

NEW SEGMENT: FEATURED MEMBER

The DDA proudly announces its first featured member of the New Year, long-time member Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute (UGPTI) located within North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND. The Institute has been a highly-active member of the Alliance nearly from our inception. They play a pivotal role in assisting with events and initiatives including the North Dakota Intelligent Border Security initiative and they offer a Masters of Military Logistics program. The Institutions' mission is to educate people, conduct research, and provide outreach in the areas of small urban and rural transportation and logistics to enhance the mobility of people, goods, and agricultural commodities.

UGPTI has been successful in establishing programs ranging from the Advanced Traffic Analysis Center (ATAC) to the Rural Transportation Safety and Security Center (RTSSC). They offer many conferences and events as well as training and outreach and are an ingrained part of North Dakota and the academic community. UGPTI employs over 60 employees. For more information on the Institute you can find their member profile online at www.dakotadefensealliance.com or visit www.ugpti.org for more specific information. Thank you UGPTI for your valued membership and ongoing participation.

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Team,
I hope you are reading this upon returning from a very relaxing Holiday Season with friends and family. 2009 was a great year for our young alliance.

We had a number of successes such as contacts for polymers and coatings, aerospace test, and new customer potential. We made great strides in lining a couple of members up with SBIR opportunities. Our alliance, led by Agri-Cover, also embarked on a green city modeling initiative. Finally, our alliance leadership has made great strides in establishing a presence with officials in the Pentagon and elsewhere in the defense community to get a "jump start" on what challenges are on the horizon for the 21st century war fighter.

The Upper Great Plains Institute has been a tremendous member in the way of providing support, guidance, and leadership to other team members. Jeff Harris has worked to open doors for Magnum, Pedigree, and our Alliance as a whole in working with DHS, and DoD.

2010 is looking twice as bright. Having expanded our contacts and increased our knowledge of how to network our companies and what programs to pursue. We will be working to establish a PTAC, or Procurement Technical Assistance Center, which will be a service that counsels businesses on how to find and secure defense-related contracts with primes. Currently, North Dakota is the only state without one of these procurement assistant agencies. This will really empower our companies in the defense industry and in any government contracting effort.

Our 2010 Fly-In to D.C. will, without a doubt, be even better than the 2009. Members such as the Grand Forks Economic Development Corporation, UND, UGPTI, Pedigree, Magnum, and many others noted the value of meeting and networking with the customers first hand. We will also gain valuable insights into what the 2010 defense and energy priorities will be for this upcoming year. Our event is currently scheduled for July 15th. Presenters and invitees will be a mix of supply chain officials from major Prime contractors, DoD acquisitions personnel, small business administration officials and of course members from our congressional delegation. NeTia has sent out surveys, but should you or anyone from your company have a suggestion for what you would like on this fly-in, we are very interested in your feedback.

We look forward to having a couple of events in state as well. We are currently working with the officials with the Office of the Secretary of Defense to hold an event in state. This, too, can provide a great opportunity for our company's network and expand our customer base.

Again, I hope you are reading this letter upon having been recharged for this new year—the future is bright for us in North Dakota and I am looking forward to working with you in 2010.

*. "The DDA is a young organization but so far has seen great success. 2009 brought us a great membership base which we are thankful for. Now in 2010 we will work to bring our valued members more opportunity and continue to offer them assistance in any way possible."
~NeTia Richards~*

Best regards, Kristin Hedger

SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS

The DDA is still working along with SME headquarters to develop a survey specific to North Dakota and the types of businesses we possess and the needs that we have. Once the survey is available we will be sending it to a variety of businesses. DDA members will have the first opportunity to participate in the development of the Senior Chapter for North Dakota. If you are interested in holding a position; secretary, treasurer, etc. please notify the Alliance and we can get working on it.

The survey will be sent to members and other manufacturers from across North Dakota via the Department of Commerce and the North Dakota State Chamber of Commerce. Our hope is that we can gain sufficient support in order to officially form this much needed chapter here in our State. Once you receive the survey we would greatly appreciate taking a few moments to complete it and then we can proceed to the petition and subsequent processes. Remember, the DDA is supporting this by offering a one year membership to SME for one individual within your company. If you are currently a member, simply contact us and let us know that you are interested and we will take care of the registration. If you are not a member but wish to become one please visit www.dakotadefensealliance.com for more information.

We look forward to bringing such a valuable opportunity into the State and we hope you take advantage of what it has to offer!

NEXT GENERATION INITIATIVE

The NGEN effort that the DDA has been involved in is beginning to gain much more momentum and 2010 promises to be even better for "green" efforts. The meeting that was co-sponsored last October in Jamestown has proven to be very successful. We have gained quite an interest and have developed a confirmed steering committee ranging from business owners in Jamestown including DDA member Agri-Cover, Inc. as well as educational facilities, chamber members, city developers and Cooperatives.

Currently, the community showcase institutions that we have confirmed to participate in the initiative include Agri-Cover, Inc., The Presbyterian Church and the Jamestown College. We are looking at other potential showcases in the Jamestown area to participate as well. The new Jamestown Hospital, City of Jamestown, ND Farmer's Union and Harley Davidson are among some of the potential showcases to participate in NGEN as well.

The Prairie Stewardship Network and Great Plains Institute, who are partnering with DDA on this effort have conducted research and have developed best practices and assessment metrics based on other successful initiatives of this sort including Minnesota, Fargo and Grand Forks. If you are in the Jamestown area and would like to participate please feel free to contact the DDA for more information.

LOOKING FOR NEW EMPLOYEES? IT'S JOB FAIR SEASON!

It's that time of year again when colleges and students are looking for jobs and hopefully employers are looking to hire. This is the season for job and career fairs throughout the state so if you are looking to fill entry level or even professional positions within your company let us know and we can advertise for you or even better yet, send a company representative to the job fairs. There you can find larger pools of talent and you can advertise your company. The first one that is confirmed is happening in Bismarck at BSC on May 24th (for graduates only). For more information and to register please contact Jay Meier (jay.meier@bsc.nodak.edu).

For more information on any of these topics please send an email to netia@dakotadefensealliance.com

www.dakotadefensealliance.com

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