



SPEARFISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**BUSINESS  
NEWSLETTER** 

Volume 6, Issue 1 | January 2021

## 2021 SEDC Annual Meeting

The 2021 SEDC Annual Meeting will be held virtually on  
**JANUARY 28TH, 2021 AT 5:30 PM.**

The virtual meeting will include updates from SEDC Executive Director Kory Menken and City of Spearfish Mayor Dana Boke along with special guest speaker Black Hills State University President  
**DR. LAURIE STENBERG NICHOLS.**

The 2021 *Award of Excellence* and *Spirit of Enterprise Award* winners will also be announced.

Details on accessing the virtual meeting will be sent soon.



Where *Anything* is possible

**Black Hills State University President  
Dr. Laurie Stenberg Nichols**



Thank you to our 2021 Annual Meeting sponsors, Black Hills Energy and Vast.  
Event produced by Western Sky Media.



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## A Letter from the Director

While 2020 was undoubtedly a year filled with unique challenges, it was also a year of opportunity and growth for both Spearfish and Spearfish Economic Development Corporation

(SEDC).

Despite the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Spearfish experienced healthy increases in both sales tax revenues as well as building permit valuations. In fact, 2020 saw record-breaking construction in Spearfish with almost \$55 million in total commercial and residential permit valuations.



The day-to-day activities of SEDC were also modified as we navigated the choppy waters of 2020. While assisting with the retention and economic well-being of our existing Spearfish businesses has always been a top priority for our team, those efforts were amplified throughout the past ten months. We sincerely hope the information, advocacy and guidance provided by SEDC was of great value and meaningful assistance to you and your business during these trying times.

Although the vast majority of our planned outreach activities were postponed in 2020, SEDC certainly did not abandon our strategic efforts to attract new businesses and workforce talent to our growing community. In addition to launching several new marketing initiatives, SEDC played an active role in the creation of the Sky Ridge workforce housing development and in many other community-based initiatives.

As we enter 2021, we look forward to resuming our in-person SEDC business roundtables and training workshops as soon as circumstances allow. We will also continue to provide our membership with the resources, data and tools needed to help you succeed in today's ever-changing business environment.

A successful economic development strategy must consist of new business attraction, the retention and expansion of existing businesses, and the development of talent and education. Thanks to the support and engagement of our members, SEDC continues to evolve and increase our range of services.

We look forward to our continued partnership in 2021!

Kory Menken  
Executive Director  
Spearfish EDC



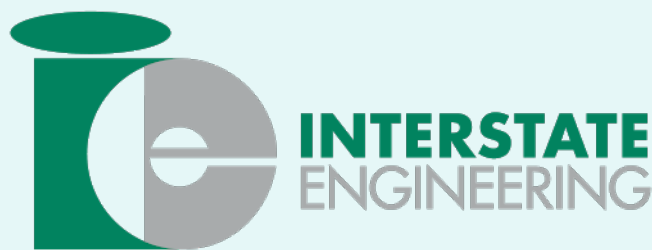
SPEARFISH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## Interstate Engineering

Written by Cayley Schmitt

Interstate Engineering, led by Senior Project Engineer and Spearfish Office Branch Manager Ron Bengs, is currently located in the Atlas Building, which borders Interstate 90 near Exit 14. The business bought out NJS Engineering in 2011 and began operating on Jackson Boulevard in downtown Spearfish before moving to the SEDC-managed Atlas Building in 2019. Prior to managing Interstate Engineering in Spearfish, Ron worked for the South Dakota Department of Transportation, worked in the private sector, and owned his own firm as an engineer after graduating with a degree from the South Dakota School of Mines in 1993.



Interstate Engineering in Spearfish is one of the company's 17 locations across 5 Midwestern states. Employing 10 very diverse employees within the Atlas Building, Ron's team provides high-performance civil engineering, surveying, and planning services for its clients. Ron and his team "strive to understand their client's needs and desires and then provide a feasible, cost-effective and compliant solution" for them.

The company's mission statement states that it is committed to improving the quality of life throughout the region by providing solutions founded on trust, efficiency, and professionalism. Its employees are called to care for the well-being of others and to strive to leave an impression of integrity, loyalty, and quality to the communities they serve. Ron and his team do an admirable job of upholding these values and working to improve the Spearfish community. For example, they recently provided design services for the new pickleball courts in the Spearfish City Park. The company also heavily supports youth sports programs in the area. The best thing Ron has ever heard one of his customers say about their work is that they have made a positive difference. "While the work may be very challenging, it is worth it," says Ron.

This past year has been especially challenging for the company, as it has been for businesses everywhere. The pandemic has forced the company to operate much differently. In-person meetings have been replaced with virtual meetings both internally and with many clients. However, these new challenges have not prevented Interstate Engineering from succeeding at serving its clients and community. Rather, the unique trials of 2020 have allowed for exceptional adaptation and growth. Ron and the employees of Interstate Engineering will continue to support development throughout the region and help make Spearfish a better place to be.



Ron Bengs (far left) with his employees at Interstate Engineering in Spearfish

To learn more about Interstate Engineering, visit their website, give them a call, or stop by their office at 120 Industrial Drive, Suite 2 in Spearfish.

[Interstate Engineering Website](#)

### *Do you want to be featured in the Business Spotlight?*

Simply fill out the short form below! Your business must be an SEDC member to be selected. If chosen as the Business Spotlight of the Month, you will be asked to answer a questionnaire and provide a photo to be used in an upcoming newsletter.

[Business Spotlight Interest Form](#)

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## 2021 SEDC Memberships Open

The 2021 SEDC Membership Investment Campaign is happening right now!

Annual memberships begin as low as \$125.

**Membership Levels:**

Bronze - \$125 - \$249

Silver - \$250 - \$499

Gold - \$500 - \$999

Platinum - \$1,000 - \$1,999

Diamond - \$2,000+

Invest and Receive your  
2021 Investor Sticker Today!

[Membership Brochure](#)



## There's Still Space Available in the Atlas Building!



The Atlas Building, located adjacent to Interstate 90 near Exit 14, has space available for rent:

- 1,000 s/f of fully finished office space
- 4,000 s/f of partially finished office space
- 4,000 s/f of high ceiling light industrial space with overhead door

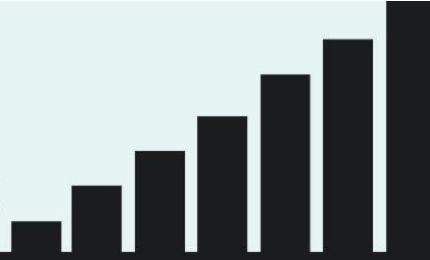
Built in 2015, the Atlas Building has electric, natural gas, water, and telecommunications hookups in place as well as three-phase power and plenty of free parking space.

Contact Kory Menken to learn more about the space and SEDC's competitive

lease rates.

*Kory Menken*  
*Executive Director*  
*Spearfish Economic Development Corporation*  
*Director@SpearfishDevelopment.com*  
*(605) 642-3832*

# BY THE NUMBERS



## Spearfish City Reports:

<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>YTD 2020</b>	<b>YTD 2019</b>
New Residential	10	0	101	58
New Commercial	0	1	13	10
Total Permits	36	20	567	355
Total Dollars	\$3,920,661	\$859,535	\$54,968,747	\$36,752,580

<b>SALES TAX</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>YTD 2020</b>	<b>YTD 2019</b>
2nd Penny Sales Tax	\$333,989	\$291,072	\$4,543,044	\$4,239,368
Hospitality Tax	\$44,470	\$39,266	\$719,986	\$705,224

BUILDING PERMITS AND  
SALES TAX ARE BASED ON THE MOST RECENT  
CITY OF SPEARFISH REPORT FROM DECEMBER OF 2020

## SD Dept. of Labor Reports:

### Labor Force 2020 2019

#### CITY OF SPEARFISH

Total Labor Force	6,335	6,250
Total Employed	6,105	6,041
Total Unemployed	230	209
% Unemployed	3.6%	3.3%

#### LAWRENCE COUNTY

Total Labor Force	13,551	13,282
Total Employed	13,051	12,845
Total Unemployed	500	437
% Unemployed	3.7%	3.3%

#### NORTHERN HILLS

(BUTTE, LAWRENCE, MEADE, & PENNINGTON COUNTIES)

Total Labor Force	87,059	89,764
Total Employed	83,883	86,730
Total Unemployed	3,176	3,034
% Unemployed	3.6%	3.4%

LABOR FORCE DATA IS BASED ON THE MOST RECENT  
SD DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & REGULATION  
REPORT FROM NOVEMBER OF 2020

# Local Development News

**Black Hills Pioneer:**

[Family Dollar opens in Spearfish](#)

[Sky Ridge takes shape](#)

[Keating Resources plans big Black Hills investments](#)

[Mild weather speeds Sky Ridge development](#)

[A brew above](#)

**KOTA:**

[Skyridge, a new development going up in Spearfish](#)

**NewsCenter1:**

[Plans begin for a new sculpture in Spearfish](#)

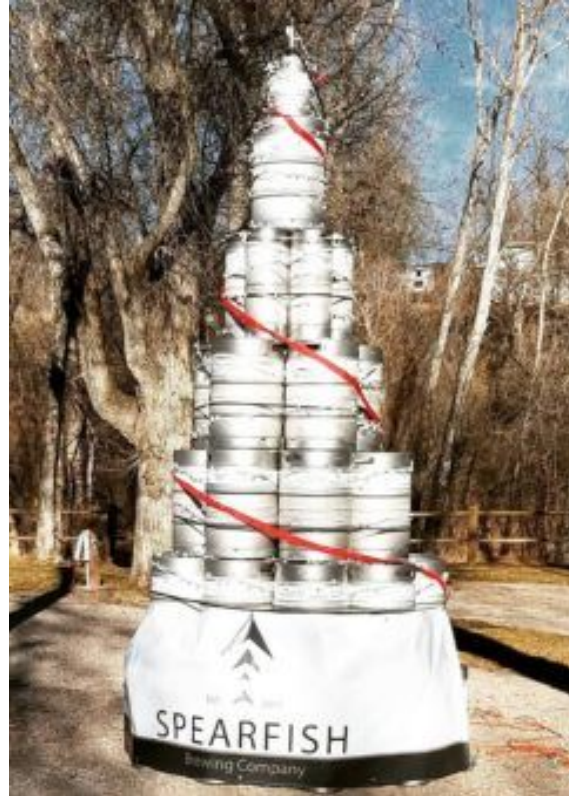
**Rapid City Journal:**  
[BHSU alums recognized for being exceptional educators](#)

[Spearfish Brewing takes top national awards](#)

**US News:**  
[Record Permits Sold for Black Hills Motorized Vehicle Usage](#)

**KELO:**  
[COVID-19 Beyond the Numbers: A South Dakota business keeps doors open by following CDC guidelines](#)

**Argus Leader:**  
[\\$50 million First Premier gift helps SD create needs-based scholarship program](#)



## Get Involved in the Community!

**Virtual Women in Networking**  
Hosted by SD CEO  
Tuesday, January 12th from 12:00 - 1:00 PM  
Via Zoom  
[Learn More Here](#)

**SD CEO**  
*Center for Enterprise Opportunity*  
Women's Business Center

**Virtual House Party**  
Hosted by The Hook Young Professionals  
Tuesday, January 12th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM  
Via the House Party App  
[Learn More Here](#)

**THE HOOK**  
Spearfish Young Professionals

**Makers Market & Vendor Fair**  
Hosted by The Barn at Aspen Acres  
January 16th from 12:00 - 8:00 PM  
The Barn at Aspen Acres  
[Learn More Here](#)

**THE BARN**  
AT ASPEN ACRES

**2nd Annual Chinook Days**  
Hosted by Matthews Opera House, Spread the Tunes, BH Nordic, Visit Spearfish, & GAS  
January 16th through 23rd  
[Learn More Here](#)



**Virtual SEDC Annual Meeting**  
Hosted by Spearfish Economic Development Corp.



Thursday, January 28th at 5:30 PM

Via SEDC Website

[Learn More Here](#)



### Souper Starz Dinner

Hosted by Spearfish Souper Starz

February 8th from 6:00 - 7:00 PM

The Barn at Aspen Acres

[Learn More Here](#)



Please share your upcoming events with [Cayley Schmitt](#), SEDC Marketing Coordinator, to be included in the upcoming SEDC monthly newsletters.



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Let's Be Friends!

