



LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE AT AN EARLY STAGE

BioScience Summit October 16, 2025

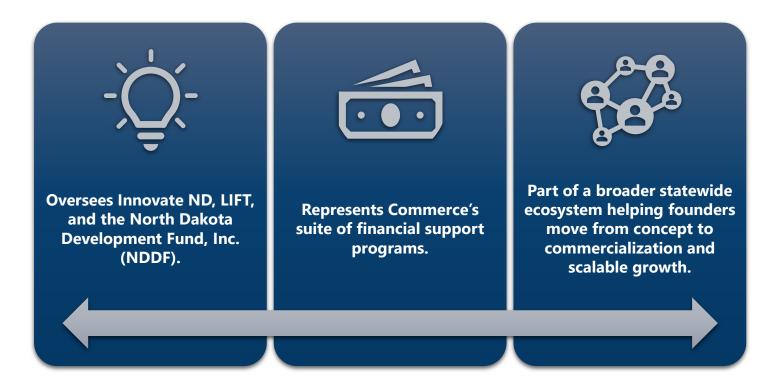
Shayden Akason

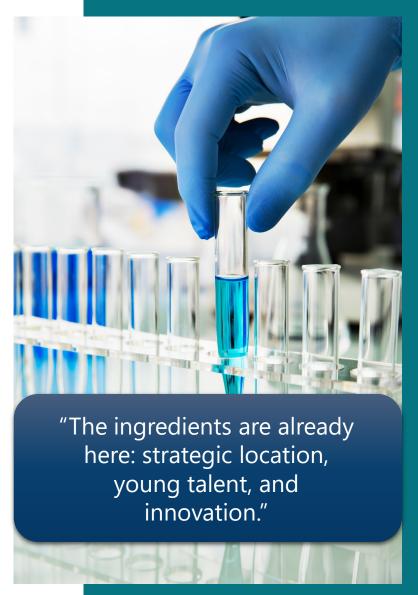
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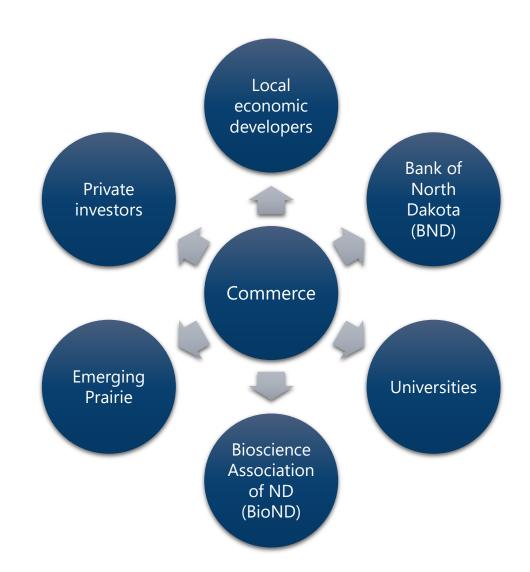
ED&F's Role in Supporting Innovation





Partnerships Power the Ecosystem

Shared goal: Help founders start, grow, and stay in North Dakota.



Innovate ND – Supporting Early-Stage Founders

COMMERCE PROGRAMS SUPPORTING BIOSCIENCE

Supported 72 startups (2021–2023)

• 7 bioscience startups

Two-phase model

Provides mentoring, market validation, and up to \$50,000 in grant funding.



LIFT - Bridging Research and Market Entry

OVER \$40M APPROVED SINCE 2019, SUPPORTING 50+ COMPANIES.



150+ net new jobs created



\$34M increase in annual revenue



\$80.9M in leveraged investment





NDDF – Flexible Gap Financing for Growth

PROVIDES LOANS, EQUITY, AND CONVERTIBLE NOTES.

- Generally, serves as last in capital.
- Supports small to mid-sized businesses in bioscience, manufacturing, and tech.
- Designed to fill financing gaps traditional lenders can't.





A Connected Pathway for Founders

- Each program targets a different stage of company growth.
- Public-private partnerships ensure continuity of capital.

Goal: Keep and attract founders.



Public-Private Collaboration at Work



These programs show what's possible when public and private sectors align.



Results: New startups, new jobs, new investment, and company retention.



North Dakota is becoming a destination for innovators and bioscience entrepreneurs.



Thank You



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