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2017 Fall Conference October 18-20

Grand Williston Hotel & Conference Center, Williston

Wednesday, Oct. 18

- Noon **Registration** – *Grand Williston Hotel*
- 12:30 p.m. **Opening Luncheon**
Welcome – Mayor Howard Klug
Opening Remarks – Senator Brad Bekkedahl
- 1:00 p.m. **Logistics of Airport Development Panel**
Moderator: Brad Curtis, Vice President of Commercial Lending, American State Bank Williston
- David Tuan, Administrator, City of Williston
 - Rick Skumavc, Senior Project Manager, Cardon Global
 - Tim Marco, Development Director, Cardon Global
 - Anthony Dudas, Director, Williston International Airport
- 2:00 p.m. **The Benefits of WSC's Free Tuition Program**
Dr. John Miller, President, Williston State College
- 2:30 p.m. **Igniting Ideas**
- 3:00 p.m. **Break**
- 3:30 p.m. **Getting Your Business Online**
Pamela Starr, Google Representative
- 5:30 p.m. **Small Communities Roundtable**
- 7:00 p.m. **Reception** – *Cindy Aafedt Residence*

Thursday, Oct. 19

- 7:45 a.m. **Breakfast and President's Breakfast for New Developers** – *Grand Williston Hotel*

Conference and social events are business casual.

- 8:30 a.m. **Main Street Initiative and Commerce Update**
- Sandy McMerty, Co-Deputy Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Commerce
 - John Schneider, Director, Economic Development & Finance Division, North Dakota Department of Commerce
 - Jay Schuler, Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Commerce
- 9:15 a.m. **The State of Retail**
Cody Gunstenson, Director of Sales, Buxton
- 10:00 a.m. **Break**
- 10:30 a.m. **Art of the Deal: Downtown Williston Project Panel**
Moderator: Shawn Wenko, Executive Director, Williston Economic Development
- Mark Schneider, AIA, Vice President and Architect, Lightowler Johnson Associates
 - Angela Skogen, Owner, Cooks on Main
 - Paul Russo, Project Development Manager, The Renaissance Companies
 - Brad Curtis, Vice President of Commercial Lending, American State Bank Williston

11:30 a.m. EDND Membership Meeting

Noon **Awards Luncheon**

- 1:00 p.m. **Overview and Q&A with the U.S. Economic Development Administration**
- Angela Belden Martinez, Regional Director
 - Alex Smith, Economic Development Representative

- 1:30 p.m. **Fueling Communities with Natural Gas**
Moderator: Melissa Beach, Executive Director, Traill County Economic Development Commission
- Julie Fedorchak, North Dakota Public Service Commissioner
 - Representative Jon Nelson
 - MDU and Xcel Energy Representatives
- 2:30 p.m. **Oil Worker for a Day Tour**
Deanette Piesik, CEO, TrainND
Closed toe shoes and pants required.
- 5:30 p.m. **Social and Dinner** – *The Williston Restaurant, Entertainment by the Dueling Pianos*

Friday, Oct. 20

- 7:45 a.m. **Breakfast**
- 8:15 a.m. **Designing Main Streets for Economic Viability**
Kurt Culbertson, Chairman and CEO, Design Workshop
- 9:00 a.m. **Best Practices for Measuring Success**
Moderator: Keith Lund, President and CEO, Grand Forks Region Economic Development
- Justin Dever, Co-Deputy Commissioner, North Dakota Department of Commerce
 - Mark Schill, Vice President for Research, Praxis Strategy Group
 - Teran Doerr, Executive Director, Bowman County Development Corporation
- 9:30 a.m. **Where Do We Go From Here? Best Practices Group Discussion**
- 10:00 a.m. **Conference Ends**