

meet THE team

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & FINANCE STAFF



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
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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.



TRACEY MILLER

Deputy Director
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.



GUILLERMO FREGOSO

Associate Business Development Manager
gfregoso@nd.gov | 701.328.5332

Works directly with developers/companies to expand or locate in ND. Serves as liaison with Commerce and economic development partners.



NIGEL HAARSTAD

Sr. Economic Data Analyst/State Demographer
nhaarstad@nd.gov | 701.328.5394

Provides data analysis and insights; Census Bureau collaboration and reporting; economic data dissemination and analysis.



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 presentation of loan and equity requests.



LANDON JOHNSON

UAS Business Development Manager
ljohnson@nd.gov | 701.328.6472 | 701.367.1963

Supports the growth of UAS business development, collaborating with public & private partners to foster innovation and create a favorable UAS business environment.



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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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
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Conducts a variety of analyses, including economic and social impacts. Provides data driven reports and presentations. Works with the State Demographer for socioeconomic data.



TOM OAKLAND

Energy & Economic Coordination Office Manager
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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

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



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 industries. Represents Commerce on the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) and the Agriculture Diversification and Development (ADD) Fund boards.



CARLA VALENTINE

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