



**RICH GARMAN**

Director

rgarman@nd.gov  
701.328.5344 | 701.330.1279

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



**SHAYDEN AKASON**

Deputy Director

Head of Investments and Innovation, NDDF  
sakason@nd.gov | 701.328.4563

Strategic direction and execution of the NDDF, LIFT and Innovate ND. Assist in ND's development needs through integration of partners, development of special projects & programs and carries out a variety of economic initiatives.



**NIGEL HAARSTAD**

Economic Research Analyst

nhaarstad@nd.gov | 701.328.5394

Provides actionable, data-driven insights relating to economic development, and provides detailed and compelling written analysis to support the department's mission.



**JESSICA HUTCHINSON**

Associate Venture and Credit Analyst, NDDF

jhutchinson@nd.gov | 701.328.7299

Assists with accounting and administrative functions; provides financial analysis on customer files; and assists with loan and equity requests



**KEVIN IVERSON**

State Data Center Manager

kciverson@nd.gov | 701.328.5385

Disseminates demographic and socioeconomic data and impact insights. Provides population projections and estimates for the state, counties and municipalities.



**DAVE LEHMAN**

Advanced Manufacturing Business Development Manager

dlehman@nd.gov | 701.226.0309

Collaborates with manufacturers and state partners to maintain, expand and recruit manufacturing operations through financing, incentives and education.



**JOLEEN LEIER**

Executive Assistant

joleier@nd.gov | 701.328.2469

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

smattson@nd.gov | 701.328.7252

Manages new business for the Child Care Program; 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, Inc. (NDDF).



**JAYLIN MEYER**

Economic Research Analyst

jaylin.meyer@nd.gov | 701.328.5330

Conducts a variety of analyses to include economic and social impacts. Provides data driven reports and presentations. Works with the State Data Center Manager for socioeconomic data.



**TRACEY MILLER**

Lead Development Manager

tracmiller@nd.gov  
701.328.4420 • 701.595.4584

Manages ED&F project portfolio. Supports the Business Developers and aids companies with expansion or relocation to ND. Leads special initiatives and works to increase project capacity.



**TOM OAKLAND**

Energy & Economic Coordination Office Manager

thomas.oakland@nd.gov  
701.328.5392 • 701.319.0161

Provides guidance and assistance to develop new and expand existing businesses in the energy industry, along with coordination of research and legislation to broaden the energy landscape and maintain reliable and sustainable energy production in ND.



**BRIAN OPP**

Technological Systems Business Development Manager

bropp@nd.gov  
701.328.7267 • 701.471.7556

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



**KEVIN SONSALLA**

Value-Added Ag Business Development Manager

ksonsalla@nd.gov | 701.328.5323

Coordinates resources to attract, expand and retain business development efforts in the ag and bioenergy industries. Represents Commerce on the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) and the Agriculture Diversification and Development (ADD) Fund boards.



**JESSICA TOOKE**

CEO, NDDF

jtooke@nd.gov | 701.328.7251

Manages and oversees debt financing and loan portfolio for the North Dakota Development Fund, Inc. (NDDF).



**CARLA VALENTINE**

Program Manager

crvalentine@nd.gov | 701.328.3698

Manages the Legacy Investment for Technology (LIFT) program to attract and expand intellectual property (IP) commercialization and manages InnovateND to support entrepreneurs in the state.