

# Cups

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dorm or apartment. I would like to see some way to put together a workforce pool from people available in both communities so people in Yankton and Vermillion both know who's out there, what their interests are and how they can fit in with what we've got going on."

Abbott said it's key to keep that young workforce in the Yankton-Vermillion area as a way of promoting their involvement in the community.

"I would actually like to employ more students in the Vermillion and Yankton (area) as opposed to Sioux Falls because one of the things I don't like about students going home to Sioux Falls on the weekend is that they don't really come back for anything, obviously," Abbott said. "You can get, pretty easily, to a basketball game, football game or any kind of event if you work in (Vermillion or Yankton). We have a fair number of opportunities for students and a fair number of students to work there, but I think we could do a better job of (promoting) that."

## HOUSING ISSUES

At present, both communities are facing issues with available affordable housing.

Collier-Wise said this has led to a large commuter population for businesses in Vermillion.

"Forty percent of USD employees commute," Collier-Wise said. "Forty percent of Sanford employees commute. Sixty percent of Masaba and Builder's Choice do not live in our community — and both Masaba and Builder's Choice would add another shift if they could find workers to work there. I think a lot of that comes back to housing and a lot of that comes back to amenities. People want a job, they want something to do and they want a place to live. We have the jobs and we don't have the other two."

Kramer said the problem has also been prominent in Yankton.

"Our 30 primary sector companies have not asked us to — but demanded — that we address the housing shortage below \$200,000 and the apartments," Kramer said.

## EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The panel also took time to address the potential of collaboration between education institutions in each city.

Abbott said while there is the competition for full-time students between MMC and USD, there's still the possibility the two institutions could work together.

"Of course, you always have a situation with both institutions wanting more full-time students, so there's always a tension there," he said. "But I suspect there are some health areas that we could have some mutuality in. I talked with (interim president) Tom Lorang when he came to Mount Marty and suggested we'd be happy to talk with him about anything that would be helpful."

Yankton School District superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle was in the audience for the forum, but addressed the panel when asked about efforts to work with regional schools.

"We are looking at putting together a three-year technical academy here in Yankton that would be run through the high school and RTEC," Kindle said. "We've had meetings with seven area schools, so we're working on hopefully forming some partnerships that way."

## EXPANDED RECREATION

Collier-Wise said one thing Vermillion needs to take advantage of is its proximity to the Missouri National Recreation River.

"We do not take advantage of the river the way that we should," she said. "The housing study that was done made a number of recommendations for economic development, and one of the main recommendations that was made was to take advantage of the river."

She used the Black Hills as an example of an area that utilizes the assets of multiple communities to procure tourism.

"Nobody would go to the Black Hills if there was one town and one thing to do," she said. "They go to the Black Hills because there are many communities and many activities that are bundled together as one. We'll never be able to compete with that side of the state recreationally, but we can do so much more."

Yankton Chamber of Commerce executive director Carmen Schramm said there's a need to bundle activities in order to keep tourists coming.

"We don't have enough activities to keep people around in both our communities for at least two or three days for overnights," Schramm said. "In order to keep them longer, we need to bundle up activities."

## REACHING A NEW AUDIENCE

The panel also acknowledged that in a world of rapidly changing technology, it's become difficult to engage in communication with the 18- to 34-year-old demographic. Abbott said there's a

growing need to find ways to make the transmission of information more efficient.

"I thought the most interesting thing about the discussion was the degree to which people acknowledge that communication is extremely difficult in an era in which everyone thinks communication is significantly easier," he said. "The difficulty is not that there aren't plenty of outlets — the problem is you have to get folks to that outlet. You could have the best website in the world, but if nobody knows to get to the website, what have you got?"

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at [twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/](https://twitter.com/RobNielsenPandD/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

## SCHOLATICS

### BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY

BELLEVUE, Neb. — Bellevue University proudly acknowledges the accomplishments of students who have earned degrees from July through December 2014 — 1,275 total, including 437 graduate degrees and 838 bachelor's degrees.

Graduates included Michael Oberg (BS in Management Information Systems) of Elk Point.

### FIONA DAHLBERG

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska Wesleyan University has announced its Academic Honors List for the fall semester of the 2014-2015 academic year.

A student must have a minimum grade point average of 3.75 (on a 4.00 scale) for 12 or more hours of coursework to qualify for the list.

Area students earning academic honors recognition include:

- Yankton — Fiona Rosemarie Dahlberg

### IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ESTHERVILLE, Iowa — Valerie Newhouse, President of Iowa Lakes Community College, has released the fall honors list of full-time students who have demonstrated academic excellence by earning at least a grade point average of 3.25 (based on a 4.00) or higher.

Fall semester students who have achieved a 3.25 grade point average or better are recognized by inclusion on the Dean's list. Those with a 4.00 (A) average are on the President's list.

The list includes Tanner Full of Dakota Dunes.



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