



News Release
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Kvande earns Certified Business Advisor Certification

Williston, ND – Williston Economic Development (WED) is pleased to announce Ann Kvande, Program Development Coordinator, has achieved certification in Kent State University's (KSU) Certified Business Advisor® (CBA) program.

The [CBA® program](#), developed by KSU and its professors, is designed for maximum on-the-job performance and provides assurance to clients that its graduates have the business skills, competency and knowledge to effectively counsel, guide and inform entrepreneurs. The CBA® program offers graduate-level course work consisting of human resource management, marketing and accounting/finance classes.

Kvande, who began her career with WED in March 2006, attained certification in the CBA® program in January 2021.

"Completing the CBA course gave me a better understanding of what an entrepreneur faces in starting a business," said Kvande. "Gaining a stronger background in finance, marketing and human resources will allow me to better assist the clients that seek our assistance."

WED Executive Director Shawn Wenko said he was proud of Kvande's accomplishment.

"I am pleased to see the work Ann has put in to achieve her certification," Wenko said. "Continuing education is an important element to our office. We want to make sure entrepreneurs, investors, and the general public feel comfortable they are working with qualified individuals within our field as they walk through our doors seeking advice."

The entire WED office is enrolled in the CBA® program. The other three employees are on track to complete the program later this year.

"I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to take the course and further my knowledge," she said. "I am excited that I have successfully completed the course and have attained my certification."

The Certified Business Advisor® (CBA) Certificate Program is an on-demand, self-paced eLearning program specially designed for professionals who advise small business owners.

To maintain CBA certification, a minimum of 20 hours per calendar year of continuing education must be completed and documented.