



Closer to Home

A newsletter from the Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar Economic Development Commission



Volume 5, Issue 2 • Summer 2009

Technically Speaking, We're Expanding

Over the last five years, **Kandiyohi County's economy** has **expanded** by nearly **1,000 net new covered jobs**, a **4.6 percent growth rate**, despite the current recession. But within **professional and technical services**, which includes: legal services, accounting and bookkeeping services, computer systems design, management and technical consulting, advertising and related services, and architectural and engineering services; employment has expanded **52.5 percent!** **Architectural and engineering services** grew more than **18 percent** from 2003 to 2008, surpassing 100 jobs at 16 firms in Kandiyohi County. That was **more than twice as fast** as industry growth experienced in the state of Minnesota, which increased 8.6 percent over the last half decade.

If you're interested in exploring the **exciting professional and technical job opportunities** in the area, please **contact us** at edp@kandiyohi.com or **320-235-7370** for information on how to get linked with local employers.

We're Going Green!

Although most of our readers already receive the **Closer to Home** newsletter via e-mail or on the www.kandiyohi.com site, we also print several hundred copies and mail them out. In an effort to expand our reach and save paper, we're moving toward online-only distribution. If you want to keep receiving the newsletter, *please send your e-mail address to edp@kandiyohi.com!*

Engineering a Comeback: Bollig Inc. recruits Andy Nelson and Brad Kugler

Bollig Inc. provides a comprehensive range of **engineering and environmental services** for municipal, land development, water resources, decentralized wastewater and agricultural sectors, but they've also recently engineered a comeback for **two highly skilled professionals** who **wanted to return** to the area.

"There seems to be a lot of opportunities for **technology and bioscience professionals** in the area", remarked **Andy Nelson**, a newly-hired senior engineer at Bollig Inc. Nelson was born and raised in Willmar, graduating from **Willmar High School** and then attending **North Dakota State University** in Fargo. He has lived in several metropolitan areas in the last decade, including Fargo and the Twin Cities, more specifically in Eagan, Minneapolis, and Oakdale. Prior to joining Bollig Inc. in February of 2009, he was living and working in St. Cloud. In addition to hunting and mountain bike racing, Andy loves spending time outdoors with his two daughters, and is excited to move back to Kandiyohi County because it is a **"great place for kids to grow up."**

Brad Kugler, a civil engineer who also started at Bollig Inc. in February, shares the same perspective. He "wanted to move back to the area because my wife and I are planning on starting a family in the near future and [we] wanted to be closer to family." Kugler is originally from Alexandria, and also graduated from North Dakota State University in Fargo, with a bachelor of science in civil engineering. After college he moved to Fort Collins, Colorado. "I have always loved Colorado and wanted to live there," said Kugler, who enjoys fishing, hunting, and camping. Instead, he found the perfect opportunity to get a professional engineering job in an area that abounds with **outdoors amenities** – that is much **closer to home**.

Kugler feels like **"Kandiyohi County is a great place to live.** If you like the lakes and friendly people, this is the place for you." Both Nelson and Kugler are enthusiastic about the future prospects for Kandiyohi County. "I think the **economy** is pretty **stable**

around here," said Kugler. Nelson agreed that "the technology sector seems to be **strong and growing.**"

By bringing back engineering professionals with deep roots in the area, Bollig Inc. is poised to remain strong and growing as well.

Brian Bollig, the company's founder and president, enthusiastically noted that **"we are always looking** for good people that are interested in coming back to Willmar to raise their family and therefore, please do not hesitate to contact us at contact@bollig-engineering.com."



Andy Nelson recently moved back to Willmar to become a senior engineer at Bollig Inc.



Brad Kugler is a civil engineer at Bollig Inc., located on the MinnWest Technology Campus.



www.bollig-engineering.com/

Biosciences Research Lab & Business Development Center to be added to the MinnWest Technology Campus

The University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system, the City of Willmar and the MinnWest Technology Campus will be collaborating on what will be called the Mid-Central Biosciences Center.

The University of Minnesota plans to operate the facility and provide faculty and graduate students who will oversee the research. Robert Jones, U of M Senior Vice President, said that the facility will provide a "strategic opportunity" for the University to "leverage its resources" to create a presence in Willmar and provide technical support that will "drive innovation" into the private sector.

The research and development that is conducted at the **Biosciences Center Lab** will be paid for by biotechnology businesses, which could range from a variety of industries, such as **pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, and agribusiness**. Startup or small bioscience companies will especially benefit from the Biosciences Center and support from the lab, as they would not normally be able to afford the research independently. This will help them to take an idea all the way to commercialization.



The MinnWest Technology Campus is adding the Mid-Central BioSciences Center.
<http://www.mnwesttechnology.com/index.php>

By having expensive equipment at their fingertips that would probably only be used once or twice for testing, a small company can utilize the lab and students to fine-tune their product, as well as gain access to the business development capabilities that would be needed to bring the product to market. Businesses in Greater Minnesota will have the opportunity to use the service laboratory and tap into the expertise of the school faculty and researchers. This could help increase the number of bioscience businesses in the community and region.

The **Mid-Central Biosciences Center** will bring **25-30 new jobs** to the campus, which currently has 202 employees and 18 tenants. The research center will be a "huge catalyst" to the local economy. Renovation of the 3-story building will begin this fall and will hopefully be operational by the fall of 2009 or the spring of 2010. (information from www.mnwesttechnology.com/news.php?ci=57)

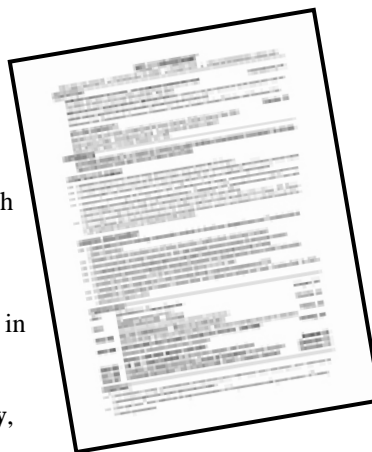
Ready to move back? Send us your *résumé*!

Despite the national economic slow down, there are still many **job opportunities** in the area. Through June 1, there were more than **250 jobs** listed as available on www.MinnesotaWorks.net within 50 miles of Willmar!

The goal of the **Bring Them Back Home** effort is to **encourage and help former residents move back to the area for job openings with local employers**. Through our **partners**, we have an extensive **network of businesses** in the region that are looking for **skilled employees**, all of whom would **love to hire** people with familiarity and affinity for the area.

If you're in a position where you're **ready to move back home**, please take the time to **send us your résumé**, and we will get you in contact with local companies that need your skills and abilities.

If you want to be the next **Bring Them Back Home success story**, call: **320-235-7370** or e-mail: edp@kandiyohi.com!



Exciting Career Opportunities

Mechanical Engineer

Nova-Tech Engineering - Willmar
Exp. in product design & development, with project mgmt. & leadership qual. Exp. in combustion systems, energy conversion, & heat transfer. Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering
careers@life-scienceinnovations.com

Research & Development Lab Assoc

Epitopix, LLC - Willmar

ELISA dev., gel electrophoresis, fecal & blood sample analysis, small scale fermentation, antigen harvest & proc., scale up bacterial growth studies, data entry, & routine assay work; Associate degree & exp. in sterile lab setting
apply@epitopix.com

Financial Controller

Impact Innovations - Clara City

Large locally-owned company in small city, selling to the largest retailers in the country; responsibilities include budget & forecasting, prepare financial reports, analysis, & review. Bachelor's degree & 5 years exp. Send to: Monica Orwick PO Box 550; Clara City, MN 56222
m.orwick@impactinnovationsinc.com

Journeyman Electrician

Willmar Electric Service - Willmar

\$19.00 - \$25.00 hourly
Direct electrical apprentices to learn the trade & progress thru apprenticeship; installation of electrical wiring, fixtures, & equipment; read blueprints. MN Electrical Journeyman's License PO Box 934; Willmar MN 56201
www.willmar-electric.com

Finance Manager

Marketing Concepts - Spicer

Fast-paced, e-commerce & software solutions provider. Monitor budgets; provide analysis & recommendations for improvements; maintain strong relationships with accounting firms, auditors, tax, & financial advisors; Direct & supervise Finance & HR staff.
HR@MarketingConcepts.com

Barb Wagner

130 Lake Ave; Spicer, MN 56288

Interim Environmental Educ. Coord.

Prairie Woods Environ. Learning Ctr.

Expected 12-month interim position to replace EE coord. who is working on a grant project. BA/BS Environ. Studies or related field req'd. Well-rounded naturalist w/ focus on prairie, woods & wetlands ecosystems. Exp. with day-use, residential, & outreach programs
Dave Pederson, Executive Director
12718 10th St NE; Spicer, MN 56288
d.peterson@tds.net