



Josh Teigen
Director, ED&F
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701-955-4210

Manages team responsible for economic diversification efforts throughout the state, building upon existing efforts and programs, managing growth strategies and unique utilization of capital.



James Leiman, Ph.D.
Director, Strategy
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701-328-5388
253-224-3933

Responsible for developing Commerce's strategic direction, special and large projects and complex research and analysis.



Joe Cicha
Census Specialist
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701-328-7283

State Data Center, demographics, data requests, assist U.S. Census Bureau programs, group quarters report, decennial census preparation, research, desktop and online mapping and process tax incentives for ED&F.



Maria Effertz-Hanson
Economic/Community Development Lead
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701-595-4121

Works with communities to streamline experiences across state agencies and stakeholders. Supports community MSI pillars including planning and development. Leads ED&F team's efforts to facilitate growth, diversification and expansion.



Don Hochhalter
Oil and Gas Business
Development Manager
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701-388-9339

Cultivates strategic business relationships for the development of the oil and gas industry. Works with existing and new clients, in and outside of the state, to create and advance value-added products and services.



Kevin Iverson
Demographer
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701-328-5385

Manages relationships with the Census Bureau to ensure that state population, housing and other characteristics are accurately measured and reported. Provides statistical data on residency and socioeconomic data to decision-makers.



Cortnee Jensen
Aerospace/UAS Development Manager,
University Liaison
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701-328-5308 • 541-817-9023

Works with UAS and Aerospace companies on expansions and relocations to the state. Focuses on intellectual property commercialization development through strategic partnerships between research universities and private business.



Hannah Lange
Venture and Finance Analyst
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701-328-7254

Evaluates and recommends investment decisions for the North Dakota Development Fund. Manages relationships with new and existing Development Fund clients looking for investment.



Dave Lehman
Advanced Manufacturing Business
Development Manager
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701-226-0309

Collaborates with manufacturers and state partners to maintain, expand and recruit manufacturing operations through financing, incentives and education.



Joleen Leier
Executive Assistant
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701-328-2469

Provides executive support to the ED&F Director by prioritizing and managing multiple information requests, scheduling and travel. Assists in management of workflow, communication and project support.



Zoe Wergeland Manstrom
Venture Finance Manager, NDDF
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701-328-7252

Manages and oversees operation of the North Dakota Development Fund Venture Capital Portfolio.



Joseph Mwangura
Economic and Market Research Analyst
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701-328-5367

Performs economic and market research to support North Dakota's primary sectors and five targeted sectors. Reviews and analyzes quarterly economic data and prepares reports for cabinet briefings on North Dakota's economy.



Jessica Nygaard
Lead Finance Manager, NDDF
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701-328-7251

Manages and oversees the North Dakota Development Fund debt financing and loan portfolio.



Jonathan Russo
Value-Added Energy Business
Development Manager
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701-226-2767

Researches and develops relationships with businesses and organizations within the energy sector to find new opportunities for growth in North Dakota.



Kevin Sonsalla
Value-Added Ag Business
Development Manager
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701-328-5323

Coordinates resources to attract, expand and retain business development efforts in the ag and bioenergy industry. Represents Commerce on the Agricultural Products Utilization Commission (APUC) board.



Carla Valentine
Program Manager
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701-328-3698

Manages Innovate ND and the LIFT program to support North Dakota entrepreneurs and businesses. Administers business incentive accountability for state and local grantors.