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## Homebuyer Ed. August and September Classes Completed

The Dawson Area Development Homebuyer Education class was held on August 23, 2006 at the Wilson Public Library in Cozad. Five Dawson County residents completed the class.

The September spanish-speaking class consisting of four households was held at the Lexington Library on September 11, 2006. Victor Diaz from Lexington teaches the spanish-speaking homebuyer education classes.



Lexington Public Library

The Dawson Area Development Homebuyer Education classes are available on a monthly basis with every other class being spanish-speaking. Contact: Deb Jensen 308.784.3902

## FEATURE: ORTHMAN MANUFACTURING

### Entering a 5th Decade of Manufacturing in Dawson County

Located in the heart of American agriculture, Orthman Mfg., Inc. Lexington, Nebraska serves a world wide agricultural marketplace. Founder, Henry Orthman first capitalized on the advancement in tractor design in 1965 by developing innovative attachments to improve major brand name cultivator versatility. Orthman's innovative products, born as a result of long-term relationships with America's agricultural producers, still today provide working solutions for the agricultural industry. Orthman Mfg., Inc. continues to foster the strong producer-manufacturer relationship the company was founded on 40 years ago.



Orthman continually believes that in order to design and manufacture industry leading products, quality relationships must be present between the manufacturer, dealers, and end users. Advancing tractor design has continued to allow Orthman to capitalize by producing innovative, well built, specialized products.

Orthman products are designed and manufactured to the pinnacle of structural integrity for which the company is well recognized. With a fundamental agronomic approach to provide solutions to producer challenges, Orthman is known for the financial benefit provided to the end users through the use of Orthman equipment.



Orthman Manufacturing (Northeast of Lexington)

"We will continue to provide commitment to our customers, which the Orthman family ideals and traditions instilled decades ago. Orthman persists today as a family owned enterprise. We embrace the enduring challenge of keeping the industry that feeds the world efficient." *President and Owner John McCoy.*

## Ten Years of DAD Service

### John Wightman

### 1996 - 2006

Dawson Area Development would like to thank John Wightman for his ten years of service to the organization. At the August DAD Board of Directors meeting, John was presented with a clock and certificate of appreciation by the DAD staff and present board members.

Under John's leadership, DAD was able to bring the area communities back to consensus. Since John has been involved, DAD has added housing, community development, and labor education to their scope of services.



Serving as Chairman, John has truly been integral in the revitalization of the DAD organization and his efforts are greatly appreciated.

John Wightman  
DAD Chairman  
2005 - 2006

## DAD LEADERSHIP CLASS 2006 - 2007

### First Session - Grand Generation Center

Twenty Dawson County residents have been selected for the DAD Leadership Class. The current class is DAD's tenth Leadership Class since the program's inception. The DAD Leadership program is a personal development program specifically designed to motivate participants to develop and enhance the quality of their leadership abilities in addressing pertinent community needs. The first class was held on September 6th at the Grand Generation Center in Lexington.

The 2006-07 participants were selected from the Dawson County area to represent a cross section of occupations and community interests. All applicants completed a written application and a personal interview.

#### Gothenburg:

Scott Bartels - Monsanto, Jennifer Bartlett - First State Bank, John Bell - DAD, Randy Burge - Eastside Animal Center, Jeanne Janssen - Gothenburg Housing Authority, Dan Kreis - Gothenburg Discount Pharmacy, and Bret Tiller - Farm Credit Services of America.

#### Cozad:

Judy Andres - Cozad Chamber of Commerce, Deb DeBoer - NPPD, PJ Jacobson - City of Cozad, Kelley Peden - City of Cozad, Kirk Riley - First State Bank and Trust, Ken Terry - Cozad Community Health Systems, and Bill Wilkinson - Security First Bank.

#### Lexington:

Pam Berke - City of Lexington, Mitch Heusinkvelt - Plum Creek Bank, Bill Brecks - City of Lexington, Dennis Burnside - City of Lexington, Eva Johnson - TierOne Bank, and Julie Otero - Lexington Public Schools.

Topics to be covered include: County History, Quality of Life, Government/Energy, Education, Health/Human Services, Business/Industry, Agriculture, Legal/Law Enforcement, Water Tour, and Becoming a Community Leader. Along with class attendance, participants must observe a city council and school board meeting in their respective communities as well as a Dawson County Commissioners meeting.



Dr. Bill Podraza - Effective Leadership Skills



Barb Vondras - Dawson County Museum



Homer Pierce - Opportunities to Serve

The DAD Leadership program plays a major role in developing and educating county leaders who will address the future needs of Dawson County and its surrounding area. The 2006-07 Advisory Board was pleased to see the submitted applications and felt that many qualified and talented individuals will gain future knowledge of leadership in Dawson County.

The Leadership Advisory Board for this class consisted of former Leadership Class participants: Nathan Wyatt - Gothenburg State Bank, Susan Kloeping - City of Cozad, Barb Batie - Lexington Clipper-Herald, Rusty Sutton - Plum Creek Medical Group, long time Advisory Committee member, Dave Stenberg - Dawson County Extension Service, and Mark McKeone - DAD Board Member.

## Worker Training

### DAD Receives Grant

Dawson Area Development (DAD) recently received a \$9,080 grant from the Nebraska Worker Training Board to provide on-going various Dawson County worker training instruction through Project: Dawson County Initiative. Central Community College will provide the additional training as Dawson Area Development will serve as the lead company.

"This is a phenomenal opportunity for our existing workforce to develop job skills that will either broaden or fine tune an individual's particular skill set. I would like to thank the Nebraska Worker Training Board, Central Community College, as well as all of the participating Dawson Area businesses for the effort each has put forth. It is long term collective training partnerships such as this project, that allow our area to continually provide an educated, highly skilled, and talented workforce," said John Bell, Dawson Area Development Business Education Coordinator.



Success of earlier Worker Training Programs prompted 19 Dawson Area employers to submit Project: Dawson County Initiative. These businesses agreed to allow certain employees to attend particular classes deemed appropriate in developing certain skills that would benefit them in performing their jobs. A variety of classes will be provided such as: computer training, safety, leadership development, along with various others. A total of 203 unduplicated employees (340 duplicated) are set to participate in the training classes.

With the financial assistance of Project: Dawson County Initiative, the employer and Central Community College can essentially "pool their efforts" to meet the evident need for employees to operate at high level  
**SEE: Worker Training - page 3**

## EDGE Program Becoming a Reality

### DAD Hires Amber Burge and Khris Jinks

EDGE: Enhancing, Developing, and Growing Entrepreneurs is a step closer to becoming a reality. Dawson Area Development has hired Amber Burge as Course Instructor and Khris Jinks as Program Manager. Amber holds a M.B.A. from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and brings extensive Marketing experience working for Valmont Industries and State Farm Insurance. Khris has two B.A.s, Business Administration and International Studies. She also worked for Union Pacific Railroad in their Marketing and Sales Department for seven years.

The classes will begin January 9th, 2007 and run through April 24th of 2007. The EDGE course is a comprehensive, 12-week training program designed to assist small business owners in the development of a viable business plan as well as increase management skills that lead to new, expanding, and profitable businesses.

Since 1993, EDGE has fostered and developed Nebraska's entrepreneurial community by providing successful business training for more than 2,000 people.

The EDGE training courses have proven to increase the profitability of other participating small businesses as well. A survey conducted by the Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the spring of 2004, found that gross annual sales increased in 2003 for 54% of the businesses run by EDGE graduates. Of those reporting sales increases, 73% say the change can be attributed to their participation in EDGE.

Along with creating a viable business plan, the EDGE course will cover the following areas affecting small businesses: legal issues, market research, management issues, budgets and cash flows, money sources, transfer of ownership, government regulations, contracts and more.

Tuition for the course is \$350.00 until November 15, 2006. After November 15, 2006 tuition is \$400.00. Tuition includes one set of books and a business partner can attend FREE! The class is limited to 15 students.

EDGE is the leader in providing high quality/high value small business training with proven results of business starts and expansions. In short, a sponsorship to the Dawson County EDGE offers a platform to sell your products and services to the participants. The Dawson County EDGE is priced to encourage sponsorships by organizations and businesses of all sizes. Packages range from an affordable \$125 to \$3,000.

If you are interested in participating in the Dawson County EDGE program as either a student or sponsor please contact Khris Jinks at (308) 537-4284 or e-mail at [kacj68@atcjet.net](mailto:kacj68@atcjet.net) or Jen Wolf, Dawson Area Development, Cozad, at (308) 784-3902 for more information.

The Dawson County EDGE works in partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), The Center for Applied Rural Innovation (CARI) and the NebraskaEDGE Program to offer the training course. For more information visit the NebraskaEDGE web site at <http://nebraskaedge.unl.edu>.

63 training sessions. Training will be held on-site in Dawson County allowing companies to participate with the least amount of business disruption. Central Community College makes this possible with state-of-the-art mobile equipment. Training is typically hands-on, interactive training, specifically designed for high retention and impact for the employee.

## ABLE

### Advisory Board

The ABLE Advisory Board is now complete and in operation. Wednesday evening, September 6th at Chipper Hall in Cozad the first ABLE Board meeting was held with Dr. Bill Podraza facilitating the meeting.

The ABLE Advisory Board consists of 14 individuals who are to either represent their career cluster or the school district in which they are employed. These individuals are responsible for bringing the ideas of the group that they represent, either a career cluster or school district, to the quarterly Board meetings. "I feel that we have a great group of people. I have had the opportunity to meet with each of the representatives on a personal level. I feel that each of the individuals bring a very educated and an ABLE investment viewpoint to the Board. I feel that the group consists of realist visionaries. I believe that all of these individuals have a long term vision for the ABLE program and its impact on the Dawson area economy. I also believe that the Board consists of realist mindsets that will not allow the project to become unmanageable. I look forward to working with each individual as well as the group as a whole. We are headed in the right direction." said John Bell, ABLE Coordinator.

#### BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE:

1. Scott Bahe - Gothenburg
2. Mark McKeone - Cozad
3. Doug Keller - Eustis
4. Tydd Rohrbough - Lexington
5. Steve Atwood - Lexington
6. Scott France - Gothenburg and Cozad
7. Jay Edwards - Cozad
8. Jill Luther - Overton High School
9. Donn Newquist - S.E.M. High School
10. Mike Straka - Lexington High School
11. Dave Blessing - Elwood High School
12. Kyle Hemmerling - Eustis-Farnam H.S.
13. Dustin Favinger - Cozad High School
14. Jerry Wiggins - Gothenburg High School

Thank you to everyone in attendance for this initial meeting. The ABLE program is now functioning as an organization and we are moving forward. JBell: [jbdad@cozadtel.net](mailto:jbdad@cozadtel.net)

## Worker Training - continued

cont. competencies to meet the demands of a global market and the current trends in technology and leadership skills. "This additional training provides our current employees with technical skills that will allow Tenneco to better meet the needs of our customers," said Jay Edwards of Tenneco in Cozad. Tenneco is set for individuals to participate in a total of