

Q2 2025



Bismarck-Mandan Workforce Development Update

A quarterly workforce newsletter from the BMCEDC

CENTRAL DAKOTA STUDENT CAREER EXPO



Ready to Inspire the Next Generation of Talent?

There's still time for businesses to register for the Central Dakota Student Career Expo, happening November 12, 2025, at the Bismarck Event Center! This event brings together local employers and high school students for a day of hands-on learning, career exploration, and meaningful connection. It's your chance to showcase your industry, spark curiosity in future talent, and play a direct role in shaping North Dakota's workforce.

[REGISTER TODAY](#)

WORKFORCE SNAPSHOT

Bismarck-Mandan Labor Market Information

Job Service ND provides the most current economic data for the Bismarck-Mandan Region and the State of North Dakota.

North Dakota Labor Market Data



Apr '25 USA Unemployment Rate	Mar '25 USA Unemployment Rate	Apr '25 ND Unemployment Rate	Mar '25 ND Unemployment Rate
3.9%	4.2%	2.5%	3.1%

UPCOMING EVENTS



Applications are due by August 1, with selected participants notified by September 1.

APPLY TODAY

Are You or Someone on Your Team Ready to Lead Bismarck-Mandan?

The Chamber EDC is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 Leadership Bismarck-Mandan program. This program is designed to engage emerging leaders in the issues shaping our region. Through hands-on experiences, skill-building sessions, and meaningful connections, participants gain the knowledge and tools to lead effectively in both business and community.

The program runs from September through May and focuses on helping participants gain awareness of local challenges, strengthen leadership skills, and connect with mentors and community resources.

Kicking Off a Summer of Connections

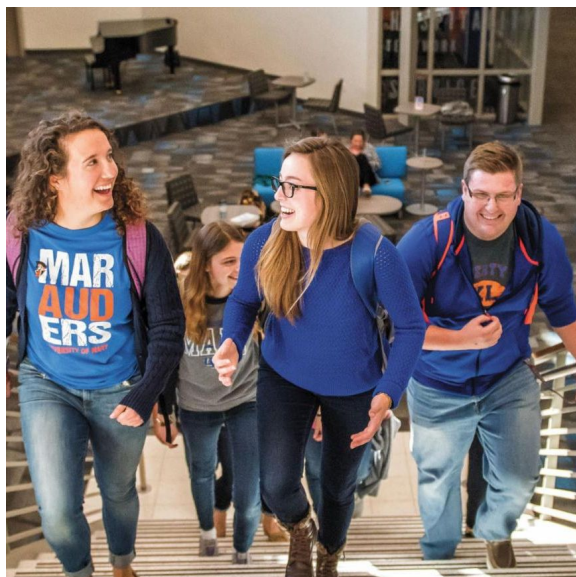
The 2025 Chamber EDC Internship Network program kicks off June 11 at Send-It! 24/7 Cornhole, launching a summer of connection and community for local interns. This program is designed to help interns feel at home in Bismarck-Mandan by introducing them to the people, places, and experiences that make our

region unique. If your business hosts interns, we encourage you to share this opportunity with them—it's a fun and impactful way to build lasting connections and strengthen their ties to our community.

RSVP



NEWS



University of Mary Masters of Social Work Intern Program

In September of 2024 the University of Mary launched a Master of Social Work Program.

Internships are a critical portion of this curriculum, and the university is in search of employers willing to host these students as interns.

If your business or organization is interested or would like to know more information about the program below.

GET
CONNECTED

New American Leadership Network Completes First Year

The first year of the Chamber EDC's New American Leadership Network, created in partnership with Bismarck Global Neighbors, was recently completed and successfully supported 13 participants by helping them build confidence and connection as they establish their lives in Bismarck-Mandan.

Designed to be flexible and responsive, the program asked applicants about their interests and needs, then developed monthly sessions tailored to those topics. Throughout the year, participants explored leadership and civic engagement, local history and culture, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, health care access, childcare and education, nonprofit resources, and



systems like taxes, insurance, and employee benefits.

As we prepare for the next cohort, we invite employers with New American employees to reach out if they know someone who would benefit from this experience. Connect with Workforce Development Coordinator, Summer Sturm at ssurm@bmcedc.com to learn more and get involved.



Internship Network Survey Results

We surveyed the 2024 participants of the Chamber EDC Internship Network to better understand the program's impact—and the results were clear. An impressive 94% of interns said the events helped them build connections with other interns in the community, and 94% also felt they learned more about Bismarck-Mandan through the program. A strong majority shared that the resources provided at each event played a meaningful role in helping them feel more informed and engaged with the place they lived and worked all summer long.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

As part of our ongoing efforts to keep members informed on policy developments that impact workforce and business growth, we're highlighting two key outcomes from the 2025 Legislative Session. These initiatives reflect meaningful progress on talent development and employer support—two areas critical to the long-term success of Bismarck-Mandan's economy.

SB 2019 – Department of Career and Technology Education

The 2025 Legislative Session delivered significant wins for workforce development with the passage of SB 2019. This bill allocates \$3.25 million toward workforce training programs, directly supporting the upskilling of North Dakota's talent pool to meet evolving industry needs. It also invests \$1 million in virtual reality career exploration tools, giving students and job seekers immersive access to career pathways in high-demand fields. The centerpiece of the bill is a \$75 million investment in a Statewide Career Center Initiative Grant Program—an ambitious effort to expand access to hands-on, career-focused education throughout the state.

SB 2282 – New Income Tax Credit for Employer Child Care Contributions

A new tool is now available to help employers support their workforce while reducing tax liability. SB 2282, passed during the 2025 Legislative Session, creates an income tax credit for businesses that contribute to employees' childcare expenses. Employers can claim a credit equal to 50% of their total contributions—up to \$1,000 per employee annually. This legislation is a meaningful step toward addressing one of the most pressing workforce challenges in our region: access to affordable, reliable childcare. It not only helps working parents stay in the labor force but also empowers businesses to enhance recruitment and retention efforts through family-friendly benefits.



MakeYourMarkBisMan.com is the home of all things talent attraction. This website gives a little peak into what working and living in BisMan is like!

Check It Out!

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Do you have a workforce development event or program you'd like featured in our newsletter? Contact Emily Eback at eeback@bmcedc.com.

Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC | 1640 Burnt Boat Drive | Bismarck, ND 58503 US

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