

First District Governing Board Officers

- Emil Klavetter**.....Chairman
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- Pat Maroney**.....Vice Chairman
Miner County Commissioner
- Dennis Jensen**..... Secretary
Roberts County At-Large
- Dick Edenstrom**.....Executive Director

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“Launch ‘08” Stipends Available

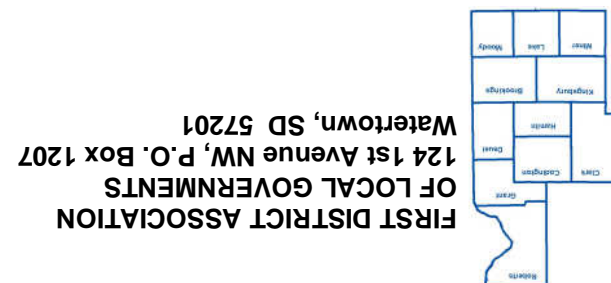
Up to 40 stipends worth \$1,000 are being offered to educators that integrate entrepreneurship into their classroom curriculum. The stipends—available to all full-time educators at the high school, technical, or university level—are being provided by the South Dakota EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) to stimulate and encourage an entrepreneurial spirit in South Dakota.

In order to receive a stipend, applicants must attend the Launch ‘08 Conference, which will be held February 28, 2008 in Mitchell, SD. The one-day conference will give educators the tools and knowledge to teach entrepreneurship in their own classrooms. More information is available at www.dwu.edu/sdlaunchconference/index.htm. Or visit www.sdepacor.org.



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FIRST DISTRICT NEWS

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First District Dues... An Impressive Return on Investment

First District Association of Local Governments is one of six councils of government operating in South Dakota. Established by State Executive Order in 1971, First District serves 11 counties and 75 communities in east north-central South Dakota. The District is governed by a board comprised of county commissioners, local elected officials, and members-at-large.

The Governing Body has adopted a dues structure through fiscal year 2012 for counties and municipalities served by First District. For fiscal year 2008 (October 1, 2007—September 30, 2008), dues from local government represent 21% of the District’s operating budget, 10% comes from the State, and 6% from the Federal government, which means that 63% of the District’s FY2008 operating budget has to come from contracts and fees for service. Any fees charged to local governments are at a substantially lower rate because you pay dues, and because your dues are subsidized by State and Federal grants received by First District.

During the past 12 months, First District generated an impressive return on investment of \$132 for every \$1 in combined investment by local governments.

In the last 12 months, First District secured loan and grant funds for various projects including, but not limited to:

- * Water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure
- * Industrial park development
- * Street and road projects
- * Fixed asset financing for business
- * Solid waste funds

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Return on Investment

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- * Grants for fire departments, community centers and museums
- * Engineering and environmental studies
- * Community assessments
- * Geographic Information Systems support
- * Comprehensive planning and zoning

During the past 12 months, First District secured \$37 million for community projects and \$20+ million in SBA 504 loans. That generated an impressive return on investment of \$132 for every \$1 in combined investment by local governments. Each of the above projects has an impact in a city, town or county and is contributing to First District local government's economic and human development.

The bond that connects all First District staff members is service to local governments. First District's two economic development officers have a combined total of 22 years of experience; the two First District Development Company loan officers have a combined total of 18 years of business lending experience; our senior planner has 15 years of experience; and our two full-time GIS personnel have a combined total of 22 years of experience. The entire First District staff thanks the members of local government that we serve for their continued support.

SD Department of Environment & Natural Resources Funding Deadlines



- State Water Plan
- * 1st day of October
- Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program
- * 1st day of January, April, July and October
- Clean Water SRF / Drinking Water SRF
- * 15th day of January, April, July and October
- Solid Waste Management Program
- * 1st day of January, April, July and October

Heads Up! Regional Development Survey Coming

First District will be sending out a survey during February to determine the needs of our communities and counties. The survey is intended to identify the development needs of the District, so as to focus the services offered by First District to better meet those needs.

Your cooperation will help First District do a better job of assisting you in making our region a better place to live and work. Please participate by completing the survey.

First District Governing Body will meet in March

The next Governing Body meeting will be held the afternoon of Thursday, March 27, in the First District offices. Darlene Bresson will be on hand to discuss USDA Rural Development programs for communities.

First District Welcomes Amy Edleman

Amy Edleman, originally from Willow Lake, joined the First District staff January 7th as a GIS Specialist. Amy graduated from South Dakota State University in December with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography and Geographic Information Sciences.



Amy immediately began preparing city, county and township maps for the District's contract with the SD Department of Transportation. Annually, First District contacts 475+ individuals with jurisdiction over roads and asks for assistance in updating any road/street changes in an effort to keep roadway information current. The SD DOT utilizes that information for several purposes, including reporting mileage to the Federal Highway Administration.

Amy enjoys spending time with family and attending her siblings' athletic events. She also takes pleasure in hiking in the Black Hills and spending time in Spearfish Canyon.

Naturopathic Physician Receives Loan from First District

Dr. Adam Graves was able to take advantage of a low, fixed interest rate Revolving Loan from the First District Association of Local Governments. Funds were used to purchase and renovate an existing building, allowing him to expand his business, Dakota Natural Health. Great Western Bank partnered with First District to provide financing to Dr. Graves.

Dakota Natural Health is an integrative healing center. Dr. Graves offers alternative and integrative therapies for patients seeking options for treatment of chronic and acute health conditions. He sees patients with a broad range of illnesses from common colds, to Multiple Sclerosis and chronic pain. Herbal medicine, acupuncture and hydrotherapy are some of the treatment options available.

Dr. Graves obtained his degrees, a Doctorate in Naturopathic Medicine and a Masters in Acupuncture, from Bastyr University in Washington. As the only licensed Naturopathic Physician in South Dakota, he draws patients not only locally but from several surrounding states.

Utilizing First District Association of Local Governments loan programs made it possible for Dr. Graves to have a comfortable cash flow while providing this unique service to people in the community and surrounding areas.

Dick Edenstrom Re-Elected to NADO Board of Directors

Dick Edenstrom, Executive Director of the First District Association of Local Governments, was elected to the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Board of Directors for the 2007-2008 term.

The NADO Board of Directors oversees the association's budget and operations and develops policy on issues affecting regional development organizations. The organization was founded in 1967 to provide training, information and representation for regional development organizations throughout the United States. Today, NADO member organizations serve 82 million residents of small metropolitan and rural America through various programs focused on diversifying local economies, assisting businesses, creating jobs and providing social services.

"We are very excited to have Dick serve on NADO's Board of Directors. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position. Dick's leadership and expertise will be invaluable to NADO as we continue to address those issues that will further advance regional economic development in the nation's small and metropolitan communities," according to Matt Chase, NADO Executive Director.