



Rich Garman
Director

Manages team responsible for economic diversification efforts throughout the state, building upon existing efforts and programs, managing growth strategies and unique utilization of capital.
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Shayden Akason

Head of Investments and Innovation, NDDF
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Manages strategic direction and execution of the North Dakota Development Fund, LIFT and Innovate ND, with the objective of creating ROI for the State, local businesses, key stakeholders, and the funds themselves.



Hannah Lange

Venture Financing Manager
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Leads the due diligence process for the North Dakota Development Fund. Works with companies and community and state partners to structure funding packages for companies.



Dave Lehman

Advanced Manufacturing Business Development Manager
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Collaborates with manufacturers and state partners to maintain, expand and recruit manufacturing operations through financing, incentives and education.



Joleen Leier

Executive Assistant
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Provides executive support to the ED&F Director by prioritizing and managing multiple information requests, scheduling and travel. Assists in management of workflow, communication and project support.



Samantha Mattson

Credit & Venture Analyst, NDDF
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Performs daily, monthly and yearly accounting functions, financial analysis on existing customer files, credit file maintenance and research assistance for the North Dakota Development Fund (NDDF).



Jessica Nygaard

CEO, NDDF
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Manages and oversees the North Dakota Development Fund debt financing and loan portfolio.



Tom Oakland

Energy Research & Development Manager
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Provides research and legislation insight on new/expanding energy related industries. Works with current/new energy related companies interested in expanding or locating in ND.



Brian Opp

Technological Systems Business Development Manager
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Provides assistance to technology industry verticals interested in expanding or locating in ND; specifically guiding aerospace, unmanned systems, bioscience, and software along with university research and economic development.



Kevin Sonsalla

Value-Added Ag Business Development Manager
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Coordinates resources to attract, expand and retain business development efforts in the ag and bioenergy industry. Represents Commerce on the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) board.



Carla Valentine

Program Manager
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Manages Innovate ND and the LIFT program to support North Dakota entrepreneurs and businesses. Administers business incentive accountability for state and local grantors.