



Brad Barth

Executive Director, Forward Devils Lake Corporation

What is the ND Career Builders Program? The ND Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment program is a tool for businesses to recruit and retain talent in high-need occupations in ND. This unique partnership provides \$1 of state funds for each \$1 of matching funds, up to a total of \$17,000 per recipient! Individuals can receive a scholarship on the front end, loan repayment on the back-end, or both, for their commitment to the state to fill one of the high demand occupations.

Let's chat with Brad about his experience with the program!

Q. Please tell us your title and role at your organization.

A. I'm the Executive Director of Forward Devils Lake Corporation, we are the Economic Development organization for the City of Devils Lake and Ramsey County ND. I help facilitate and coordinate our business attraction and retention as well as workforce development efforts for the Devils Lake Region.

Q. Tell us about your organization's involvement with the ND Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment program.

A. We have used the Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment program from its inception. Prior to the Career Builders program being introduced we had our own regional Student loan repayment program. We have combined the programs to maximize our efforts here in the Devils Lake region.

Q. What is the greatest benefit to your organization from being involved in the ND Career Builders Scholarship & Loan Repayment program?

A. We are able to maximize our local community and business dollars in order to maximize our efforts of retaining and aligning our HS youth with regional businesses in careers beneficial to the youth and the region.

Q. How has the program helped your organization's workforce recruitment and retention efforts?

A. It has enabled us to offer local and returning youth a significant incentive for living and working in the Devils Lake region.

Q. What would you tell other organizations who are considering investing in the program?

A. It is not a question of if you should be taking advantage of the program but really when are you going to get started using the program. Every community should be using this program.

Q. What would you tell students who are considering a high-demand career and committing to this program?

A. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make a significant life changing decision that you won't regret and all you have to do is show up and put in the work.

Q. In your opinion, why should organizations and/or businesses invest in North Dakota's workforce to keep young adults in the state with programs like this?

A. Collectively, businesses and communities must work together to help align our young adults in career paths that will be successful in our local communities. The Career Builders program helps make this happen.