



**MINOT AREA  
CHAMBER EDC**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

# FROM THE 2024 CHAIR



## CASSIDY HJELMSTAD 2024 BOARD CHAIR

SRT

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude and immense pride for the consistent achievements of the Minot Area Chamber EDC and our amazing member investors. Serving as the 2024 Board Chair has been a privilege, and I'm continuously inspired by the commitment our business community shows each and every day toward expansion, innovation, and collaboration to make the Minot area a better place to live, work, and grow.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the past year has been highlighting and growing our member investors. The passion and dedication shown by our business owners, employees, and community members are the building blocks to further success. Whether through Ambassador ribbon cuttings, the Eagle Awards Program, or the many networking events that bring us together, we've celebrated achievements, big and small, that demonstrate the vibrant entrepreneurial spirit in Minot. Each new milestone celebrated, and every award handed out signifies progress and a shared commitment to pushing our region forward.

The momentum we've created doesn't stop at business development. Our community's relationship with the military holds a special place in my heart, and it has been incredible to witness the continued strengthening of those ties. Minot Air Force Base is not just a pillar of our economy but a cornerstone of our identity. The base's \$651 million economic impact is only part of the story – the real value lies in the people who serve, their families, and the lasting connections they build within our community. As a proud member of Task Force 21, I remain deeply motivated to ensure Minot remains a steadfast ally and supporter of our men and women in uniform.

The partnerships we've nurtured this year are a testament to the power of collaboration in our region. Whether through economic development, workforce initiatives, or community engagement, every step we've taken has been driven by the belief that we are stronger together. Programs like WayFinders and Find the Good Life continue to bring new faces and fresh energy to our area, fostering new connections & creating collaboration within the Minot area.

Looking ahead, I am more energized than ever to continue my support and keep this momentum going. The strides we've made are a testament to the strength of the community, and with our perseverance and continued positive attitude and welcoming spirit, there is so much more we can achieve. Minot's magic lies in its people – those who dream big, work hard, and invest in making this community better every day.

Thank you to every single one of our member investors for your trust and partnership. I'm honored for the opportunity to have served as MACEDC board chair and can't wait to see what more we can accomplish. Together, we will continue to innovate, foster growth, support our military, & build a future as bright as the spirit that drives this incredible state.

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**CASSIDY  
HJELMSTAD**  
CHAIR  
SRT



**RYAN  
ACKERMAN**  
CHAIR-ELECT  
ACKERMAN-ESTVOLD



**MISSY  
FEIST-ERICKSON**  
TREASURER  
PEOPLES STATE  
BANK



**KEVIN  
BLACK**  
PAST CHAIR  
CREEDENCE ENERGY  
SERVICES



**BREKKA  
KRAMER**  
PRESIDENT | CEO  
& CORPORATE  
SECRETARY  
  
MINOT AREA  
CHAMBER EDC

# BOARD MEMBERS



**BETH  
FELDNER**  
XCEL ENERGY



**PETE  
HANKLA**  
MCGEE, HANKLA,  
& BACKES, PC.



**JONN  
KNECHT**  
BRAVERA BANK



**JOHN  
KUTCH**  
TRINITY HEALTH



**BRENT  
LOHNES**  
HESS CORPORATION



**JARID  
LUNDEEN**  
TRUSTED TIRE & AUTO +  
BONE'S BBQ JULY - DECEMBER



**JASON  
OLSON**  
WARD COUNTY  
COMMISSION



**MAYOR TOM  
ROSS**  
CITY OF MINOT



**DR. STEVEN  
SHIRLEY**  
MINOT STATE  
UNIVERSITY



**JASON  
ZIMMERMAN**  
MINOT AREA  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**DR. MARK  
VOLLMER**  
MINOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
JANUARY - JUNE

# COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**SHANA FORSTER**  
AGRIBUSINESS

**EMILY GROSSMAN**  
AMBASSADORS

**KENT KIRKHAMMER**  
ENERGY

**ROSCOE STREYLE**  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

**PAUL KRAMER**  
INFRASTRUCTURE

**TOM RAFFERTY**  
MILITARY AFFAIRS

**MARK J. JANTZER**  
TASK FORCE 21

**RIANNE KUHN**  
WOMEN CONNECT

# OUR TEAM MEMBERS

## MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC



**BREKKA  
KRAMER**  
PRESIDENT | CEO



**CARLA  
DOLAN**  
VICE  
PRESIDENT



**MARK  
LYMAN**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
SPECIALIST



**CHANDA  
DECENT**  
FINANCE  
DIRECTOR



**KELI  
ROSSELLI-SULLIVAN**  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
& MILITARY LIAISON



**JAIME  
HAUGE**  
EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT



**KATIE  
DOTSON**  
COMMUNICATIONS &  
OUTREACH SPECIALIST



**MARIE  
SANDERS**  
FINANCE  
ASSISTANT



**KELLY  
RYAN-JOHNSON**  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT

## MOTOR VEHICLE DEPARTMENT



**LACEY  
COLEMAN**  
MANAGER



**TAMMY  
HANSON**  
CLERK



**WENDY  
KELDSON**  
CLERK



**KIM  
REEDY**  
CLERK



**DESTINY  
WADDLE**  
CLERK



**TRACEY  
OJA ZERETZKE**  
CLERK

# OUR 5 PILLARS



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Goal: Support quality-of-life initiatives
- Goal: Support urban renewal initiatives



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Goal: Advance continued operations of the intermodal ramp
- Goal: Attract new business investment in the Logistics Park of North Dakota (LPND)
- Goal: Lead primary sector development in the Minot area



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Goal: Support workforce development solutions



## MEMBER INVESTOR SERVICES

- Goal: Provide value to member investors
- Goal: Deliver entrepreneurial programming
- Goal: Foster business growth



## MILITARY SUPPORT

- Goal: Lead community military affairs and appreciation events and foster a community of support to make military personnel feel at home in Minot
- Goal: Develop and execute strategic tactics to support the U.S. Air Force modernization projects that impact Minot Air Force Base and the two major Air Force units: the 5th Bomb Wing and the 91st Missile Wing
- Goal: Support Task Force 21 and ensure resources to complete the mission of the group

**15** START UP MINOT  
ACADEMY  
GRADUATES

**230** ATTENDEES DURING  
FREE, MONTHLY  
START UP MINOT  
NETWORKING EVENTS

**286**  
PAIRS OF GLOVES  
DISTRIBUTED TO  
VOLUNTEERS  
PICKING UP TRASH FOR  
CITYWIDE  
CLEANUP

## EASTERN ND LEADERS EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF THE MINOT AREA

The Magic City welcomed legislators and business leaders from the Fargo area for an East-West visit in partnership with the Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce. We were honored to have the opportunity to showcase the Magic in the Minot area. From touring Minot Air Force Base to a legislative round table at Minot State University, spotlighting Intermodal at the Logistics Park of North Dakota with Rail Modal Group, and exploring the Minot Area Workforce Academy, the day was packed with insight and collaboration. We wrapped up the day at the Magic City Discovery Center – truly showcasing the best of Minot! Thank you to all of our area leaders and hosts who took time to greet our group, share stories, and embrace our friends from the east. We're grateful for this opportunity to connect, and can't wait to see you all again!



## SUCCESSFUL THIRD YEAR OF SUPPORT THROUGH START UP MINOT

The third year of entrepreneur support was a successful one for the Start Up Minot (SUM) efforts in the area. SUM is designed to invigorate, encourage and entice entrepreneurs in the Minot region to execute their business idea. In 2024, a dozen, free, monthly networking events were held at the Carnegie Center in downtown Minot - featuring a wide variety of local and regional business entrepreneurs who shared their stories. The Start Up Minot Academy powered by CO.STARTERS held two, 10-week courses - graduating 15 students from the community-sponsored program. We are proud to be supporting and helping to grow local and regional entrepreneurs and hope to see you at future free networking events!

## PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNOR APPOINTED HOUSING COMMITTEE

MACEDC was proud to be asked to participate in the North Dakota Housing Initiative Advisory Committee and to work as a committee member these past 6 months. Former Governor Doug Burgum appointed the committee to lead the development of a comprehensive housing strategy for North Dakota. He hosted listening sessions in Bismarck, Fargo, Williston, Harvey, and at the Government to Government Conference with tribal nations in June to gather input from stakeholders to help inform the committee's work. The recommendations were submitted to the 69th Legislative Assembly as part of the governor's executive budget proposal in December 2024.

## CITYWIDE CLEAN UP BRINGS VOLUNTEERS TOGETHER

More than 250 volunteers helped pick up trash along the entrances to the City of Minot during the MACEDC Citywide Clean Up. The annual event started more than 20 years ago and has grown each year. Thanks to our presenting sponsors, Hess Corporation and Creedence Energy Services, those participating received gloves so they could safely pick up trash along the ditches, roads and businesses. Thank you to the City of Minot for the garbage bags as well, and finally, thank you to everyone who came out in the rain and cooler weather to make Minot shine!



## PARTNERING TO BRING THE REGION \$203,000 LIVESTOCK PLANNING GRANT

With MACEDC help and encouragement, the Souris Basin Planning Council (SBPC) was awarded \$203,000 in funding for the North Dakota Department of Agriculture Regional Livestock Development and Planning Grant Program. This funding was set aside by the 2023 State Legislature and is designed to "support site analysis and strategic planning activities and accommodate and encourage investment in livestock production." The plan will identify suitable locations for rural economic development, including animal feeding operations, agricultural processing and storage facilities, and other agricultural related development.

## SHOWCASING MINOT AT WILLISTON BASIN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE

Minot Area Chamber EDC and Visit Minot partnered to promote the community at the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Bismarck. This conference is a great opportunity to not only share the benefits of bringing business to Minot, but also to discuss opportunities with the Logistics Park of North Dakota. Minot is proud to be the Gateway to the Bakken and home to so many oil and gas companies. Our team members are grateful for the opportunity to connect with so many industry leaders and had a great time learning about even more economic opportunities to bring to the Minot area.



SUCCESS STORIES

CONTAINERS SHIPPED  
**7,133**

**34** UNIT TRAINS RELEASED BY RAIL MODAL GROUP

**50** COMPLETED BUSINESS RETENTION AND EXPANSION MEETINGS

**13** NEW OR RENEWED RELATIONSHIPS WITH SITE SELECTORS

SHIPPED TO PORTS IN  
**20+** COUNTRIES

**CELEBRATING NEW AGT FOODS EXTRUSION PLANT IN MINOT**



AGT Foods CEO Murad Al-Katib and members of the North Dakota U.S. Congressional Delegation joined the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner, MACEDC, and the community in marking the opening of the new AGT Foods - Extrusion Center in Minot. The Extrusion Center continues to put AGT Foods and Minot at the center of innovation in both pulse-based ingredients and now extruded products such as gluten free pasta. “AGT Foods is proud to open our Extrusion Center of Excellence in Minot. This community has been a key part of our operations in the United States and in the great State of North Dakota, with this being our second facility in Minot,”

said AGT Foods CEO Murad Al-Katib. “The opportunity to develop and produce innovative plant-based products made in this new facility [...], is exciting for AGT Foods and our team in Minot.”

“Congratulations to AGT Foods on their new Extrusion Center in Minot,” said North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “This is a welcome addition to our value-added agriculture chain in the state and will assist producers throughout the region in bringing greater value to their crops while continuing to showcase the agricultural innovation and excellence that exists in North Dakota.” The Extrusion Center currently features one production line with more than 9 million pounds of capacity with the ability to expand to more than 40 million pounds of gluten-free pasta, making the Minot facility one of the largest gluten-free pasta production facilities in the world. The Extrusion Center joins more than \$100 million in existing AGT Foods facilities in Minot and the area that have offered services for producers in the region and state for more than a decade.

**SHOWCASING THE LOGISTICS PARK OF NORTH DAKOTA AND INTERMODAL**

MACEDC joined 65,000 industry professionals at the Natural Products Expo West event at the Anaheim Convention Center to showcase our state and the options available in Minot, including the Logistics Park of North Dakota and the Minot Intermodal Facility. More than 3,300 companies and organizations, including the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and a dozen other ND-based companies, exhibited their products and services at the massive convention. Natural Products Expo West showcases a wide array of brands spanning 30 categories, bringing together 840 new-to-show brands alongside nearly 700 international brands, under one roof. Products ranged from natural & specialty food and beverage, supplements, personal care, organic, lifestyle and more.

# INTERMODAL FACILITY OWNER, OPERATOR & PARTNERS CELEBRATE 100TH TRAIN THROUGH MINOT FACILITY

MACEDDC joined Rail Modal Group (RMG) in celebrating the 100th train carrying containers with North Dakota and regional products to international markets from the Minot Intermodal Facility. "Rail Modal Group is proud to operate the Minot Intermodal Facility and thrilled to announce our 100th train departure. [...] By providing local businesses, producers, suppliers, and industrialists with streamlined, green, and efficient logistics solutions, we've enabled access to the global supply chain," said Todd Whitmore, Chief Commercial Officer

at RMG. "We are honored to support the great state of North Dakota and all its suppliers, near and far. [...] Together, we're driving growth and sustainability in North Dakota and beyond!"

The Minot Intermodal Facility opened in October 2020 and in the four years since has shipped more than 20,000 containers (primarily 40-foot containers) on 100 trains. The 100th train arrived, was loaded, and left the week of September 30, then traveled to the ports of Seattle and Tacoma where it was offloaded by The Northwest Seaport Alliance onto container ships that transported the cargo to ports around the world. Through the Minot Intermodal Facility, products have been shipped to ports in more than 20 countries on four continents. An average of three to five trains, with 200 to 220 containers each, leave the Minot Intermodal Facility each month.



## AGT FOODS NEW PASTA EXTRUSION CENTER EARNS STATEWIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARD

The Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND) honored the new AGT Foods – Extrusion Center in Minot with the 2024 Economic Development Project of the Year Award at the EDND Fall Conference.

"AGT Foods is proud of our Extrusion Center of Excellence in Minot and proud to receive the Economic Development Project of the Year Award from EDND," said AGT Foods, Division Head for Global Food Ingredients, Eric Bartsch. "Minot has been a key part of our operations in the United States and in the great state of North Dakota. The opportunity to develop and produce innovative plant-based products made in this new facility, such as our gluten-free pasta including our Veggi line, extruded crispy snacks, meat alternatives that are being used in burgers & other meat substitutes as well as pulse ingredients for food companies and some of the best-known consumer packaged goods brands, is exciting for AGT Foods and our team in Minot."



With the renovated multi-million-dollar facility, AGT Foods' long-term goal is to position the location and the region as the center of gluten-free pasta production and packaging in North America.

SUCCESS STORIES



## MINOT INTERMODAL FACILITY WINS GOLD AWARD FROM INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

MACEDC was pleased to receive recognition in 2024 for the Minot Intermodal Facility. The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) selected the facility as a finalist for the “Best in Show” award during the 2024 IEDC Conference. To be placed in the Top 14 out of more than 500 submissions, the Minot Intermodal Facility first earned a Gold Award in the category of Public-Private Partnerships for communities with populations between 25,000-200,000.



“Congratulations to the Minot Area Chamber EDC on this well-deserved award for their successful efforts to bring consistent, reliable intermodal service as an option to producers and shippers in the state,” said former North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum. “Our office and many other state agencies worked together with local and national businesses for years to make the Minot Intermodal Facility a reality. Earning a Gold Award from the International Economic Development Council and being a finalist for the Best in Show Award are testaments to the value of public-private partnerships in improving our economic standing in the region and across the country.”

“BNSF Railway appreciates the ongoing partnerships we have with the state of North Dakota and Minot Area Chamber EDC as we expand rail service to our customers who are developing new and emerging commodities for container shipments to export markets,” said Justin Pearson, Regional Manager of Economic Development, BNSF Railway. “In addition to the intermodal site, Minot hosts the only BNSF certified site in the state, allowing a faster-to-market location for businesses looking for rail service. Minot Area Chamber EDC is an instrumental partner in making these rail options available.”

Earning an award under the IEDC category of Public Private Partnerships requires a detailed explanation of the participants in, and the promoters of, the Minot Intermodal Facility including many local and national partners.

## CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS GRANT



MACEDC was awarded the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant in 2019, which is being used to conduct research on approximately 800+ acres of the LPND, north of County Road 12. Due to federal government delays, the final CRISI grant report was pushed back more than a year and finished at the very end of 2024. The use of this report and other information regarding the LPND property will be helpful in expanding the primary sector base in the Minot area.

# MINOT STRENGTHENS CONNECTIONS WITH THE NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE

A North Dakota delegation traveled to Tacoma, Washington at the beginning of 2024 to provide an update on the Logistics Park of North Dakota (LPND) Intermodal Facility to The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) Managing Members at their January public meeting.



The LPND Intermodal Facility works in partnership with the NWSA and the BNSF Railway to provide efficient movement of containerized agriculture exports helping U.S. farmers reach international markets. It represents the first successful project under the NWSA's Inland Rail Hub Strategic Initiative, which is focused on supporting international intermodal service from non-traditional inland rail ramp locations to grow containerized agriculture exports and create opportunities for import intermodal service to these locations. "We appreciate partnering with the Minot Area Chamber EDC, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and Rail Modal Group to move U.S. agriculture exports through our gateway," stated Port of Tacoma Commissioner President and The Northwest Seaport Alliance Co-Chair Kristin Ang. "The direct connection between the NWSA gateway and Minot has proven to be a great success and highlights the importance of our gateway's Inland Rail Hub strategy. We look forward to further collaboration and increasing agricultural export opportunities in new and existing foreign markets."

North Dakota Ag Commissioner Goehring provided an overview of agriculture in North Dakota and the role North Dakota plays in providing affordable, abundant, safe, and nutritious food in the world. "The Northwest Seaport Alliance prides itself on being a top gateway for agricultural exports and the inland rail hub in Minot plays a key role in driving increased U.S. exports to foreign markets," stated Port of Seattle Commissioner President and The Northwest Seaport Alliance Co-Chair Hamdi Mohamed. "The Minot Area Chamber EDC, the North Dakota Department of Agriculture and Rail Modal Group have been exceptional partners in this endeavor and we look forward to growing our partnership in the future."



## ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AWARD FOR MINOT INTERMODAL FACILITY

During the 2024 North Dakota Main Street Summit, the Economic Diversification Award was awarded to the Minot Intermodal Facility at the Logistics Park of North Dakota for community efforts in economic growth. The Main Street ND Awards are a collaborative effort of the Office of the Governor and North Dakota Department of Commerce. MACEDC was recognized for successfully bringing intermodal service to the region, diversifying the economy, and increasing export opportunities for North Dakota producers. The Minot Intermodal Facility has seen significant growth in operations since its launch, providing a strategic transportation hub for the state. This facility adds value to North Dakota's agricultural and manufactured products, strengthening the state's economy and enhancing market access.



SUCCESS STORIES

# MEMBER INVESTOR

**624** MEMBER INVESTORS

USERS REACHED ON FACEBOOK  
**244,977**

**161**  
EAGLE AWARD WINNERS

NEW FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK  
**1,049**

**47** NEW MEMBER INVESTORS

**25**  
COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE GRADUATES

**67** RIBBON CUTTINGS

TOTAL FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK  
**6,512**

**15,669**  
USERS REACHED ON INSTAGRAM

**538** VOLUNTEER & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**2** GROUND BREAKINGS

**250** MEMBER INVESTOR NEWS STORIES SHARED IN 12 COMMUNICATORS

**121** JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT CLASSROOMS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS ATTENDEES  
**1,201**

## MINOT AREA CELEBRATES 67 RIBBON CUTTINGS DURING 2024

The red ribbon was flying in 2024 as the Minot Area Chamber EDC Ambassador Committee was helping to welcome new businesses, celebrate milestones for existing businesses, and help with groundbreakings. The group kept busy with ribbon cuttings that included the new second high school - Minot North, the 100th train at the Logistics Park, and the AGT Foods Extrusion Plant. Ambassadors also took part in two groundbreakings for the North Star Community Credit Union new location and the Dakota Boys & Girls ranch new psychiatric residential treatment facility. Ambassadors are an integral part of our organization who not only cut ribbon and break ground, but visit member investors, work to get additional membership, and help with Business After Hours. We are truly grateful for all 70 of you!



# COMMITTEES CONNECT MINOT AREA WITH LEADERS

Throughout 2024, committees offered opportunities for the community to connect with local leaders. The Agribusiness Committee held a town hall meeting with U.S. Senator John Hoeven and former U.S. Representative Kelly Armstrong that drew around 70 people who were interested in learning more about the farm bill. The Energy Committee partnered with API Bakken Chapter and the North Dakota Petroleum Council to host a series of round tables and a community event with Armstrong, where local leaders, elected officials, and the community had the chance to hear about the state of energy in North Dakota. Plus, there were various round table discussions with the Governmental Affairs Committee and Task Force 21 that featured numerous state and federal elected officials.



## DINNER ON THE PRAIRIE WINS CHAMBER EVENT OF THE YEAR

Minot Area Chamber EDC was recognized by the Mid-America Chamber Executives as the Chamber Event of the Year at the annual conference in Sioux Falls, SD. The events are judged on criteria such as value to the community and chamber, resonance within their community and measurable results and innovation.



# WOMEN CONNECT BREAKS BARRIERS WITH RETIRED CMSGT MELVINA SMITH



The Minot Women Connect committee put on an incredibly inspiring and motivating event at Oak Park Theater featuring Melvina 'Mel' Smith. A distinguished military career of 32 years in the Air Force saw Smith rise to the role of first female Command Chief of Air Force Global Strike Command where she guided 33,000 personnel within the nation's greatest mission of nuclear deterrence. Smith's keynote address focused on key topics relevant to women in the region, covering leadership, professional growth, work-life balance, and navigating male-dominated industries. Her story of resilience, leadership, and breaking barriers shows that where you start doesn't define where you can go.

# HOSTING MINOT PARK BOARD, SCHOOL BOARD, AND CITY COUNCIL FORUMS

The Governmental Affairs Committee held four candidate forums in 2024 to educate voters about upcoming elections, with larger attendance than forums held in the past. The June Primary had three local races with multiple candidates running: Minot School Board, Park Board, and City Council. The committee collaborated with the City of Minot to provide the forums at City Hall and to livestream them on several social media platforms, offering in-person and online content to those not yet certain on who they wanted to see elected. A total of 22 candidates took part in the forums that were moderated by MACEDC.

SUCCESS STORIES

# MILITARY SUPPORT

**\$621 MILLION**  
ECONOMIC IMPACT  
OF MINOT AIR FORCE BASE

**48** TOTAL HONORARY  
COMMANDERS

**19** BARKSDALE TROPHY  
PUBLIC APPEARANCES

**90** SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS  
HOSTED FOR GEN BUSSIÈRE WARFIGHTER  
SENIOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**868** NEW AIRMEN BRIEFED  
AT 12 RIGHT START  
PRESENTATIONS

**138**  
HOME  
FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS  
TICKETS  
PURCHASED

**20** NORTH DAKOTA  
SYMPOSIUM  
ATTENDEES

**15,000** DELIVERED  
DURING  
COOKIES TEAM MINOT  
COOKIE DRIVE

**63** ND LEGISLATORS, STATE OFFICIALS,  
AND WASHINGTON DC LEADERS  
TOURING MISSILE ALERT FACILITIES

**186** NUCLEAR TRIAD  
SYMPOSIUM  
ATTENDEES

**12** NEW HONORARY  
COMMANDERS

**6** AIRMEN PAIRED WITH  
FAMILIES THROUGH  
ADOPT-AN-AIRMAN

**\$111,855** AT THE 2024  
RAISED FOR TEAM MINOT  
PRAIRIE WARRIOR AUCTION

## BOARD MEMBERS SELECTED FOR SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE NATIONAL SECURITY FORUM

Cassidy Hjelmstad, Board Chair and Ryan Ackerman, Chair-Elect of the MACEDC board of directors were selected to attend The Secretary of the Air Force's National Security Forum, hosted by Air University's Air War College in early May. Participants must be nominated by Air Force Headquarters or Wing leadership, AWC students or faculty, or senior government officials for this engaging event that connects senior military leadership with selected civilian professionals to openly discuss past and present national security challenges. Participants are given the opportunity to integrate with over 215 Air War College students who represent the finest military and civilian leaders serving in America's Armed Forces, as well as a select group of senior military officers from 48 partner nations.

Each year has a different theme, with a constant focus on establishing an environment for open engagements on the diplomatic, economic, informational, cultural, and military instruments of national power and how each benefits a more stable and prosperous world order. This year marked the 70th annual forum, and it aimed to address the strategic concerns generated by both China and Russia and the Great Power Competition.

It was an educational and eye-opening experience, engaging with senior U.S. and international military officers as well as highly experienced government civilians during seminars, lectures, and social events; discussing and challenging views of senior military and civilian leaders and AWC faculty and students; and interacting with tomorrow's senior military leaders.

# EXAMINING NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AND ADDRESSING SENTINEL PROJECT AT ND NUCLEAR TRIAD SYMPOSIUM

Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) Task Force 21 presented the first North Dakota Nuclear Triad Symposium to over 200 attendees in April. Local and national military leaders, experts, and government officials spoke about the importance of nuclear modernization, educated community members on nuclear deterrence, and discussed the effects it has on the United States' adversaries at the half-day event.

Career space and missile officer Lt. Gen. Michael J. Lutton, Deputy Commander, Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) and Deputy Commander, Air Forces Strategic-Air, U.S. Strategic Command, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, was the keynote speaker and delivered a briefing on Air Force Global Strike Command. "It is critical to remember that when we deliver deterrence and long-range strike capability that we do not have allies and partners with ballistic missile forces or long-range bombers," says Gen. Lutton. "We provide that unique capability in Air Force Strike Command to not only our nation but also all of those allies and partners. That capability is no more evident than at Minot Air Force Base."

Lt. Gen. Lutton also emphasized the influence of Minot Air Force Base as the only military installation that supports two legs of the nuclear triad. "Minot has a national level responsibility. Minot has a national level mission and if you want to feel that you just need to walk into those gates. There's no greater importance to nuclear capabilities than Minot Air Force Base. There's no place our adversaries can go, there's no place that they can hide that we can't go."

Following the keynote address, an overview of "America's Strategic Posture: The Final Report of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States," was presented by Bill Chambers, Maj. Gen. United States Air Force (retired), Commission Executive Director, Institute for Defense Analyses. The National Defense Industrial Association President & CEO Hon. David L. Nordquist addressed our adversaries. James P. (Phil) Wisecup, Vice Admiral, US Navy (retired) spoke on China, and Dr. Anna Batta, Associate Professor of International Security Studies Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, is an expert that spoke about Russia.

Former U.S. Representative Kelly Armstrong and Former North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum discussed their perspective and the role North Dakota plays in protecting the nation. U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer and U.S. Senator John Hoeven also shared their thoughts virtually through a pre-recorded address. Col. Tytonia S. Moore, Deputy Director of Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Modernization, Site Activation Task Force, spoke about the modernization and implementation of the Sentinel project which replaces the aging Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile system, modernizing the land-based leg of the U.S. nuclear triad.



SUCCESS STORIES

## TASK FORCE 21 DISCUSSES MODERNIZATION AND NATIONAL CHALLENGES AT NUCLEAR TRIAD SYMPOSIUM IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) hosted the 13th Annual Task Force 21 Nuclear Triad Symposium in Washington, D.C., drawing nearly 200 attendees, including military officers, defense experts, department of defense contractors, ambassadors, and government officials. The event centered on the importance of nuclear modernization and deterrence in safeguarding U.S. national security.

Gen. Thomas A. Bussiere, Commander of Air Force Global Strike Command, delivered the afternoon keynote, emphasizing Minot's pivotal role in U.S. nuclear deterrence. "Minot is the most important base in the Department of Defense," Gen. Bussiere remarked, "where Minot goes, the Air Force goes, where Minot goes, the department goes."



Task Force 21 Chair Mark Jantzer closed the event, stressing the urgency of continued advocacy. "The word 'urgency' came up repeatedly today," said Jantzer. "We need to talk to our national, state, local and public leaders and members about these important issues."

## NORTH DAKOTA LEADERS ATTEND ICBM MINUTEMAN III MISSILE LAUNCH



Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC) Task Force 21 led a delegation of North Dakota leaders on a strategic military engagement with Minot Air Force Base (MAFB) and Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) as Airmen and Navy aircrew launched an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in November from Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

The visit included mission briefs, meeting with military leadership, and the test launch of an ICBM equipped with multiple targetable re-entry vehicles from aboard the Airborne Launch Control System that was pulled from North Dakota's missile complex and transported to Vandenberg Space Force Base for the test. The North Dakota representatives in attendance included Lt. Gov. Tammy Miller representing the North Dakota Military Commission, Sally Johnson representing N.D. Senator John Hoeven, Minot Air Force Base, state and community leadership.

This test launch is part of routine and periodic activities intended to demonstrate that the United States' nuclear deterrent is safe, secure, reliable and effective to deter threats and reassure our allies. Such tests have occurred over 300 times before, and this test is not the result of current world events. The ICBM community, including the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, and U.S. Strategic Command, uses data collected from test launches for continuing force development evaluation. The ICBM test launch program demonstrates the operational capability of the Minuteman III and ensures the United States' ability to maintain a strong, credible nuclear deterrent as a key element of U.S. national security and the security of U.S. allies and partners.

# MINOT AFB CHOSEN FOR MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD PROCLAMATION

MACEDC supported the Month of the Military Child Proclamation signing at Memorial Middle School in April. Lt. Governor Tammy Miller highlighted recent progress made toward the goal of making North Dakota the most military-friendly state in the nation during an event with students on Minot Air Force Base to celebrate April being proclaimed as “Month of the Military Child” in North Dakota. Our great state is working hard to make ND the most military-friendly state in the nation and during the month of April we spotlight the steadfast courage and unwavering resilience of our youngest heroes.

Speakers included Maj Gen Al Dohrmann, Superintendent Kirsten Baesler, Col Dan Hoadley, Col George Chapman, and Minot Public Schools Superintendent Mark Vollmer. There were around 300 in attendance which included Task Force 21, legislators, community leaders, and students. We’re grateful to have the Minot Air Force Base Memorial Middle School selected for the first signing of the state proclamation outside of the state capitol.



## BARKSDALE TROPHY FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT SHOWCASED THROUGHOUT ND

During a November 2023 Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) “Best of the Best” showcase, the honor of the Barksdale Trophy – given to the community with the most outstanding community support to an AFGSC base – was awarded to the Minot area.

The criteria used in judging included community-based programs that positively impact the quality of life for airmen and their families, investment in infrastructure designed to benefit personnel, community assistance and support in securing state and federal funding for infrastructure & programs beneficial to military members and the mission of the base, and overall community hospitality, kindness, and acceptance of airmen, officers and their families.

Throughout 2024, the Barksdale Trophy has been displayed across the state, including local events like the ND Nuclear Triad Symposium, Showcase of Business, monthly Business After Hours, and community partner locations. Plus, it’s been shown at North Dakota Military Commission and the Nuclear Triad Symposium in Washington D.C.



SUCCESS STORIES

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**70 ATTENDEES**  
FOR INAUGURAL MINOT AREA  
**WORKFORCE SUMMIT**

**\$250,000**  
**RWIP FUNDS**  
AWARDED TO MACEDC  
AWARDED TO MACEDC  
FOR  
WORKFORCE  
MARKETING

**6 SUCCESSFUL**  
**WAYFINDER** MATCHES

**1**  
**NEWCOMER+**  
**RELOCATION**  
GUIDE  
CREATED

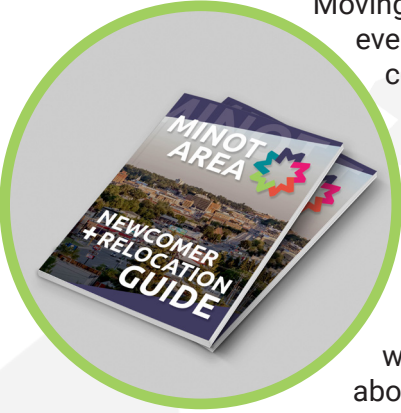
## CONNECTING STATE LEADERS FOR FIRST MACEDC WORKFORCE SUMMIT

Minot Area Chamber EDC was excited to host its first Workforce Summit at the Minot Area Workforce Academy to 70 community professionals. It was an insightful day filled with opportunities to connect with area and state leaders about workforce challenges and resources in North Dakota. Several expert speakers from the ND Department of Health and Human Services, the ND Department of Commerce, Job Service ND, the ND Office of Legal Immigration, and a panel with ND legislators brought their knowledge base and updates relating to workforce.



# HELPING NEWCOMERS DISCOVER MAGIC IN MINOT WITH RELOCATION GUIDE

Moving is a stressful experience, and when a completely new city, state, or even country is factored into the equation, things become even more complicated and wearisome. With such a diverse group of people coming to the Minot area for a wide variety of reasons including new jobs, military, and education, MACEDC saw a need to have basic questions about the area, schools, utilities, and more answered. As it was imperative to provide a resource that offered the answers in an easy to find location, the Minot Area Newcomer + Relocation Guide was created in 2024 as a one-stop-shop for any inquiries that might arise. This is a free resource that we encourage our partners to share with any friends, family, or employees who have recently moved in, about to join us, or thinking about relocating to the Magic City.



## WAYFINDERS PROGRAM WINS 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE AWARD

The 21st Century Workforce Award (Urban) was presented for the Minot WayFinders program at the The Main Street ND Awards, which are a collaborative effort of the Office of the Governor and North Dakota Department of Commerce. Minot earned the award as a community of over 10,000 people that offered a unique answer to bringing individuals to the state for employment opportunities. The WayFinders program tackles workforce challenges by offering a personalized onboarding experience for newcomers. With recent grant funding, Minot expanded efforts to attract people nationwide.



# EXPANDING TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN DOWNTOWN MINOT

Dakota College at Bottineau and Minot State University joined a long list of community partners in opening the Dakota College Downtown location in Minot in 2024. The concept for a technical education center in Minot started nearly 8 years ago and was made possible thanks to a unique variety of funding sources and partners. Along with National Disaster Resilience (NDR) competition funding from the City of Minot, MAGIC Fund dollars championed by MACEDC, hub city funding through the state of North Dakota, and a ND Department of Commerce Regional Workforce Impact Program (RWIP) grant facilitated by MACEDC, the technical education center is now a reality in a former Trinity Health building. The Dakota College Downtown location offers allied health classes and computer information technology classes, and features the region's first training center for dental assistants and dental hygienists - both of which are difficult to fill positions in north central North Dakota.



SUCCESS STORIES

# WHO WE ARE

## OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Minot Area Chamber EDC to advocate for and invest in business activity by being a collaborative partner in the community, focused on improving quality of life for all.

## OUR VISION

To be the go-to organization for our business community to drive key initiatives that build and strengthen our economy.

## OUR VALUES

**Advocacy:** We serve as the champion and voice for business by representing the best interests of our member-investors at local, regional, and national levels.

**Catalyst:** We are a catalyst and convener for regional economic development focused on business expansion, retention and recruitment.

**Collaboration:** We are stronger and better together. Partnership is the core of what we do, working together to strengthen our community.

**Community:** We focus on creating a diverse community in which people want to live, work, and play.

**Leadership:** We encourage community involvement and provide opportunities for engagement and leadership development.

**Integrity:** We are stewards of the community resources with which we have been entrusted.



## MINOT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

C.E. Danielson ..... 1921-24  
Dr. R.W. Pence ..... 1924-26  
G.D. Colcord ..... 1926-27  
Hal S. Davies ..... 1927-29  
Robert E. Barron ..... 1929-30  
A.M. Christensen ..... 1930-32  
R.J. Coughlin ..... 1923-33  
C.D. Aaker ..... 1933-35  
Henry J. Brosnahan ..... 1935-36  
W.H. Dunnell ..... 1936-37  
D.H. Griffith ..... 1937-38  
R.A. Russell ..... 1938-40  
C.C. Hvamsal ..... 1940-42  
H.J. Westlie ..... 1942-44  
R.A.H Brandt ..... 1944-45  
Lloyd E. Arndt ..... 1945-46  
H.M. Grant ..... 1946-47  
Ray C. Dobson ..... 1947-48  
W.M. Harrington ..... 1948-49  
T.A. Solheim ..... 1949-50  
L. Donald Thorson ..... 1950-51  
Lester Dahlen ..... 1951-52  
Ray C. Miller ..... 1952-53  
Reuben P. Krebsbach ..... 1953-54  
A.R. Weinhandl ..... 1954-55  
Morris O. Broschat ..... 1955-56  
R.J. McDonnell ..... 1956-57  
Alton C. Anderson ..... 1957-58  
W.R. Williams ..... 1958-59  
Glen W. Benson ..... 1959-60  
George M. Johnson ..... 1960-61  
Jack Coughlin ..... 1961-62  
George Fowler ..... 1962-63  
Charles Westlie ..... 1963-64  
Ralph Christensen ..... 1964-65  
W.D. Johnson ..... 1965-66  
Chester Reiten ..... 1966-67  
Roy A. Ilvedson ..... 1967-68  
Alvin Braun ..... 1968-69  
Forrest Baker ..... 1969-70  
Harold Brunner ..... 1970-71  
Jim Fisher ..... 1971-72  
Clair Watne ..... 1972-73  
Orlin Backes ..... 1973-74

Douglas Anderson ..... 1974-75  
Lynn Aas ..... 1975-76  
Ken Johnson ..... 1976-77  
Leo Makelky ..... 1977-78  
Warren Sands ..... 1978-79  
Al Kramer ..... 1979-80  
Jim Maragos ..... 1980-81  
Archie Peterson ..... 1981-82  
O.H. Mittelberg ..... 1982-83  
Harriet Herigstad ..... 1983-84  
Ernie Selland ..... 1984-85  
Dr. George Christensen ..... 1985-86  
Karen Krebsbach ..... 1986-87  
Art Ekblad ..... 1987-88  
Gary Kramlich ..... 1988-89  
M.E. "Buzz" Syria ..... 1989-90  
Larry Thompson ..... 1990-91  
Jim Montgomery ..... 1991-92  
Tom Stockert ..... 1992-93  
Gloria Emerson ..... 1993-94  
Mark V. Larson ..... 1994-95  
Rich Allen ..... 1995-96  
Mark J. Jantzer ..... 1996-97  
Ed J. Steckler ..... 1997-98  
Randy Burckhard ..... 1998-99  
Jim Searcy ..... 1999-2000  
Bruce R. Carlson ..... 2000-01  
Lyn Dockter-Pinnick ..... 2001-02  
Pete Hankla ..... 2002-03  
John Stewart ..... 2003-04  
Christine Morsfield ..... 2004-05  
Richard White ..... 2005-06  
Pete Zimmerman ..... 2006-07  
David Reiten ..... 2007-08  
Rob Dick ..... 2008-09  
Terry Zeltinger ..... 2009-10  
Brekka Kramer ..... 2010-11  
F. Bruce Walker ..... 2011-12  
Jon Knecht ..... 2012-13  
Randy Hauck ..... 2013-14  
Alan Estvold ..... 2014-15  
Duane Poynter ..... 2015-16  
Jessica Merchant ..... 2016-17  
Jason Zimmerman ..... 2017-18  
Doug Hollingsworth ..... 2018-19  
Tom Rafferty ..... 2019-20  
Jeff McElwain ..... 2020

## MINOT AREA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

T.A. Solheim ..... 1967-70  
Morris Broschat ..... 1971  
George Johnson ..... 1972  
Doug Anderson ..... 1973  
Al Braun ..... 1975  
Roald Mattson ..... 1976  
Leo P. Makelky ..... 1977  
Robert A. Wheeler ..... 1978  
Clair A. Watne ..... 1979  
C. Morris Anderson ..... 1980  
Ed Schmit ..... 1981  
Jim Jensen ..... 1982  
Eldon Seelig ..... 1983  
Lanny Wade ..... 1984  
Ken Johnson ..... 1985  
John Pierson ..... 1986  
J.J. "Joe" Vihstadt ..... 1987  
Tim Kretschmar ..... 1988  
Gary L. Wickre ..... 1989  
Bob Horne ..... 1990  
John Petrik ..... 1991  
John Hoeven ..... 1992  
Marv Semrau ..... 1993  
M.E. "Buzz" Syria ..... 1994  
Bob Lamont ..... 1995  
Rich Campbell ..... 1996  
Terry Hoff ..... 1997  
John Stewart ..... 1998  
Michael Zaun ..... 1999  
Clayton Fegley ..... 2000  
Mark Nisbet ..... 2001  
Buzz Stitzer ..... 2002  
Daryl Somerville ..... 2003  
Jim Montgomery ..... 2004  
Kathleen Gaddie ..... 2005-06  
Randy Burckhard ..... 2007  
Darwin Langseth ..... 2008  
Karen Krebsbach ..... 2009  
Jim Maxson ..... 2010  
Jay Fisher ..... 2011  
Matt Kramer ..... 2012  
Kathy Aas ..... 2013  
David Reiten ..... 2014  
Darrell Olson ..... 2015

Steve Bigelow ..... 2016  
Jim Montgomery ..... 2017  
Jim Rostad ..... 2018  
Brekka Kramer ..... 2019  
Randy Hauck ..... 2020

## MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC

Jon Knecht ..... 2021  
Randy Hauck ..... 2022  
Kevin Black ..... 2023  
Cassidy Hjelmstad ..... 2024

**PAST BOARD CHAIRS**  
THOSE WHO HAVE  
LED THE WAY



# MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC

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MINOT, NORTH DAKOTA 58701  
701-852-6000 • [MINOTCHAMBEREDC.COM](http://MINOTCHAMBEREDC.COM)