

CENTER-OF-EXCELLENCE BEST PRACTICES REVIEW

*NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL
INTERIM WORKFORCE COMMITTEE*



Thomas P. Miller and Associates

Building Assets through Knowledge & Innovation

May 26, 2010

Thomas P. Miller & Associates



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Blossoming Assets through Knowledge & Innovation

2

- Full-service economic and workforce development consulting firm with extensive research, strategy and planning experience
- Headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana; founded in 1989, with a core vision of integrating human capital development into the mainstream of economic development strategy
- Focused on 21st century imperatives of aligning people, technology, and initiatives, while blending the infrastructure of the old economy with the ideastructure of the innovation economy



Project Background

3

- Centers of Excellence program established in 2005 to assist North Dakota's colleges and universities in collaborating with private sector businesses
 - ▣ Competitive grant program which provides grants to colleges or universities of up to one-third of the cost of joint projects with a private sector business
 - ▣ To date this program has awarded \$39.45 million to 18 Centers of Excellence across the state
- North Dakota Department of Commerce and the North Dakota Centers of Excellence Commission were tasked by the Legislative Assembly to conduct a best practice review
 - ▣ Centers of Excellence program's statute is set to expire in 2011
 - ▣ Best practice review may assist in deciding whether or not to continue a Centers of Excellence program in some form.
- TPMA received competitive award in response to North Dakota Department of Commerce RPF 601.00.10

Scope of Work



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4

- Conduct a best practice review of North Dakota's Centers of Excellence for Economic Development program
 - ▣ Review of the current Centers of Excellence program
 - ▣ Comparison to best practices of similar programs in other states
 - ▣ Identification of proposed legislative changes necessary to implement any recommendations.
- Presentation findings and recommendations to the North Dakota Centers of Excellence Commission and the legislative Interim Workforce Committee meeting during the Summer of 2010

Schedule



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5

- ❑ Contract start: May 17, 2010
- ❑ “Kick off” teleconference: May 17, 2010
- ❑ Centers of Excellence Summit in Fargo: May 27, 2010
- ❑ Survey of Center Directors, on or about June 7, 2010
- ❑ First draft of reports: July 6, 2010
- ❑ State provides contractor with comments for revision as needed: July 8, 2010
- ❑ Contractor submits deliverables to the State: July 15, 2010
- ❑ Informal debriefing: July 15, 2010
- ❑ Presentation of the study to Centers of Excellence Commission and Interim Workforce Committee: July 19, 2010 in Bismarck

Centers of Excellence Survey



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6

- Survey Targets:
 - ▣ Center Directors,
 - ▣ Centers of Excellence Commission members
 - ▣ Interim Workforce Committee
 - ▣ Other key stakeholders designated by the client
- States to Consider: Which centers of excellence programs in specific competitor/comparator states are of greatest interest?
 - ▣ Overall
 - ▣ For specific North Dakota COEs

Centers of Excellence Survey: Program Characteristics for Best Practice Comparison



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7

- ❑ **Center Design** – what types of facilities (ex. labs, incubator space, etc.) do other states offer?
- ❑ **Organization Structure** – how do centers interact with state entities? Within their own institutions? Other in-state and out-of-state institutions?
- ❑ **Industry** – what level of interaction exists with private employers, economic development organizations, industry associations, etc.?
- ❑ **Federal agencies and laboratories** – how do centers work with federal agencies and laboratories? Have long-term relationships been established?
- ❑ **Revenue models** – do centers continue to be dependent on state resources? Are there other healthy revenue streams from private, foundation, or federal sources
- ❑ **Outcomes** – what defines success for programs (ex. economic impact, jobs created, patents filed, etc.?)

Project Lead



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8

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