



Grand Forks Region
Economic Development Corporation

Fall Newsletter

Grand Forks International Airport Flying High



Grand Forks Air Passenger Terminal

New terminal design © JLG Architects 2009

JLG

GFK Adds Many Improvements in 2009



The Grand Forks International Airport has gone through many changes over the past year that have gained it recognition as the busiest airport in North Dakota and 22nd busiest airport in the US. The biggest change was the arrival of GFK's new Executive

Director Patrick Dame in March. Since his arrival, Dame has overseen many new projects. The first was the beginning of FedEx's operation of a Boeing 757 at GFK in June. This new plane allows for better fuel efficiency, larger cargo hauling capability, and a two person crew rather than the three person crew of the previous Boeing 727.

In addition to this new FedEx plane, GFK has been making changes to enhance the operations and appearance of the airport. The new GFK Flight Support facility was completed in 2008 and a fourth runway was completed in August, 2009.

The new concrete runway, extending 3,300 feet, will give the airport increased flexibility and overall increased operations on crosswind (east/west wind) days. GFK has also begun the construction phase of the new terminal which is expected to be completed in two years.

New Air Service to Phoenix-Mesa



Not only has GFK made revisions in its facilities, it now offers a new air service to Phoenix-Mesa. Allegiant Air will have nonstop service from Grand Forks to Phoenix-Mesa twice a week beginning November 13th.

Allegiant Air currently serves Grand Forks twice a week with flights to Las Vegas which began in September 2008 and expects its new Phoenix-Mesa service to be just as successful.

Warm Welcome for Businesses in North Dakota

The US State, North Dakota, is attracting companies with its robust economy. Most states have been struggling with falling payrolls and rising foreclosures. However, wintry North Dakota has been an oasis of relative stability, welcoming displaced workers and recruiting companies with attractive tax incentives. “North Dakota is a bright spot in an economically difficult environment,” said Mr. Al-Katib, CEO of United Pulse Trading.

~ *Financial Times Germany - September 2009*

Launch Grand Forks Project Begins

The EDC, in partnership with the Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals, kicked off their Launch Grand Forks project on September 28th at the “Launch in the Loft” event. The evening began with music, food, and guest speaker Rebecca Ryan from Next Generation Consulting. The EDC, YPs, and Rebecca Ryan encouraged guests to share ideas and input on the strengths and weaknesses of the Grand Forks region by taking their new survey and participating in two focus groups.

The survey and focus groups ask community members what they enjoy about the community and what the community can improve on. With the information gathered from the survey and focus groups, the EDC and YPs will work to develop a strategy to create and market a stronger community with the goal of keeping and attracting talented young adults to our region. The results of the research will be compiled and dispersed in December. More information on the project and a link to take the survey can be found at www.launchgrandforks.blogspot.com or the facebook group Launch Grand Forks.



Making Opportunities Work for Your Community

Grand Forks recently hosted the 2009 Economic Development Association of North Dakota’s 2009 Fall Conference on November 2nd-4th at the Alerus Center. This year’s conference theme, “Making Opportunities Work for Your Community,” incorporated examples of how technology, industry, and community development have worked in our region. Speakers included Dr. Phyllis Johnson, UND VP for Research and Economic Development, David Flynn, UND Department of Economics Assistant Professor and Associate State Director for the ND Small Business Development Center, and keynote speaker Col John Michel of the Grand Forks Air Force Base. For more details on the annual EDND Fall Conference visit www.ednd.org.

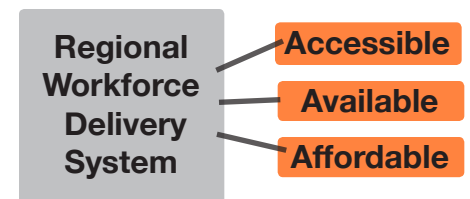


Moving Towards Regional Workforce Development Collaboration

The EDC has retained the Praxis Strategy Group and brought together regional workforce development providers to begin a series of meetings that will work to create a regional workforce delivery system. The group has determined the following two key needs as most critical to growing the workforce in our region:

1. Communicate with business and industry to identify their worker shortages and worker skill development needs.
2. Communicate and educate regional students and parents on opportunities for and skills needed to obtain regional jobs.

The group will continue to meet to develop a work plan that addresses these needs as well as others and to continue to grow our region’s workforce. This group has a representative from the following regional agencies: Grand Forks Region EDC, ND Job Service, UND Continuing Education, ND Department of Commerce, NW Minnesota Regional Development Commission, Northwest Private Industry Council, Northland Community & Technical College, NW Service Cooperative, MN Workforce Centers - DEED, and Praxis Strategy Group.



GF Residents Grow More Attached to Community

Perceptions about the beauty of the area's parks, its nightlife, the quality of its elected officials, participation in elections and even that people care about one another all improved. Of the 26 communities that the Knight Foundation tracks, Grand Forks ranked second highest in attachment. There is some evidence that the more committed residents are to their community, the more likely the community will experience stronger economic growth.

~ Grand Forks Herald, September 2009

**Grand
Forks Air
Force Base**



State of the Base Address

The Chamber and BRIC will hold the State of the Base address on November 10th at the Clarion Inn, Grand Forks. Breakfast will be available at 7:00 am with Col John Michel speaking at 7:45 am. Col Michel will discuss the accomplishments of the Grand Forks Air Force Base during his assignment as Wing Commander and what he sees for the base's future. Tickets for the address are \$15 and can be purchased at The Chamber or by calling 772-7271.



RRV Research Corridor Continues to Make an Impact

A bold new future of UAS (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) is taking off in the Red River Valley Research Corridor. Deployments of Predator and Global Hawk aircraft will be bolstered by world-class UA pilot training programs at UND's Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences. UND also recently announced the appointment of Jeff Kappenman as the new Director of the Center for UAS Research, Education, and Training.

The Red River Valley Research Corridor also recently hosted the Milestones & Horizons Summit on October 12th in Fargo. This summit recognized research, development, and commercialization accomplishments in the Corridor and highlighted scientific and technological advances by universities and businesses in the region. More information on the RRV Research Corridor and its achievements can be found at www.theresearchcorridor.com.



Connect Summit Builds Cross-Border Collaboration

More than 180 regional leaders were in attendance for the 2nd Annual Connect USA/Canada Economic Summit on September 14th-15th in Winnipeg. Not only did attendees learn from presenters like Scott Goodstein, External Online Director for the Obama for America campaign, they also met with other leaders in attendance during designated networking breaks. Industry leaders, government officials, university professionals, and business developers created partnerships and shared ideas to help establish bridges between geographical areas and better connect educational institutions, industries, government, and technology. When all are linked together, a greater, more profitable growth can occur.



The most significant lesson to come from the Connect Summit was to look north and south. Often when business, industry, and government think of collaboration they think east and west to other states and sometimes other countries across oceans, but by looking to our neighbors to the north and south, the opportunities are not only closer but often better. Governments are eager to cooperate, universities and colleges are excited to try something new, and business and industry are always looking to make more connections. The Connect USA/Canada Economic Summit is a resource for entities to begin taking action toward making more cross-border connections. For more details on the Connect Summit visit www.connectusacanada.com.

Welcome Dr. Phyllis Johnson New UND Vice President for Research and Economic Development

The EDC welcomes Dr. Phyllis E. Johnson, the new Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of North Dakota. Dr. Johnson has accepted the position as the newest board member for the EDC.

The EDC looks forward to utilizing Dr. Johnson's more than 16 years of extensive line-management experience at the Senior Executive level of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), managing all areas of agricultural research, most recently as the Director of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), the largest and most comprehensive USDA research facility. Dr. Johnson is also a Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution and represents the US government to the OECD Global Science Forum workshop on science policy relating to scientific collections. She received her BS and PhD degrees from the University of North Dakota and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Dr. Johnson was recognized by President Bill Clinton with the Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive, designating her in the top 5% of Federal Senior Executives. She also received the Arthur S. Flemming Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement by a Federal Employee and the Sioux Award. Dr. Johnson was named Innovator of the Year - Public Sector by the Prince George's County (MD) Technology Awards. Under her leadership, BARC received three White House awards for promotion of biodiesel, biobased products, and environmental stewardship, and the Business for the Bay Award as the Outstanding Federal Facility in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

While living in Maryland, Dr. Johnson was a member of BRIDGE (Baltimore Regional Initiative Developing Genuine Equality), a social justice organization in the greater Baltimore area. She served as the Chair of BRIDGE's Committee on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and worked on transportation and affordable housing issues.

The EDC is excited to have Dr. Johnson back in Grand Forks and thanks her for her willingness to serve on our board. We look forward to the leadership she can provide to UND and the community.



Your EDC

Klaus Thiessen

President/CEO
klaust@grandforks.org
746-2721

Judith Stephens

Operations Manager
judiths@grandforks.org
746-2724

Keith Lund

Vice President
keithl@grandforks.org
746-2722

Diane LaValley

Office Assistant
dianel@grandforks.org
746-2720

Michaela Schell

Marketing Associate
michaelas@grandforks.org
746-2720

If you would like an Annual Report, membership information, or to submit an article for the Winter newsletter call 746-2720.

The EDC relies heavily on its community and regional partners.
We would like to thank those partners for continuing to support our efforts to help the community and region grow. Your ongoing patronage is greatly appreciated!