

# PROGRESS

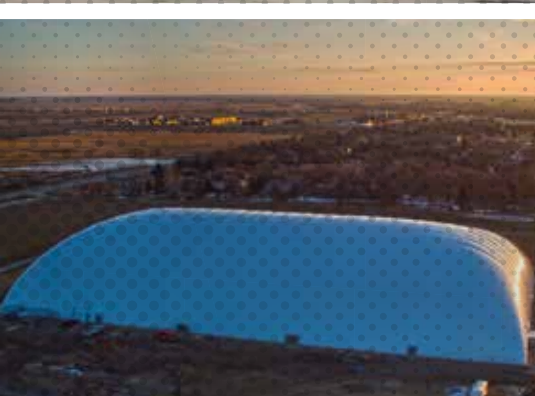
MAGAZINE

MARCH/APRIL 2019



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ABERDEEN



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# PROGRESS

This edition of the Progress is devoted to – well – progress! And it's dedicated to the people of Aberdeen, past and present, who had a belief that the residents of Aberdeen deserved more and then stepped up to create a better quality of life for those living here. They are people who invested their time, talents and treasure building spaces and places knowing it wasn't about the spaces themselves, but about what goes on in those places and the people who spend time there.

Here are some general observations about the current state of the city, courtesy of Mayor Mike Levsen in his State of the City Address (February 7, 2019):

- Farming and ranching are Aberdeen's foundation
- NSU projects are transformative to the area
- Major employers are healthy and secure right now
- Demographics present a challenge for our future
- Loss of major retail is not a local fault, but a concern
- The housing situation is good and responding to demand
- Exciting things are happening downtown
- The local newspaper – with new owners – deserves our support
- Our municipal water supply is plentiful and growing
- Leadership: more women and more young people

In addition, the past 15 years has yielded a flurry of major city, school and non-profit projects, including:

- Mike Miller Elementary School
- Aberdeen Christian School
- Roncalli Elementary, Primary and High Schools
- Holgate Middle School remodel
- Aberdeen Central High School
- Aberdeen Family YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area
- YMCA Youth Development Center
- Safe Harbor
- Aberdeen Hub Area BMX
- Airport terminal, runway and passenger bridges
- Public Safety Building
- Fire & Rescue stations
- KO Lee Aberdeen Public Library
- Capitol Theatre
- Aberdeen Family Aquatic Center
- ARCC/Civic Arena remodel
- Water Treatment Plant
- Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Recreation Trails
- City Hall remodel
- Wylie Park/Storybook Land
- Downtown development and improvements
- Sanford Health Aberdeen Clinic and Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center
- Avera upgrades, the Don & Carmen Meyer Cancer Center and the Human Performance Center
- Presentation College Winter Dome, residence halls and classrooms
- NSU – Johnson Fine Arts Center, residence halls, practice football field, soccer field and fieldhouse
- Odde Ice Center

Compare this list to the 30 years prior – from 1972 to 2002 – when approximately only one-third of this was achieved (CC Lee Elementary, Holgate Middle School, Strode Center and more at Presentation College, Johnson Fine Arts Center, NSU remodeling, ADC Smart Center, Wylie Park & Storybook Land, Barnett Center and Fossum Field).

This city has an energy – and a synergy – that is unique and no other city of comparable size across the country can hold a candle to what has been accomplished here. We're fortunate to call this place home. Life is still good in Aberdeen!

*\*Paid promotional space.*



# Chamber for Good Program



**Gail L. Ochs**  
President, IOM  
Aberdeen Chamber

Did you know that a few years ago, the Chamber launched a new tool to promote our local non-profit organizations? It's called Chamber For Good and can be found at: [www.chamberforgood.com](http://www.chamberforgood.com) or through the Chamber website. The Chamber for

great charities and causes that labor away on behalf our fellow community members.

We are the only Chamber and only community in South Dakota to offer this great 3x3 community-engagement tool that makes it easy for residents to support local charities and causes. The 3x3 describes the three horizontal 'trailheads' of giving: donate money, donate time (volunteer), and donate items. And it describes the three levels of residential engagement (from most engaged to passive): browse needs, make item or volunteer

Good system leverages the strength and credibility of our chamber of commerce to shine a bright light on the



'offers', or receive weekly automated 'community needs' email.

All 501c3 organizations that are based in (or have extensive activities within) our community are eligible to have a FREE profile on Chamber for Good. These organizations can post financial, volunteer and item needs, as well as events and programs coming up. It's a great resource, so if you operate or volunteer for a local non-profit, go to the site and submit your information.

Additionally, residents have a central location where they can browse the needs of local charities. Residents can also make item donations or volunteer "offers". You can select charities based on need or type. Chamber for Good makes it easy to GIVE LOCAL and build up those causes that make such an impact in our own community.

If you have not already done so, go to the site and register your email address. Each Monday you will receive a single automated email listing the item and volunteer needs of local charities. From that email you may choose to respond to one of the needs, but even if you don't, we hope that you will at least be willing to review the needs and see what our community stands in need of. There is no obligation of any kind, just a willingness to be made aware of the needs that exist in our community.

Please help us spread the word and advance the great cause of building our community by supporting those charities and causes that do so much for those in our area with the greatest needs!

## Small Business Resources

### Interactive Discussions



#### One Million Cups

<http://www.1millioncups.com/aberdeen>

*Meets every Wednesday  
at 9 a.m. at the Capitol Theatre*



#### StartHUB

<http://starthubsd.com/>

*Meets the first & third  
Thursday of every month  
at 8:30 a.m. at Karisma Boutique*

### Free Technical Assistance



#### Small Business Development Center

<http://sdbusinesshelp.com/>

- Works with start-ups & existing companies
- Assists with business planning, cash flow planning, marketing & funding sources
- Referrals to international trade, government contracting & other resources



#### SCORE

<https://siouxfalls.score.org/>

- Free templates and articles
- Local mentoring assistance

# Volunteering Makes Our Community a Better Place



**Dawn Williams**  
2019 Chamber Board Chair, SD Dept. of Labor & Regulation

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” The inspirational quote by Sir Winston Churchill about the value of giving back says it all when we consider the importance of volunteering and our community.

Volunteering is about giving, contributing and helping other individuals and organizations to make a meaningful contribution to a better community.

A large part of Aberdeen's success and growth is due to the dedicated volunteers who donate their time contributing to a healthy and vibrant community. When there is a need, there is always a group of individuals that will work together to make sure it is fulfilled. We can proudly look around the Aberdeen area and see the results of those commitments including the new buildings for the Boys and Girls Club, Safe Harbor, the YMCA and the Youth Development Center and the new BMX track. This is just a few additions to an ever-growing list of improvements that our Aberdeen community has embraced.

Volunteering plays a critical role in providing a positive impact on

the lives of others, but it also does so much for the volunteer. It helps to build a sense of pride, purpose and accomplishment. Volunteering provides the opportunity to connect with others and make new friends. It is a great way to meet people, especially if you are new to the area. Volunteering can also help you to develop new skills and get valuable experience that may expose you to professional organizations that benefit your career. The value of volunteering is priceless.

In February, the Chamber held the annual Community Champions Awards Luncheon where we recognized some of our volunteers that have made significant contributions to our community. Congratulations and thank you to our nominees and honorees. It is also important to recognize the employers that encourage their staff to volunteer their time and talents towards improving our community and the

organizations that are in need. We thank you for making volunteerism an important part of life.

I would encourage everyone to find one volunteer activity that brings you satisfaction in knowing that you made a difference. You never know the impact that just a small investment of your time can make. Area organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, the United Way, SPURS, the Salvation Army and the many other non-profits we have in our community could always benefit from your time. The Chamber also has the Chamber for Good available on our website that provides a connection between donors and volunteers to local charities and needs.

Our volunteers make our Chamber and our community vibrant, progressive and successful, and we thank you!



## 2019 Chamber Leadership

### Executive Board

Dawn Williams, Chair	SD Dept. of Labor
Jack Hollinsworth, Chair-Elect	JDH Construction
Jeff Poppen, Vice Chair	Sanford Aberdeen Medical Center
Robert Goscicki, Treasurer	Aberdeen Federal Credit Union
Kellie Ecker, Secretary	SD Mfg & Tech Solutions

### Staff

Gail Ochs	President
Bea Smith	Director of Member Services and Events
Lisa Anderson	Director of Public Relations, Committees and Programs
Stacie Wiedebush	Finance Manager
Korine Grismer	Administrative Assistant

### Full Board

Brett Deibert	Farm Credit Services of America
Dr. Timothy Downs	Northern State University
Justin Feickert	Midstates Group
Julie Fischbach	Mainstream Boutique
Todd Forkel	Avera St. Luke's
Paul Galatro	3M Company
David Novstrup	Wylie Thunder Road
Matt Prehn	Midstates Group
Mike Sommers	Double D Body Shop
Katie Washnok	Blackout Industries
Dr. Sandra Welling	Presentation College
Devin Reints, CVB Board Liaison	Dakota Broadcasting
Mike Bockorny, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Development Corp.
Casey Weismantel, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Area CVB
Shelley Westra-Heier, Ex-Officio	Aberdeen Downtown Assoc.



This magazine is a bi-monthly publication of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce.

### COVER: Aberdeen Progress

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All events are free unless otherwise noted. For more information, and to register, go to [www.eidebailly.com/insights/events](http://www.eidebailly.com/insights/events).



- **Innovative Business Strategies for Contractors Webinar: Estate & Succession Planning** – Thursday, March 14, 12 pm
- **Business Trends Webinar: Benefits of Fixed Asset Planning & Cost Segregation** – Wednesday, March 20, 12 pm
- **Business Trends Webinar: eDiscovery & Other Cybersecurity Incident Response Trends** – Friday, March 22, 12 pm
- **Business Trends Webinar: Why System Integration Should Be Your Next Big Initiative in 2019** – Tuesday, March 26, 12 pm
- **Innovative Business Strategies for Contractors Webinar: Wealth Planning** – Thursday, April 4, 11 am
- **Innovative Business Strategies for Contractors Webinar: Increase Cash Flow** – Tuesday, April 16, 12:30 pm
- **Business Trends Webinar: Revenue Recognition Rules** – Thursday, April 18, 12 pm
- **Business Trends Webinar: Internal Audit: Do You Need Help?** – Tuesday, April 23, 12 pm
- **Business Trends Webinar: Succession Planning: Start Planning Now** – Thursday, April 25, 12 pm

**AAHS 2ND PAW SALE**  
*Aberdeen's largest "2nd hand" sale*

Brown County Fair Grounds Clubhouse  
April 27, 2019 9am-3pm

Donations may be dropped off at the Clubhouse, check [www.anewleashonlife.net](http://www.anewleashonlife.net) for dates & times

\*No clothing, large appliances, magazines, encyclopedias, metal desks, exercise equipment or old TVs accepted\*

Questions? Contact: Christa, 605-228-4749



Barnett Center Addition - Aberdeen, SD

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**Q. I sometimes miss a dose of medication. Is it really a big deal?**

A. Actually, yes. Even one missed dose of an important medication can affect your treatment plan and set you back. Taking your medications as directed by your healthcare team is critical for your overall long-term health and well-being. If you're concerned about missing doses, ask about our free custom daily medication packs.

**Q. It's a battle getting my toddler to take his medicine. Any tips to pass along?**

A. With custom medications, we can create a prescription your kiddo won't mind taking. We make medicine better tasting and in liquid, gummy and even lollipop forms. Flavors like grape, orange, cherry and tutti fruity can change your kid's mind about taking their medicine.

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- 📍 **United Clinic Pharmacy**  
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605.225.4001

**Have a question?**  
Stop in and chat with our friendly pharmacists.

[AberdeenPharmacy.com/servingyou](http://AberdeenPharmacy.com/servingyou)

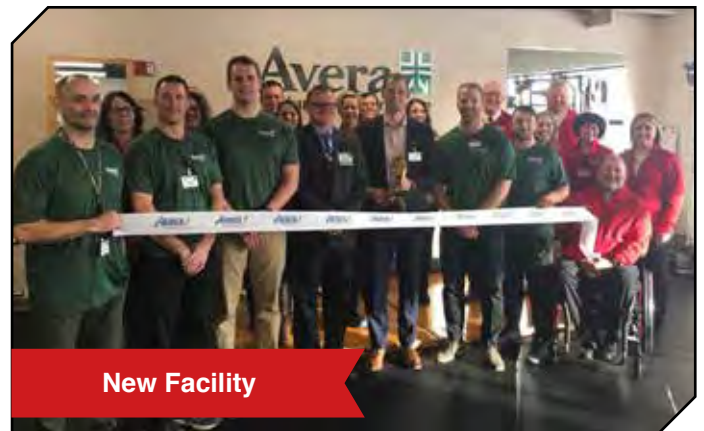


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**New Facility**

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avera.org/hpcaberdeen

*Winefest Renaissance 2019*

**When:**  
Saturday, April 13, 2019  
4:30 - 6:00 PM VIP Event  
6:00 - 9:00 PM Grand Event

**Where:**  
Boys & Girls Club of  
Aberdeen Area

**Pricing:**  
VIP Event - \$100 each  
Grand Tasting - \$65 each,  
\$100/pair if purchased  
before March 29

**What's included:**

- Wine & Food Pairings
- Music & Artists
- Live and Silent Auctions
- Beer, Spirits and Wine Sampling
- Free Shuttle Service

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ABERDEEN AREA**

Tickets on sale now at the Boys & Girls Club - 1121 1st Ave SE

A fundraiser...  
...in good taste!

For more information please call the Club at 605-225-8714

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Customer Service Seminars**  
**Thursday, April 11, 2019**  
Times and locations TBD

The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce presents David K. Aaker, IOM, internationally recognized motivational keynote speaker and trainer in customer service, leadership and communication. Join us for a participatory and enthusiastic customer service seminar designed to inspire employees with tested methods to improve customer service and make positive changes that will stimulate growth. Stay tuned to the Monday Announcements and the Chamber's Facebook page for times, locations and pricing.



**DAVID K. AAKER, IOM**

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER, TRAINER AND  
AUTHOR ON CUSTOMER SERVICE

FACULTY MEMBER  
UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
INSTITUTE FOR ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT

WWW.DAVIDKAAKER.COM



David is now featured in the new book "Success Simplified"; a new anthology of 24 nationally selected speakers by Insight Publishing.

# Winners Announced for Big Idea Competition

The 2018 BIG Idea Competition was a BIG success with 244 entries involving over 356 students from 35 schools. The event wrapped up Wednesday, December 5th, on the campus of Northern State University and the winners were determined from among the eight final entries with over \$6,000 in cash and scholarships awarded.

Kendra Kleven and Avery Weinheimer of Sully Buttes High School took first place with Helping Hearts Delivery Service which aims to deliver groceries weekly and bring hot meals five days a week to the elderly of Onida, SD. Their prizes included a \$1,000 cash prize, a \$1,000 scholarship to NSU, a \$1,000 scholarship to Presentation College and a \$1,000 scholarship to the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. Second place went to Butterstick, by Jade Parkin of Rapid City Stevens High School, which is a product where butter will conveniently be stored and ready for use in all situations and for all ages. Second

place prizes include \$500 cash, \$500 Presentation College scholarship and \$500 NSU scholarship.

The \$250 third place prize went to The 'Wich Doctor by Hattie Muellenbach of Milbank High School, which is a food truck specializing in gourmet sandwiches.

The Marketing Design competition is an option for students to create an ad for their business idea. The \$500 cash award was sponsored by McQuillen Creative Group and fifty-two entries were judged in this category. The winner was Houghtaling Ultrasound by Danielle Houghtaling of Doland High School which addresses the need for ultrasound services in the state of South Dakota for the sheep and goat industries. Houghtaling Ultrasound was also the winner of the newly sponsored \$500 cash prize of the Food Animal Agriculture award. The category prize is sponsored by Midwest Ag Supply and thirty-three entries were in this category.

In the Wellness Category sponsored by Sanford Health with a \$500 cash prize, there were forty-three entries. The winner was Helping Hearts Delivery Service by Kendra Kleven and Avery Weinheimer of Sully Buttes High School.

For the first time, the BIG Idea Competition was able to offer an award for teachers.

The new prize, Partners in Business Award, is sponsored by Angelhaus to reward the networking and

mentorship experiences teachers have incorporated into their classroom.

This year's recipients of the Partners in Business award are Vicki Lentz of Sully Buttes High School, Jerry Janisch of Milbank High School and Katrina Boyum of Florence High School.

For the second year in a row CREATE sponsored a Makerspace consultation prize. The drawing includes 4 consultations, a year of makerspace management software, and a final report with a blueprint for starting a makerspace. The winning school was Florence High School.

The BIG Idea Competition aims to promote entrepreneurship, spur creative thinking and encourage students to start a business. The competition is coordinated by the Small Business Development Center. Sponsors for 2018 include Sanford Health, East River Electric, REED Fund, Dacotah Bank, Midwest Ag Supply, First Bank and Trust, Northern State University, Presentation College, Aberdeen Development Corporation, McQuillen Creative Group, Northwestern Energy, Angelhaus, CREATE, Midcontinent Communications, and the Tom and Danielle Aman Foundation. The Competition is a result of the input and collaboration of many organizations including Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, Aberdeen Downtown Association, Aberdeen Catholic School System and Aberdeen School District.

Questions regarding the competition can be directed to Kelly Weaver of the Small Business Development Center at (605) 626-2565 or [kelly@growsd.org](mailto:kelly@growsd.org). For more information about the competition, see [www.BIGIdeaSD.com](http://www.BIGIdeaSD.com).



*Pictured left to right are Hattie Muellenbach, Kendra Kleven, Avery Weinheimer, Jade Parkin and Danielle Houghtaling*



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# 34th Annual Aberdeen Community Prayer Breakfast Featuring Keynote Speaker Paul TenHaken

Before being elected Mayor of Sioux Falls in 2018, Paul TenHaken established a reputation in the Midwest as a leader in the marketing technology sector. After several years in executive marketing positions, TenHaken founded Click Rain in 2008, a marketing technology agency in Sioux Falls that is recognized as a leader for innovative product offerings and a unique workplace culture. TenHaken was named one of Entrepreneur magazine's Top 10 Emerging Entrepreneurs as well as South Dakota Young Entrepreneur of the Year. TenHaken is also the co-founder of the Dispatch Project, a non-profit that organizes overseas mission opportunities for business leaders. His efforts have received many accolades. We are delighted to have Mayor TenHaken speak at this year's Prayer Breakfast. Come hear his story!



CBMCC

Presented by Christian Business Men's Committee Of Aberdeen, Connecting Business & the Marketplace to Christ, April 18, 2019, 6:45-8:05 a.m., Ramkota Hotel Convention Center. Tickets available at the Chamber of Commerce Office - 516 South Main St, \$12 each or tables of 8 for \$96.

# ACCA Presents Cellisimo and the Abrams in Concert

The Aberdeen Community Concert Association presents two great concerts, coming soon: Cellisimo on Thursday, March 21, at the Aberdeen Civic Theatre and The Abrams on Thursday, May 2 at the Harvey and Cynthia Jewett Theatre inside the Johnson Fine Arts Center on the NSU campus.

The Russian/American Cello Duo, Cellisimo, is described by the Los Angeles Times as "hot & intense". They speak to a range of audiences by creating multi-genre performances and interactive experiences. Bringing artists of different disciplines together, dynamic soloists Ruslan Biryukov and Alisha Bauer perform works by Bach, Vivaldi, Paganini and Piazzola. The duo is known for their superb artistry, passion and individuality.



Then, closing the ACCA season, will be The Abrams. John and James Abrams are fourth-generation musicians signed to Warner Music. Touring their distinct Americana/Country sound worldwide for sixteen years, the brothers are among the youngest performers to play the Grand Ole Opry. Their live performances feature a virtuosic blend of familiar Country, Bluegrass and Gospel favorites. This is a special bonus membership concert. People who become 2019-20 ACCA members on or before this night will also be able to attend The Abrams concert for free.

Interior Design Concepts, located at 523 S. Main Street, serves as the ACCA Box Office. Individual concert tickets will be available. Adult advance tickets will be sold for \$30 and student tickets for \$8. Tickets sold at the door will be \$35 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets can also be purchased on the ACCA website at [www.aberdeencommunityconcerts.org](http://www.aberdeencommunityconcerts.org).

## CHAMBER BIG DATES

### 4th Grade Ag Fair

Tuesday, April 16, 8 am, Prairie Hill Farms

### Ag Committee

Thursday, March 21, Noon, SDSU Extension  
Thursday, April 18, Time TBD, Agtegra Innovation Center

### Ambassadors

Thursday, March 12, Noon, TBD

### Business After Hours

Thursday, March 14, 5:15 pm, Boys & Girls Club  
Thursday, April 11, 5:15 pm, Best Western Ramkota

### Chamber Executive Board

Thursday, March 14, Noon, Chamber  
Thursday, April 11, Noon, Chamber

### Chamber Full Board

Wednesday, March 20, 8 am, Chamber  
Wednesday, April 17, 8 am, Chamber

### Chamber Week

Monday, April 8 – Friday, April 12

### Community Affairs Committee

Thursday, March 7, Noon, Best Western Ramkota  
Thursday, April 4, Noon, Best Western Ramkota

### Customer Service Seminars with David K. Aaker

Thursday, April 11, times and locations TBD

### Day of Distinction

Friday, April 12, 9 am, Best Western Ramkota

### Diplomats

Thursday, March 14, 3 pm, Chamber

### Health & Wellness Committee

Wednesday, March 6, 8 am, Chamber  
Wednesday, April 3, 8 am, Chamber  
Wednesday, May 1, 8 am, Chamber

### Leadership Aberdeen

Tuesday, March 12, 5 pm, Avera (lower level of Physician's Plaza)  
Tuesday, March 19, 5 pm, NSU  
Tuesday, March 26, 5 pm, Best Western Ramkota (Graduation)

### Military & Veterans Committee

Tuesday, March 5, Noon, National Guard Armory

### National Ag Day

Thursday, March 14, 9 am, Kessler's Grocery  
Thursday, March 14, 2 pm, Ken's Super Fair Foods

### Partners in Community Pride Committee

Friday, April 5, 9 am, Chamber

### Transportation Committee

Thursday, March 26, 3 pm, Chamber

### Workforce & Education Committee

Thursday, March 20, 3:30 pm, Chamber  
Wednesday, April 17, 3:30 pm, Chamber

# Save the Date - Leadercast 2019

Leadercast is the world's largest one-day leadership conference, broadcast LIVE from Atlanta and simulcast to hundreds of locations around the world - including Aberdeen - on May 10, 2019 at the Johnson Fine Arts Center on the NSU campus. This year marks the 11th year of the conference and the 6th hosted by the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce.

NEW this year! We are excited to be hosting the event in partnership with the State SHRM Conference which will be held in Aberdeen May 8-10, 2019. This means 300+ people from Aberdeen and throughout the State of South Dakota will hear from these inspirational speakers:

- Gayle King, co-host, CBS This Morning and Editor-at-Large, O, the Oprah Magazine
- Patrick Lencioni, Best-Selling

Author and Founder, The Table Group

- Dr. Caroline Leaf, Communications Pathologist and Cognitive Neuroscientist

- Marcus Samuelsson, Award-Winning Chef, Restaurateur, Author and TV Personality

- Julie Funt, CEO, WhiteSpace at Work

- Andy Stanley, Leadership Communicator, Author and Pastor

- Ginger Hardage, Founder, Unstoppable Cultures

- Craig Springer, Executive Director, Alpha USA

- Carla Harris, Vice Chairman, Managing Director, Morgan Stanley

This year's theme is Leading Healthy Teams! The best leaders know a successful team is made when focus, care, attention, and development is directed to its members. Healthy teams yield fulfilled employees, effective collaboration,



high organizational engagement and greater long-term success

Cost to attend with registration by April 9, 2019:

Chamber Members: \$65 each  
Leadership Aberdeen Program

Graduates: \$60 each

Chamber Member Group of 8: \$480

Non-Chamber Members: \$95 each

To register, go to [aberdeen-chamber.com/leadercast](http://aberdeen-chamber.com/leadercast) or call the Chamber at (605) 225-2860

# ADC Launches Recruitment and Retention Efforts



**Mike Bockorny**  
Chief Executive  
Officer, Aberdeen  
Development Corp.

Greetings from the Aberdeen Development Corporation (ADC)! As I have written about previously the ADC completed a strategic plan. This plan outlined a strategy for continuing the forward movement of our community in many key areas

of emphasis. One of these key areas revolves around the recruitment of new businesses to Aberdeen. To achieve this goal the ADC will be launching a multi-year recruitment plan to identify

and lure new companies to our community.

The ADC feels the timing is perfect to launch this plan. The combination of the updated Housing Study, the City's Growth Plan and numerous other conversations with key agencies involved in the growth of Aberdeen show our community has the propensity to grow. We are confident this effort will yield results for many years to come for our community and we look forward to the positive results.

While the ADC will be focusing on recruitment we will also renew and increase the focus on retention and expansion of businesses. The Director of Business Development for the ADC, Taylor Wall, will be heading up

this effort for the ADC. Taylor will be fulfilling the retention and expansion program in conjunction with our partners from the Governor's Office of Economic Development. If you are looking to expand your business, feel free to contact Taylor at [taylorwall@adcsd.com](mailto:taylorwall@adcsd.com) to learn about programs which may assist your business.

Finally, and as always, we keep our focus on our mission statement - "Recruit, retain and expand economic opportunity in Aberdeen and our surrounding region." For information or questions please contact our office at 605-229-5335 or check out our website at [www.adcsd.com](http://www.adcsd.com).

# Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation Presents Golden Apple Awards

The Aberdeen Public Schools Foundation announced the fourth annual Golden Apple Awards on January 2, 2019, to recognize individuals that are dedicated, inspiring, and making a difference in the Aberdeen School District. This year's honorees were Nicole Schutter,

Mike Miller Elementary Principal; Janet Deuel, Holgate Middle School Office Assistant; and Carol Vetter, CC Lee Elementary Educational Assistant. Each received \$500 and a golden apple.



*Pictured to the right are Nicole Schutter, Janet Deuel, and Carol Vetter.*

# PICP Business Recognition

These businesses were recognized by the Chamber's Partners in Community Pride Committee for investing in the beautification of Aberdeen.



**DART (Downtown Aberdeen Revitalization Team)**



**Forsyth & Zahn Construction**



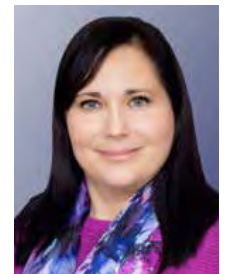
**Runnings**

## Stacie Wiedebush - Chamber's New Finance Manager

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Stacie Wiedebush and I am the newest member of the Chamber staff as the Finance Manager. I am originally from Turkey but only lived there a short time before moving to

Cresbard, SD. My husband Joel and I live just outside of Aberdeen on Lords Lake Ranch where we raise cattle. Between the two of us we have 7 children. In our spare time we enjoy being on our patio with good

friends enjoying the fresh air and sun. We also enjoy camping and traveling to Florida.



## Business After Hours – Non-Profit and Service Organization Month



**Bea Smith**  
Director of Member Services & Events,  
Aberdeen Chamber

We are excited to offer our area non-profits and service clubs a chance to promote their mission and goals at our next Business After Hours mixer on Thursday, March 14, 2019.

Business After Hours

is held to encourage networking among the city's business leadership

and employees. It is an ideal way to establish contacts and build relationships with fellow businessmen and women. These mixers attract 150 to 200 people and allow members to get better acquainted with businesses and organizations in an informal setting.

The goal of this special Business After Hours Mixer will be to increase awareness of your service club or non-profit and to potentially help you recruit new volunteers. The event will be held on Thursday, March 14th from 5:15-7:00 pm at the Boys and Girls Club of

Aberdeen Area at 1121 1st Ave SE.

If your organization is a current Chamber member, we will provide you with a table and two free tickets for your organization to attend this event at no charge. If you are not a Chamber member, you can still participate for \$200. This is a great time to showcase your organization and all the benefits it provides to Aberdeen and our surrounding areas.

For more information, and to register, contact Bea Smith at [bea@aberdeen-chamber.com](mailto:bea@aberdeen-chamber.com) or (605) 225-2860. Spots fill up fast!

## Hat and Mitten Drive

The Chamber Ambassadors spearheaded another successful hat and mitten drive in 2018. Hundreds of hats and mittens were donated by area residents and distributed to grade school children in Aberdeen. The Ambassadors, and local children who benefit from this annual tradition, thank all who donated items or money for this great cause.



# Leadership Aberdeen, Class of 2019

The 32nd Leadership Aberdeen class, comprised of 27 local business professionals, began their journey together on January 10th. When they complete the program and graduate on March 26 they will be added to the list of 785 others who count themselves as Leadership Aberdeen alum.

A program of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, Leadership

Aberdeen is designed to:

- Analyze characteristics associated with leadership
- Develop individual skills
- Gather an awareness of trends, challenges and issues that face the Aberdeen area

Leadership Aberdeen participants thank their employers and families for allowing them the opportunity to

learn and grow through this program. The following business partners make this journey possible for them all: 3M Company of Aberdeen, Agtegra Cooperative, Avera St. Luke's, Dacotah Bank, Glacial Lakes Energy LLC, Molded Fiber Glass South Dakota, Northern State University and Sanford Health.



**Alex Vogel**  
Dakotaland Federal  
Credit Union



**Andrew Miller**  
Sanford Health  
Aberdeen Clinic



**Ashley Bratton**  
Plains Commerce  
Bank



**Ashley Wolf**  
Banner  
Engineering



**Chad Hoffmann**  
Midstates Inc



**Chelsea Boeckman**  
Molded Fiber Glass



**Cuyler Meade**  
Aberdeen American  
News



**Doug Rush**  
Molded Fiber Glass



**Dustin Stieha**  
RDO Equipment  
Company



**Elissa Dickey**  
Northern State  
University

**CONGRATULATIONS!**





**Heather Fettig**  
SD Department of  
Labor



**Jacob Robertson**  
NorthWestern Energy



**Jennifer Monson**  
3M Company



**Jodi Myburgh**  
Dacotah Bank



**Ken Bjur**  
Glacial Lakes Energy



**Korine Grismer**  
Aberdeen Area  
Chamber of  
Commerce



**Kristen Sauer**  
US Bank



**Kyle Ammann**  
Glacial Lakes Energy



**Paula Nelson**  
City of Aberdeen



**Renae Rohrbach**  
Quality Quick Print



**Sarah Klein**  
Plains Commerce  
Bank



**Shane Bettmann**  
Avera St Luke's



**Shelby Meyer**  
Boys & Girls Club of  
Aberdeen Area



**Susan Schaible-  
Heiser**  
US Bank



**Tess Moeller**  
Avera St Luke's  
Hospital



**Travis Hoyle**  
Dakota Supply Group



**Wesley Doney**  
3M Company



# Healthy Tips for 2019



**Megan Erickson**  
SDSU Extension and  
Member of the Health  
& Wellness  
Committee

March is National Nutrition Month and draws special recognition to the importance of healthy eating.

Encourage yourself to eat right, your way. At home and at work, too. Eating right doesn't have to be complicated. Here

are some healthy tips to help you make changes towards a healthy 2019. Starting simple may lead to bigger rewards.

**Follow MyPlate.** This tool will help you create a more balance diet. Aim to make half your plate half fruits and vegetables, a quarter of your plate whole grains and a quarter lean protein, while choosing low-fat or non-fat dairy. Banish that brown bag boredom by trying low sodium vegetable soup with whole grain crackers or a salad of mixed greens with low-fat dressing and hard-boiled

egg.

**Fix Healthy snacks.** Healthy snacks can sustain your energy levels between meals. Choose from two or more foods groups when picking out snacks. Try raw veggies with low-fat cottage cheese, or a peanut butter with an apple or banana. Or try salsa and baked tortilla chips.

**Rethink your drink.** Drinks with added sugars can contribute to empty calories and little or no nutrition. Substitute water for sugary drinks to reduce calories. Aim for eight, 8 oz glasses of water per day.

**Stay active at work.** Take a 5-minute stretching break or a 10-minute walking break. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Park your car farther away from the door. Choose an activity you enjoy to do. Set a calendar reminder to remind you to get up from your desk.



**Don't forget food safety.** About 1 in 6 American will experience food poisoning each year. Stop the spread of harmful bacteria by practicing good food safety. Use an insulated lunch bag. Keep hot foods hot by using an insulated bottle. Provide at least two cold sources if lunches contain perishable foods.

**Find what works best for you.** Once you find a plan that works for you, make it a routine. Consistency will lead you towards your biggest reward, a healthier you.

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## welcome new members

### Cogley Law Office

Tom Cogley  
202 S Main Street Ste 203, Aberdeen  
605-725-8920, tom@cogleylaw.com  
With a decade of experience in all facets of law, Tom Cogley will provide authentic, tailored representation for you and your loved ones needs.



### DTOM 22/0 Foundation

Chris Reder  
13952 387th Ave, Warner  
605-722-DTOM, chris@dtom220.org  
We are a non-profit foundation building a Veterans Ranch to help our heroes who are struggling with PTSD, traumatic brain injuries and homelessness.



### Performance Capital Partners

Jeff Stockert  
720 8th Ave NE, Aberdeen  
605-229-8644, jeff@performancecapitalpartners.com  
Performance Capital Partners (PCP) is committed to creating quality hotels that provide warm, welcoming hospitality to the traveling public.



# Upcoming Community Events

## MARCH

- 5 ..... **Women in Science Conference**, NSU-Johnson Fine Arts Center, northern.edu
- 5 ..... **Stuffed Animal Sleepover/Bedtime Story Time**, KO Lee Aberdeen Public Library, aberdeen.sd.us/22/library
- 9 ..... **The Handmade Market**, Dakota Event Center, dakotaeventcenter.com
- 9 ..... **Mandala Painting Party**, Colorful Creations, thecolorfulcreations.com
- 9-17 ..... **Liebelt RV Annual Indoor-Outdoor Show & Sale**, Expo Building, Brown County Fairgrounds, liebeltv.com
- 12 ..... **NSU/Primrose Arts and Lecture Series - Ceramic Form and Fragment: Artwork of Gratia Brown**, Primrose of Aberdeen, facebook.com/primroseliving
- 12 ..... **Play Date for Moms, Dads & Kids - "Once Upon a Time...Fairy Tale Fun"**, Dacotah Prairie Museum, Pre-registration required by calling 626-7117
- 12 ..... **Backyard Astronomy Class**, Aberdeen Recreation & Cultural Center, aberdeen.sd.us/arcc
- 14 ..... **Sweet Jazz Concert**, NSU-Johnson Fine Arts Center, northern.edu
- 14-16 ..... **SDHSAA State B Boys Basketball Tournament**, NSU-Barnett Center, sdhsaa.com
- 14-16 ..... **Downtown Aberdeen State B Sales & Promotions**, Downtown Aberdeen, aberdeendowntown.org
- 15 ..... **YAPA Nintendo Party Challenge**, YAPAtorium, aberdeen.sd.us/152/YAPAtorium-Teen-Center
- 16-17 ..... **Whitetail Bowmen Archery Classic 3D**, Whitetail Bowmen Archery Club Indoor Range, whitetailbowmen.com
- 16 ..... **James Valley Model Railroad Association Open House**, Old Milwaukee Railroad Depot, facebook.com/JVMRRA
- 16 ..... **First Annual DEC Craft Beer Festival**, Dakota Event Center, dakotaeventcenter.com
- 16 ..... **Hippie Yoga Retreat II The Featherband Edition**, Fit & Fire Studios, Briscoe Building, leanbodybarre.com
- 16 ..... **Annabelle Band at Eskimo Joe's Grand Opening**, Eskimo Joe's, facebook.com/AnnabelleBandSD
- 19 ..... **Seed Starting Demo**, KO Lee Aberdeen Public Library, aberdeen.sd.us/22/library
- 21 ..... **Aberdeen Community Concert Association presents Cellisimo**, NSU-Johnson Fine Arts Center, aberdeencommunityconcerts.org
- 22 ..... **SPURS Spring Dance with The Barstool Prophets**, Dakota Event Center, spursaberdeen.org
- 22 ..... **Ladies Power Hour: Yoga, Meditation & Empowerment**, Fit & Fire Studios, Briscoe Building, leanbodybarre.com
- 22 ..... **Nurse for a Day**, Presentation College, presentation.edu
- 22 ..... **Family Bingo Night**, CC Lee Elementary School, facebook.com/CCLPTA
- 23-24 ..... **Hub City Radio's Spring Big Boy Toy Show**, Brown County Fairgrounds Expo Building, hubcityradio.com
- 23 ..... **Beginners Lettering Class**, Colorful Creations, thecolorfulcreations.com
- 24 ..... **Yelduz Roadrunners Pancake Breakfast**, Yelduz Shrine, yelduz.com
- 24 ..... **Diocesan Youth Rally**, Aberdeen Civic Arena, sfcatholic.org/youth
- 26 ..... **Fifth Annual Lamont-Rhodes Lecture Series**, Northern State University, northern.edu
- 26 ..... **Feeding SD Free Food Distribution**, Freedom Church, time4freedom.org
- 29 ..... **2nd Annual Women's Business Conference**, Best Western Ramkota Conference Center, bhsu.edu/sdceo
- 29 ..... **YAPA International Student Night**, YAPAtorium, aberdeen.sd.us/152/YAPAtorium-Teen-Center
- 29-30 ..... **YMCA Interstate Boys/Girls Basketball Tournament**, Various Locations, aberdeenyumca.org
- 30 ..... **Roncalli Ball**, Dakota Event Center
- 31 ..... **Slackers Monthly Open Mic Night**, Slackers, slackersaberdeen.com

## APRIL

- 5-6 ..... **Earth Hour Overnight Hosted by Girl Scouts - Dakota Horizons**, Zion Luthern Church, gsdakotahorizons.org
- 5-6 ..... **Coors Bull Riding Classic**, Holum Expo at Brown County Fairgrounds, Contact Mosbrucker Rodeo at 701-674-3214
- 6 ..... **Hector Anchondo Band**, Schwan's Recreation, facebook.com/SchwansRecreation
- 6 ..... **Magnesium Foot Soak & Class**, Heart & Sole Foot Zone Therapy, heartandsoleftz.com
- 9 ..... **NSU/Primrose Arts and Lecture Series - NSU: At Home in the World-An Overview of NSU's International Programs**, Primrose of Aberdeen, facebook.com/primroseliving
- 9-13 ..... **Fun Home**, Johnson Fine Arts Center - NSU, northern.edu
- 12 ..... **Day of Distinction**, Best Western Ramkota Convention Center, aberdeen-chamber.org
- 12-13 ..... **NPRA Bull Riding Classic**, Brown County Fairgrounds Expo Building, Contact 701-663-4973 for more info
- 13 ..... **Winefest Renaissance**, Boys & Girls Club of Aberdeen Area, bgcaa.org
- 13 ..... **Knight for a Princess**, Central High School, aberdeen.k12.sd.us/foundation
- 13 ..... **Everything Healing Expo**, Best Western Ramkota Convention Center, charjung.com
- 14 ..... **NSU Wolves Triathlon**, NSU Barnett Center, nsuwolves.com
- 16 ..... **Container Gardening Demo**, KO Lee Aberdeen Public Library, aberdeen.sd.us/22/library
- 17 ..... **NSU South Dakota Math Contest**, NSU Barnett Center, northern.edu/academics/college-arts-and-sciences/northern-sd-math-contest
- 18-20 ..... **Yelduz Shrine Circus**, Aberdeen Civic Arena, yelduz.com
- 20 ..... **James Valley Model Railroad Association Open House**, Old Milwaukee Railroad Depot, facebook.com/JVMRRA
- 20 ..... **YAPA Fortnight Survival Challenge**, YAPAtorium, aberdeen.sd.us/152/YAPAtorium-Teen-Center
- 22 ..... **Green Aberdeen's 4th Annual Earth Day Fair**, Central Park, greenaberdeen.org
- 27 ..... **Lutheran Social Services' Hope Grows in the Northeast Dinner**, Dakota Event Center, lsssd.org
- 27 ..... **Day of Champions**, Various Locations, unwesd.org
- 28 ..... **Yelduz Roadrunners Pancake Breakfast**, Yelduz Shrine, yelduz.com
- 28 ..... **The Suzuki Piano Recital**, Aberdeen Recreation & Cultural Center, facebook.com/suzukipianoaberdeen
- 28 ..... **Slackers Monthly Open Mic Night**, Slackers, slackersaberdeen.com
- 30 ..... **Gardening Q&A: What Went Wrong?**, KO Lee Aberdeen Public Library, aberdeen.sd.us/22/library



# Community Champions Recognized for Their Contributions

Several local deserving individuals and organizations were honored at the 14th annual Community Champions Luncheon on Tuesday, February 12th. Hosted by the Chamber's Ambassadors, the Community Champions Awards recognizes volunteer leaders within Aberdeen and the region. Awards were sponsored by, and presented on behalf of, the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, the Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Aberdeen Hotel Alliance and the South Dakota Prairie Business Initiative.

## WOMAN OF SPIRIT - Dawn Williams

This award recognizes the efforts of a woman who has attained and personified the highest level of professional excellence in her business or profession and has devoted time and energy to the community in a meaningful way. The Woman of Spirit exemplifies the following characteristics: Wise, Organized, Mentor to others, Achiever, Nurturing and is Selfless, Purposeful, Inspirational, Respectful, (has) Integrity and is a Team player.



## GEORGE - Mike Sommers

This award is presented to an individual who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the community in trying to make Aberdeen a better place to live and work. A George Award recipient has stepped up and the initiative, rather than "just letting George do it".



## STAR - Girls Scouts of Aberdeen-Groton

STAR stands for Students Taking Active Responsibility and it recognizes the achievements of a student service group for outstanding service to the community.

## EMERGING LEADER - Gina Karst

Presented to an individual who is in the early stages of their career and has demonstrated leadership qualities within their businesses and community, this award was established to foster young leadership and enhance youth retention.



Evaluation considers evidence of achievement through participation in associations, organizations, volunteer boards and more; recognition by managers and peers for demonstrating leadership skills and standards in the workplace; and enthusiastic commitment to promotion and growth within the community, region and state.

## FAMILY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

**- Lamont Companies** This award recognizes the accomplishments of a family business and its contribution to the community of Aberdeen and the surrounding region. Criteria includes that at least two family members work in the business and/or multigenerational; positive contributions of the business to the welfare of the community; success of the business; and an assessment of the health and unity of the family.



## HOMETOWN HERO - Special Olympics South Dakota

This award recognizes an individual or organization that has shown superior dedication to the tourism industry in the Aberdeen area. Hometown Heroes work selflessly to ensure that their group's meetings, conventions or events are held in the community. Visitors who attend these special events fill hotels, restaurants, attractions and retail outlets. The dollars they spend have a tremendous impact on the welfare of our city. By going the extra mile to bring in visitors, Hometown Heroes help ensure the economic vitality of the community continues to thrive.







**ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR - Travis Schaunaman**

In the spirit of building on Aberdeen's rich culture of entrepreneurship, the award recognizes local entrepreneurs and their efforts in the region.



**ViTality - Mike Evans**

The ViTality Award recognizes an individual who displays enthusiasm for regional development in the 17-county area of northeast and north central South Dakota. The namesake for the award is Vi Stoia. Stoia was a regional thinker his entire career. He passed away in 2008, but his legacy lives on in the form of this award. (This award was accepted by Mike's daughter, Carly Evans.)



**SPOTLIGHT - Hub City Soccer Club**

The award is presented to a deserving individual or group who, through their advocacy, shines a positive light on our community and region by bringing statewide, regional or national recognition and attention to our area.

The Military & Veterans Committee of the Chamber presented the following awards:



**Noncommissioned Officer of the Year - Kiel Dettler**



**Enlisted Member of the Year - Rylee Fleckenstein**



**Rich Kezar Veteran of Armed Services of the Year - Perry Schmidt**



**Veteran Advocate of the Year - Charles Dale Strom**

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
 TO ALL OF OUR 2018  
**AWARD WINNERS!**

# Ten Years Making Bowls and Feeding Souls



**Stacy Braun**  
Executive Director  
Aberdeen Area Arts  
Council

The 10th annual Empty Bowls Meal and silent auction is Saturday, March 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Yelduz Shrine Center at 802 S. Main Street in Aberdeen.

Empty Bowls Aberdeen is a volunteer-based community project that uses creative

arts and education to work on a social problem – hunger. Volunteers of all ages and walks are provided supplies at no cost, September through March, to make clay bowls. These building times provide an opportunity to experience the arts in an inclusive culture of charity and giving. Every year there have been over 200 volunteers who have used 525 pounds of clay to create over 400 bowls. Volunteers help in some part of the process - either building a bowl or glazing one. There could be as many

as six people who have had a part in one bowl between the building, glazing and firing process.

Guests attending the meal make a suggested donation of \$20, thoughtfully hand pick a special bowl to take home knowing their donation has helped the community. Raising awareness of local

hunger issues is a major goal of the project. Approximately 90% of the raised funds are given to local hunger entities while the other 10% pays for expenses such as pottery materials and dinner supplies.

In addition to the dinner, a silent auction is held to help raise funds. Many handcrafted items are donated and sold to the highest bidder. Since the start of Empty Bowls Aberdeen in 2009, over \$62,000 has been given to organizations that help with hunger.

Not able to attend the meal on



March 23? You can still help by donating soup for the meal or hand crafted items for the silent auction. Contact the Aberdeen Area Arts Council at 605-226-1557 to find out more.

Empty Bowls is sponsored by Aberdeen Area Arts Council, Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center and the Yelduz Shrine Center. Empty Bowls Aberdeen also thanks all of the volunteers who assist. Follow Empty Bowls Aberdeen on Facebook for additional information.

# Emilia Amper Band from Sweden Comes to Aberdeen

Emilia Amper Band, a music ensemble from Sweden, will visit Aberdeen as part of Arts Midwest Folkefest April 7-13. Emilia Amper is one of Sweden's most renowned folk musicians and a world champion performer on the nyckelharpa, a traditional keyed fiddle played only in Sweden for more than 600 years. Through their deep knowledge of folk traditions, love for exploring music, and joyous energy, this band will keep feet tapping throughout Aberdeen. Emilia Amper Band will perform a public concert on Friday, April 12 in the recently remodeled Aberdeen Recreation and Cultural Center Library Auditorium, 225 3rd Ave SE, at 7:30 pm.

The Aberdeen Area Arts Council is hosting Emilia Amper Band for a full week of activities as part of a program called Arts Midwest Folkefest. In addition to the public concert, the ensemble will visit schools, libraries, and other community locations to share their culture through educational

workshops.

Aberdeen is the only community in South Dakota and one of only six communities to host Arts Midwest Folkefest. The program works in small and mid-sized communities in Midwestern states that experienced a significant influx of Scandinavian immigrants during the 1800s and 1900s and still bear signs of this heritage today. Arts Midwest Folkefest seeks to deepen awareness of Scandinavian traditions present in the Midwest while fostering curiosity and appreciation for global cultures.

Arts Midwest Folkefest is produced by Arts Midwest, a regional organization based in Minneapolis. Arts Midwest covers a substantial portion of the program cost so that communities throughout the Midwest can enjoy this multifaceted experience. Generous support is also received from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. Additional funding for the program is provided by the Nordic Culture Fund,



Swedish Arts Council, We Energies Foundation, Swedish Council of America, and through American-Scandinavian Foundation's Thord-Gray Memorial Fund, and in partnership with Iowa Arts Council, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Minnesota State Arts Board, North Dakota Council on the Arts, South Dakota Arts Council, and Wisconsin Arts Board.

Tickets for the public performance will be on sale the end of March. For additional information, call 605-226-1557 or visit [www.AberdeenAreaArtsCouncil.com](http://www.AberdeenAreaArtsCouncil.com).

# Growing Our Brand



**Justin Fraase**  
 Director of Communications & Marketing, NSU

A year ago, I wrote about the brand refresh that Northern had recently undergone. The refresh included stakeholder surveys, results that showed a dated tagline and overlapping logo marks. Today, Northern's brand is in a better place, but there is still work to be done.

Along with our licensing partner, Learfield Licensing, the NSU Foundation and Northern have begun the process of expanding our licensed product line. You'll continue to see new products that include the Northern brand. We've had some early success, partnering with Titleist and Huplay Hoops. We are constantly looking for new opportunities, and working with

local retailers, to bring in more Wolves products.

As always, the on-campus Wolf Shoppe and Team Store carry the widest selection of Wolves gear. Local big box retailers and select boutiques also carry licensed Wolves merchandise, as do several online merchants. I'd like to thank all our retail partners for their support.

By shopping for licensed products, you're getting the most accurate branding, and royalties from sales support Northern students through the NSU Foundation. Over the past year, we've seen royalties increase 22 percent and Wolf Shoppe sales of individual items jump more than 17 percent.

Growing Northern's brand is an important factor in the overall health of our institution. You may not think wearing a maroon Wolves shirt on Friday does much, but collectively, it makes a significant impact. Supporting your team, your school and/or your

student makes a world of difference.

Picture yourself wearing an officially licensed Northern baseball cap, eating breakfast at one of our fine Aberdeen eateries. At the booth next to you, a 17-year-old sits with her/his parents, on their way for a campus tour. We call it a touchpoint, a subtle reminder that Northern is here. A brief glimpse of one cap probably won't sway a decision, but how many touchpoints does all of Wolves Country produce?

Fun fact: Campus visits have been up as of late. Perhaps maroon Fridays are in order?

I once again want to thank our retailers, vendors and everyone who spent their hard-earned dollars to purchase one of our licensed products. Take pride in wearing our maroon and gold; it makes a difference.

Go Wolves!

# Governor Signs Bill Moving NSU Regional Sports Complex Forward

With the governor's signature in place, Northern State University's on-campus regional sports complex is moving forward.

Gov. Kristi Noem has signed House Bill 1037, which authorizes the South Dakota Board of Regents to contract for the construction of the sports complex on the NSU campus.

The bill's approval sets in motion the final project of the Educational Impact Campaign, a collaborative effort between Northern and the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

"This feels like another game-changing moment, much like when we first kicked off the campaign a little over a year ago," said NSU President Dr. Tim Downs. "While it's exciting to have that final piece of the puzzle in place, the campaign now shifts to completing fundraising efforts – and a high-quality facility that will benefit our entire region."

The Educational Impact Campaign, which first kicked off in fall 2017, involves three projects funded almost entirely by private donations. Besides the sports complex, that

includes the Athletic and Recreation Fields project, which opened in fall 2018, and the new SDSBVI, currently under construction at the former NSU Jerde Hall site.

Support has been strong throughout the campaign, with numerous pledges from individual donors, area businesses and the city of Aberdeen. That support hasn't gone unnoticed.

At HB1037's hearing before the Legislature's Joint Committee on Appropriations prior to approval in the House and Senate, Sen. Justin Cronin said the fact that the whole region is supporting this project is immense.

"You should be very proud of your alumni and of your community," said Cronin, R-S.D.

Cronin pointed out that Northern came to the committee with a bill that's



fully funded, with a commitment to fund maintenance and repair. "How can a person sit here and say no?"

Sen. Brock Greenfield echoed Cronin's sentiments, saying the area has invested countless millions of dollars into this project.

"Here's a case in point in which the people have said this is how they want to spend their money," said Greenfield, R-S.D. "I wholly support and endorse that, and I wish the folks at Northern well with this project, and the folks of the region well because a lot of people will be benefiting from this for years and years to come."

For more information about improvement projects at Northern, visit <http://educational-impact.com/>.

# Ag Committee Encourages Community to Celebrate Ag Day March 14

By Connie Sieh Groop, Special to the Chamber

Anyone who enjoys food, fiber or fuel is invited to celebrate National Ag Day March 14, during National Ag Week, March 10-16. Each day, farm families dedicate their efforts to provide quality care to the land, animals and environment as well as a safe and affordable product for families all over the world to enjoy.

To remind people of how important agriculture is to everyone, the Aberdeen Area Chamber Ag Committee invites the community to celebrate this essential industry. Agriculture is by far the largest sector of the economy in South Dakota, putting \$25.6 billion into our state each year.

**Members of the Ag Committee will be at Kessler's from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at Ken's SuperFair Foods from 2 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 14. Watch for the table where samples of South Dakota products and SD Ag Facts will be shared. Shoppers will be given Beef Bucks and SD Pork Certificates as a special thank you. Committee members would love to hear from you and share a conversation about agriculture.**

Research from the Center for Food Integrity shows that 65 percent of consumers want more information about the food that they consume. They want to know is their food healthy? Is it safe? What do farmers/ranchers do to provide quality food? Ag committee members want to initiate discussions with people in the community.

Lance Vilhauer and Kristina Signaty, members of the committee, will be on Dakota Broadcasting's In Touch radio program at 7:30 a.m. that morning to share why ag is important to them.

According to Vilhauer, "It is important for the Ag Committee to promote National Ag Day so we can celebrate and show appreciation to our area farmers and ranchers for the extremely challenging work they do every day. At a time when special interest groups are attacking modern agriculture, the products we produce, and the methods used to produce them, everyone in the Ag Community must stand up for each other. National Ag Day is a chance to shine a spotlight on how humanely our products are raised and how great stewards of the land farmers and ranchers strive to be."

Brown County ranks number one in the state in production of corn and soybeans each year. An estimated 14.26 million bushels of soybeans grown on 375,000 acres were produced in Brown County in 2017, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Corn planted on 312,000 acres produced 43.54 million bushels of corn. Statistics show an inventory of 56,000 cattle and calves for Brown County in 2018.

In addition to farmers and ranchers, statistics show that Brown County has over 4,500 jobs derived from the agricultural industry or over 16% of the working population employed in Brown County in Ag.

"Agriculture is connected to every resident in Brown County either directly or indirectly," Michael L. Bockorny, Chief Executive Officer of the Aberdeen Development Corp., said. "Furthermore, the economic impact year over year is almost immeasurable. With the pending opening of the Ag

Processing Incorporated (AGP) facility this summer the economic impact of agriculture on Brown County will be



significantly enhanced for years to come."

Drawing from a 100-mile radius, it is estimated that AGP will process nearly 40 million bushels of soybeans a year, which is a protein source in food for farm animals.

Numerous businesses provide goods and services for those in the ag industry. Area ethanol plants turn millions of bushels of corn into fuel each year. Cattle buyers purchase animals from approximately a 250-mile radius around Aberdeen for DemKota Ranch Beef, a specialty processor of high quality beef products from this area for both domestic and international consumption. It began operation in October 2015 and now has 800 employees at the plant, harvesting 1,100-1,200 animals a day.

Vilhauer noted, "You would think everyone in this country should know about agriculture since we are all dependent upon it for survival every single day. The reality is, less than 2 percent of the US population is directly employed in agriculture. I encourage all farmers and ranchers to invite urban friends and strangers alike, to see the day-to-day operations of their farms. I guarantee every visitor will leave that farm with a greater appreciation for the hard work and a true picture of the passion and care given to the land and animals. We need to shout our story, not only on National Ag Day, but every day."

*Connie Sieh Groop is a freelance ag writer who lives on a farm at Frederick, SD and is a member of the Chamber's Ag Committee. Conniegroop19@gmail.com*

SPONSORED BY:



# Aberdeen Wins Cacklin' Community & Tourism Innovation Awards

On Thursday, January 17, Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Department of Tourism presented awards to tourism industry members at the 2019 Governor's Conference on Tourism in Pierre.

The 10th Annual Rooster Rush Cacklin' Community Award went to the community of Aberdeen for its efforts to welcome pheasant hunters to the state. The Aberdeen Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) provided service and hospitality from the moment hunters stepped off the plane by serving pheasant sandwiches and providing gift bags. The hospitality continued at hotel check-in, and the CVB hosted unique events like the Pheasant Sandwich Shootout.

Wylie Park Campground and Storybook Land received the "Excellence in Tourism Innovation Award." This award is given to an industry partner for their innovative thinking in making their destination, business or attraction even more appealing to visitors. Wylie Park Campground and Storybook Land received the award because of the unique special promotions and overall elevation of the visitor experience.

"Wylie Park and Storybook Land have been wowing visitors for more than 40 years, becoming one of the top ten municipal parks in the entire nation," said Governor Kristi Noem. "It was an exciting year for them to welcome their one millionth passenger of their world-famous train, and I look forward to hearing what the next million have to say about this iconic South Dakota attraction."



*Pictured left to right: Governor Kristi Noem; Rita Moe, Aberdeen CVB Finance and Hospitality Manager; Laura Ptacek, Aberdeen CVB Marketing Coordinator; Casey Weismantel, Aberdeen CVB Executive Director; Layton Holmstrom, Aberdeen CVB Social Media Coordinator and South Dakota Secretary of Tourism James Hagen.*

*Pictured left to right: Governor Kristi Noem; Aberdeen City Manager Lynn Lander; Park Superintendent Mark Hoven; Wylie Park Concessions Manager Dawn Thorstenson; Aberdeen Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department Director Doug Johnson, Wylie Park Supervisor Mark Grote and South Dakota Secretary of Tourism James Hagen*

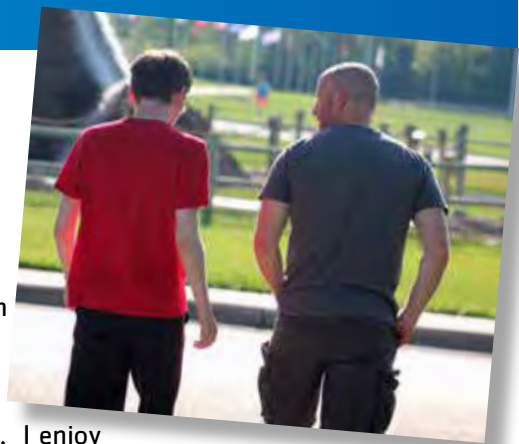
## REACH & RISE MENTORING

Reach and Rise® is a national YMCA program designed to provide guidance for youth and help them reach their full potential through the support of caring adults. Reach and Rise supports youth ages 6 to 17 who need the benefit of a positive group or individual mentoring. One of our mentors would like to share his Reach and Rise experience.

**Jeremy has been a mentor for the last 4 years! Here is what he has to say about the program:**

I started out with Reach & Rise hoping to make a difference in someone else's life--not realizing how much I would learn and grow along the way from my mentee as well. We do a wide variety of things that definitely open up our eyes to the activities, events, and possibilities that Aberdeen provides. We always have a blast together no matter what we do. My mentee has grown immensely since we began with the program. He has become more confident in himself and his abilities and has a more positive

outlook. Personality-wise, we are probably as opposite as can be, but this has helped stretch me and see life from a different point-of-view. I enjoy our meetings and look forward to the activities that we get to do together. The program has definitely had a lasting impact on my life as well my mentee's!



For more information about our mentoring options, please contact Colleen Hericks at [chericks@aberdeenyumca.org](mailto:chericks@aberdeenyumca.org) or Jordan Rohrbach at [jrohrbach@aberdeenyumca.org](mailto:jrohrbach@aberdeenyumca.org).

# Be Humble. Be Successful.



**Kelly Weaver**  
Regional Director,  
Small Business  
Development Center

If you ask most people what makes a strong business leader, you will often hear words like visionary, bold, charismatic, passionate, energetic, or self-starter. Humility? Not so much. Yet, being humble is often a key to success in

business. You will hear successful leaders reference it as “I surrounded myself with people smarter than me” or “I had a great team”. Another description I would add is ‘don’t be afraid to ask for help’.

Here are some ways that humility exhibits itself in the workplace which may point to ways you could take action to be more humble.

1. Input is sought AND acted on/listened to. Whether there is an actual ‘suggestion box’ or not, be sure to solicit input from all levels of the

organization and don’t presume you know what is best. The people closest to the problem often have the best ideas on how to solve it and certainly have insight on how well a proposed solution will work.

2. Management by Walking Around. Do you take time to visit with your staff informally during the week? Do you observe their work environment and how they are performing their work? Do you recognize them as fellow human beings with personal needs and concerns or as the tools you need to get the job done?

3. Willingness to Change. Are you so wed to your idea that not only do you not admit when it doesn’t work, you are also unwilling to change course to find a better solution (perhaps one suggested by a subordinate)?

In these internal situations, remember that perception is reality. You may want to seek input from a trusted advisor or key employee who is able to give you an objective read on employees’ perception of you. You may think you are humble but it only

matters if the employees see it the same way.

From an outside perspective, I would also say be open to seeking input and information from others. Even if you have a strong game plan you are comfortable with, getting an outside perspective can be valuable. There might be some minor tweaks in your plan that could contribute majorly to a successful implementation. At the very least, an outside confirmation that you are on the right track can go a long way to a good night’s sleep.

The Small Business Development Center has a variety of free services locally on business planning, business management, and financial management. In addition, we have network partners with expertise in government contracting, lean management, international sales and equity financing. We are a great first contact when ‘asking for help’.

*Kelly Weaver is the Regional Director of the Small Business Development Center office in Aberdeen. She can be reached at 605-626-2565 or kelly@growsd.org. The SBDC office is hosted by GROW South Dakota.*

ABERDEEN AREA AND NSU  
**EMPLOYMENT EXPO AND**

# JOB FAIR

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019**

11 A.M. TO 5 P.M. | BARNETT CENTER

**ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:**  
[WWW.ABERDEENNEWS.COM/JOBFAIR](http://WWW.ABERDEENNEWS.COM/JOBFAIR)

Early Bird Deadline: **MARCH 1, 2019** | Registration Deadline: **MARCH 22, 2019**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT**  
NSU Career Services at [careerservices@northern.edu](mailto:careerservices@northern.edu) or the  
SD Department of Labor at [dan.thielsen@state.sd.us](mailto:dan.thielsen@state.sd.us)

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You are invited to attend a dinner event to  
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FEATURING JARED SHERLOCK, AWARD WINNING COMIC MAGICIAN!

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Silent Auction begins at 5 pm  
Dinner/Program begins at 6 pm  
Comic Magician Show from 8–9 pm

The Dakota Event Center

720 Lamont Street South, Aberdeen

Dinner - \$15 • Comic Magician Show - \$25 • Dinner & Show - \$35  
A gift or pledge will be requested.

Reservations are necessary. Please RSVP by April 17, 2019.

605-262-6301 or [Liesl.Hovel@LSSSD.org](mailto:Liesl.Hovel@LSSSD.org)

Strengthening Individuals,  
Families & Communities



## Diabetes Self-Management Workshop

Friday's March 1<sup>st</sup> - April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
9:30 am - 12:00 pm  
Aberdeen Police Department, Community Room

**Workshops are FREE!** To register, call 1-888-484-3800 or [www.BetterChoicesBetterHealthSD.org](http://www.BetterChoicesBetterHealthSD.org)

**Why Should I Attend?**  
Those who have taken the workshop show:

- Better health
- Increased confidence managing diabetes
- Improved A1C & blood sugar levels
- Decrease in hypo- & hyperglycemia
- Fewer doctor/ER visits & hospitalizations

**Workshop Topics:**  
(six weekly 2 1/2-hour long sessions)

- Healthy eating & meal planning
- Preventing low blood sugar
- Managing stress & depression
- Tips for exercising
- Goal setting & problem solving
- Preventing or delaying complications
- Working better with doctor/health team
- Medication how-to's
- Monitoring blood sugar levels

This workshop is for adults with pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes or their caregivers




Better Choices, Better Health® SD adheres to AACEO guidelines in offering educational programs and services. Better Choices, Better Health® SD is used with permission as a licensed and trademarked program from SMRC.



## Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshop

Monday's, April 1<sup>st</sup> - May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
2:00 pm to 4:30 pm  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**Workshops are FREE!** To register, call 1-888-484-3800 or [www.BetterChoicesBetterHealthSD.org](http://www.BetterChoicesBetterHealthSD.org)

**Why Should I Attend?**  
Those who have taken the workshop show:

- Better overall health
- More energy and less fatigue
- More active lifestyle
- Increased confidence
- FREE book, relaxation CD, & completion certificate to share with your provider

**Workshop Topics:**  
(six weekly 2 1/2-hour long sessions)

- Goal setting & problem solving
- Managing difficult emotions
- Understanding medications
- Communication skills
- Making informed decisions
- Relaxation skills
- Nutrition & physical activity planning & ideas

This workshop is for adults with any chronic conditions or their caregivers




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## ANNA RICHARDS



*Agricultural Succession Planning*

**MARCH 26, 2019, 7:30-10 A.M.**

**Breakfast buffet, 7:30 a.m. | Presentation, 8:30 a.m.**  
*Johnson Fine Arts Center, Northern State University*  
\$20/person or \$125/group of eight

To RSVP for the event, please contact the NSU Foundation at: [nsualumni@northern.edu](mailto:nsualumni@northern.edu) or 605-626-2550. To register online visit [northern.edu/LamontRhodesLecture](http://northern.edu/LamontRhodesLecture)

The speech is sponsored by the NSU School of Business and Dacotah Bank. The lecture series is made possible thanks to contributions from descendants of longtime Aberdeen residents Ernest and Louise Rhodes, William and Frances (Peg) Lamont, and Robert and Ruth Lamont.

# LEADERSHIP AND WORKFORCE CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY ABERDEEN

SPONSORED BY NorthWestern Energy Advantage

**MAY 16, 2019 | 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**  
THE DEC | ABERDEEN SD

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**DR. MARY KELLY** is an internationally renowned author and keynote speaker on leadership, productivity, and business growth. In 21 years as a Navy Intelligence and logistics officer, Mary trained more than 40,000 military and civilian personnel. Mary has a Ph.D. in economics, is a professor at the Naval Academy, and is the author of 11 books on business growth and Leadership.



**DR. ED NICHOLS** has spent over 30 years in public education, and currently works with school systems, healthcare organizations, business teams and non-profit groups in strategic planning and team development. As a certified Emergenetics associate, Ed works with many organizations to achieve more productive, creative teams, and to improve problem solving in the workplace.

**REGISTRATION FEE:**  
Early Bird **\$65**  
**\$80** after April 18

**WHAT'S INCLUDED:**  
Keynote speakers, breakout sessions, a copy of Mary Kelly's book, "Why Leaders Fail and the 7 Prescriptions for Success," and lunch.

Register at [www.adcsd.com/event/leadership-and-workforce-conference](http://www.adcsd.com/event/leadership-and-workforce-conference)

# SPURS

## Spring Dance

Friday, March 22 8:00-11:00PM

Entertainment by: **THE BARSTOOL PROPHETS**  
Doors open at 7PM

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DAKOTA EVENT CENTER

Silent Auction from 7:00-9:30PM  
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### 3 DROP OFF LOCATIONS BELOW

APRIL 26 THRU MAY 11: LANDFILL

1. BROWN COUNTY LANDFILL

TIRES (4 Car or Pickup Tire LIMIT)

PAINT

TREES

RUBBLE

BATTERIES

FURNITURE

WASTE OIL

ELECTRONICS



APPLIANCES

SCRAP METAL

PROPANE TANKS

GRASS & LEAVES

OTHER MISC. WASTE

\* NO LARGE DEMO PROJECTS (HOMES, TREE BELTS ETC.)  
NO MOBILE HOMES  
NO BUSINESS / COMMERCIAL WASTE (See signs for the details)

HOURS

MONDAY – SATURDAY: 8 TO 5  
SUNDAY: CLOSED

APRIL 26 & 27:

2. SOUTH 5TH STREET  
(2 BLOCKS OF WHITE HOUSE INN)

3. BROWN COUNTY HWY DEPT

TIRES (4 Car or Pickup Tire LIMIT)

BATTERIES

FURNITURE


APPLIANCES

ELECTRONICS

SCRAP METAL

OTHER MISC. WASTE

RUBBLE (NO SHINGLES)




\*LARGE LOADS, GRASS, LEAVES, TREES, SHINGLES, PAINT, WASTE OIL, PROPANE TANKS & ANTIFREEZE MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE LANDFILL.

HOURS

FRIDAY: 1 TO 5  
SATURDAY: 8 TO 4

LOCATION: 13225 379TH AVE



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### 2019 State SHRM Conference

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Aberdeen, SD  
Northern State University, Johnson Fine Arts Center



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Keynote Speakers:



Scott Carbonara is a speaker, trainer, author, and consultant who "brings authentic leadership to life from the boardroom to the family room." Through his humorous and practical keynotes, executive coaching, management consulting, and story-driven books, he breathes life into leadership initiatives including employee engagement, change management, communication, positive culture, and customer service.



Jennifer McClure is an entrepreneur, high performance coach, and former HR executive who works with business leaders to build their influence, think strategically, and create maximum positive impact at work and in life. As a top-rated international speaker and CEO of Unbridled Talent, Jennifer is recognized as an influencer and expert on strategic leadership and innovative people strategies.

Featuring Leadercast Live on Friday at no extra cost!

Breakout Sessions Showcasing Topics On:

FMLA/ADA	Performance Management/Conflict Resolution	Diversity
Hiring and Recruiting	Mental Health in the Workplace	Communicating Change
Employment Law	Any many others!!!	



# What Does At-Will Employment Mean?



**Kim Dorsett**  
Partner, Richard-son, Wyly, Wise, Sauck & Hieb

I frequently take calls from distressed people that have been recently fired, asking if it was legal for them to be fired and if their boss had to give them a reason. As is often the case, it depends.

Employment relationships in South Dakota may be 'terminated at will,' which means an employer may terminate an employee at any time, and does not need a specific reason for doing so. Likewise, an employee is allowed to quit at anytime and does not need a specific reason to quit. This is often referred to as the at-will employment doctrine.

However, this doctrine does have exceptions. South Dakota recognizes four: (1) terminations that violate state or federal law; (2) terminations that are against public policy; (3) employees with express or implied contracts that require termination "for cause"; or (4) an employee who accepts employment upon the promise of a future promotion.

If one of these exceptions is applicable, a terminated employee may have a claim for wrongful termination against the employer.

**Discrimination:** Typically, terminations that involve the violation of a state or federal law involve some form of discrimination. South Dakota laws, and federal laws, prevent employers from firing employees as a result of their age, race, gender, disability, ethnicity, religious beliefs, ancestry or country of origin. South Dakota employees also may not be fired for serving jury duty in the state and also have some protections for smoking.

**Public Policy:** South Dakota recognizes an employee's right not to be terminated in violation of public policy. This essentially means that an employer cannot terminate an employee for reasons that violate established public policies, or contradict sentiments of the general public.

This would then prevent someone from being fired for pursuing a worker's compensation claim or discrimination claim, or for refusing to perform a criminal act for their employer.

**Breach of Contract:** In South Dakota, an employer must follow the terms of any written or verbal contract with an

employee. If a contract exists, then the employer cannot terminate the employee in violation of the terms of that contract.

**Promise of Future Promotions:** If an employee can prove that he or she accepted a job because the employer promised a future promotion to a certain position, South Dakota courts may find that employee was no longer an at-will employee.

Employees who believe they have been wrongfully terminated may have a claim against the employer. However, there are often administrative processes that must be followed, and there is a strict period of time within which to file a claim. These laws are very complex, and failure to strictly comply can result in an otherwise valid claim being dismissed. It is very important to consult with an attorney experienced in employment law as quickly as possible.

*\*This article is written for informational purposes and does not constitute legal advice. If you have any questions, you are advised to consult with an attorney.*

## Day of Distinction 2019

"All or Nothing" is the theme for the 3rd Annual Day of Distinction event which will be held April 12th at the Best Western Ramkota Convention Center. This event was started by the 2017 Leadership Aberdeen class to provide an opportunity for people in the Aberdeen area to gather with locally and nationally recognized speakers. Since its first year a group of class members have continued working on this community initiative.



The goal of the Day of Distinction is to bring motivational and inspirational speakers to the Aberdeen area to provide tools and resources necessary to create tangible personal and professional growth. We want to provide a forum for all individuals to learn to be a better version of themselves. This year speakers include Mark Lindquist, Brandie Hinen, David Aaker and more. Check out [www.aberdeen-chamber.com/DOD](http://www.aberdeen-chamber.com/DOD) for more information.



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# USS South Dakota is Navy's Newest Nuclear Submarine



**Mike Rounds**  
US Senator (R-SD)

USS South Dakota (SSN 790) is the Navy's newest nuclear submarine, commissioned on Feb. 2, 2019. It is the 17th Virginia-class attack submarine to join the fleet. It was a true honor to be a part of the

commissioning event.

USS South Dakota will play an important role in the mission of our sailors, and it will also serve as a new symbolic link between our state and the Navy. According to the U.S. Navy, it has been designed to fulfill the seven core competencies of the submarine force: anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, delivery of Special Operations Forces, strike warfare, irregular warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and mine warfare.

This new submarine includes

state-of-the-art technology designed to increase stealth, as well as a revised bow and sonar panels that will allow it to better detect and track other submarines in its area. USS South Dakota is a 7,800 ton vessel, is 377 feet long and will be manned by 132 crew members.

It can stay at sea for up to three months at a time. Because it is a nuclear attack submarine, it will be armed with four torpedo tubes and can hold 12 Tomahawk cruise missiles that are capable of hitting targets more than 1,000 miles away.

USS South Dakota is the third commissioned Navy vessel to bear the name of our state. The first was an armored cruiser that was used between 1904 and 1912. The second USS South Dakota (BB-57) was a battleship commissioned in 1942. During World War II, it was vital in blocking Japanese forces from entering Guadalcanal. It was also involved in the Battle of Savo Island,

Battle of Philippine Sea, Okinawa and Iwo Jima, earning a total of 13

battle stars. USS South Dakota was present in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945, for Japan's formal surrender. When newspapers or

radio stations reported on USS South Dakota during the war, they referred to it as "Battleship X" or "Old Nameless" because the Navy wanted to hide information about the battleship from our enemies.

Several World War II veterans who served aboard BB-57 attended the commissioning ceremony of the newest USS South Dakota. It was very special to have them there to welcome the new submarine to the Navy. We're thankful to them for their service to our country. We are also thankful to the sailors who will serve aboard the new USS South Dakota.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, it was truly a privilege to witness the commissioning of this modern attack submarine. We are excited to welcome USS South Dakota to the Navy's fleet, where it will play an important role in our national security for decades to come. When BB-57 was launched in 1941, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said, "I say to the good ship South Dakota, God go with you, because after all, your mission, the mission for which we built you, is not war, but the prevention of war as God wills." USS South Dakota SSN 790 and its crew will play a significant role in our national security efforts. It will also serve as a tribute to South Dakotans' long history of service in our armed forces.

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April 8-12, 2019

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- Thursday – Customer Service Seminars and Business After Hours at the Ramkota (free for Chamber members!)
- Friday – Day of Distinction at the Ramkota

# One Thing We Can All Agree On



**John Thune**  
US Senator  
(R-SD)

There's unfortunately little doubt that we're living in an era where it's often more difficult than it needs to be for the two parties in Washington to come together on certain issues facing the country.

I strongly believe that it's important for elected leaders to have debates and exchange ideas, and I also believe we can have honest disagreements without being disagreeable with one another. It's a responsible way to govern - something we owe to the people who elected us to serve.

While there are plenty of policies over which there are robust disagreements these days - disagreements I know we will be able to overcome - there is at least one topic, among several, that always seems to have strong bipartisan support: ending illegal and abusive robocalls that are affecting people across the country, including in South Dakota.

No one is immune to these annoying and potentially dangerous calls. I receive them. My friends and family receive them. Even my 99-year-old dad receives them. According to the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), two federal agencies over which the Senate Commerce Committee has jurisdiction, unsolicited robocalls are among the top consumer complaints they receive, and it's no wonder.

How many times have you heard your phone ring, seen a somewhat familiar number or area code, and answered it only to find out it's either a scam or an unsolicited call that you had no interest in receiving. Some of these scammers intentionally target elderly victims and trick them into believing a family member is in trouble and urgently needs money. Others pretend to be a representative from a utility company and tell unsuspecting customers that without a quick payment, their power or water will be shut off. It doesn't matter what the

tactic is, their motives are despicable, and it must stop.

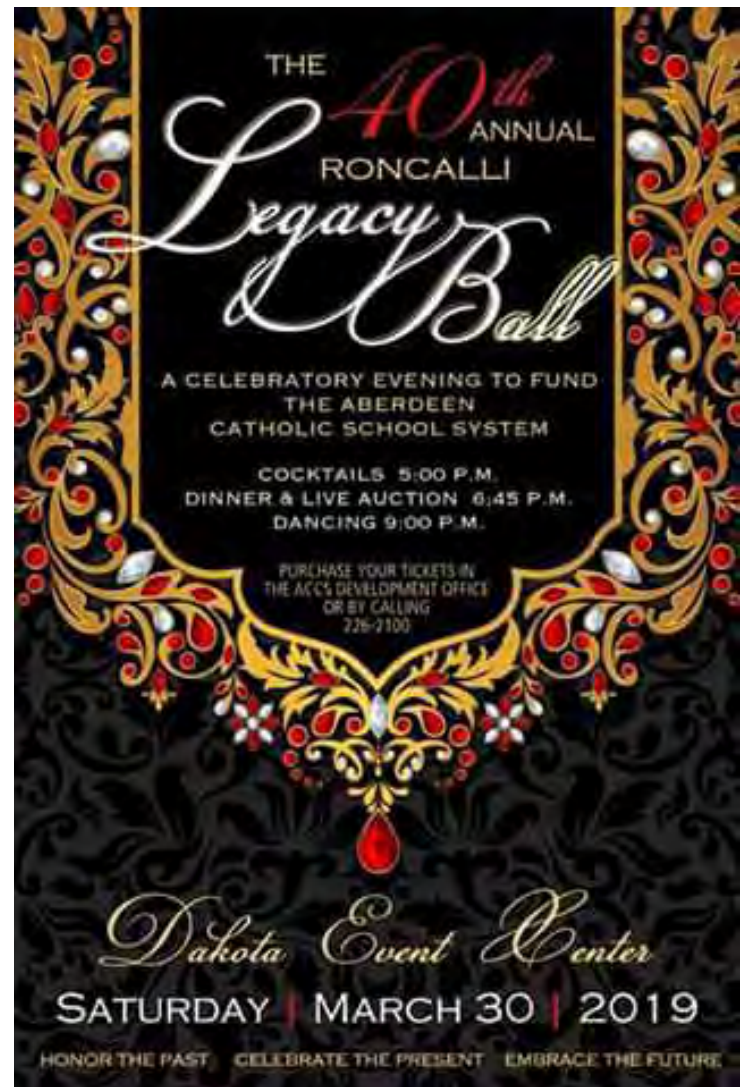
Illegal and abusive robocalls are a problem, but I don't want to confuse them with other automated calls on which many consumers often rely. For example, if you're on your way to the airport and your flight is canceled, if there's a fraud alert on your credit card, or if you're being reminded of an upcoming medical appointment, those are generally calls you want to receive. Different rules of the road apply for these types of calls, and they should.

When I was chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, I convened a hearing on the topic of illegal and abusive robocalls and heard from a wide range of individuals - from people who are tasked with targeting scammers and holding them accountable to the scammers themselves. I actually issued a subpoena to compel the testimony of perhaps the most infamous robocaller known to U.S. officials, Adrian Abromovich. He's currently facing \$120 million in FCC penalties for making nearly 100 million robocalls throughout the country.

At the end of 2018, I introduced bipartisan legislation that would give federal regulators more tools and greater flexibility to find illegal robocallers and penalize them for their actions. The Telephone Robocall Abuse

Criminal Enforcement and Deterrence (TRACED) Act would also bring together relevant agencies at the local, state, and federal level to tackle this issue with a collaborative approach, which, I believe, will be required to win this fight.

I recently reintroduced the TRACED Act, and it enjoys the same kind of bipartisan support this year that it had last year. As chairman of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, I will be in a strong position to move the ball down the field on this important issue again this Congress. I think I can speak for all Americans when I say enough is enough. It's time to act on this, and I look forward to leading this important effort.





# Aberdeen's Next City Election is June 4

Are you interested in running for Mayor of Aberdeen or Northwest District City Council Member? If so, you can pick up a petition from the Aberdeen City Finance Office, 123 S Lincoln Street starting March 1st. Only registered voters of the city shall be eligible to hold office. If you are interested in the council position, check to make sure you are living in the Northwest District of Aberdeen by going to <https://www.aberdeen.sd.us/108/Elections> and clicking on the Voting District Map.

You must get 50 qualified signatures on your petition – at large for the Mayor's race and from the Northwest District for the council race. The deadline to submit the petition to appear as a candidate on the ballot is March 26th at 5:00 pm. Both positions are for 5 year terms starting July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2024.

Duties of a City Council Member: It is the duty of a city councilor to attend each city council meeting held every Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m., unless otherwise announced. The

City Council determines the direction of issues through the adoption of motions, resolutions, and ordinances. No action of the city council shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of a council quorum. All powers of the city shall be vested in the city council, except as otherwise provided by law or city charter and the council shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the city by law. The Council shall act as a part-time, policy making and legislative body, avoiding management and administrative issues. The compensation for a City Councilor is \$8,500 per year.

Duties of the Mayor: The Mayor

shall be a member of the city council with duties as indicated above, including the power to vote. In addition, the Mayor shall preside at meetings of the council, represent the city in inter-governmental relationships, appoint with the advice and consent of the council the members of citizen advisory boards and commissions, present an annual state of the city message, and perform other duties specified by the council. The Mayor shall be recognized as the head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes and by the governor for purposes of military law but shall have no administrative duties. The compensation for Mayor is \$15,000 per year.



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# Building a Quality Workforce with Apprenticeships



**Dan Thielsen,**  
SD Dept. of Labor &  
Regulation and  
Member of the  
Workforce & Education  
Committee

Registered Apprenticeships (RA) are a great way for businesses in your community to build a quality workforce with the exact skills you need to fill your openings, plus RAs are proven to reduce turnover. We constantly hear

about workforce shortages – this is a solution.

A business can sponsor and manage all aspects of the program, or partner with an established sponsor. Individuals get paid while getting the training in their chosen career through this “earn and learn” model (which is on-the-job training, plus classroom instruction). Plus, there’s no education debt to them.

Despite any myths that apprenticeships are only in the trades occupations, opportunities are

available in thousands of industries – from construction and commercial trades to healthcare and service industries.

The Department of Labor and Regulation can help businesses learn what it takes to be a sponsor. Visit [www.starttodaySD.com](http://www.starttodaySD.com) to complete a simple form. A DLR representative will then contact you to walk through the process.

Other business partner benefits include:

- Customized training that results in highly skilled employees trained to industry/employer specification
- Increased productivity and knowledge transfer due on-the-job learning from an assigned mentor combined with related technical instruction
- Enhanced retention - 87 percent of program completers in 2011 were still employed nine months after completing their apprenticeship.
- Emphasis on safety training that may reduce workers’ compensation

costs

- A stable and predictable pipeline for development of qualified workers - for every dollar spent on apprenticeship; employers get approximately \$1.47 ROI
  - Recognition of the training program
  - A systematic approach to training to ensure employees are trained and certified to produce at the highest skill levels required for that occupation
  - The ability to conduct a ready assessment of progress in terms of continuous improvement
  - A proven training model that allows employers to set the benchmark and the structure that can determine the return on investment in training dollars
- Businesses are best positioned to make the Registered Apprenticeship process work. The State can help explain the steps, but businesses need to own this strategy. We encourage local employers to look at this model.

## Registered Apprenticeship Opportunity in the Works



**Steph Huber**  
Human Resource  
Manager, Midstates  
Group and Member  
of the Workforce &  
Education  
Committee

Midstates Group is a locally-owned and operated print and media solutions company, founded in 1979. Over the years, we have grown into a multi-million dollar company with over 3,000 active customers, in all 50 states. A

good majority of our business consists of high-volume publications which are printed and mailed directly to the end customers’ doorsteps. These pieces are printed on a “Web Press” - which is a large press that prints high quantities on a continuous roll of paper. Although in high demand, skilled “Web Press Operators” are becoming harder and harder to find, so companies are finding unique and creative ways to recruit candidates.

Midstates Group is no exception. We recruit talent through several

different avenues, so when the SDDL announced the possibility of grant funding to help employers create a “Registered Apprenticeship” program, it was a perfect opportunity to try another avenue. First, it will allow us to advertise to candidates that there is an opportunity for a recognized career at Midstates Group. Secondly, it will allow our current employees to earn a licensed certificate with the state. Third, a registered apprentice program creates the possibility of attracting more people to the printing industry since the technical skills learned at Midstates Group are transferrable to other printing companies.

After submitting the application and supplemental documentation, Midstates Group was awarded \$30,000 in grant funding from the StartTodaySD Incentive to aid in the development of a formal registered apprenticeship program for “Web Press Operators” specifically. The program is still in the development stage, but will follow our existing in-house training. We have historically been more successful training operators in-house because



newly hired employees typically have no prior printing experience when they begin their career at Midstates Group. Most employees hired into the company started in an entry level position where they learned the basics and built upon their skills. Today, we have around 250 employees who have become experts in all facets of the industry, from print to postal optimization, and we know a registered apprenticeship will help us add to that number.

Partnerships in support of the registered apprenticeship program include South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation, Aberdeen Central High School A-TEC Academy, Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce, Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services, Printing Industry Midwest, 4S Consulting and DTC, LLC.

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