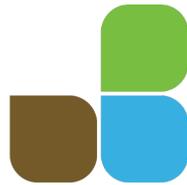


STUTSMAN COUNTY



February 2026



DEVELOPMENT
JAMESTOWN / STUTSMAN CO.

February Hometown 2.0 Feature: Melissa Thury

For **Melissa**, the magic of Jamestown is found in its people, especially the young professionals who choose to stay, return, and invest in the community they call home. She's continually inspired by the generosity and collaboration she sees from local businesses and organizations, calling Jamestown's spirit of giving back "overwhelming in the most positive way."

When it comes to local favorites, Melissa is quick to recommend Hondo's Hideaway, a hidden gem known for its incredible food, welcoming service, and unbeatable views. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family, reading, and playing card and board games.

What truly sets Jamestown apart for Melissa is the genuine support and recognition shared across the community. From the Chamber to local service groups, she's experienced firsthand how eager people are to connect, collaborate, and uplift one another, especially new and growing businesses.

Her advice to young professionals is simple: lean in, get involved, and find your people. Jamestown is full of individuals who want to see you succeed and are willing to build alongside you.

Melissa's story is a powerful reminder of what makes Jamestown special. It's a place where people are noticed, supported, and celebrated, and where coming home can spark something new.





North Dakota Department of Commerce Opens Additional Funding Round for Destination Development Grants

The **North Dakota Department of Commerce** has opened an additional round of funding for the Destination Development Grant program, making \$4 million available for tourism-focused projects across the state. The funds were reallocated after a previously approved project did not move forward.

The **Destination Development Grant** program supports the development or expansion of attractions that bring new visitors to North Dakota, strengthen the state's economy, and enhance the quality of life for residents. Eligible applicants include for-profit businesses, nonprofit organizations, and tourism-related entities.

In the 2025 grant cycle, two Stutsman County projects were among the 23 recipients:

- **The Frontier Village** was awarded funding to build an 18-hole, locally themed miniature golf course.
- **The Jamestown Fine Arts Association** received funding to expand the Arts Center, a downtown arts and culinary destination.

Applications must be submitted online by 5 p.m. CST on March 10, 2026. Grant awards will be announced on April 30, 2026.

Learn more and apply.



Alyssa recently hosted a **Flex PACE** webinar for our local lenders, offering insight into program guidelines and financing opportunities available to local businesses.

To learn more about the Flex PACE program, contact Alyssa at alysa@growingjamestown.com today.

We're excited to share that our next strategic planning process is officially underway. Stakeholder surveys have been distributed, and the feedback we receive will play a critical role in shaping our priorities, goals, and direction for the years ahead. We look forward to reviewing the responses and using this input to guide thoughtful, community-driven planning. Stay tuned for more updates!

Thank you to Jason Matthews at **JM Strategies** for leading and supporting this important effort.



What's In The News:



State superintendent visits Jamestown, Pingree-Buchanan school districts

Levi Bachmeier plans to visit all 167 school districts in North Dakota

[Read More](#)



UJ Opens Health Sciences & Graduate Center in Phoenix

PHOENIX, A.Z (UJ) - University of Jamestown (UJ) marked a historic moment on Jan. 30th with the grand opening of its Health Sciences and Graduate Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The facility, located in the Cotton Center, will

[Read More](#)



2026 Women's Business Conference Coming to Jamestown

The **2026 Women's Business Conference**, hosted by the **Jamestown Regional Entrepreneur Center (JREC)**, will be held March 10–11, 2026, in Jamestown. This two-day event is designed for women entrepreneurs, professionals, nonprofit leaders, and small business owners looking to grow their skills, expand their networks, and gain a fresh perspective.

The conference will take place at the Jamestown Arts Center and will feature a mix of educational sessions, networking opportunities, and local experiences.

Highlights include:

- A keynote session on the State of Health in North Dakota and community-driven solutions
- Sessions on food-based entrepreneurship, organic farming, nonprofit fundraising, leadership, and time management
- An interactive North Dakota tourism experience featuring local Jamestown attractions
- A discussion on AI and digital marketing for small businesses
- Dedicated networking time with fellow business and community leaders

Lunch will be provided on March 11, along with brief introductions from vendor representatives. A hotel room block is available at the Gladstone Inn & Suites for attendees.

WHEN: March 10–11, 2026

WHERE: Jamestown Arts Center, Jamestown, ND

Registration is now open. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged.

February is Career and Technical Education Month!

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, a time to recognize the vital role CTE programs play in preparing students for in-demand careers and strengthening our local workforce.

Career and technical education provides hands-on learning opportunities that connect students directly to real-world skills and high-quality jobs. From skilled trades and healthcare to technology, manufacturing, and transportation, CTE programs help students explore career paths while earning industry-recognized credentials and building experience that employers value.

In Jamestown and Stutsman County, CTE programs are helping grow the next generation of workers by aligning education with local industry needs. These programs not only create pathways to gainful employment but also support business growth and long-term economic development in our community.

As we celebrate CTE Month, the JSDC is proud to support initiatives that invest in workforce development and ensure our students are equipped with the skills needed to succeed right here at home.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH
FEBRUARY 2026

WHEREAS, 26,085 high school students are enrolled in career and technical education (CTE) across North Dakota gaining the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for career readiness; and

WHEREAS, students who concentrate in CTE programs participate in authentic, meaningful experiences that improve the quality of their education as indicated by a 97.9% graduation rate from high school compared to 92% among all students statewide; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education provides career exploration opportunities through a statewide online system called RUreadyND.gov, which is used in 95% of all schools, enabling students to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework; and

WHEREAS, leaders from business and industry statewide report increasing challenges related to the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with available careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, including health care, energy, advanced manufacturing, value-added agriculture and information technology; and

WHEREAS, CTE prepares students for these and other fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and post-secondary education, including work-based learning; and

WHEREAS, the access and delivery of CTE programming enables local and school programs across the state to provide programs through distance delivery, ensuring more students have more opportunities to address their education, interests and career goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
February 2026, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH in the
State of North Dakota.



Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE

2026 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The YPJ Leadership Academy equips emerging professionals with leadership, communication, and career tools through three focused half day sessions.

Meet Our Speakers



Jodi Bruns
NDSU Extension



Mike Delfs
Jamestown Regional Medical Center



Searle Swedlund
Norsk Høstfest



Amy Aesoph
First Community Credit Union



Dr. Polly Peterson
University of Jamestown



Riley Akervik
Unison Bank



Felicia Sargeant
Newman Signs



Jason Rohr
Bank Insure Tax Forward

More Information

THE DETAILS

- March 19, March 26, April 2
- 8:15 AM-12 PM
- Dakota Central
604 18th St SW

\$150 For Members
\$250 For Non-members

PRESENTED BY



membership@jamestownchamber.com

701-252-4830

JamestownChamber.com

Upcoming Business Resource Events:

Event:	Date:	Hosted By:
<u>Intro to ND Compass: Local Data at Your Fingertips</u>	February 18	<u>JREC</u>
<u>S.T.I.R. with 701 Print & Design Co.</u>	February 19	<u>Jamestown Chamber</u>
<u>SBA Guaranteed Loan Programs</u>	February 27	<u>JREC</u>
<u>Strong Women, Strong Connections - Jamestown Chapter</u>	March 10	<u>NDWBC</u>
<u>2026 Women's Business Conference</u>	March 10 & 11	<u>JREC</u>

On the Search for More Local Events?



Visit Our Website

Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation
701.252.6861 | info@growingjamestown.com | www.growingjamestown.com

STAY CONNECTED



Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation | 120 2nd St SE PO Box 293 | Jamestown, ND 58401 US

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