

Divide County to Develop Entrepreneurship the Region



Member's Voice Divide County

Divide County is channeling the energy of 2017 into opportunities for entrepreneurs in 2018.



In 2017, the celebrations of the remodeled 100-year old courthouse, the local celebrations and the all-school reunion showcased the county and its opportunities. They helped create enthusiasm for Crosby and other communities to keep growing next year. More remodeling of the Crosby City Hall and other buildings is helping to keep the enthusiasm alive.

Community Development Director KayCee Lindsey said the new Crosby day care facility has been a huge help to the community. The million-dollar building allows for as many as 90 children to be served.

Much of the infrastructure growth in the county has been centered on families and children, including new classrooms and other facilities at the schools. In 2009-2010 school year, Crosby had 260 children enrolled in pre-K through 12 grades. The 2017 school year ended with 354 students – a 30% growth.

Lindsey said her goal for the next year is to build on the 2017 successes to encourage more family growth in the county. She said, "We're in a stable economic position right now. We're able to maintain our employment and business health. Businesses are still paying the higher wages brought on by the busy oil activity. They hope to continue keeping people employed at that level."

She said as the oil worker population decreased, the business economy shrank, and at this point, most of the county's businesses are maintaining their work force. A second blow to the regional economy is the 2017 drought. It reduced some of the business trade in town. "It will be a challenging year for the business environment of the county, but for now, we're stable," she said.

Lindsey said many of the area tradesmen are retiring or are near retirement. She said that makes it a perfect opportunity to work with the Small Business Administration, the North Dakota Commerce Department and local entities to develop a new business climate for young families. "We want to create opportunities for entrepreneurs. We're looking for entrepreneurial growth," she said.



KayCee Lindsey
Divide County
Community Development Director