

January 6, 2021

Senate Appropriation Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to request and encourage your continued support and funding of the TrainND program.

I have been a member of the TrainND Southeast Advisory Board for the past 4 years and am currently the Chairperson for the group. During my time on the board, I have come to learn of the absolute importance of this program across North Dakota.

TrainND links people and companies to training programs and resources that will allow them to grow and develop, both personally and professionally. These programs are typically thought to be technical in nature, but TrainND also provides soft skills training and leadership development opportunities. A variety of programs are offered as open-enrollment opportunities to individuals while companies also have the ability to receive customized training for their workforce.

We all realize that the workforce shortages in North Dakota continue to be one of the top issues in the state. TrainND has been instrumental in providing the opportunity for our citizens to grow, be trained/re-trained, learn new skills and provide an avenue for placement into the workforce. These programs assist the unemployed and under-employed. Companies working with TrainND find that they can find quick access to resources and training, at reasonable costs, and from trained instructors that know the local and regional business atmosphere and culture.

One of the unique features of the program is that it partners with business and industry to focus on current workforce needs. I have witnessed the program shift over the past 4 years to adapt to industry changes and needs and provide programs and resources that are needed real time.

We also all realize that a program like this comes at a considerable expense. I believe and feel I can represent the advisory board in the thought that this program truly needs to be viewed as an investment. An investment to North Dakota citizens, North Dakota companies and the to well-being and successful growth of the State. Without this program, hundreds of companies (especially smaller companies) and thousands of citizens/employees will not have the opportunity to help move themselves, their companies, and the State forward.

I encourage you to understand the numbers of individuals and companies supported since TrainND began in 1999; to understand the large and positive impact the program has had and will continue to have across North Dakota; and to support the robust funding of the program.

Only with your understanding, support, and funding can this effective and economically beneficial program continue to support our workforce needs.

In addition to my letter, I am providing several TrainND Southeast customer quotes that were provided to the Advisory Board.

With appreciation and respect for your service to our State,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Wirth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott Wirth
TrainND Southeast Advisory Board Chair
Human Resources Manager – Roers

Attachment

- Development
- Construction
- Property Management
- Commercial & Residential Real Estate

TrainND Southeast – Customer Quotes:

“To facilitate the foundational development of all managers and supervisors at Noridian Healthcare Solutions, we searched for a high-quality local management development course. Partnering with Susie Richards Carlson and Mary Beth Burns at NDSCS, we launched a Noridian specific training experience with the Blanchard Management Essentials program. Mary Beth proficiently facilitated the training content, skills application, and coaching tools. The course was engaging and our managers were able to immediately apply their learning to employee situations. Not only did our managers engage in great learning content and interactive skills application, they now have a common reference of coaching tools to build upon.

As partners in training the rollout of our management development course, Susie and Mary Beth at NDSCS were very helpful, attentive, and responsive. We could not be happier with our training experience at NDSCS and the Blanchard Management Essentials program!” – Victoria Simonson, Director of Talent For Development at Noridian Healthcare Solutions

“We recently completed a Manager training facilitated by Mary Beth Burns with TrainND SE. The virtual experience was engaging and educational. Our Managers received a tremendous amount of value from the four-week virtual training.” – Matt Skoy, Learning and Development Manager, Aldevron

“Our management team at Superior, Inc. participated in the ‘Management Essentials’ course at NDSCS and the entire team was fully satisfied with their experience. The course delivered a structured and engaging message that provided our team with many tools and practices they are using on the job. I would highly recommend this course to any business, as it provides a value of teamwork and positivity within your company.” – Doreen K. Brandt, PHR, SHRM-CP, Human Resources Manager at Superior Grain Equipment

The class was really good, in spite of the major world-wide distractions last week. The presenter did a very good job and was very well qualified/versed in the subject. He had the class start/stop on time and was very efficient with his time. He also provided an impressive BOAT LOAD of extra reference materials in addition to the course materials. The online platform worked very well. I definitely would not hesitate taking another online class from the New Horizons. Thanks for setting it up and for checking-in! – Tim Sanden, VP of Information Technology/CIO, Cass County Electric Cooperative

“I really liked the training. It was a very good overview of what Microsoft Azure can do and how to start using it. I also especially enjoyed the format of the training. It was very convenient to be able to take the training without having to travel anywhere.” – Paul Kautz, Information Systems Manager, Cass County Electric Cooperative

“Brian Ware is an excellent instructor and has many years of over-the-road truck driving experience. He has also been an over-the-road trainer for a carrier so he knows what it takes to do this challenging yet very rewarding career as a professional truck driver. Brian teaches the basic information that the students need to succeed as a professional truck driver. They have behind-the-wheel training and classroom training for every student. We all know that this nation has a critical shortage of professional truck drivers and NDSCS is doing their part the help with this critical shortage.” – Mark Wolter, Director of Safety and Maintenance, Midnight Express Incorporated

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*“Things are progressing well. Those that went to training are gaining more experience every day. The training did help accelerate this learning. We will definitely look to NDSCS for more training in the future.” – **Mike Rude, Tank Supervisor at TrueNorth Steel***

*NDSCS frequently provides WCCO Belting with a variety of rooms for classes, meetings or breakout sessions for large groups or small. The staff is professional to work with and attentive to all the details necessary to make it a successful event for us, including room configuration, IT needs, and catering! During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, we feel confident that this is a safe location for our employees to gather. – **Kay Braun, Executive Administrator, WCCO Belting Inc.***

*“Uncooperative weather, but very cooperative staff at NDSCS! The training we held at NDSCS included sessions out at a land lab. Unfortunately, the weekend before the training brought heavy rain to the area. This made the land lab a wet, muddy mess, so we had to move those sessions indoors. Thankfully the staff at NDSCS were very flexible in allowing us to rent more classrooms and increase our catering orders last minute. The staff at NDSCS were very easy to work with from start to finish and they responded to any questions I had in a timely manner. All caterers and maintenance staff were very friendly and respectful. The facilities and classrooms were clean and well-kept. Hopefully, we’ll get to work with them again next year!” – **Leah Dyrdaahl, Lead Sales Coordinator, RDO Equipment Co.***

*“Working with the staff at NDSCS in renting a room for teaching has been smooth and enjoyable. The staff is friendly, accommodating, and professional. The classroom is clean and spacious. We appreciated having tech support available during the day. Reserving a room, securing a contract, and getting confirmation were done efficiently. Working with the staff at NDSCS is ideal as it is evident that the staff members enjoy their work, co-workers, and workplace environment.” – **Barbara Benda Nagle, Professional Artist, and Workshop Instructor, and Beverly Benda, Workshop Assistant***