



Celebrating Our First Year

NDSU

THE NICE CENTER



nice.

Our Vision



The Nice Center believes in Entrepreneurship For All.

Entrepreneurship is an essential skill that builds empathy, collaboration, and resilience—all traits needed in today's workforce.

Our mission is cultivated both on campus and out in the community. As a land-grant university, we work locally at NDSU, throughout Fargo-Moorhead, across North Dakota, and wherever our alumni may reside.

We provide experiential opportunities through individualized programming and projects for our students to learn, connect, and create, whether they want to start their own business or nonprofit or collaborate on a team.

By partnering with local companies and innovators, students gain invaluable learning experiences and community businesses and entrepreneurs gain ambitious collaborators for their work. It's a win-win.

**At The Nice Center, we don't just learn
about entrepreneurship, we become entrepreneurs.**

Empathy is an essential skill for entrepreneurs—and all of us.

When I arrived in Fargo on a cold January day, I quickly learned the concept of “North Dakota Nice.” I grew up in South Dakota and ran my own business for almost 10 years, but I’d never heard the words “South Dakota Nice.” I took note.

What makes Fargo and North Dakota special is “nice-ness.” I saw a welcoming community working together to understand and solve difficult problems. As I connected with the community, it was clear our new center for entrepreneurship would be built on the strengths of this place. That’s why we’re called The Nice Center.

The Nice Center is quickly growing as we connect our campus with the community and state. We added Dane Johnson to our team as Programs Manager in October, and we look forward to employing 14 students this spring to further our mission. With our land-grant history, we see ourselves as ecosystem builders, working to help students, entrepreneurs, innovators, and creators across the state.

We know great problems can be solved if we use empathy to understand what is needed and how we can help. As we enter 2020 with energy and momentum, we’re excited to bring entrepreneurship to all, so all are welcomed to make our communities even nicer.

Be nice!



SCOTT D. MEYER

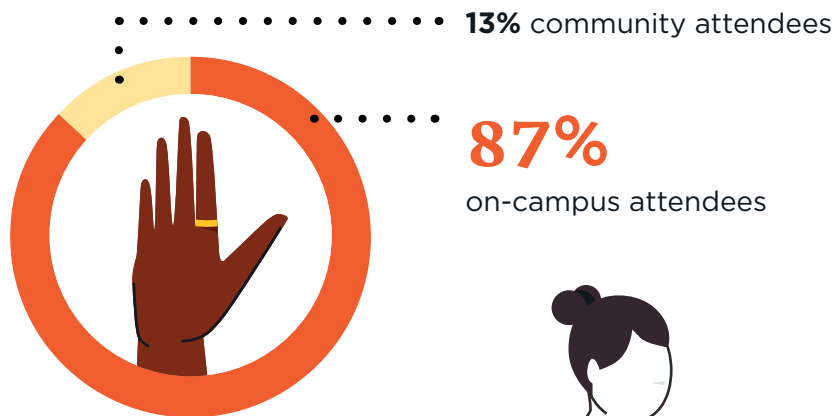
Ozbun Executive Director of Entrepreneurship



nice.

Our Impact

In our first year, The Nice Center reached **5,698 attendees** on campus and in the community while granting **\$185,000 in scholarships and stipends** to students and faculty.



5,698

attendees on campus and in the community

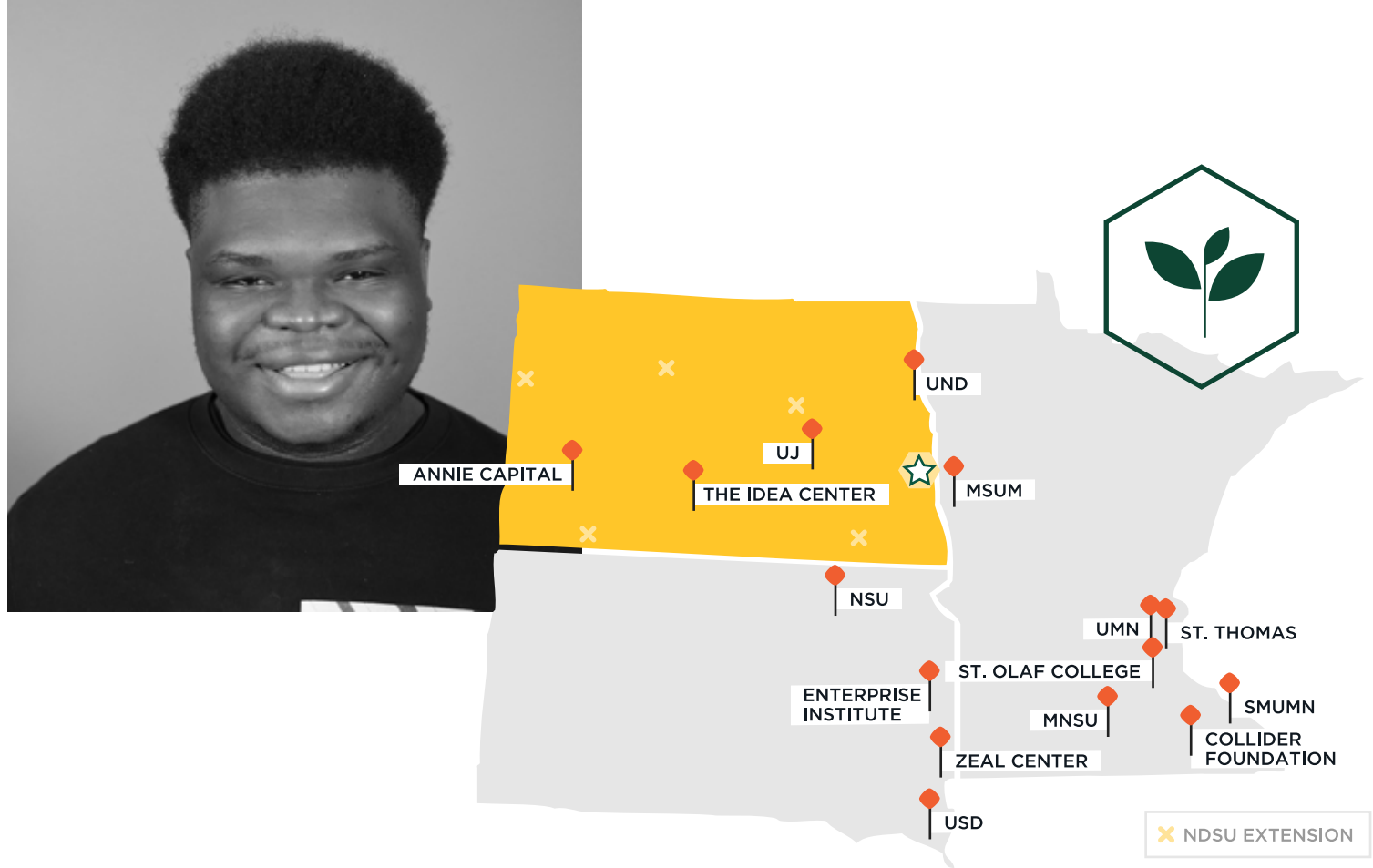
367

students studied entrepreneurship at NDSU

5

student teams launched businesses or nonprofits

Our Ecosystem



Fargo Roots, Regional Ecosystem

Our Fargo headquarters is our strategic advantage. From this dynamic community, we build partnerships and collaborations that reach around the world and help us fulfill our mission of “Entrepreneurship For All.”

The Nice Center also helps build the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Fargo. By connecting students with opportunities and entrepreneurs, we help retain talent and seed an innovative workforce.

40+

business and organization partners

28

class visits from entrepreneurs

8,522

views of stories, videos and podcast interviews with local and national entrepreneurs

Enlight

App helping teachers become experts on their students

DIEUMERCI CHRISTEL

Junior, Business Administration and Entrepreneurship, NDSU

Brandakin

Social marketing agency

EMILY AVDEM

Senior, Marketing, NDSU

Pathway Ventures

Student venture capital firm

HANNAH LANGE

Senior, Finance and Economics, NDSU

NATHAN MARCOTTE

Senior, Computer Science and Entrepreneurship, NDSU

DIEUMERCI CHRISTEL

Junior, Business Administration and Entrepreneurship, NDSU



“ The Nice Center gave me confidence that I can do things I didn’t know I could do before. ”

Emily Avdem

“ The resources The Nice Center has given us have been amazing. I’ve made connections in the community that I never would have been able to otherwise. ”

Hannah Lange



AdVest Marketing

Digital marketing agency

JAMES SLAGLE

Junior, Business Administration, NDSU

BRYCE BAKKEGARD

Junior, Business Administration, NDSU

Be Bold

Nonprofit Connecting Homeless Youth in Fargo
with Student Mentors

NADIA MITCHELL

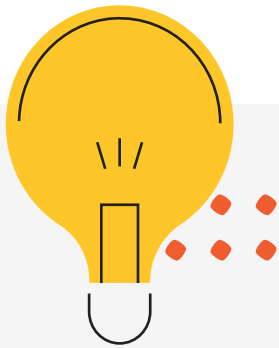
Junior, Business Administration and Entrepreneurship, NDSU

SEAN FEENEY

Senior, Mathematical Finance and Computer Science,
Concordia College

**“ The Nice Center provided great mentorship for us
along with the connections needed to help grow
our business and jump-start our potential. ”**

James Slagle



For Students

Nice Passport + Scholarship

Student scholarships awarded based on entrepreneurial activity and interest

\$120,000

in scholarship funding

604

students created Nice Passports

3

events attended per student, on average

Innovation Challenge

Idea competition in collaboration with NDSU Research & Technology Park to help students move ideas into action

100+

participants

13

winners

40

student teams

\$21,000

awarded

Personal Mentorship + Support

Individual meetings to connect students with opportunities to further their ideas

183

1-on-1 meetings with students

The Nice Center taught over 400 students about entrepreneurship in the classroom through courses, guest lectures, and workshops.

Our Programs



For Faculty

CoSearch

30-hour interdisciplinary research competition to connect faculty through the development of research projects

30

faculty participants

25

disciplines represented

1

research group applying for grants to launch their research

Ecosystem Centers

Conference connecting entrepreneurship centers in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota to share best practices and find collaboration

3

states

17

organizations

45

entrepreneurial leaders

Nice Faculty Fellows

Supporting faculty at NDSU who are interested in integrating entrepreneurship in their work

13

Nice Faculty Fellow

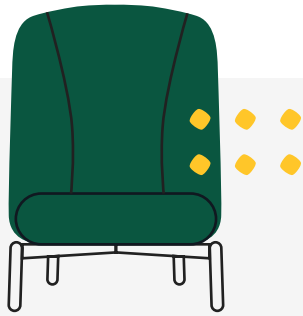
9

departments across campus

\$65,000

granted to faculty conducting entrepreneurship research

Our Programs



For the Community

Women's Entrepreneurship Week

A week of events throughout Fargo celebrating women entrepreneurs

700+

attendees

15

partnering organizations

35

female keynote speakers

We are the most active chapter of the national Women's Entrepreneurship Week!

Niche Craft

Workshops to train students and community members on essential skills for launching their ideas

134

attendees

4-part

webinar series on remote work

1

podcasting workshop

Challey Institute's New American Program

Accelerator program hosted by the Challey Institute, Emerging Prairie, and The Nice Center, connecting new American entrepreneurs in Fargo-Moorhead to capital, community, and technology resources

10

new American entrepreneurs

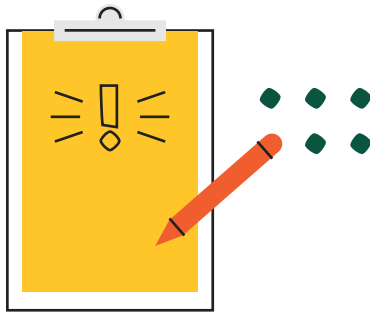
1

Emerging Prairie founders retreat

40+

hours of training and mentorship

What's Next?



Launch your business

CO.STARTERS—January

Nine-week business development program to help aspiring entrepreneurs put ideas into action and turn a passion into a sustainable, thriving small business

- *Lean more and sign up at: CoStartersND.com*

Kickstart your idea

Niche Craft: Crowdfunding—February

This four-part online workshop is available for the community and teaches how to create a crowdfunding campaign on sites like Kickstarter and GoFundMe

- *Sign up at: thenicecenter.org/nichecraft*

Fund your idea

Giving Starts Day—March

Community-wide launch of crowdfunding campaigns to fund as many projects and ideas as possible

- *Learn more at: GivingStartsDay.com*

Celebrate new ideas

Nice Showcase—April

Community-wide celebration of the ideas launched by students and community members

- *Reserve your seat: thenicecenter.org/showcase*

Change the world

Fowler Global Innovation Challenge—May

International social venture pitch competition that recognizes, resources, and rewards student-led social ventures focused on sustainable change

- *NDSU sends two student teams to compete for up to \$50,000 to launch their social venture*

Grow your venture

Nice Summer Fellows—Summer

A summer experience for students, in partnership with Emerging Prairie, to reduce the financial barriers to launch and grow a venture

- *Apply at: thenicecenter.org*



Sign up for events, stories, and lessons from The Nice Center.

TheNiceCenter.org/Subscribe

Support The Nice Center financially by contacting
Cody Jangula at the NDSU Foundation.

cody.jangula@ndsufoundation.com

(701) 400-2681

nice.

