

<http://www.minotusa.com/smartmail/Minothosts2018EDNDFallConferenceMinotNewsletterNovember2018/>



### Minot hosts 2018 EDND Fall Conference

The Minot Area Development Corporation hosted the 2018 Economic Development Association of North Dakota's Fall Conference at the end of October. The conference exceeded 125 attendees and displayed a long list of impressive speakers, including Jeff Finkle, President and CEO of the International Economic Development Council, and Bob Uppgren, one of the most in-demand speakers in business. This event also featured a "Sip, Shop & Selfie", where the attendees were shuttled



downtown with the task of visiting at least four downtown businesses in order to enter a private craft beer tasting at Atypical Brewery and Barrelworks, hosted by Dakota Business Lending. The second day of the conference was highlighted by a tour of AGT Foods and the North Dakota State Fair Center. Wednesday wrapped up the conference with a panel session that illustrated "Marketing Your Downtown." This three-day forum was held at the Grand Hotel, with the theme being "Downtown, North Dakota: What Happens Here, Stays Here."

### HUD report shows Minot a leader among NDR grant disbursements

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released its two-year expenditure analysis for the 13 National Disaster Resilience grantees, and reports that Minot ranks second in progress toward becoming a more resilient city.

Springfield, Mass., has utilized 37.89 percent from a grant of just over \$17 million. Minot was second among the 13 grantees, having used 21.65 percent of its \$74.3 million program funding toward resiliency efforts, including property acquisitions for flood protection and investments in affordable housing projects.



Other notable percentages include Shelby County, Tenn., at 6.84 percent, the city of New Orleans at 0.85 percent, and New York City at 0.71 percent. To read more about this periodic HUD analysis that is used to assess progress, click [here](#).

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### MAXIMIZE Minot

Since its beginning in 1923, the Minot Area Chamber of

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Commerce has been supportive of the business community, especially member businesses. The staff at the Chamber primarily makes referrals to Chamber Members, resorting to the "yellow pages" only when there is not a Chamber member that provides the item or service being requested. But that referral is made in the Minot area as it keeps business local.

For the last several months, a group of business leaders and the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce convened to discuss "buy local." All agreed that we need to support and find new ways to promote local retail purchasing whether it is a smaller, locally owned store or one of our big box stores -- all are local.

What has been missing is a more holistic approach where locally-owned and locally-based businesses are engaged to provide products, people, services and/or talent. So, let's expand our view of keeping business local and take action to Maximize Minot.

To reiterate, Maximizing Minot starts with main street businesses and includes the big box stores that call Minot home. It extends to the contractors that hire when building a home or adding a garage. Also, the local architect who will design that home or gazebo for your backyard. It could include the landscaper who overhauls your yard or the roofer who

gives your home a new weather tight seal. The list is endless.

For more on the Maximize Minot effort and how it can benefit the community and region, [click here](#).

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### **Entrepreneurship major, minor, and certificate now offered at Minot State**

The Minot State University College of Business has added entrepreneurship as a degree starting in the current Fall 2018 semester. Students will have the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship, a minor, or a Certificate in Entrepreneurship.



"This is a hands-on, real-world degree that will not only help our current and future business students, but also students from all across campus," said Tracey Mays, Minot State assistant professor of entrepreneurship. "Students are required to write a business plan and have a final project that will demonstrate they know how to start and grow a business."

Students will engage in activities that focus on product or service development, start-up funding, purchasing and distribution issues, and client-based development. They will complete an entrepreneurial project and develop an entrepreneurial portfolio as part of the curriculum.

The degree programs will work with the Severson Entrepreneurship Academy, created in 2010 as a result of a milestone gift to Minot State by Clint Severson and Conni Ahart. The Severson Entrepreneurship Academy supports entrepreneurship students with scholarships, an Entrepreneurship Club, and other resources.

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### **Flu season off to an early start**

The 2018-19 flu season appears to be off to an early start in North Dakota, with the State Health Department reporting 223 flu cases as of Oct. 27, compared to just 35 reported at the same time last year. Most cases are centered in the Lake Region area of northeast North Dakota. Trinity Health infectious disease specialist Dr. Casmir Nwaigwe says the early spike in cases should give North Dakotans just the incentive they need to get vaccinated. "It's only a matter of time before we start seeing more cases locally," he said. "We all travel and bring microorganisms back with us."

Whether the early flu activity means we're in for a rough flu season like last year depends on when the current season peaks. On the other hand, Dr. Nwaigwe says, "If people fear a bad season and we see mass vaccinations, cases could drop off quickly."



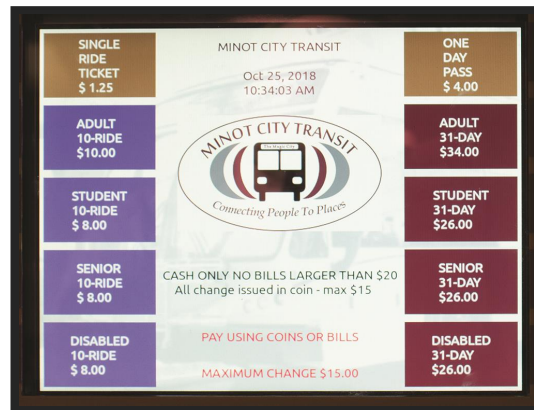
**BIG ONE Craft fair**

In early November, the annual Big One Art & Craft Fair celebrated 43 years in Minot. The event brought more than 9,400 attendees to the North Dakota State Fair Center with 225 vendor booths from numerous industries. Filling three rooms at the State Fair Center, there were booths featuring crafters, artisans, wine makers and designers. Attendees were able to start thinking about holiday shopping and find some unique gifts. The Big One Art & Craft Fair is set to come back to Minot this spring, April 12-13.



**Minot first in state to install new bus ticket vending machine**

The City of Minot has installed a new transit bus ticket vending machine at the Minot Municipal Auditorium to make the system more accessible and convenient for passengers. "Minot is the first city in North Dakota to install this



type of technology for its transit system passengers," said Brian Horinka, superintendent of the City of Minot's transit department. "This is just another way we're working to make our system as convenient as possible for our riders." Read more about this additional convenience for passengers [on their website](#).

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