

# Business Service

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2026

Meeting Workforce Needs



## Upcoming Workforce Recruitment Events

- April 1<sup>st</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup> & June 3<sup>rd</sup> - Workforce Wednesday Hiring & Resource Fairs
- April 6<sup>th</sup> - Job Seeker Boot Camp for the Grand Cities Spring Job Fair
- April 9<sup>th</sup> - Grand Cities Spring Job Fair
- April 29<sup>th</sup> - Cash In 2026: Student Career & Job Fair - East Grand Forks Senior High School
- June 4<sup>th</sup> - Fair Chance Job Fair



## Cash In 2026: Student Career & Job Fairs Connect Hundreds of Students With Local Businesses

In partnership with Grand Forks Public Schools (GFPS) and East Grand Forks Public Schools (EGFPS), Job Service North Dakota planned and hosted three Cash In 2026: Student Career & Job Fairs this spring. The GFPS events were held March 19 at Central High School and March 25 at Red River High School. The East Grand Forks Senior High School event will take place on April 29, and there is still time for businesses to register.

This year marks the third year of Cash In events for GFPS and the first year for EGFPS.

A Valuable Opportunity for Businesses and Students:

These fairs give businesses direct access to high school students who are exploring careers or seeking employment. Approximately 300 students attended the Central High School event, and 440 students participated at Red River High School. Few other settings allow businesses to connect with so many students at once. Waiting until students graduate—or until a business has an urgent hiring need—means missing out on this early talent pipeline.

Positive Feedback and Strong Engagement:

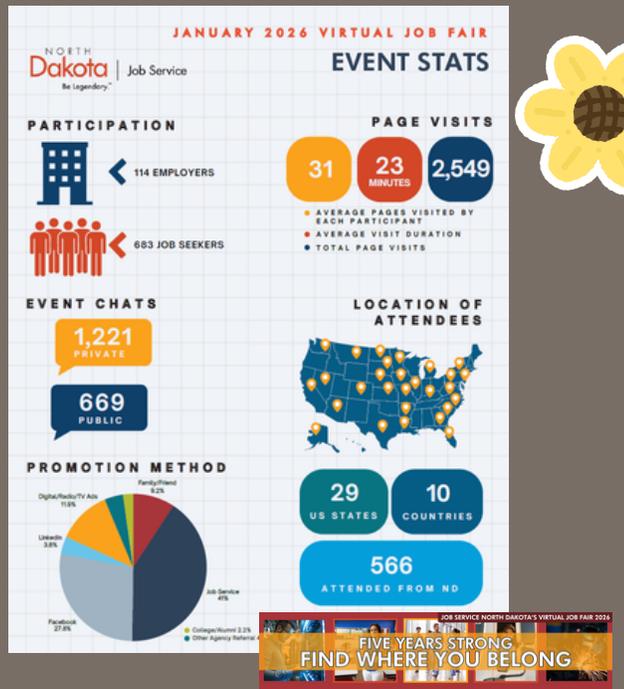
Businesses consistently report positive experiences at Cash In events. Students come prepared, ask thoughtful questions, and show genuine interest in learning about local career paths. Several businesses were specifically seeking students age 18 and older due to the nature of their work, while many others were recruiting 14- to 18-year-olds for summer jobs, year-round part-time roles, internships, and work-based learning opportunities. Over the years, many successful student-employer matches have started at these fairs.

Highlighting Work-Based Learning Partners:

Businesses who participate in the Grand Forks Career Impact Academy's Work-Based Learning program receive special signage at the events, helping students identify opportunities where they can earn credit toward graduation while gaining real-world experience. Today's high school students are tomorrow's workforce, and Work-Based Learning helps businesses build and develop the talent they need for the future.



# January 2026 Virtual Job Fair Event Stats



## Job Service ND Executive Director Pat Bertagnolli to retire in June; Armstrong thanks him for service

Gov. Kelly Armstrong thanked Job Service North Dakota Executive Director Pat Bertagnolli for his leadership of the agency over the past four years after Bertagnolli announced his retirement effective June 12.

“Pat brought an unmatched energy and enthusiasm to Job Service. Whether here in North Dakota or traveling outside the state, he was quick to tell anyone and everyone about our abundant job opportunities and great communities,” Armstrong said. “Under Pat’s leadership, Job Service made significant strides in removing barriers to employment and helping job seekers find employers. He went the extra mile to inform students about the quality career opportunities right here at home and address workforce needs through a variety of programs. We deeply appreciate Pat’s service and wish him all the best in his next chapter.”

Bertagnolli has led Job Service since February 2022. During his tenure, the Job Service team worked collaboratively to advance workforce priorities and deliver strong outcomes for the state, earning strong rankings nationally for both the Workforce Services and Unemployment Insurance divisions. The agency’s partnership with the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation continued to strengthen the Job Placement Partnership, while the H-2A temporary agricultural visa program also expanded significantly.

Under Bertagnolli’s leadership, the Job Service team also enhanced employer resources through a growing collection of webinars focused on work-based learning, labor market information, veteran hiring and opportunities for justice-involved individuals, and helped establish a Legislative Open House to strengthen connections between lawmakers and state agencies. Through his service on the state Career & Technical Education Board, Job Service supported youth engagement and worked to align agency efforts with the governor’s workforce priorities.

“It has been a privilege to serve the people of North Dakota and to work with the exceptional team at Job Service North Dakota,” Bertagnolli said. “The advancements made in recent years reflect their unwavering commitment to reliable service and the robust partnerships that connect agencies, communities and employers statewide. I remain sincerely grateful for Gov. Armstrong’s leadership, for the collaboration that enabled this work and for the relationships that have been strengthened throughout North Dakota.”

Bertagnolli has served on the state’s Workforce Development Council since 2014. Prior to joining Job Service, he served as director of the Rough Rider Center and community enhancement in Watford City for three years and worked in human resources management for eight years after a 22-year career with UPS.

The search for a new Job Service executive director will begin immediately.

Article shared from <https://www.governor.nd.gov/news/job-service-nd-executive-director-pat-bertagnolli-retire-june-armstrong-thanks-him-service>.



## I-9 Compliance Essentials: Stay Compliant, Stay Prepare

ELoan Huynh Loan chairs Fredrikson’s Immigration Group and also leads its I-9 audit and corporate immigration compliance, and its H-2 temporary workers practice areas. Fredrikson was founded 75 years ago, has grown to 400+ attorneys practicing in 50+ specialized areas from ten global offices. They have clients across the healthcare, financial services, energy, retail, manufacturing, agriculture, consumer products and technology sectors.

This webinar addresses:

- Ensuring your workforce is authorized to work
- I-9 employment eligibility verification best practices and compliance
- Preparation for immigration enforcement activities

Click [HERE](#) to view the recorded webinar.

**NORTH Dakota | Job Service**   **NORTH Dakota | Health & Human Services**

**I-9 Compliance Essentials**

Stay Compliant, Stay Prepared

Loan T. Huynh, Fredrikson & Byron PA.

**Feb 19, 2026 | 1:30 – 2:30pm | Online Webinar**



## HHS announces first Rural Health Transformation Program funding opportunity to strengthen rural health care workforce

North Dakota Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the first Rural Health Transformation Program funding opportunity is now available to support the retention of health care professionals in North Dakota's 37 critical access hospitals and their owned and operated clinics. The deadline to apply is 5 p.m. CT April 30.

Supporting and retaining the rural health workforce is one of the key strategic pillars in North Dakota's five-year, statewide Rural Health Transformation Program plan. These retention grants are meant to make rural practice more sustainable for existing practitioners.

"Rural health care workers are the backbone of their communities and play a vital role in helping North Dakota become the healthiest state in the nation," said HHS Interim Commissioner Pat Traynor. "This funding focuses on keeping skilled professionals in communities that rely on them. When providers stay in rural areas, North Dakotans experience more consistent care and stronger local health systems."

About \$10 million in federal funding is available in year one for critical access hospitals and their owned and operated clinics to implement strategies such as retention bonuses, tuition reimbursement and training and career advancement; child care partnerships; workplace wellness programs; mentorship and professional development programs and other retention efforts that strengthen the rural health workforce now and for the future. Some strategies require a minimum five-year service commitment.

HHS is also coordinating two surveys in the coming months to gather background information on rural health infrastructure and workforce needs to guide future funding opportunities.

"Local communities understand their workforce needs best, and we look forward to supporting creative strategies to help keep health care professionals practicing in rural North Dakota. Keep an eye on our website as we roll out additional funding opportunities," said Traynor.

For more information on this funding opportunity and to apply, visit [hhs.nd.gov/rural-health-transformation](https://hhs.nd.gov/rural-health-transformation).

Article shared from <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/news/hhs-announces-first-rural-health-transformation-program-funding-opportunity-strengthen-rural>.

## Devils Lake Cars and Lake Chevrolet GMC are proud to announce that they has been awarded the prestigious HIRE Vets Medallion Award by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Devils Lake Cars and Lake Chevrolet GMC is proud to announce that it has been awarded the prestigious HIRE Vets Medallion Award by the U.S. Department of Labor. This award recognizes employers who demonstrate an exemplary commitment to recruiting, employing, and retaining our nation's veterans. Devils Lake Cars and Lake Chevrolet GMC are the only recipients of this award in the state of North Dakota, highlighting our dedication to supporting those who have served our country. We believe that veterans bring invaluable skills and experience to the workplace, and we are honored to have them as part of our team.

### About the HIRE Vets Medallion Award

The HIRE Vets Medallion Award is the only federal-level veterans' employment award that recognizes a company or organization's commitment to veteran hiring, retention, and professional development. To qualify for the award, employers must meet rigorous criteria in areas such as:

- Percentage of veteran hires and retention
- Veteran-specific resources and support programs
- Leadership development opportunities for veterans
- Compensation and tuition assistance for veterans

### Lake Chevrolet GMC's Commitment to Veterans

We provide a supportive and inclusive work environment where veterans feel valued and respected.

We are proud to have many veterans in leadership positions within our organization.

Lake Chevrolet GMC is proud to be a veteran-friendly employer. We encourage all qualified veterans to apply for open positions.

Devils Lake Cars Hire Vet Medallion Award [video](#).

Article shared from <https://www.lakechevy.com/hire-vets.html>.

Apply now for the HIRE Vets Medallion Award, <https://www.hirevets.gov/>.



## KEEP IN TOUCH

### Address

1501 28th Ave S  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

### Phone

701-795-3700  
TTY: 800-366-6888 (RELAY ND)

### Websites

[www.JOBSND.com](http://www.JOBSND.com)  
[www.ndworkforceconnection.com](http://www.ndworkforceconnection.com)

