



e-Weekly Newsletter

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Senator
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Visits
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Line Regional Alliance Champion Community and Dakota Heartland
Champion Community

Senator Conrad invited the Champion REAP Alliance (CRA) Director, Becky Meidinger representing the Dakota Heartland Champion Community, Charlie Kraemer chairman of the CRA and representative of the Dakota State Line Regional Alliance Champion Community, Don Frye representing the REAP Investment Board and other interested parties to LaMoure on September 2nd to discuss rural issues, outlines his initiatives with Marketplace for Entrepreneurs, energy, agriculture, highways and other infrastructure, health care, education, and to provide the CRA and Champion Communities the opportunity to discuss ways the Senator can assist them in their efforts.



REAP Investment Board Closes Deal

Jim Belquist, REAP Investment Board Executive Director presents the City of Ashley with a check for the purchase of TechLink, Inc. Also present, Jason Dockter, CEO of TechLink, Inc.

The new board of directors under the new ownership include;

Jim Belquist, Jason Dockter, Cal Klewin, DeWayne Streyle, Chuck Peterson, and Rod Warner.

Funding Opportunities

Bush Foundation Artist Fellows Program

[Bush Foundation Artist Fellows Program](#)

The Bush Foundation Artist Fellows Program provides artists with significant financial support designed to enable them to further their work and their contribution to their communities. Applicants must be 25 years or older at the time of the application deadline and be residents of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, or one of the 26 counties of northwestern Wisconsin (complete listing on Foundation website). Application deadlines for the four 2005 fellowship categories are: Literature: October 22, 2004; Scriptworks and Film/Video: October 29, 2004; Music Composition: November 5, 2004.

Awards for Middle School Students Solving Community Problems

[Christopher Columbus Awards Program](#)

The Christopher Columbus Awards Program challenges teams of students grades 6 to 8, led by an adult coach, to identify a community problem and develop a solution using science and technology. Eight finalist teams win a \$200 grant to develop their ideas further and an all-expense-paid trip to National Championship Week at Walt Disney World. Additionally, the two Gold Medal winning teams will receive \$2,000 U.S. Savings Bond for each team member and one team will win \$25,000 to develop its idea in the community. Student teams (3-4 students each) in grades 6-8 throughout the United States are eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting applications is February 14, 2005. Visit the above website for application guidelines.

Funds for Justice for Women

[Sister Fund](#)

The Sister Fund supports programs that foster women's full development through the promotion of social, economic, political, and spiritual growth. Support is provided for women and girl-focused grassroots organizing in New York City; groups within the United States doing national advocacy and public education on women and girl-related issues; and groups in other parts of the world doing advocacy that is international in scope. The Fund seeks to respond to the problems of racial and gender discrimination, AIDS, violence against women, and growing inequality and widespread poverty. Primary

consideration is given to organizations that both serve and are led by women most affected by economic, social, mental, and physical oppression, especially women of color, lesbians and economically disadvantaged older or disabled women. The deadline for submitting letters of inquiry is December 1, 2004. Visit the above website for more information.

Funds to Support Youth Literacy Projects

[National Education Association: Youth Leaders for Literacy](#)

Youth Leaders for Literacy, an initiative of the National Education Association (NEA) and Youth Service America (YSA), provides grants of \$500 for youth to conduct reading-related service projects. Interested applicants must begin a literacy service project that starts on NEA's Read Across America Day in March 2005 and culminates on YSA's National Youth Service Day in April 2005. To be eligible for grant funds, service projects must have some kind of activity scheduled (read aloud session, trip to the library, book making, etc.) each week of the project period. The application deadline is October 22, 2004. Children and youth age 21 or younger, as individuals or in groups, throughout the U.S. are eligible to apply. Visit the above website for application guidelines.

Funds for Boat Safety and Clean Boating Education

[BoatU.S. Foundation](#)

The BoatU.S. Foundation is dedicated to promoting safe and environmentally sensitive boating. Grants of up to \$4,000 are provided to local volunteer organizations for the promotion of boating safety education through the Boating Safety Grants Program, and the promotion of clean boating education through the Clean Water Grants Program. Small, local, volunteer-based nonprofit organizations, such as volunteer boating groups, clubs, and associations, as well as local chapters of national organizations, are eligible to apply. The application deadline for Boating Safety Grant Program is November 1, 2004 while the deadline for the Clean Water Grant Program is February 1, 2005. Visit the above website for more information.

Google Provides In-Kind Advertising to Nonprofits

[Google Grants](#)

The Google Grants program supports nonprofit organizations working in areas such as science and technology, education, global public health, the environment, youth advocacy, and the arts. The program provides nonprofits the opportunity to inform and engage their constituents online with in-kind donations of Google's flagship advertising product, Google AdWords. Google Grant recipients use their award of free advertising on Google.com to raise awareness and increase traffic, including advertising to publicize services, recruit staff and volunteers, promote special events, and sell merchandise related to their organization or cause. Each organization awarded a grant will receive at least three months of in-kind advertising. Nonprofit organizations throughout the United States are eligible to apply. Applications are accepted year-round and reviewed quarterly. Visit the above website for more information.

Support for Environmental Action: November 19 Deadline

[Fund for Wild Nature](#)

The Fund for Wild Nature supports grassroots projects to protect biodiversity that address issues not receiving adequate national attention and that may not be fundable through mainstream sources. The Fund focuses on efforts to save native species and wild ecosystems and prioritizes funding for anti-corporate globalization efforts, opposing genetic engineering, and fighting public lands grazing. Broader areas of interest include wilderness defense; protecting biodiversity and ecosystem integrity; teaching the action-based ethics of biocentrism; efforts to reduce human population growth and commodity consumption; cultural arts that transform awareness and encourage action; opposing the anti-ecological 'wise use' agenda; and indigenous peoples' activism. Nonprofit organizations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are eligible to apply. The next application deadline is November 19, 2004. Visit the above website for more information.

DHS Opens Fire Prevention Grant Program

On September 1, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the availability of \$27.5 million in FY 2004 funding for its Fire Prevention and Safety Grant program. As part of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, the purpose of this program is to provide assistance for projects related specifically to fire prevention. Special consideration will be given to projects that target high-risk groups including children, seniors and firefighters.

DHS will accept applications from fire departments as well as national, regional, state or local organizations with expertise in fire prevention. Fire departments that have applied for funding under the FY 2004 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program are also eligible to apply for funding through the Fire Prevention Grant program. However, if a department received funding through the FY 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, the total of that award plus the FY 2004 Fire Prevention grant cannot exceed \$750,000.

The deadline for submission is September 30. For more information, visit www.firegrantsupport.com.

Ben & Jerry's Foundation

The Ben & Jerry's Foundation announced the availability of grant funds for creating social change, including but not limited to, projects that strengthen the self-empowerment efforts of those who traditionally have been disenfranchised in our society.

A link to the full solicitation for proposals may be found at: <http://www.benjerry.com/foundation/guidelines.html>

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

- ✓ September 22 Alliance Meeting in Bismarck Comfort Inn Conference Room 9:30-3:30
- ✓ September 22 REAP Investment Board Mtg in Bismarck Comfort Inn Conference Room 6PM

- ✓ September 23 REAP Investment Board Mtg in Bismarck Comfort Inn Conference Room
- ✓ October 6 SW REAP Board regular monthly meeting in Dickinson
- ✓ October 12 CONAC Board regular monthly meeting in Velva at the Senior Center

Upcoming Training Opportunities

09.18.2004 Saturday [Website Design](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102

09.21.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102

09.28.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102

10.04.2004 Monday [Starting a Business](#) NDSCS Tech Center 800 6th Street N, Wahpeton, ND 58074

10.05.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102

10.07.2004 Thursday [Quickbooks: Getting Started](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102

10.11.2004 Monday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102

10.19.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102

10.20.2004 Wednesday [Lean Manufacturing 101](#) Minot State University 500 University Ave. W, Minot, ND 58701

10.23.2004 Saturday [Website Design](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102

10.26.2004 Tuesday [Starting a Business](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Suite 505, Fargo, ND 58102

11.04.2004 Thursday [Quickbooks: Managing Your Bank Accounts](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102

11.10.2004 Wednesday [Manufacturing for Uncle Sam](#) Entrepreneur Centers of ND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102

11.13.2004 Saturday [Website Design](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102

12.01.2004 Wednesday [Lean Manufacturing 101](#) Best Western Kelly Inn 3800 Main Ave., Fargo, ND 58102

12.02.2004 Thursday [Quickbooks: Sales and Accounts Receivable](#) ECND 51 Broadway, Ste. 505, Fargo, ND 58102

Current and Ongoing Projects

- ✓ NDalliancelink.com maintenance and updating
- ✓ Alliance Link Newsletter (Dec 2004)
- ✓ Leadership & Board Training Initiative- RBOG Grant Project
- ✓ Rural Coalition Development
- ✓ RBOG Grant- Project Implementation and Oversight

Links

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

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

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

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

Fundsnet <http://www.fundsnet services.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/>