



Photo Courtesy of GT Architecture

2025 Progress Report



STARK
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

WHERE BUSINESS GOES TO GROW

MESSAGE FROM SDC PRESIDENT

Over the past year, Stark Development Corporation has remained a steadfast and reliable engine for growth. Through strategic partnerships with civic, public and private sectors, we have supported long-term resilience, growth and success, ensuring our community remains competitive in not only local markets, but also markets reaching well beyond our city and county. I am incredibly proud of our board's dedication to maximizing every dollar invested with an eye on future economic strength.

Looking ahead to 2026, our primary objectives are childcare, job creation, securing capital investments and positioning our community as a destination for talent, as well as fostering an environment where both emerging startups and established businesses will thrive.

I encourage you to carefully review the 2025 Progress Report and feel free to ask any questions you may have.



MESSAGE FROM SDC

It is our pleasure to present the 2025 Stark Development Corporation Annual Progress Report to our valued members and community leaders. Thanks to the steadfast support of our partners, SDC has just completed the most impactful year in our organization's history.

Strategic investment in our future economy yields long-lasting benefits. This past year, significant growth in the retail and hospitality sectors provided new amenities for residents and visitors alike. Simultaneously, new developments and expansions in advanced manufacturing have further forged our regional resilience, diversifying our economy against the inherent volatility of the agriculture and energy sectors. We are also proud that a record number of entrepreneurs and founders chose to plant their roots here, investing in their future with confidence in our community.

With nearly \$57 million of new capital investment tracked through SDC this year, the trajectory of our region has never been clearer!

As you explore this report, we invite you to read the testimonials from the members we've had the privilege to serve. Their stories inspire our daily work and fuel our mission to make Stark County the premier place to live, work, and grow.

Looking ahead through the remainder of 2026, we remain committed to supporting a record number of clients and regional investments. We share this report not only to celebrate past accomplishments but to spark the inspiration for future projects.

Thank you for your continued support, trust, commitment to growth and a renewed vigor for the City of Dickinson and all of Stark County!

SDC STAFF



Ryan Jilek
Executive Vice President



Danita Tysver
Associate Vice President



Pete Leno
SBDC Center Director

MEET THE SDC 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT



Peggy Ehresman

VICE PRESIDENT



Mary Urlacher

TREASURER



Chris Johnson

SECRETARY



Lisa Roers



Scott Decker*



Carol Enderle



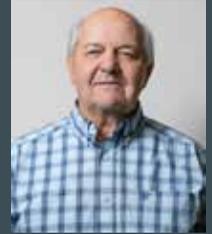
Tom Fath



David Greef



Aaron Grinsteiner



Ambrose Hoff



Jason Hopfauf



Floyd Hurt



Jon Leadbetter



Neal Messer



Scott Molander**



Russ Murphy**



Ty Orton*



Bryan Personne



Jordan Selinger



Kyler Swan

EMERITUS DIRECTORS

Joe Frenzel
T.J. Herauf
Ron Lisko

EX-OFFICIO

Dustin Dassinger

THANK YOU to our **Members, Dickinson City Commission, Stark County Commission, and Stark County Jobs Development Authority** for funding to help make our projects possible.

*Vacated Position Mid-term

**Filled Position Mid-term

WHERE BUSINESS GOES TO GROW

SDC MEMBERS

1571 W Villard 01 LLC
4C Rentals LLC
701 Meats
A Better Place, LLC
A&F Fehr Properties, LLP
A&R Construction Inc
ABC Fencing & Oilfield Services, LLC
ABLE
Accountable Solutions, LLC
Advanced Business Methods
Affordable Housing Developers, Inc.
Agile Agronomy LLC
ALL IN Bar & Casino
ALL IN Events & Catering
Allan's Decorating Center
Amber Waves, Inc.
Angel Advocates
Apex Engineering Group, Inc.
ATEEN LLC
Aurora Properties LLC
AWI Properties, LLC
B & B Fong LLC
Badlands Big Sticks Baseball Club
Badlands Board of Realtors, Inc.
Badlands Feeds LLC
Badlands Gasket
Badlands Trailers Sales & Service
Baker Boy
Beauty Bar Salon and Day Spa LLC
Beyond Shelter, Inc.
Bismarck Dentistry/Plaza Dental
Black Clover LLC
Blackhawk Properties LLC
Blue Hawk Holdings, LLC
Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C.
Bramy LLC
Bravera Bank
Bright Start
Cabinet Creations LLC
Charbonneau Car Center
Chatter LLC
CHI St. Alexius Health
Choice Bank
Circle C Veterinary Service PLLC
City of Belfield
City of Dickinson
City of South Heart
City of Taylor
Clearwater Developments LLC

Coca-Cola Bottling Company
Community Action Partnership
Connect Medical Clinic
ConocoPhillips
Consolidated
Continental Management
Contracting Unlimited, Inc.
Cornerstone Bank
Creedence Energy Services
D & J Eats and Treats LLC
Dacotah Bank
Dacotah West Crane Service LLC
Daily Perks
Dakota Community Bank & Trust
Dakota Diner
DC Energy Services, LLC
Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce
Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau
Dickinson Heating & Air, Inc.
Dickinson Municipal Airport Authority
Dickinson Parks and Recreation
Dickinson Public Schools
Dickinson Ready Mix
Dickinson State University
DJK Ventures LLC
DLN Consulting, Inc.
Driscoll Services LLC
DST Rentals LLC
Ebeltoft . Sickler . Lawyers . PLLC
Eberts Properties, PLLC
Edward Jones - Marlene Bradbury
El Sombrero Inc.
EMJ Holding LLC
Fire & Ice Refrigeration Heating & Air
Fisher Industries
Foremost Well Service, LLC
Founders Ridge Holdings
Four Seasons Car Wash
G.A.D. Properties LLC
Gate City Bank
Happy Campers Daycare LLC
Haynes Melbye Law Office, PLLC
Heart River Hearing Aid Practice
Heart River Properties, Inc.
Heart River Voice
Hellman & Sons Landscaping LLC
HND Properties
Home and Land Company
Infinity Real Estate Group LLC

Ion Field Services, LLC
Irene Schafer
Ironworks Welding Inc.
J and J Operating LLC
J.O.B. Interests, LLC
JAY27 Rentals, LLC
JE Customs LLC
JK3S, LLC
JLG Architects
JMI Studio, LLC
Job Service North Dakota
K.Schwartz Properties LLC
KBN Equipment
Key-Lix of North Dakota, LLC
Kickback Properties LLC
Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing
Kirkwood Bank & Trust
Kolling & Kolling, Inc
Kovash & Dasovick PC
Kraus-Anderson Construction Comp
LA Liquors, LLC
Lewis & Clark Development Group
Little Light Childcare LLC
Lotzza Motzza LLC
M & E Properties LLC (Caves)
M Squared LLC
Marathon Petroleum Company
Martin Construction Inc
Martin's Welding & Refrigeration Inc.
Men's Den Salon
MHL Limited Partnership #121
Midwest Erosion Control
Midwest Therapy Center
Millco Dickinson LLC
Montana-Dakota Utilities
ND Health Solutions LLC
ND Vocational Rehabilitation
Nest Real Estate
Northern Bottling Company
Onyx + Ivory LLC
Pathfinder
Peace Property Rentals LLC
Phat Fish Brewing LLC
Pop's Soda Shack
Prairie Hills Mall LLC
Precision Machine & Welding, Inc.
Precision Properties Group LLC
Precision Underground Inc
Quality Quick Print

SDC MEMBERS

R Kilen Consulting, LLC
Rare Earth Rock Shop
Raven Coffee LLC
Ray's Auto Electric
Red Rock Ford of Dickinson
Ripple Effect LLC
Robertson Metal Recycling LLC
Roers
Roughrider Electric Cooperative
Sax Motor Co.
Scuba Steve Rentals LLC
Scull Construction
Service Printers
Seven K Huts LLC
Signarama Dickinson
Signum LLC
Simnioniw Family Chiropractic
SJ Peterson Properties LLC
Southwest Art Gallery & Science Center

Southwest Water Authority
St. Joe's Plaza
Stark County
Stark County JDA
State Avenue Office Condos
Steffes Corporation
Steffes Group, Inc.
Stone Mill, LLC
Stradling Construction, Inc.
Studio 9 Design LLC
Suzy's Stash
TC Energy
The Boom Closet LLC
The Dickinson Press
The Pet Effect
The Real Estate Co.
The Sweet Melange
Therapy Solutions
TMI Systems Corporation

Tooz Construction
Town & Country Liquor
TRex Holding LLC
Ukrainian Cultural Institute
Urban Unwind
Velocity Hydrotest Services
Venture Coffee Co LLC
Venture Commercial LLC
Visionary Eye Care
Wahoo Properties, LLP
West Dakota Veterinary
Western Cooperative Credit Union
WIX Barn and Lodge, LLC
Woody's Trucking LLC



WHERE BUSINESS GOES TO GROW

APPROVED PACE & FLEX PACE PROJECTS

2459 Fairway Properties/Cabinet Creations
 A&R Construction Inc
 ABD Properties LLC/Accountable Solutions
 Agile Agronomy LLC
 B&L Co LLC/JMI Studio
 Baker Boy Inc
 BARC Properties LLC/Daily Perks
 Blackhawk Properties LLC/Bloom Counseling
 Blue Hawk Holdings LLC/Blue Hawk Audio Video
 Bramy's LLC/Plaza Studio
 Broadleaf Rentals LLC/Hellman & Sons Landscaping
 Clearwater Developments/Ion Field Services
 Condo on Market Street LLC/Thrivent
 Contracting Unlimited Inc/Baranko Brother Inc
 Dacotah West Holdings LLC
 Deschamp Properties LLC/Fire & Ice
 DJK Ventures LLC/DK Orthodontics

Foremost Investment Group LLC/Foremost Well Service
 Founders Ridge Holdings/Next Level Training
 G.A.D. Properties/Back in Balance Wellness Center
 Heart River Hearing Aid Practice
 Ironworks Welding Inc
 JT Holdings LLC/Midwest Therapy Center
 K-Winn/Key-Lix
 Martin Construction
 Millco Dickinson LLC/Harbor Freight/T.J. Maxx
 Mint Holdings LLC/Badlands Trailers
 Raven Coffee LLC
 Seven K Huts LLC/Pizza Hut
 Southwest Art Gallery and Science Center
 The Boom Closet
 TMI Corporation
 TREX Holdings LLC/T-REX Conoco
 Woody's Trucking LLC

Stark Development was instrumental in helping us get our new Dickinson plant operational. From the very beginning, they were involved in the process - assisting with site selection, helping us understand local requirements, and connecting us with the right people at the right time. During the construction phase, their local contacts and guidance were especially valuable and helped keep the project moving forward smoothly. We truly appreciated their hands-on support and commitment to helping our business succeed in Stark County. - Amanda Prentice, Key-Lix



Due to this program, Bloom Counseling has the ability to offer top-notch quality care and services to our community members ages 5-17. It also gives us the opportunity to increase services provided by allowing us to have the space to hire clinicians. We are excited to announce an LMSW will be joining Bloom this spring to provide services to children, adults, and couples to help bridge the gap in available services to our community and to North Dakota through Telehealth options. As we continue to grow, we'll be looking to add more members to our team in various capacities to help better serve our community. Working with Stark Development was a complete joy from start to finish. The Flex PACE program was instrumental in helping Bloom Counseling achieve its goals and dreams. - Kylee Gruhke, Bloom Counseling

Total Project Investments \$54,488,462

Stark County - \$24,076,091 (44%)

Dickinson - \$30,412,371 (56%)

SDC Interest Buydown Share **\$3,072,719**

BND Interest Buydown Grant **\$5,703,325**

1,627 Jobs Retained/Created

SDC Cost Per Job **\$1,889**



Working with Stark Development was a great experience. The entire process was incredibly easy from start to finish. We are thankful for the opportunity to partner with you. - Leigh Tessier, Badlands Trailers



This wonderful program is making our loan much more affordable by providing an interest rate buy-down, helping us save on costs and add special features like private treatment rooms and upscale vibes, while also creating multiple job opportunities in Dickinson. We're in the middle of construction, and this support is keeping our budget on track. We can't wait to open and welcome everyone! Big thanks to SDC for believing in local businesses like ours. - Brandi Kovash & Amy Lantz, Co-owners, Plaza Studio



**CABINET
CREATIONS**

KITCHEN • CLOSET ORGANIZATION • PANTRY STORAGE
GARAGE CABINETS • CUSTOM WOODWORKING

Thanks to Stark Development Corporation, we have been able to expand and provide previously unavailable resources to the Dickinson community, that include but not limited to, woodworking, closet storage and organization, garage solutions, furniture, and cabinetry. Working with your team has been a seamless and easy process, as everyone has been great from the start. I want to thank the team and everyone involved for helping bring a veteran-owned business to Dickinson and helping us provide excellent services that were once unavailable locally. - Josh Whiteley, Cabinet Creations

Working with Stark Development Corporation has been an invaluable experience for our business. The guidance, resources, and support provided by Danita and the Stark Development team helped us strengthen our operations, clarify our goals, and move forward with greater confidence and stability. Their commitment to supporting local businesses is evident in both their responsiveness and their genuine investment in long-term community growth. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in their programs and can directly attribute meaningful progress in our business to their expertise and encouragement. - Jessica Landis, Midwest Therapy Center



I cannot thank you enough for how wonderful it was to both work with and have the support of the Stark Development Corporation. As a small business owner, it is always a risk when you are putting together a project of the magnitude of building a new facility, in our case a new orthodontic office in Dickinson, and we simply can't understate the importance of buy-in and belief in our business and our mantra of 'supporting people and supporting community while straightening smiles and changing lives. Stark Development Corporation, along with support from the amazing residents of Dickinson/surrounding areas and the local dental community, was behind us from day one, even before the first bit of dirt had been moved during construction, and has allowed us to bring a full-service orthodontic clinic to Dickinson and expand our services beyond our home base of Bismarck. No longer do patients have to travel to Bismarck and miss work and school for their orthodontic visits and it is because of the generosity and support of the SDC that this vision and dream of ours came to reality! We take great pride in being a part of the community of Dickinson whether that be in sponsoring and supporting area youth athletics, youth activities, school programs, and many other ventures. Dickinson has been so incredibly welcoming to our orthodontic office and we are very honored and proud to be helping change the lives of the people of Western North Dakota one smile at a time! - Dan Keith, DK Orthodontics



WHERE BUSINESS GOES TO GROW

APPROVED BUILDING REVITALIZATION GRANT PROJECTS

Prairie Hills Mall LLC/Hobby Lobby
G.A.D. Properties LLC/Back in Balance Wellness Center
Fire and Ice Refrigeration, Heating and Air LLC

SDC Investment **\$150,000**
Total Project Investment **\$547,178**



The Stark Development Corporation grant played a critical role in allowing us to move forward with major improvements to a large vacant anchor space at Prairie Hills Mall. The funding supported asbestos abatement and an electrical upgrade that were necessary to bring the space up to current code and meet modern tenant requirements.

Without these improvements, the space would not have been viable for a national anchor tenant. Completing this work made it possible for us to renovate the space and ultimately welcome Hobby Lobby as our newest anchor tenant, strengthening the overall tenant mix and long-term stability of the mall.

This project helped return a long-vacant space to productive use, increased foot traffic, and supported continued reinvestment in the property. Working with Stark Development Corporation was a very positive experience, their team was responsive, helpful, and available to answer questions throughout the process, making it smooth and efficient from start to finish. We are grateful for their partnership and support, which directly contributed to the success of this redevelopment effort. - Aranda LaFortune, Prairie Hills Mall

The Building Revitalization Grant assists property owners bringing commercial buildings into compliance with local and national building codes to provide new commercial, retail and restaurant opportunities throughout Stark County! Up to \$50,000 in matching funds are available through a competitive application process.

GAD Properties LLC, and Back in Balance Wellness Center LLC were able to benefit from the Stark Development Façade Improvement and Building Revitalization Grant programs to make a huge transformation in the heart of Dickinson. We were able to take a building that had been unutilized and sitting vacant for 10 years and bring it back to life. The grant money was used to completely gut the building down to concrete and block walls and build it back into a beautiful new facility that now meets code for ADA compliance.

The grant funds were a huge help in allowing this whole project to come to fruition. I am thankful for the help of Stark Development and I am grateful for the investment back into the community to get this "old eye sore" completely renovated back into this beautiful facility.

We are excited to share this new facility with the City of Dickinson and surrounding areas for the long term future! - Eric Seiler, Back In Balance Wellness Center



APPROVED FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



The neon is back and the marquee is looking bright! Thank you to Stark Development Corporation for your assistance with getting this project completed! - Kristi Tessier, The Belfield Theater and Performance Center

Here at El Sombrero we are very thankful for SDC and their efforts to better our community. We benefited tremendously through these grants by being able to remodel our outdated restaurant, into a fresh and improved restaurant that locals and visitors can cherish with us! Thanks to SDC we were able to make this possible. From start to finish, they made this whole process effortless and were very informative with all our needs. - Felipe Aguirre, El Sombrero

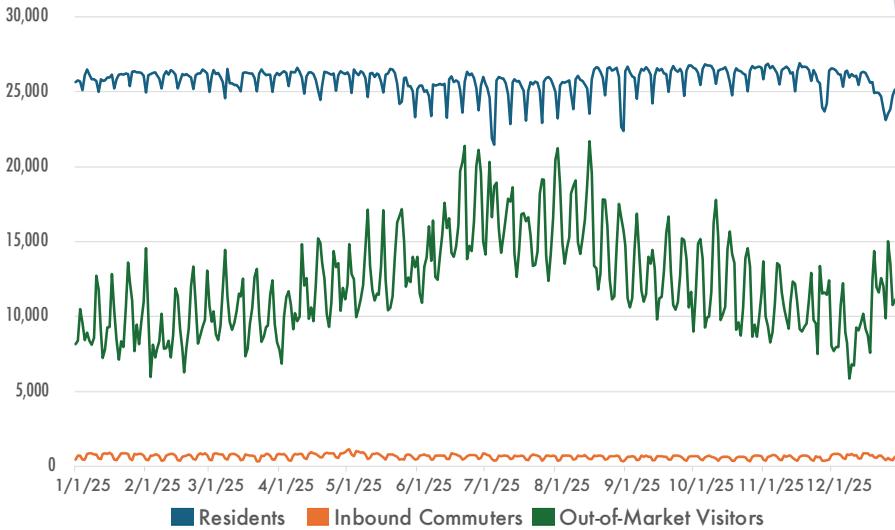


1571 W Villard 01 LLC
 Allan's Decorating Center
 ALL IN Events & Catering
 Bright Start
 El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant
 G.A.D. Properties LLC/Back in Balance Wellness Center
 Precision Properties Group LLC
 Southwest Art Gallery and Science Center
 The Belfield Theater and Performance Center
 The Boom Closet

SDC Investment
\$217,428

Total Project Investment
\$875,029

2025 Stark County Daily Population



Average Daily Out-of-Market Visitors

Stark County
12,265

City of Dickinson
11,291



Placer.ai

Placer.ai provides location intelligence and foot traffic data derived from a privacy-by-design, aggregated, and anonymized dataset. The data is designed to provide actionable insights for physical locations without tracking or identifying specific individuals.

ANNUAL OUT-OF-MARKET VISITORS

The number of people that visit the market but do not live or work in it. Visitors who pass through the market but do not stop for at least 10 minutes are excluded from this count.

Stark County: 999.2K -2.5% YoY

City of Dickinson: 728.3K -1.9% YoY

RESIDENT EMPLOYEES

The number of people employed within the market, based on Placer's location data.

Stark County: 15.9K -5.2% YoY

City of Dickinson: 12.5K -6.4% YoY

RESIDENT POPULATION

Number of people living in the market (Avg. Daily), based on Placer's location data.

Stark County: 25,778

City of Dickinson: 20,174

AVERAGE DAYTIME POPULATION

Average people present in the market during business hours, based on Placer's location data.

Stark County: 38,700

City of Dickinson: 33,000

INBOUND DAILY COMMUTERS

Average daily people commuting in for work, based on Placer's location data.

Stark County: 642

City of Dickinson: 1,557

NON-RESIDENT VISITS

Visit count of Inbound Commuters and Out-of-Market Visitors.

2025 Stark County: 4.7M -1.1% YoY

2025 City of Dickinson: 4.7M -0.4% YoY

Daily Stark County: 12.9K

Daily City of Dickinson: 12.9K



Retail Sales and Impacts



Visits to Harbor Freight Tools & T.J. Maxx

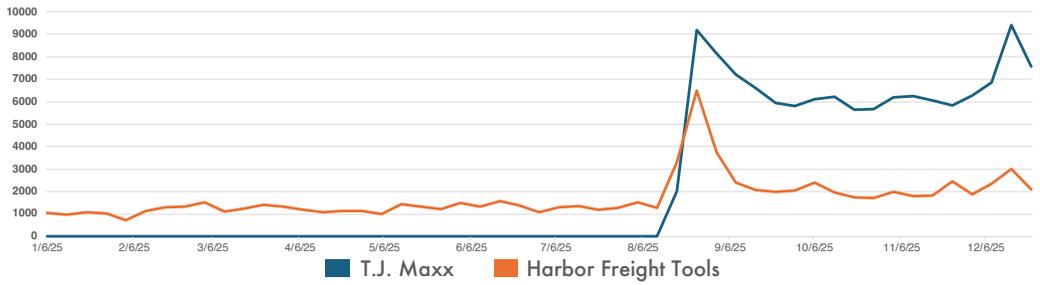


Photo Courtesy of Tooz Construction

2025 Sales

**Harbor
Freight
\$5.9M**

**T.J. Maxx
\$3.8M***

* Opened Mid-August 2025

Domestic Travel and Tourism Report

Total Trips YoY **-1.0%**

645.2K

vs. 651.9K previous year (2024)

Total Visitor Spend YoY **+1.0%**

\$81.0M

vs. \$80.1M up from (2024)

Average Monthly Visitors YoY **+1.7%**

44.1K

vs. 43.3K previous year (2024)

Day vs Overnight Trips

199.0K

Day Trips (31%)

446.2K

Overnight Trips (69%)

Visit Nights YoY **-3.8%**

854.7K

vs. 888.3K previous year (2024)

Average Days Overnight YoY **-0.8%**

2.9 DAYS

based on 446.2K Overnight Trips

WHERE BUSINESS GOES TO GROW

SDC PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

\$30,000 MATCH FUNDING



Richardton Development Company received funding through the North Dakota Regional Workforce Impact Program to construct Richardton's first childcare center. Choice Bank provided a grant to support the installation of a fire suppression system in the new facility. The center added **30 new childcare slots**, addressing a critical need for local families while strengthening workforce participation in the community. The facility is operated by Karissa Zillich of **Little Light Childcare LLC**, who received **\$30,000 in SDC Child Care Program** funds to assist with opening the center. Total project investment was \$671,814.

\$25,000 MEMBERSHIP



SDC's membership dues to support the efforts in creating improvements and opportunities to Highway 85's corridor. Through the efforts of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway Association, the North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is advancing the expansion of US Highway 85 from I-94 to Watford City.



Scan for TRE Updates



\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP **CORNERSTONE TRADITION**

My name is JoAnna Fleckenstein, and I was awarded the Stark Development Corporation Scholarship through the DSU Heritage Foundation. I would like to personally thank you for making this scholarship possible. I greatly appreciate it.

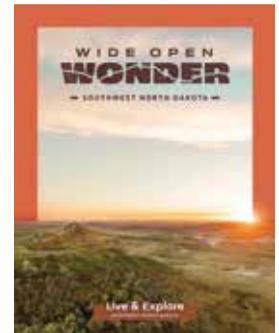
I am originally from Bismarck, ND. I graduated from Legacy High School and will be starting my senior year at DSU. I will be majoring in Business and look forward to working towards my degree.

Thank you again for investing in my future! - JoAnna Fleckenstein



\$7,500 MATCH FUNDING

The Wide Open Wonder Talent Attraction Campaign for Southwest North Dakota remained active throughout 2025. Additional photography was captured and a regional visitor and relocation guide was completed. Stop by the SDC office or the Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau to pick up a copy!





1,285 Entries
 \$200,910 Purchases in Stark County
 \$9,281 Sales Tax Collected
 \$12,562 Prizes
 24 Winners

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 STARK STRONG SPONSORS

Badlands Trailers Sales & Service LLC
 Blue 42
 Braun Distributing
 Chambre Boutique
 Chasing Horses
 Consolidated
 Creative Cards & Gifts
 Dakota Sew & So
 Dickinson Area Concert Association
 Dickinson Parks & Recreation
 Edward Jones - Marlene Bradbury
 Faith Expressions
 Faithful Blend
 Fleck's Furniture & Appliances
 Fluffy Fields Vineyard & Winery
 Heart River Voice
 High Plains Dental
 Market Press
 Martin Construction

Maurices
 Midwest Therapy Center
 Nolan Overton
 Phat Fish Brewing
 Ponderosa Liquor
 Precision Machine & Welding Inc
 Precision Underground
 Rare Earth Rock Shop & Holistic Wellness Center
 Rattle and Roll Baby Boutique
 RLK Appliances
 Service Printers
 Starboard
 Steffan Saw & Bike
 Suzy's Stash
 The Belfield Theater
 The Sweet Melange
 Town & Country Liquor
 Ukrainian Cultural Institute
 WINN Construction, Inc.



Together we are building a stronger community by supporting our local businesses and buying local.

WHERE BUSINESS GOES TO GROW

DICKINSON

CENTER IMPACTS



PETE LENO
 CENTER DIRECTOR

- Originally from Kennedy, MN
- Started with the ND SBDC in December 2024



5
 New Businesses Created



89
 Jobs Supported



72
 Individual Clients Advised



\$1,912,385
 Client Capital Formation

Q&A

What motivates you most in your work with small businesses?

What motivates me is helping a small business to understand their "problem" and guide that business to solve that problem.

What's one piece of advice you find yourself giving to many clients?

A business plan is a living document that will evolve over time. It is not something you write once and set aside. The more you update it, the more useful it becomes as a tool for your growth.

What's the most rewarding part of being an SBDC advisor?

Seeing clients solve their problem is always the highlight. The moment everything clicks for them is energizing. It is a privilege to support their journey and see their hard work pay off.

IMPACT MARKETING & CONSULTING

DICKINSON - What began as a handful of side projects soon grew into steady requests, and Julie Obrigewitsch recognized an opportunity to turn the work she most enjoyed into a business of her own. That steady demand sparked Impact Marketing & Consulting, which she launched in January 2024 to help businesses strengthen their online presence through custom websites, improved search visibility, and digital support. Julie is a Dickinson State University marketing graduate with more than 18 years of experience. Nearly 14 of those years were spent in sales and



social media at the Dickinson Convention and Visitors Bureau, where she became widely known for her expertise in Google tools and online presence strategy. As requests for help continued to grow, Julie saw that her skills were meeting real needs for local businesses both online and at their physical locations. She also valued the flexibility that business ownership could offer while she and her husband are raising three children and staying active in community organizations. Launching her own business felt like the right next step. When she was ready to move forward, Julie connected with an advisor at the ND SBDC. Her business advisor at the Dickinson Center guided her through everything from the first legal steps, like registering with the ND Secretary of State and securing an EIN, to deeper planning work such as completing a SWOT analysis and developing her business plan and financial projections. Julie said this combination of early setup and long-range planning helped her take the venture more seriously and gave her business a strong backbone. The ND SBDC has also referred clients to her over time, which she said has been invaluable. As a one-person business, Julie has been intentional about managing her workload, so each client receives focused attention.

SUCCESS STORY



Word of mouth referrals have helped her grow at a sustainable pace while allowing her to maintain the personalized service her clients appreciate. Julie recommends ND SBDC services to other entrepreneurs who are ready to put in the effort. "They genuinely care about helping entrepreneurs succeed. The ND SBDC gives you the resources, but you bring the action," she shared. As Impact Marketing and Consulting continues to grow, she remains grateful for the support, relationships, and confidence that shaped her path into business ownership.

Read this full client success story, along with others, at ndsbdc.org/success-stories

ENTREPRENEURIAL EVENTS



Start-up Your Day was held monthly to bring entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs together to network, learn, and gain insights from experienced business owners and valuable business resources.



REFRESHMENT SPONSORS

DSU Heritage Foundation
Easy Sweets Bakery
Market Press
Out of Town

VENUE SPONSORS

Dickinson Park & Recreation
Dickinson State University



The Idea to Summit Investment event brought together entrepreneurs, investors, and business leaders to provide direct access to valuable business investment opportunities. Through networking, discussions, and strategic collaboration, participants were introduced to funding pathways, partnerships, and support resources designed to advance business growth. By connecting innovative ideas with the right investment resources, the event created practical opportunities for development, collaboration, and long-term success.



Photos Courtesy of Lynette Locken Photography

October 16th, 2025

8 AM - 1 PM

Dickinson State University
Student Center



IDEA TO INVESTMENT SUMMIT

FEATURING



...AND MORE

Demystify Venture Capital!

The event will introduce area businesses and strategic partners to private capital opportunities and how/when private capital can be best leveraged for entrepreneurs in the region.

Register today!

Contact Stark Development Corporation
701-225-5997
team@starkdev.com



EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY



WHERE BUSINESS GOES TO GROW

STARK COUNTY ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

POPULATION

(Job Service North Dakota)	2024	2023
Stark County	33,767	33,001
Dickinson	25,695	25,130
North Dakota	796,568	783,926

TRANSPORTATION

Airport Boardings (Dickinson Theodore Roosevelt Airport)	2025	2024
Airport Passenger Enplanements	25,014	26,088
Airport Passenger Deplanements	25,115	26,773

WORKFORCE

(Job Service North Dakota)	Dec 2025	Dec 2024
Stark County Labor Force	17,114	17,161
Stark County Unemployment	2.5%	2.3%
Dickinson Unemployment	2.6%	2.4%
ND Unemployment	2.5%	2.5%
US Unemployment	4.1%	3.8%

TAXABLE SALES & PURCHASES

(Office of State Tax Commissioner)	2025 Q3	2024 Q3
Belfield	\$7,900,665	\$11,028,404
Dickinson	\$307,479,235	\$281,412,375
Stark County	\$321,966,819	\$297,995,550

BIRTH RATES

(CHI St. Alexius Health Dickinson)	2025	2024
Live Births	586	588

TOP 10 LARGEST EMPLOYERS

(Job Service North Dakota)	
1	Dickinson Public School District
2	Walmart
3	ND Energy Services
4	Killdeer Mountain Manufacturing
5	Steffes Solutions
6	City of Dickinson
7	CHI St Alexius Health - Dickinson
8	Sanford Health
9	TMI Systems Corporation
10	Baker Boy Inc

EDUCATION

K-12 Enrollment (Dept. of Public Instruction)	2025-2026	2024-2025
Belfield	235	236
Dickinson Public Schools	4,081	4,087
Trinity Catholic Schools	666	636
Hope Christian Academy	156	170
Invitation Hill Adventist School	11	11
Richardton-Taylor	321	320
South Heart	423	422
Stark County Home Education	417	365
Higher Education Fall Enrollment (DSU)	2025-2026	2024-2025
Dickinson State University	1,374	1,410

OIL PRICES

(NDIC Dept. of Mineral Resources)	Dec 2025	Dec 2024
West Texas Intermediate Oil (Price/Barrel)	\$57.97	\$70.12

Median Household Income: \$80,744

Housing Units: 15,645

Average Commute Time to Work: 18.3 Minutes

Median Age: 35.0

Largest City: Dickinson

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STARK COUNTY ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

TAX COLLECTIONS

City Sales Tax (Office of ND State Treasurer)		2025	2024
Belfield		\$598,976.76	\$625,451.57
Dickinson		\$11,454,105.83	\$11,038,840.49
Richardton		\$394,372.42	\$286,280.02
South Heart		\$97,612.46	\$79,843.34
Stark County Total		\$12,545,067.47	\$12,030,415.42
City Occupancy Tax (Office of ND State Treasurer)		2025	2024
Belfield		\$14,492.00	\$20,287.60
Dickinson		\$436,662.18	\$470,866.71
Stark County Total		\$451,154.18	\$491,154.31
City Restaurant/Lodging (Office of ND State Treasurer)		2025	2024
Dickinson		\$1,248,380.25	\$1,310,871.40

REAL ESTATE

(Badlands Board of Realtors, Inc.)		2025	2024
Dickinson # of MLS Units Sold (Does not include "for sale by owner" transactions)		365	342
Dickinson MLS Average Sale Price - Single Family		\$335,267	\$304,439
Stark County # of MLS Units Sold (Does not include "for sale by owner" transactions)		410	381
Stark County MLS Average Sale Price - Single Family		\$325,451	\$295,746

BUILDING PERMITS

Stark County/ Dickinson (City of Dickinson)	2025		2024	
	Permits	Total Value	Permits	Total Value
Commercial	20	\$63,496,679	24	\$18,078,877
Public	2	\$326,500	1	\$50,000
Single Family	60	\$30,598,198	67	\$32,326,890
Duplex	0	\$0	0	\$0
Multi-Family	0	\$0	0	\$0
Alteration/Additions	110	\$81,511,328	113	\$44,514,036
Misc. Permits/Fees	810	\$1,370,702	628	\$953,298

HOUSING RENTAL RATES

(ACS U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey)	
Stark County Rental Vacancy Rate (ACS 2019-23)	8.9%
Stark County Median Rent (ACS 2019-23)	\$966

LODGING

(Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau)	2025	2024
Occupancy Rate	51.4%	54.0%
Average Daily Rate	\$107.50	\$99.91

FARMERS PRICE INDEX

(US Dept. of Agriculture)	Dec 2025	Dec 2024
Farmers Prices Received	121.3%	127.1%
Farmers Prices Paid	153.5%	141.5%

WHERE BUSINESS GOES TO GROW

2025 COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION AWARD NOMINEES:

1571 W Villard 01 LLC
All In Events & Catering
Allan's Decorating Center
Back in Balance Wellness Center
Bright Start
Charbonneau Car Center
El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant

Midwest Therapy Center
Nest Real Estate
Simply Flowers & Gifts
Southwest Art Gallery and Science Center
Belfield Theater and Performance Center
The Boom Closet

Qualifications:
The Stark Development Corporation's Community Transformation Award is one that has truly transformed the community by utilizing our program to enhance the appearance of their building, property or establishment. The project shows vision and the ability to bring life and vibrancy to their community. Consideration will be given for leveraging our grant dollars against other public or private funds as well as their ability to further diversify our economy or add new economic growth.



COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION AWARD WINNER



El Sombrero Mexican Restaurant brings the heart and soul of Mexican cuisine to Dickinson, ND. From sizzling fajitas to fresh, flavorful margaritas, every bite is crafted with tradition, quality ingredients, and a welcoming atmosphere.

Born from a passion for real Mexican cooking, El Sombrero was founded by a family determined to bring authentic, fresh, and flavorful dishes to our community.

Known for its delicious food, El Sombrero has quickly become one of the most frequented restaurants in Dickinson and has recently undergone a significant facade improvement.

Placer.ai ranks El Sombrero the #2 most visited restaurant in a 30 mile radius serving over 150,000 visitors annually!



Photo Courtesy of GT Architecture



2025 PROJECT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES:

Qualifications:

The Stark Development Corporation's Project of the Year Award is one that exemplifies economic development. This project provides a balance between innovation to an industry, commitment to the community, workforce creation, retention and efficiencies as well as a consideration for generating new wealth for the community, region and industry. Projects utilizing a diverse set of resources to accomplish their goals also demonstrate the ability to leverage resources to maximize their ability to grow.

Cabinet Creations
A&R Construction Inc
Accountable Solutions LLC
Agile Agronomy
JMI Studio
Baker Boy Inc
Daily Perks
Bloom Counseling
Blue Hawk Audio Video
Plaza Studio
Hellman & Sons Landscaping LLC
Ion Field Services
Thrivent
Baranko Brother Inc
Dacotah West Holdings LLC
Fire & Ice Refrigeration, Heating & Air
DK Orthodontics
Foremost Well Service LLC

Next Level Training
Back in Balance Wellness Center
Heart River Hearing Aid Practice
Ironworks Welding Inc
Midwest Therapy Center
Key-Lix
Little Light Childcare
Martin Construction
Harbor Freight/T.J. Maxx
Badlands Trailers
Prairie Hills Mall LLC - Hobby Lobby
Raven Coffee LLC
Pizza Hut
Southwest Art Gallery & Science Center
The Boom Closet
TMI Corporation
T-REX Conoco
Woody's Trucking LLC

SDC PROJECT OF THE YEAR WINNER



2026 marks a transformative milestone for Baker Boy. Supported by a dedicated workforce of 250 employees, the company has expanded its reach to over 30 states, strengthening its presence from the Pacific Northwest to the New England states with rapid growth in the Great Lakes market. The Baker Boy facility can produce around 50,000 cases of a mouth-watering assortment of Doughs, Partially Finished and Fully Finished products, per week.

Baker Boy recently invested more than \$11 million in various automation and plant improvements to further increase their capacity. This includes the additions of a new flour silo, an automated proofing system, updated conveyor lines, an automated rack-and-panning system and two new product retarders. This project is expected to be completed in March 2026. This continues the modernization and improvements Baker Boy has undertaken over the past several years. In 2018, Baker Boy became the first North American bakery manufacturer to add automated donut injection technology to its production facility. Since that time, Baker Boy has invested approximately \$35 million throughout its facility in automation and plant improvements.



WHERE BUSINESS GOES TO GROW

Contracting Unlimited, Inc. is extremely grateful for the Flex PACE program supported by Stark Development Corporation. For the first time since our company's inception, we were able to leverage the interest buy-down savings to purchase two brand-new Caterpillar 631 Scrapers. Investments like this position our Company for sustainable growth in the region. Expanding our fleet to include longer-lasting equipment increases our capacity to pursue new work, hire more operators, and, over time, supports the creation of other local jobs—from project management to heavy equipment technicians, and other support staff needed to sustain a growing operation. Programs such as Flex PACE play an important role in supporting local businesses and creating the conditions for long-term employment opportunities and continued economic activity in and around Dickinson.

Allison Kolling - Contracting Unlimited/Baranko Companies



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WHERE BUSINESS **GOES TO GROW**