



MINOT AREA CHAMBER EDC

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Dear Policymaker:

Since 1999, workforce training in North Dakota has been supported through the TrainND program. In this model, four service quadrants were established across the State, geographically based on eight pre-existing workforce regions. Each quadrant was assigned to a local community college for oversight and management. Legislative funding to partially support this enterprise is allocated through the Department of Career and Technical Education (CTE), and additional revenue to support the program is derived locally through course and training fees.

The Minot area would benefit tremendously from the establishment of a locally operated TrainND site. As one of five community colleges within the North Dakota University System – and the only one without an existing TrainND responsibility – Dakota College at Bottineau (DCB) is well positioned to address this need. DCB recently partnered with the City of Minot and Minot State University to develop *Dakota College Downtown*. This location has ample space to provide additional training during business hours and beyond. Additionally, a partnership with Trinity Health has recently led to additional space options in Trinity's Health Center West facility. This location in downtown Minot could be utilized to provide health-related training that may require more specialized facilities.

Many of the degree and certificate programs already offered through DCB in Minot would lend themselves to focused, customized workforce training. This synergy, along with the backing of TrainND and other existing training networks, would provide DCB with the ability to quickly bring a wide range of opportunities to Minot. Based on the partnerships that already exist within our community, we believe a sustainable approach to local workforce training would result benefiting many businesses and employers in the Minot region.

The Minot Area Chamber EDC Board fully supports the proposed expansion of TrainND into the Minot community and believes this would be best accomplished through Dakota College at Bottineau.

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We look forward to future correspondence regarding this effort.

Kind regards,

Brekka Kramer
Minot Area Chamber EDC President | CEO