop by...Enjoy the fun and take advantage of great networking opportunities.

You might even win **\$1200** in our Progressive Cash drawing!

We'll draw the name of one Chamber Member business. If someone from that organization is present, they win!!

Forward this message on to your friends and colleagues.

See you Thursday, May 16, 2024 at Business After Hours!

\*Because of the nature of this event, no children under 18 may attend.

**Thank you to ND Museum of Arts for hosting an eventful Business After Hours.**



# THE CHAMBER

## Executive Committee

**Chair: Tony Hodny**, H & S Electrical Services LLC

**Chair Elect: Mike McLean**, JLG Architects

**Past Chair: Russel Crary**, Crary Real Estate

**Mike Fridolfs**, Northrop Grumman Corp.

**Kay Derry**, Northern Roots Boutique

**Pat Boppre**, Blue Moose Bar & Grill

**Barry Wilfahrt**, Chamber GF/EGF

## Board of Directors

**Matt Bredemeier**, Grand Forks Subaru Kia

**Jon Fargo**, Retrax Holdings, LLC

**Matt Fischer**, Probitas Promotions

**Todd Forkel**, Altru Health System

**Derek Holt**, First Community Credit Union

**Tarek Howard**, Auto Finance Super Center

**Meloney Linder**, University of North Dakota

**Keith Lund**, GF EDC

**Matt Norby**, Norby's Work Perks

**Emily O'Brien**, Bioscience Association of ND

**Scott Reck**, Northdale Oil

**Phil Ring**, McKinnon Company

**Liz Savage**, Hugos Family Marketplace

**Andy Schneider**, Dakota Concealed/GF County Sheriff

**Penny Stai**, River Cinema

**Tyler Wilson**, Vilandre Heating, Air Conditioning & Plumbing

## Sr. Military Advisor to the Board

**Col. Timothy Monroe**, GFAFB

## Chamber Staff

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