

Leadership Williston Participants Tour New Airport, Center for Development

Williston Economic Development - The 2018-19 Leadership Williston class discovered what happens at the Center for Development, XWA Airport and Williams County offices this week. The students toured each of the facilities and met with administrators as part of their eight-month training.

Leadership Williston is sponsored by the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce. The program is designed to cultivate future leaders.

Keith Olson, Regional Director of the Small Business Development Center in Williston, met with the students at the Center for Development. He said the regional office serving Williams and McKenzie Counties has consulted more than three times their goal of 100 clients per year.

"We have met with 300 clients this year. We are seeing a lot of interest in day cares, small retail, restaurants and trucking," Olson said.

Olson provided details about the free programs and services available for entrepreneurs via his office and Williston Economic Development. Meanwhile, Mark Schneider, Director of Development Services in Williston, said his office has been streamlining code enforcement, permitting and planning and zoning services to create a more business friendly environment. Schneider said there are a lot of new and exciting projects happening in Williston.

"We have the trampoline park, Western Vet expansion, Boot Barn (moving into Sears site), public works facility and new airport, just to name a few,) Schneider said.

The students seemed interested in learning about the programs and services provided at the Center for Development and asked many questions pertaining to their unique situations.

Following the presentations the participants toured the Williston Basin International Airport site with Williston Airport Director Anthony Dudas. The airport is scheduled to open Oct 10, 2019.



Mark Schneider announced Boot Barn is opening in the former Sears building in Williston.

Caitlin Pallai is overseeing the 2018-2019 Leadership Williston program. The participants meet monthly and each individual is tasked with creating a project that will meet a need in the area.