

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our future Army leaders to learn how very well the Army values and leadership/problem-solving skills that we teach them apply in the business world and for the defense industry to get to know what the future Army leadership will look like and to help grow and mold that leadership." Joseph Holman-Army ROTC, UND.

Letter from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful and excited about opportunities we have and those we can "drum-up" as an alliance.

The fly-in on July 16th will provide an excellent venue for our strategic business discussions and targeted networking. Not only do we want to secure new customers and let them know what we can do for them, we also want to collaborate with team members. When able to hear, first hand, the challenges in Homeland Security, NASA, and the Department of Defense, we are also able to craft solutions for which many of us can contribute to.

The DDA is also mindful of our role in "leading by example" in industry. That is why we have sponsored the "Beyond Lean, GoGreen" initiative. Obviously, we all want to be good stewards of our economy, but the reality is that being "green" can often be good for our bottom line. The DDA had a great presence at the Climate Change and Stewardship conference in Bismarck this week. We will be drawing upon the expertise of many in the green community to identify those efficiencies and practices that can help our companies become better community stewards, but also save us money that we can put back into better wages, capital equipment enhancements, and all of the other areas we are interested in.

I hope you can join us for the fly-in. Until then, I look forward to keeping in contact. Please let me know if there is specific networking areas you would like for us to bolster in your company.

Best regards,
Kristin Hedger

DDA Welcomes New Members

By: NeTia Richards

We would love to welcome a few new members to the Alliance. Greater Fargo-Moorhead Economic Development Association-an organization dedicated to growing and diversifying the economy in Cass County of ND and Clay County of Minnesota by retaining, expanding and attracting primary sector business. Laserlith Corporation, based out of Grand Forks, ND manufactures ultra-power-efficient wireless components for military, cell phones and other industries. Crane-Wireless Monitoring Solutions from Texas also joined a few months ago. They are a leading provide of wireless sensor networks for industrial, commercial and government applications.

Please everyone welcome these three great organizations to the Alliance!

2nd Annual DC Fly-In

By: NeTia Richards

The Fly-In event is coming up soon and we have a great list of speakers already confirmed and still yet waiting back on some other potential speakers to add to the Agenda. The day will be full of networking opportunities for members, industry leaders and congressional delegates alike.

We have some wonderful sponsors for this event; Raytheon is sponsoring our breakfast, Goodrich is sponsoring the luncheon and Strategic Marketing Innovations is sponsoring both breaks. We, as the alliance our sponsoring the reception at The Monocle later that evening.

For specific Agenda topics and list of speakers, menus, contacts, etc. please refer to www.dakotadefensealliance.com and click on the DC Fly-In link. If you haven't already register there as well. If you have any specific questions feel free to contact me via email: netia@dakotadefensealliance.com or by phone 701.538.4678.

Our Keynote speakers for the full day event include Senator Dorgan and Senator Conrad (ND-D) as well as Creighton Greene from the Senate Armed Services Committee. We have several panel speakers including prime contractors and NASA among others.

The event is coming up July 16th which will arrive quickly. If interested in attending please let us know so we can prepare for your attendance. We hope to see you all out there!

International Climate Stewardship Conference Follow-UP

By: NeTia Richards

Kristin and myself attended this event in Bismarck on Monday and it was absolutely amazing. The information we received and the contacts made will be quite useful in developing details for our green initiative. We also learned new ways on how greening your company helps the environment as well as your business. The most important take-away however, was the fact that green industry is becoming huge. We listened to international success stories; working to reduce carbon emissions has actually increased economic activity and has created jobs for other countries and we now have the information to begin working on similar objectives for our great state. The DDA will be a huge part in greening North Dakota and creating green industry jobs and our members will equally benefit. More information will be available as this project develops.

New Partnership with Army ROTC

By: NeTia Richards

The Dakota Defense Alliance is currently working on a partnership with Army ROTC from the University of North Dakota to provide great internship positions for the recently Commissioned Cadets. These leaders are from ND and we want to provide them opportunity within the state as well. Details are still being worked out but more information will be available soon.

