

Business Service

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2026

Meeting Workforce Needs




Upcoming Workforce Development Events

- July 1st, August 5th and September 2nd - Workforce Wednesday Hiring & Resource Fairs
- July 23rd - Real. Good. Northeast ND Rural Virtual Job Fair
- August 13th - After Action: Veteran Careers, Benefits & Resource Virtual Expo
- August 26th - UND Campus & Community Expo/Part-Time Jobs Fair
- September 10th - Grand Cities Fall Job Fair

Armstrong Appoints Phil Davis to Serve as Interim Executive Director of Job Service North Dakota



On May 15th Governor Kelly Armstrong announced he has appointed Workforce Service Director Phil Davis to serve as interim executive director of Job Service North Dakota when current Executive Director Pat Bertagnolli retires June 12.

Davis joined Job Service North Dakota in 2007 as an industry liaison and was promoted in 2008 to customer service area manager for the central and western parts of North Dakota, overseeing the daily operations of six Job Service workforce centers. He was promoted to workforce service director in 2019, overseeing all nine workforce centers across the state as well as another unit that administers 15 different workforce programs.

A Mandan native, Davis enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after high school and spent 21 years in the Air Force as an air traffic controller, serving at several air bases across the world including in Iraq. While in the military, he earned a bachelor's degree in business and aviation management from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Job Service North Dakota has approximately 159 full-time team members, 76 temporary employees and a biennial budget of \$79.1 million to manage multiple federal grants for workforce and unemployment services.

Real. Good. Northeast North Dakota Virtual Job Fair

Real. Good. Northeast North Dakota, along with the Nelson, Pembina, and Walsh County Job Development Authorities and Job Service North Dakota, invite you to join the Real. Good. Northeast North Dakota Virtual Rural Job Fair on Thursday, July 23rd from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Central Time.

If you're hiring in Nelson, Pembina, Walsh, or rural Grand Forks Counties, this is an easy way to connect with qualified job seekers locally & across the country...and it's FREE to participate! Targeted job seeker promotion begins in early July.

To register for this event, click HERE. Once registered, you'll receive everything you need to set up your virtual booth and start connecting with candidates.

Questions? Please reach out to Mary Houdek, Business Advisor for the Grand Forks Workforce Center mhoudek@nd.gov or 701.795.3723



InternGF Sees International Recognition, Rise in More Unique Internships

InternGF, a partnership between the UND Center for Innovation and the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation, was recently featured in the Grand Forks Herald!

The program is expanding unique internship opportunities while connecting startups and local employers with talented UND students.

Fall '26 applications open June 1st
 Learn more & apply: GrandForks.org/InternGF

Read the [full story](#) to learn more about the InternGF program!



Delegate to Elevate: Turn Tasks into Team Growth

Empower your impact!

It's time to shift your perspective on delegation, moving it from a simple strategy to lighten your workload into a powerful engine for employee growth and team performance. Join us for a 3-hour session with TrainND Northeast's Soft Skills Trainer Kyle Ternes to learn ways to free up your time, increase productivity, and lead with greater confidence!

When: Thursday, June 18, 2026
 Time: 9:00 AM – Noon
 Where: Idea Lab, UND Center for Innovation 4200 James Ray Drive, Grand Forks, ND
 Fee: \$149/person

Register [HERE](#)



trainNE Powered by Lake Region
Featuring Speaker **KYLE TERNES** LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE

Delegate TO ELEVATE
TURN TASKS INTO TEAM GROWTH

Scan the QR code for more information & to register!

Register early & save!
Fee: \$149
Early Bird Fee: \$119 (Now thru May 31st)

Join us for a 3-hour training session with TrainND Northeast's Soft Skills Trainer Kyle Ternes to learn ways to free up your time, increase productivity, and lead with greater confidence!

JUNE 17, 2026
9AM - 12PM
Chautauque Gallery
Lake Region State College
1800 College Dr N
Devils Lake, ND

JUNE 18, 2026
9AM - 12PM
Idea Lab
UND Center for Innovation
4200 James Ray Dr
Grand Forks, ND

LISC is an equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact Sarah L. Lehagen, Human Resources Director, LISC, 701.662.1578. LISC.TRAINND@LRSC.EDU LISC.EDU/TRAINND

NEW - UND's Shadow & Soar Job Shadow Program

Shadow & Soar is a University of North Dakota job shadowing program that connects students with employers for short-term, observational experiences. The program provides students with meaningful career exposure while giving employers the opportunity to showcase their organization, industry, and career pathways.

Host a UND student, showcase your organization, and help students learn about careers in your industry.

How the Program Works:

- Employers volunteer to host a student for a job shadow experience
- Job shadows are typically half-day or full-day experiences (flexible based on employer availability)
- Students observe daily tasks, attend meetings (when appropriate), and learn about career paths
- No formal project or internship commitment is required
- UND coordinates student preparation and provides guidance for hosts

Why Participate? - As a host employer, you can:

- Build early connections with UND students
- Showcase your organization and workplace culture
- Support student career exploration
- Promote career pathways within your industry
- Strengthen your partnership with the University of North Dakota
- Help develop the future workforce

Employer Commitment: - Host employers are asked to:

- Host one or more students for a job shadow experience
- Provide a point of contact for scheduling
- Offer an overview of your organization and role(s)
- Allow time for student questions and discussion

That's it — no hiring commitment or long-term obligation required. Shadow & Soar is designed to be a low-commitment way to introduce students to your workplace and career field.

Ready to Participate?

Employer registration will open in August 2026.

Questions?

Steffanie Young
steffanie.young@UND.edu
701.777.3906





Building Futures Together: Highlights from the Grand Forks Fair Chance Job Fair

The Grand Forks Fair Chance Job Fair, held June 4th proved to be a strong step forward in expanding employment opportunities for individuals seeking a second chance. Held in partnership with local employers and community organizations, the event brought together 32 motivated job seekers, each eager to connect with businesses open to fair-chance hiring.

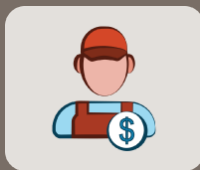
A total of 8 employers participated, representing a range of industries and offering positions aligned with diverse skill sets. Their openness to inclusive hiring made a meaningful impact, sparking productive conversations and several promising leads.

In addition to employer connections, attendees benefited from the support of 3 community resource partners, who provided guidance on employment services, training opportunities, and support services. The event also featured practice interviews, giving participants the opportunity to build confidence and sharpen their interviewing skills in a supportive environment.

Overall, the Fair Chance Job Fair created a welcoming space where community, opportunity, and hope came together—demonstrating the power of collaboration in helping individuals move forward.



2025 Employment and Wages by Occupation: Posted May 22, 2026



The Labor Market Information Center has released the 2025 employment and wages by occupation.

Employment and wages by occupation are the result of the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program, which conducts a semiannual survey of wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments to produce employment and wage estimates annually for over 800 occupations.

These estimates are available for the state, four metro areas, two nonmetro areas, and eight planning regions. For additional details, visit the Employment and Wages by Occupation webpage.



Career Services
University of North Dakota

Talent Talks with UND Career Services

The University of North Dakota Career Services office invites you to join our Talent Talks with UND Career Services, a virtual discussion designed to help us better understand the evolving needs of employers and recruiters.

During this conversation, our staff will listen and learn from your experiences as you share insights on recruiting strategies, hiring trends, desired candidate skills, workforce needs, and challenges you are currently facing in talent acquisition. Your feedback helps us better prepare UND students for success and strengthen the services and resources we provide to both students and employer partners.

Whether you recruit regularly at UND or are interested in building a stronger connection with our campus, we would value your perspective and expertise. Please RSVP by replying to Nancy Nelson, Employer Relations, nancy.nelson@UND.edu. You will then receive a calendar invite with a TEAMS link to the event day/time of your choosing.

- Date: Monday, June 15, 2026
 - Time: 11 a.m. Central
 - Location: Virtual (TEAMS link provided upon registration)
- or
- Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2026
 - Time: 3 p.m. Central
 - Location: Virtual (TEAMS link provided upon registration)

We look forward to learning from you and continuing to strengthen the connection between employers and our students.

UND Career Services

After Action: Veteran Careers, Benefits & Resource Virtual Expo



Veterans make up approximately 8% of North Dakota’s population, and this number does not include individuals who are currently serving in the state or their families.

On August 13th from 11 am to 2 pm, Job Service will be hosting a statewide virtual expo connecting those currently serving, veterans, and their families to helpful resources and veteran ready employers. We also want to connect vets with employers who have veterans’ programs or SkillBridge/other training programs for this event.

For more information contact Kendra Henry: kehenry@nd.gov

KEEP IN TOUCH

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