

BELLE FOURCHE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Board of Directors Meeting

****DATE CHANGE****

April 8, 2020

Time: 7: 00 a.m.

Location: 5th & Grant Plaza

Build Dakota Scholarship

DEADLINE
April 15, 2020

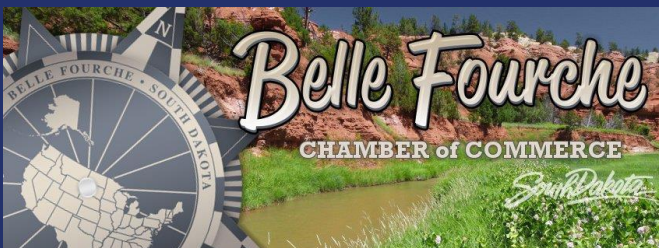
builddakotascholarships.com/

Leadership Belle Fourche

April 16, 2020

Time: 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Course Topic: Leadership & Professional Development



The Belle Fourche Chamber will gladly act as a conduit for any information that needs to get out to the community. Through their Facebook page, website and emails to the membership, they can share your announcements, store hours, specials, needs and changes. They can also post information about persons doing deliveries, stores offering online shopping and payments, etc.

Phone: 605-892-2676

Email: director@bellefourchechamber.org or events@bellefourchechamber.org

Belle Fourche Rail Park Awarded Federal Railroad Administration Grant



As the rail business continues to grow in Belle Fourche, so does the need for additional siding track to accommodate customers. Belle Fourche Development Corporation (BFDC) recognizes the importance of education and reinvestment as new rail customers come on board.

In 2018, the BFDC board of directors started the written proposal to apply for a Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant from the Special Transportation Circumstances (STC) Grant Program. The grant application process was very thorough and included presentations to the South Dakota State Railroad board over the past year.

This week, the grant award recipients were announced, and Belle Fourche was one of four locations named as an awardee for up to \$1,917,710.

The economic impact of this investment is significant and gets the Belle Fourche Industrial & Rail Park another step closer to the original rail siding plan. Rail use can offer a significant transportation cost savings. As more rail customers consider Belle Fourche as their hub for transporting goods and materials, it creates more jobs which drives good strong community development. This is a big win for Belle Fourche!



The Belle Fourche Industrial & Rail Park rail siding will soon see additional track to better accommodate customers. The FRA SCT grant funds will go towards rail infrastructure to accommodate up to 90 cars at the siding. With the recent increase in new customers and inquiries the additional track will allow for new business and more jobs to support the business.

The Belle Fourche industrial & Rail Park is located just off of Hwy 85 along Hwy 212 with 74 acres available for development. For more information, contact the economic development office at 605-892-5065.

Federal Grants Awarded for Rail Projects

For Immediate Release: Monday, March 23, 2020

Contact: Kristi Sandal, Public Information Officer, Kristi.sandal@state.sd.us

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Department of Transportation has learned that four grant requests have been approved to receive Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant awards.

The awards come from the Special Transportation Circumstances (STC) Grant Program which is program under the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRIS) Program and the Restoration and Enhancement Grant Program.

The State Railroad Board approved grants requests applications on the following projects for use of the federal STC funds available to South Dakota.

Grant funds were awarded as follows:

- Sisseton Milbank Railroad Lake Farley Bridge Replacement (up to \$1,549,848)
- Dakota and Iowa Railroad Main Line Rail Replacement and Crossing Improvement Project (up to \$3,992,758)
- Belle Fourche Industrial and Rail Park (up to \$1,917,710)
- Ellis and Eastern Sioux Falls Area Bridges (up to \$3,919,840)

“The STC funds are dedicated to three states, South Dakota, Wyoming and Alaska, that do not have passenger rail (Amtrak),” says Joel Jundt, Transportation Deputy Secretary. “These special federal funds are dedicated to rail projects within these states and these funds give us important financial resources to improve the state’s railroad infrastructure which is vital to shippers, rail companies and citizens.”

While these grants are non-competitive, the SDDOT needs to ensure the projects meet eligibility requirements with FRA. The SDDOT will be responsible to administer the grants and oversee the work. Each grant is funding with a maximum federal amount not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of a project. The required 20 percent non-Federal match amount is being paid by the respective private entity requesting grant funds.

BFEID

The Belle Fourche Development Corporation office is open this week (March 23-27). We ask that all nonessential business be conducted by phone or email. All regularly scheduled meetings and gatherings for this week have been canceled, including the Leadership Belle Fourche session. We will send out weekly updates in our newsletter and through our social media (Facebook: [Belle Fourche Development Corporation](#)). Any special announcements will be posted the same way. Please feel free to contact our office with any questions at 605-892-5065, or email at director@bellefourchedevcorp.com

Stay well and safe.



Governor Noem announced that small businesses and non-profit organizations in South Dakota that have been negatively impacted by the global COVID-19 virus are now eligible for economic assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

The Belle Fourche Development Corporation has been in contact with the Governor's Office of Economic Development west river staff and they are ready to assist our local businesses here if this program is right for you. A point of contact is: 605-381-4225; or 605-773-4633.

Go to the SBA website for information including where you can go to learn more about the program and how to apply for assistance: www.sba.gov/disaster or call the SBA at 1-800-659-2955.

CANCELED

NeighborWorks®
DAKOTA HOME RESOURCES



FREE HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

Thinking of buying a home? NeighborWorks®
Dakota Home Resources can help.

This free course provides an unbiased, comprehensive overview of the home buying process to help homebuyers make smart, informed decisions in every step of their homeownership journey. This course is strictly educational and NOT a sales presentation.

Location: Belle Fourche Economic Development
608 Fifth Avenue



Date: March 23rd & 24th

Time: 5:30 – 8:30

CANCELED

Online Courses Available
Call Paul at 605-578-1401

Partner in the South Dakota
WEEK OF WORK
April 20-24, 2020



This initiative will provide 10th grade students in South Dakota an opportunity to explore their career interests and be matched with work experiences provided by employers.

As a business, you can gain exposure for your industry, impact career awareness and engage with your potential workforce.


When you invest in youth, you invest in your future.

Toolkits exist to easily guide you through the process of hosting a:

- Job shadow
- Facility tour
- Classroom presentation

REGISTER @ SDWeekofWork.com to express your interest and be matched with students.

10,000 copies of this publication produced by the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation at \$0.05 per copy.



FREE Money for College Scholarships Available



Visit wdt.edu/scholarships

WESTERN DAKOTA TECH

SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline - March 31, 2020

The Western Dakota Tech Foundation and the generosity of donors make scholarships available for new and current students.



BUILD DAKOTA

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Deadline - April 15, 2020

The Build Dakota Scholarship will pay all your tuition and fees and prepare you for a career that is in-demand and growing in South Dakota.

Scholarship application assistance available at these events:

FREE Financial Aid, Dual Enrollment, and Scholarship Information Session

 Thursday, Feb 20

 5pm - 6:30pm

 Western Dakota Tech Lobby

Western Dakota Tech Foundation Scholarship Assistance Events

 Saturday, March 7
Saturday, March 21

 10am - 2pm

 Western Dakota Tech Library

College Visit Night

 Tuesday, March 24

 5:30pm - 7pm

 Western Dakota Tech Lobby

Questions? Contact Jennie Best at (605) 718-3061 or Jennie.Best@wdt.edu

