

**Business Congress
Economic Development Committee
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Bismarck, North Dakota**

List of Proposed Actions for 5 Key Issues – Reference Document for Small Group Activities

Submitted by:

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WORKFORCE

1. Create internship program aimed at target industries
2. Institute a state grant program to promote Business/Education Partnership coordinators in high schools and middle schools, on a competitive basis, and could offer challenge matching grants to schools that devise especially creative programs (the Grand Forks Career Development Process might be one of the models for other communities to emulate)
3. Build a central website hub that would contain all relevant data on jobs, workforce and resources for assistance (and/or links to all relevant info sites)
4. Develop marketing and incentives to recruit workers from outside the state
5. Offer early career counseling and information for young students

ATTRACTING YOUNG PEOPLE

1. Encourage entrepreneurship programs (e.g., networking, college courses)
2. Institute a Governor's Business Achievement Award or Young Entrepreneur's Award Program
3. Initiate additional entrepreneurial training
4. Launch Business Mentoring Program for young business owners
5. Initiate targeted marketing about the state to young people
6. Continue to hold focus groups with young professionals
7. Consider ways to expand recruitment at both public & private ND colleges & universities and at ND technical schools

IMAGE

1. Support for tourism marketing
2. Expand DOC media relations efforts
3. Formalize the Ambassadors program
4. Develop on-line resources and toolkits for teachers and speakers
5. Consider offering incentives for tourism facilities

TRANSPORTATION

1. Pay close attention to recommendations of the study already under way
2. Explore prospects for expanding air transport facilities (cargo and passenger)
3. Explore option of offering incentives to airlines for expanded service
4. Enhance freight rail service
5. Institute a Certified Cities Program (a program to assist and certify communities as development-ready) and include transportation as an issue
6. Review, analyze and prioritize the list of specific ideas in the Commerce Cabinet Report

UNIVERSITIES

1. Inventory avenues for communication between universities and business community and report back to Legislative Council
2. Fund commercial evaluation of technologies
3. Launch a statewide Technology Achievement Awards program given to successful business ventures
4. Identify resources to track and conduct follow-up for Centers of Excellence (at DOC, for example)
5. Provide incentives to students who take courses in targeted areas
6. Consider adding Campus Advisory Boards with business members
7. Create speakers bureau to bring business speakers to campus
8. Explore possibility of marketing and offering incentives to attract professors in targeted subject areas