24th Annual Statewide Housing Conference
February 25 and 26, 2015
Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck, ND


Register online at www.ndhfa.org
Greetings!

You are invited to join us for North Dakota Housing Finance Agency’s 24th Annual Statewide Housing Conference on February 25 and 26, 2015, at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck, ND.

With an agenda focused specifically on North Dakota’s affordable housing challenges, this event draws both community leaders and industry professionals for its educational and networking sessions.

This year, the conference theme is “Change. Challenge. Opportunity.” with many of the sessions focusing on the state’s shifting demographics. If you haven’t heard, North Dakota is getting YOUNGER and much more DIVERSE as countless families move to the state from all over the country and the world to take advantage of our rapid economic growth.

We look forward to hosting you!

Jolene Kline
NDHFA Executive Director

Register Now and Save

Register online at www.ndhfa.org. Conference fees are $150 (full conference) and $80 (Wednesday or Thursday only) on or before Feb. 18, 2015. After Feb. 18 or at the door, the fees are $175 and $90 respectively.

When registering online, you may choose to print an invoice and mail payment in the form of a check to NDHFA or you may pay online with a credit card. Registration will not be accepted via fax, email or phone.

Questions, contact NDHFA at info@ndhfa.org, or call (800) 292-8621.

Call for Exhibitors

NDHFA invites housing service providers, public agencies and nonprofit organizations to exhibit at the 24th Annual Statewide Housing Conference. Cost to exhibit is $200 and includes one full event registration. Exhibit applications are available online at www.ndhfa.org. Questions, contact NDHFA at info@ndhfa.org or call (800) 292-8621.
7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ................................................................. Conference Registration and Check-in

8:00 – 9:45 a.m. ................................................................. Continental Breakfast and Legislative Update

   Early arrivals to the conference are invited to participate in a discussion with housing finance agency and state association leaders regarding 2015 Legislative Session activities.

10:00 – 11:30 a.m. ................................................................................. Plenary Session

   “Vision Mindset Grit,” Scott Burrows

   The true measure of success is how well you adapt to change, doubt, uncertainty and fear—and the belief system you employ must be powerful enough to conquer those obstacles. As audiences worldwide have discovered in this life-changing keynote, renowned speaker and author Scott Burrows’ own riveting story of overcoming adversity through sheer determination, will power and goal setting is uplifting and infectious. Using his physical paralysis as a visual metaphor, Scott reveals how to drive personal and business results using the same mental focus that helped him reinvent his life. The dynamic principles discussed in this presentation, *Vision Mindset Grit*, inspire people to unprecedented levels of empowerment and self-confidence, setting the stage for developing cutting-edge ideas and leadership strategies that will benefit your entire company.

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. .......................................................... Lunch and Plenary Session

   “A ND Cookbook for Building Diverse Relationships One Pot at a Time,” Kostas Voutsas

   Looking for simple solutions that will help you manage the regional, cultural, and generational differences in North Dakota’s changing workforce? Not sure how to communicate and collaborate with the newcomers from out of state? Turn differences into opportunities by traveling with Kostas to explore strategies that make cultural diversity work. Discover his secrets for managing regional and generational differences. And please, share these secrets with the world!

2:00 – 3:15 p.m. ................................................................. Concurrent Sessions I

   1A) Changing North Dakota

   There is no doubt that the energy boom has changed North Dakota’s economy. It has also had a significant demographic impact. During this session, the state’s census office will share the newest economic and demographic data available on our rapidly changing state.

   1B) Preparing Lower Income Households for Homeownership

   North Dakota’s fast paced real estate market makes it challenging for lower income buyers, especially first-time buyers, to purchase a home. To be successful, it helps to understand the buying process and to have funds to put toward the purchase. Learn about financial and educational resources local nonprofit organizations provide that can give these buyers an advantage.

   1C) Navigating Requests for Reasonable Housing Accommodations

   During this session, the panel members will guide both private and publicly-funded housing providers through the process of responding to requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. The session will conclude with a short presentation on the preliminary survey findings and fair housing definitions for the State of North Dakota’s Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing.

3:45 – 5:00 p.m. ................................................................. Concurrent Sessions II

   2A) Housing Data: Gather, Analyze and Plan

   A housing study is an important starting point when developing a plan to address your local housing needs. Once you have that data, what do you do with it? Panel members will discuss the role and mechanics of a housing study, provide guidance on what to do with the data that was gathered, and how to begin to develop a community housing plan.

   2B) Tribal Housing Challenges and Solutions

   This discussion will provide the audience with an opportunity to better understand tribal housing challenges and to learn about potential solutions.

   2C) Property Management Roundtable

   Section 8 PBCA managers are invited to sit down with NDHFA’s Property Management division staff for a roundtable discussion on topics of their choosing including TRACS 202D and Electronic Income Verification. Questions submitted in advance are appreciated, email: info@ndhfa.org, but not required.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m. ................................................................. Networking Reception and Exhibit Viewing

   The reception is a one of a kind gathering, offering the best local opportunity of the year for government leaders and housing industry professionals to interact, discuss challenges and share solutions.
7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ................................................................. Conference Registration and Check-in

7:30 – 8:00 a.m. ......................................................................................... Networking Breakfast
Catch up with old friends or make new business connections while enjoying a hot breakfast before the plenary session.

8:00 – 9:15 a.m. .................................................................................................. Plenary Session
“Charting the Course through Demographic Change,” Kenneth W. Gronbach
Demographers forecast markets, societal phenomena, and economics with uncanny accuracy because they count people, not money or things. Based on the profound and irrefutable effect of shifting demography, Ken Gronbach’s perspective is macro, a view from 30,000 feet, and very big picture.

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.  .................................................................................. Concurrent Sessions III
3A) Brownfield Development Part 1 of 2
Today, many communities are at the end of their infrastructure and land capacity. During this two-part session, we’ll have an in-depth discussion on Brownfield Development as an opportunity to redevelop underutilized or undesirable properties. This session will include an overview of Brownfield Development and the funding opportunities at both the federal and state levels.

3B) The Current State of Mortgage Lending
After nearly 30 years in the mortgage business in a variety of roles, Rob Chrisman publishes a widely read market commentary called “Daily Mortgage News & Commentary.” During this session, Chrisman will share his thoughts on current events and their impact on lenders and vendors.

3C) Crime and Housing
Keep yourself and your tenants safe by learning how to identify and report suspected criminal activity, including human trafficking and the manufacture and distribution of controlled substances.

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  ......................................................................... Concurrent Sessions IV
4A) Brownfield Development Part 2 of 2
Today, many communities are at the end of their infrastructure and land capacity. During this two-part session, we’ll have an in-depth discussion on Brownfield Development as an opportunity to redevelop underutilized or undesirable properties. During this second half of our Brownfield discussion, we’ll discuss implementing development plans, the economic impact to a community, and how to incorporate sustainable development as part of a Brownfield project.

4B) Basic Mortgagee Title Insurance
Attorney Dean Rindy, a real estate law and title insurance specialist, will present mortgagee title insurance basics, discuss title insurance issues that he has encountered and the resolutions, and field questions from the audience.

4C) Livable Communities: Great Places for All Ages
We’ll review trends and opportunities for collaborating to care for and meet the needs of our citizens throughout their lives. By paying increased attention to the factors that influence the health and well-being of people of all ages, we can help communities reach goals to become safer, healthier, more walkable and overall more livable for all populations.

12:30 – 2:00 p.m. ........................................................... Lunch and Champion of Affordable Housing Awards
The Champion of Affordable Housing Awards recognize and honor exceptional affordable housing contributions made in North Dakota.

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.................................. Public Input Meeting for the Five-Year Consolidated Plan
The State of North Dakota is developing a five-year plan to guide policy, actions, and investment for housing, economic development, infrastructure, and community and public facilities. Known as the “Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development,” the plan is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and serves to address unmet needs and determine funding allocations for housing and community development activities in the state. As such, the plan depends, in part, on the experiences and opinions of people who are knowledgeable about housing and community development as well as those who wish to share their opinions about these needs.

Rob Gaudin of Western Economic Services, LLC, consultant for the North Dakota Department of Commerce, will present preliminary findings from the eight public input meetings held throughout the state along with the preliminary survey findings.
Scott Burrows is living proof your life can change in an instant. By the age of 19, he was playing college football at Florida State University as a wide receiver and a top-ranked kick-boxing champion with his last fight broadcast by ESPN.

On November 3, 1984, Scott’s life took a dramatic and irreversible turn. He was involved in a serious automobile accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down and diagnosed a quadriplegic.

Despite his grim diagnosis, Scott refused to be sidelined. He made the decision to take action, to focus on the positives of the experience as opposed to dwelling on the obvious and overwhelming negatives.

Employing his paralysis as a visual metaphor, Scott encourages his audiences to stand up to their challenges—regardless of circumstances—using the dynamic principles of Vision, Mindset and Grit. His presentations are inspirational, focused and enthusiastically received.

Kenneth W. Gronbach is president of KGC Direct, LLC and the author of the current best-selling book, The Age Curve: How To Profit from the Coming Demographic Storm.

An internationally respected demographer who forecasts societal, commercial, economic, cultural and political phenomena with uncanny accuracy, Ken’s unusual blend of marketing savvy and common sense demography, based on seventeen years of proprietary demographic study, set him apart.

You will find that Ken’s steadfast position that the United States is the best nation on earth and his firm belief that the country’s best days are ahead, season his spirited presentations with an unmistakable pro-American enthusiasm.

Kostas Voutsas has been teaching Management and Human Resource courses for more than 17 years. He is tenured Assistant Professor of Business at Dickinson State University on the Bismarck campus.

Kostas delivers humorous dynamic presentations at national and state conferences and publishes his research in scholarly journals. He also serves as a consultant conducting individualized training and professional development seminars.
**Lodging**

The Ramkota Hotel, located at 800 South 3rd Street in Bismarck, is the conference headquarters. NDHFA has secured rooms at the facility at the special rate of $74.70 for a single and $94.70 for a double. Call (701) 258-7700 to make reservations, requesting the “North Dakota Housing Finance Agency” block. The hotel will honor these rates until Feb. 11, 2015, or until the block is full. Vacancy information on alternate hotels can be found on the Bismarck-Mandan Convention and Visitors Center website, [www.bismarckmandancvb.com](http://www.bismarckmandancvb.com).

**Transportation**

For conference attendees arriving by air, Bismarck has one major airport, the Bismarck Airport, [www.bismarckairport.com](http://www.bismarckairport.com). The Ramkota Hotel provides complimentary airport shuttle service. To request a pick-up, use the dedicated phone line in the airport’s baggage claims area.

Avis, (701) 255-0707; Enterprise, (701) 258-2636; and Hertz, (701) 223-3977 all offer rental car services at the Bismarck Airport.

Metro Taxi, (701) 667-4567; and Taxi 9000, (701) 223-9000 also provide transportation services.

**Conference Attire and Climate**

Your normal work attire is appropriate for all conference activities. Average daytime temperatures in Bismarck in late February are typically in the low 20’s. We recommend that you dress in layers to be comfortable during the conference as the temperature may fluctuate throughout the hotel.

**Special Accommodations/Dietary Needs**

Persons requiring special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and individuals with specific dietary needs should contact NDHFA at (800) 292-8621 or info@ndhfa.org by Feb. 18, 2015, so that appropriate arrangements can be made by the conference staff.

**Continuing Education**

ND Real Estate Commission and ND Board of Social Work Examiners continuing education program applications have been submitted. Credits will be offered upon approval of the program by the accrediting bodies.

**Registration**

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No refunds will be given for cancellations made after Feb. 18, 2015, and conference “no shows” will be billed. You may substitute another individual with the payment for the original registrant applied to the replacement’s registration. Notify NDHFA of registration changes by email, info@ndhfa.org, or call (800) 292-8621.
NDHFA is looking for Housing Champions!

Do you know of an organization, individual, program or project that has made a significant affordable housing impact in North Dakota? Nominations for NDHFA’s 2014 Champion of Affordable Housing Awards are now being accepted. Eligibility information and entry forms are available online, www.ndhfa.org. Deadline is January 16, 2015.