

North Omaha Development Project

March 2010

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Ed Cochran
Executive Director

Welcome to the March issue of the NODP newsletter!

On January 28 we held our second annual North Omaha Development project community meeting at the brand new Institute for the Culinary Arts. This state-of-the-art facility, located at the Fort Omaha campus of Metropolitan Community College, was packed with more than 200

stakeholders interested in the progress in North Omaha. Speakers such as State Senator Brenda Council, Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle, Omaha City Councilman Ben Gray and the President and CEO of the Greater Omaha Chamber, David G. Brown, set the stage for the exciting announcements to follow.

During the 80-minute meeting, some of the 2009 accomplishments were highlighted, as well as NODP objectives for 2010. Among the 2009 accomplishments was the announcement of the First National Bank of Omaha branch on 50th and Ames, the Long School Live/Work Townhome grand opening on 24th and

Patrick, and the groundbreaking for Signs and Shapes new North Omaha headquarters location. Among the 2010 goals we expect to see are the establishment of an Entrepreneur Partnership with the Ewing Kauffman foundation and expansion of the Malcolm X birth site initiated. In addition, there are two articles in this newsletter that highlight the recent activity in the financial services area on Ames Avenue, which is becoming known as the North O financial corridor.

As always, thank you for your guidance, support, and involvement.

*Invest.
Empower.
Succeed.*

The North Omaha Development Project is a commitment of the Greater Omaha Chamber, African American business leaders, corporate leaders, elected officials and the North Omaha community to make important investments in North Omaha.



North O Business Focus: TD Sanders and More

Give her credit for entrepreneurial foresight. When Terri Sanders named her full-service event planning company, she left plenty of room to expand her scope. And lately, TD Sanders & More has, indeed, been developing the "More."

A seamstress for 18 years, Sanders transitioned to event

planning in 2003.

Initially a home-based business, TD Sanders & More has since flowed into an office at 24th and Lake Streets at the Omaha Small Business Network. The company's list of services is also growing.

In addition to all-encompassing social

event conference planning, TD Sanders & More has launched a



Continued on page 4
"TD Sanders"



Source: www.mccneb.edu

We would like to thank Randy Schmailzl, President of MCC, and Jim Trebbien, Dean of Horticulture and the Culinary Arts, for their hospitality and use of an outstanding Culinary Arts facility as the site of the NODP annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Presentation

The complete slide presentation along with a narrative, the 2009 partner accomplishments and 2010 objectives as well as additional information on the North Omaha Development Project can be found on our Website:

www.ProjectNorthOmaha.org



Source: www.mccneb.edu

Grand Opening Celebrates Culinary Arts Program

Metropolitan Community College (MCC) officially debuted its Institute for the Culinary Arts Facility at a March 22 grand opening.

The \$16 million dollar facility, located at 32nd and Sorensen Parkway on the Fort Omaha Campus, features top-notch equipment in more than 35,000 square feet—including seven kitchens, a bakery, a chocolate

laboratory and a 65-seat bistro open to the public.

The reputable culinary arts program draws students from across the country—and the world—to North Omaha to build careers in Nebraska and beyond. Leaders anticipate the facility will raise the program's profile even more.

"The benefit to the area is

enormous," said Jim Trebbien, the program's long-time director. "We will attract people from far away to come to Omaha — and to stay and work here." To learn more about the aspiring chefs of the Sage Student Bistro and to make reservations, visit: www.mccneb.edu/bistro or call (402) 457-2EAT (2328).

North Omaha Action Planning Session a Success

On March 2, more than 150 North Omaha stakeholders, residents, and partners took part in a neighborhood design process with Schemmer and H3 Studios. The North Omaha Village Zone Strategy includes site plans of North Omaha's main corridors of concentration, Adams Park, and Malcolm X Birthsite. These areas were discussed and marked up with ideas from

participants. This is further refinement of the original NODP plan with the focus to rebuild targeted areas of North Omaha.

Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle and other elected officials such as State Senators Tanya Cook and Brenda Council, Omaha City Councilman Ben Gray, and Douglas County Commissioner Chris Rodgers were present and took an active part in the

design process. The North Omaha Village Zone partners are Alliance Building Communities, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, City of Omaha, North Omaha Development Project, and Omaha Housing Authority. Facilitation is done by the Empowerment Network.

For more information please go to: www.empoweromaha.org

Centris Federal Credit Union to Open in North Omaha

Centris Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce they have made arrangements to open a full-service branch in North Omaha.

Through an agreement with First National Bank of Omaha, Centris will purchase the current First National Bank office at

4804 Ames Ave. A mid-summer opening and celebration are planned for this location, which will include three drive-up lanes and an ATM.

Kevin Parks, president and CEO, said that over the past several years, Centris has conducted

many site reviews and a financial analysis for a new location north of Dodge and east of 72nd Street. Kevin went on to say, "This is an excellent opportunity for Centris to serve its North Omaha community members and to develop new relationships, too."

Free Part Time Workers for Your Business

The Greater Omaha Chamber's education and workforce development department is engaged in a partnership that offers a terrific benefit to members -- free part-time help.

The Work Experience program is a partnership with Arbor Education and Training and the Urban League of Nebraska and is intended to place currently unemployed individuals in positions at businesses and nonprofits where they can gain on-the-job experience. Workers would be treated like employees, but are not

considered employees and would not get paid. Normally, they work about 20 hours per week and they must be held accountable for their actions and performance. Each week, the program participant submits a short progress report/timesheet to the Urban League of Nebraska.

This program is a win-win for the participants and the employers, especially during these challenging economic times. Each placement lasts up to six months and there is no expectation of permanent employment. Temporary

administrative projects are also great opportunities to utilize Work Experience participants. Work Experience is like an internship for adults reentering the workforce. Participants benefit from gaining quality experience, a renewed job history and a reference for their permanent employment search.

Does your business have a need that could be met by a program participant or do you have more questions?

For more information contact [Andrew Rainbolt](#) at the Chamber at (402) 233-7153.

SAC Federal Credit Union to Build New Ames Avenue Facility



Source: Leo A. Daly

SAC Federal Credit Union continues building on its 64-year tradition of providing excellent service in Omaha. In 2002, SAC Federal Credit Union made a commitment to serve the financial needs of the North Omaha community by opening a location at 5070 Ames Ave.

Due to tremendous growth of the Ames Branch, SAC Federal Credit Union announces that it has outgrown this location and will add a newly renovated facility at 3161 Ames Avenue. This new location will expand the credit union's presence in North Omaha, offering three drive-up lanes and additional office space. Leo A. Daly is the Architecture firm heading up this project. This location will be completed in the summer of 2010.

Discussing the Challenges of Minority Entrepreneurs

On Feb. 23, the first Minority Entrepreneurship Forum was held at The Durham Museum. This forum was a joint program of the Omaha Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and the Minority Economic Development Council of the Greater Omaha Chamber. Over 100 people were in attendance.

Two panel discussions suggested potential solutions to existing business challenges. They also provided information about the resources available to address them. In addition, an onsite trade fair was held that provided an opportunity to meet with technical assistance providers, micro-lenders and business resources like the Nebraska Business Development Center, SBA, SCORE, New Community Development Corporation and others.

New NODP Intern

We would like to welcome Linda Williams as the new intern. Linda is currently working on a master's degree in architecture through Boston Architectural College. "I am a long time North Omaha resident and look forward to being part of the positive change for my community," Linda says. "There is a lot of anticipation and support for North Omaha to do well. The next step for us is to gear up and be ready to demonstrate our abilities and talents to the rest of the city."



North Omaha, Let's be Counted!

Every 10 years the U.S. Census Bureau attempts to count everyone in the country. Please give them all the support they need to count North Omaha by completing the questions on the form, which should take less than 10 minutes to complete. This small investment of time should return community benefits that could include better schools, improved community resources and services, and attract businesses looking for a strong workforce.

Health Care Employment Opportunity

accepted for an eight week training program for the Clerk / Patient Care Tech position at The Nebraska Medical Center. The Medical Center, Metropolitan Community College, Family Connections, Inc. and Nebraska Workforce Development are partnering to provide 12 individuals with an opportunity to obtain valuable training for entry-level work in a hospital setting. After successful completion, students will be Certified Nursing Assistants and certified in basic life support. Qualified candidates will be asked to interview for Clerk/Patient Care Tech positions at The Nebraska Medical Center. These are full-time positions

with benefits and a starting pay of \$12.08 per hour. Employment candidates must be willing to work in rotating, 12-hour shifts with some days and some nights. Successful candidates will be working directly with sick and injured patients and their families and will also work with nurses, doctors and other hospital staff in a clerical support capacity.

Qualified candidates must have an interest in the healthcare field, but are not currently certified nursing assistants. They must also have a high school diploma or GED, excellent communications skills some experience with

computers and a strong work ethic. Criminal histories will be evaluated on an individual basis, but must be disclosed at time of application. Candidates will be subject to a drug screening and background check prior to acceptance into training. Classes will be held Monday – Thursday from 3 to 9:30 p.m., June 14 – Aug. 16 at MCC's South Omaha Campus. Applications are now available at the Nebraska Workforce Development offices located at the Blue Lion on 24th and Lake and 57th and F streets. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on April 16.

TD Sanders and More

subsidiary, TD the Concierge, a personal concierge service.

"It's a service for busy people to give them time to do what they want to do, not what they have to do," explained Sanders. One-time or on a regular basis, TD the Concierge can assist with everything from gift buying to errands to making travel arrangements.

The bread-and-butter of TD Sanders & More, however, remains coordinating great events in Omaha and beyond.

It's done work for the Tuskegee Airmen National Conference, Berkshire Hathaway's annual meeting, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Central Regional Conference and the Susan G. Komen Foundation's Race for the Cure. In January 2009, it organized *The Believers Ball*, a black tie gala near Washington, D.C. celebrating the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Sanders, who operates the company with her husband and two

daughters, is a third generation business owner in the Omaha area. Her parents owned McCallister Beauty Supply, the first African-American beauty supply store in the state of Nebraska. Her grandfather owned a grocery store in south Omaha.

"It's really in our blood" Terri said. The experience with her own business has exceeded her expectations.

Samples of TD Sanders' balloon displays can be found at: www.tdsandersandmore.com