The North Dakota Economic Development Foundation was created in 2001 at the same time the North Dakota Department of Commerce was established. The vision statement of the Foundation is: With respect for North Dakota values and quality of life, the North Dakota Economic Development Foundation will be a catalyst in creating quality employment opportunities making North Dakota a competitive partner in the global economy.

**Mission:**
The Foundation’s mission is to serve in an advisory role to the Governor and the Department of Commerce by:

- Developing a strategic plan for economic development in the state, including the development of value-added agriculture. The Foundation completed its first strategic plan in September 2002 and is now taking steps to implement the plan.
- Establishing accountability measures and benchmarks to evaluate the state’s economic development.
- Monitoring tourism and economic development activities and initiatives of the Department of Commerce.
- Recommending state and federal legislation relating to strengthening the state’s economy and increasing the state’s population.
- Monitoring state and federal legislation and initiatives that may impact the state’s economy and population.
- Serving as a source of expertise for developing public and private initiatives to strengthen the state’s economy and increase the state’s population.

**Goals:**

- Create quality jobs to retain North Dakota’s current workforce and attract new high-skilled labor.
- Accelerate job growth in diversified industry targets to provide opportunities for the state’s long-term economic future.
- Strengthen North Dakota’s business climate to increase global competitiveness.
- Create a strong marketing image to build on the state’s numerous strengths, including workforce, education and quality of life.
- Strengthen linkages between the state’s higher education system, economic development organizations and private businesses.
- Develop a unified front for economic development based on collaboration, accountability and trust.

**Members:**

Foundation members are appointed by the Governor for two-year terms. Current members are:

Barry Batcheller, Fargo
Kyle Blanchfield, Devils Lake
Danita Bye, Stanley
Linda Butts, Bismarck
Erik Diederich, West Fargo
Tim Hennessy, Bismarck
Chuck Hoge, Fargo
Rob Hovland, Rugby
Lyn James, Bowman
Tommy Kenville, Grand Forks
Craig Lambrecht, Bismarck
Jared Melville, Fargo
Perry Miller, Wahpeton
Kari Ness, Jamestown
Mark Nisbet, Fargo
Kelly Rusch, Fargo
Pamela Schmidt, Bismarck
Jay Schuler, Bismarck
Mike Simmers, Bismarck
Jon Simmers, Bismarck
Bruce Thom, Fargo
Jim Traynor, Fargo
Eric Trueblood, Grand Forks
Gene Veeder, Watford City

**For more information contact:**

Rob Hovland, 1210 2nd Avenue SW, Rugby, ND 58368 or call 701-208-0015.