Red River Valley Research Corridor University Center

The focus of the Red River Valley Research Corridor University Center is to develop public-private partnerships and leverage the resources of North Dakota's two major research universities, University of North Dakota (UND) and North Dakota State University, (NDSU) to build a rural and urban statewide, technology-based economy. The Center's goal is to facilitate the generally accepted required elements for a vibrant tech-based economy including intellectual infrastructure, mechanisms for knowledge transfer, infrastructure, highly skilled technical workforce, sources of risk capital, and an entrepreneurial culture. The Center uses the EDA grant along with state government funds and program fees to support their activities to reach this goal.

Activities
The University Center serves North Dakota technology-based companies and entrepreneurs that require highly skilled talent by connecting them to university researchers, which provides a competitive advantage in the marketplace. The Center consists of an incubator near the North Dakota State University Campus plus services offered through the University of North Dakota. Both sites offer entrepreneurial and start-up support consisting of networking and matchmaking events focused on connecting entrepreneurs to resources (funding, knowledge, and assistance). Both students and community members attend these events. In addition the Center staff assist with business plan writing, grant writing, and entrepreneur coaching. One way the Center does this is through supporting the InnovateND program, a statewide competition that engages
Successful commercialization of university research through entrepreneur support services combined with incubator services

Myriad Devices makes mobile device applications, and was started with NDSU professors and students. The company has now grown to 17 employees who write mobile applications for many businesses. They value the time the company spent in the incubator because of the business mentors and education programs. The incubator’s programs helped them obtain the required resources and identify the market direction needed for success.

UND Center for Innovation and the NDSU Research & Technology Park are leveraging the assets of their respective universities to help entrepreneurs succeed in North Dakota.

“...the NDSU Research and Technology park have provided our company with are, and will be key to our early stage growth. Their access to key business leaders, state legislators and business service professionals has been instrumental with several aspects of our business development.”

--Center client