



E-Weekly Newsletter

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Champion REAP Alliance

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News from the Director's Desk

North Dakota companies invited to QVC product search

The televised shopping service QVC is inviting North Dakota entrepreneurs to present their consumer products to QVC representatives during a National Product Search Discovery Tour.

The national product search provides inventors, designers and manufacturers with a forum to share unique, innovative consumer products with QVC representatives from the merchandising and vendor relations divisions. The four tour locations are Las Vegas on April 2, Atlanta on April 13, Chicago on April 15 and QVC headquarters in West Chester, Penn., on April 23.

"There are many North Dakota entrepreneurs, many of them home-based businesses, that have unique, quality products that might appeal to QVC and its customers," said Linda Butts, director of the Economic Development & Finance Division of the North Dakota Department of Commerce. "This is an opportunity for these North Dakota businesses to market their products nationally."

In July 1995, QVC broadcast a special on North Dakota products from the stage of the Medora Musical. Twenty North Dakota entrepreneurs sold their products during that QVC telecast. During the telecast, viewers purchased 22,500 items from the North Dakota companies with sales exceeding \$527,000.

QVC is asking companies to register in advance. Information and an online registration form can be found at www.QVCproductsearch.com.

QVC, which reaches more than 85 million homes in the U.S., introduces more than 250 new products to its viewers each week. Products on QVC that have shown great success are those that are demonstrable on live television, solve an everyday problem, appeal to a broad audience, have unique features and benefits and are topical or timely.

QVC will include the top products selected from each of the searches in a special broadcast planned for August. During the broadcast, viewers will get to see and purchase the products scouted during the National Product Search Discovery Tour.

Farm and Ranch Recreation Resource Directory

This resource directory provides reference information designed for farm & ranch families who are interested in starting a guide service, bed and breakfast, working ranch or similar business.

The section topics include input from current recreation business owners who shared their experiences and knowledge on what works and what doesn't. Short review on travel trends. What do people want on their Western vacations? How can you increase the range of activities you make available to appeal to the new tourist. Learn how to determine your break-even price.

Experts from Tax, Health, Legal and Insurance Considerations provided information on liability exposure, risks, health regulations, licensing/regulations, sales and other tax requirements, identification of risk and insurance coverage. There is also a section on

business planning, grants, loans and others along with a list of state resources.
<http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/ced/resources/farmranch/introduction.htm>

Funding Opportunities

May 1 Proposal Deadline for Youth Programs, Education

[American Honda Foundation](#)

<http://www.hondacorporate.com/community/index.html?subsection=foundation>

The American Honda Foundation supports national nonprofit organizations working in the areas of youth and scientific education. The Foundation provides support to a variety of organizations and projects, including K-12 and higher education institutions; community colleges and vocational or trade schools; scholarship and fellowship programs; scientific and education-related nonprofit organizations; gifted student programs; and national youth educational or scientific programs. The Foundation also supports national educational radio and/or television stations; nationally distributed and aired media projects; college, university, or other nonprofit laboratories engaged in scientific education; nonprofit scientific, and/or youth education projects; and national programs pertaining to academic or curriculum development that emphasize innovative educational methods and techniques. Only projects that are national in scope will be considered for funding by the Foundation. The next deadline for submitting applications is May 1, 2004. Visit the above website for application forms and guidelines.

Proposals for Community/Public Broadcaster Partnerships for Health

[Sound Partners for Community Health](#)

<http://www.soundpartners.org/>

Sound Partners for Community Health, a program of the Benton Foundation, funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is a national program that supports partnerships between public broadcasters and community organizations to increase public awareness of specific health issues and to facilitate citizens' involvement in making decisions affecting health care. Grants are awarded to public broadcasters and communities submitting proposals that demonstrate how community-centered journalism and active partnerships with community organizations can positively affect the ways in which local health care issues are addressed. Projects must focus on one of the following topics: healthy living/obesity, vulnerable populations/health disparities, quality of care/building human capital, or public health challenges in the new millennium. Public radio and television stations and community-based organizations throughout the country are eligible to apply. Preliminary proposals are due April 30, 2004, and full proposals are due August 2, 2004. Visit the above website for more information.

Supporting Young Children

[Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation: Children's Initiative](#)

<http://www.wfamilyfoundation.org/>

The Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation Children's Initiative supports local programs that strengthen the social, physical, intellectual, and emotional functioning of young children in significant and measurable ways. The Initiative will consider programs that serve children ages birth to six years, or address prenatal needs; deliver interventions conducted in out of office settings; and demonstrate family involvement in the program. Nonprofit organizations throughout the United States are eligible to apply. Letters of intent are due May 1, 2004. Visit the above website for more information.

Community Health Care and Health Education Supported

[Tenet Healthcare Foundation](#)

<http://www.tenethealth.com/tenethealth/TenetFoundation>

The Tenet Healthcare Foundation provides support to help meet unmet or underserved health care and health education needs in the communities in which Tenet operates its hospitals and other facilities. Secondly, the Foundation makes grants in support of educational, social service, civic and arts/humanities organizations. Issues of special interest to the Foundation this year include the nursing shortage, providing for the medical needs of the uninsured, and improving the quality of care and patient safety at hospitals. Eligible applicants must be located in communities where Tenet operates hospitals and other facilities, including communities in Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Nonprofit organizations, schools, and units of government are eligible to apply. Applications are accepted year-round. Visit the above website for more information and to view a map of communities with company facilities.

Funds for Progressive Change in Education, Health, and Community

[RGK Foundation](http://www.rgkfoundation.org/)

<http://www.rgkfoundation.org/>

The RGK Foundation endeavors to be a catalyst for progressive change in humanitarian concerns. The Foundation seeks innovative projects in the areas of health, education, human services and community affairs in order to advance knowledge, improve society, and help realize human potential. Within the area of education, the Foundation's primary interests include programs that focus on formal K-12 education (particularly mathematics, science and reading/literacy), integrating technology into curriculum, teacher development, higher education, and programs that attract female and minority students into the fields of mathematics, science, and technology. In the area of health and medicine, the Foundation's current interests are promoting the health and well-being of children or promoting access to health services. The Foundation also provides support to a broad range of human services programs, youth development programs, and community improvement programs, including cultural arts programs. Nonprofit organizations throughout the United States are eligible to apply. Interested applicants must begin by submitting an electronic letter of inquiry via the Foundation's website. The electronic letters of inquiry may be submitted year-round. Visit the above website for more information or to submit the letter of inquiry.

Support for Positive Differences in the Lives of Individuals

[Ralph and Eileen Swett Foundation](http://www.swettfoundation.org/)

<http://www.swettfoundation.org/>

The mission of the Ralph and Eileen Swett Foundation is to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals. The Foundation has identified the assistance of orphaned children, including the promotion of their adoption, and intervention in the lives of troubled youths as two areas of interest to which the Foundation expects to direct a portion of its funding each year. However, funding is not limited to these areas. The Foundation makes grants to organizations that do not conflict with Christian morals and beliefs. Nonprofit organizations throughout the United States are eligible to apply. Applications may be submitted year-round. Visit the above website for application guidelines.

In Need of News/Updates

I am in need of news to share in my weekly emails and to post on the ndalliancelink.com website. E-mail me at levery@gondtc.com

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- ✓ March 24, Champion REAP Alliance Monthly Mtg.
- ✓ March 25, 1st Annual Technology Expo in Finley
- ✓ March 26, REAP Investment Board Monthly Mtg.
- ✓ April 1, 5th Annual Enterprise & Rural Tourism Conference in Wishek, ND
- ✓ June 1-2, CONAC Tech Summit for High School Students at MSU-Bottineau

Upcoming Training Opportunities

March	
22	Understand the profit & cash flow mechanism, Eido Printing in Mott
22	Microsoft Access 200 training, MSU- Bottineau
24	Winning Customer Service training, MSU- Bottineau
25	Basic business start-up, Bank of ND in Bismarck
25	Where's the Cash?, Business Info Ctr in Fargo
April	

8	Improving profit & cash flow performance using income approach, Bank of ND in Bismarck
12	Improving profit & cash flow performance using income approach, Dickinson Chamber Office
13 & 15	Microsoft Power Point 2000 training, MSU- Bottineau
15	Opportunities to sell in ND, SD & MN at U of Mary in Fargo
16	Procrastination & Goal Setting, MSU- Bottineau
21	Lean manufacturing 101, Seven Seas Inn of Bismarck
22	Basic business start-up, Bank of ND in Bismarck
23	Employee Fraud: Consequences and Prevention, U of M in Fargo
23	Employee Fraud: Consequences and Prevention, Rural Tech Ctr, of Grand Forks
26	Improving profit & cash flow performance using income approach, Eido Printing of Mott
27	Starting your own business, NW Tech of Moorhead
May	
10	Increasing business performance using cost control, Dickinson Chamber Office
12	Manufacturing for uncle sam, entrepreneur Ctr in Fargo
13	Small business loan clinic, Bank of ND in Bismarck
13	Increasing business performance using cost control, Bank of ND in Bismarck
24	Increasing business performance using cost control, Eido Printing in Mott
27	Basic business start-up, Bank of ND in Bismarck

Current and Ongoing Projects

- ✓ NDalliancelink.com maintenance and updating
- ✓ Alliance Link Newsletter (July 2004)
- ✓ ND Leadership Capacity Building in Designated Areas
- ✓ Rural Coalition Development

Links

SBDC <http://www.ndsbdc.org>

E-Commerce Guide <http://sbdcnets.utsa.edu/SBIC/e-com.htm>

Biz Pathways <http://nd.bizpathways.org/Bizpathways/Index.aspx>

SBA <http://www.sba.gov>

Fundsnet <http://www.fundsnetsservices.com/>

Philanthropy News Digest <http://fdncenter.org/pnd/>

The Grantsmanship Center <http://www.tgci.com/>

DUNS Number Information http://www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/index.html

Rural Leadership ND <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/rlnd/>