

## SEDC Receives Black Hills Energy Economic Development Grant

Spearfish Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) recently received a \$6,000 grant through Black Hills Energy's Economic Development Grant program to support ongoing marketing efforts targeted at attracting additional outdoor product businesses to the Spearfish area.



Outdoor recreation is an economic powerhouse in the United States, producing millions of jobs and billions of dollars in consumer spending each year. According to a 2017 report from the Outdoor Industry Association, American consumers spend more on outdoor recreation than they do on pharmaceuticals and fuel combined.

Spearfish's outdoor attractions and active lifestyle appeal have been recognized by numerous organizations and publications and have already helped to attract a handful of outdoor-centric companies to the community. SEDC is working hard to encourage more companies of this nature to relocate or expand to the area as they create the type of clean industry and good-paying jobs the community desires.

"This grant will significantly aid SEDC's ongoing marketing strategies," said Kory Menken, SEDC Executive Director. "We sincerely appreciate our partnership with Black Hills Energy, as well as their tremendous commitment to SEDC and the entire Spearfish community."

Thanks in part to past grant support from Black Hills Energy, SEDC has been able to attend both the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market tradeshow in Denver as well as the International Fly Tackle Dealer show. Participation in these shows provided SEDC with the unique opportunity to connect directly with key decision makers and influencers from the outdoor product market and resulted in continued communication with over three dozen prospective companies. This newest grant will allow SEDC to place strategic advertisements in numerous regional and national publications, as well as boost social media, video and website efforts.

“At Black Hills Energy we are committed to helping our customers and communities thrive and grow.” said Marc Eyre, Vice President of Electric Operation at Black Hills Energy. “Spearfish offers world class outdoor recreation opportunities, so we were very excited to support SEDC through our Economic Development Grant program as we work together to bring additional outdoor businesses to the community.”



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## 2020 Economic Development Week

May 4th - 9th, 2020 is National Economic Development Week!

The goal of Economic Development Week is to increase awareness for local programs that create jobs, advance career development opportunities and increase the quality of life in communities everywhere. Economic Development Week highlights the importance of economic development and the good work that economic developers do every day.

To celebrate, here are some photos of development projects going on around Spearfish!



Continued Construction near Colorado Blvd.



## Spearfish City Park Pickleball Court Construction



Future Construction Site at the Village at Creekside

## New Building at the Granary District



Access Point Development

## The Homestead at Countryside



Frontgate Storage Additions

Addition at Solmax



New Building at Tiny Town  
Campground

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## Monument Health Offers Business Inspections

Monument Health is offering inspections to provide advice on clean and healthy business practices. Business owners or managers who would like their company to be inspected can call Karyla Dahl at (605) 644-4095. Inspections are available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and should take one to two hours to complete.

For more information to assist you in providing a safe environment for your employees and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic, [see this Black Hills Pioneer article](#) and the guide below for more best-practice guidelines.





# Cleaning your business during COVID-19

The following is an educational effort based on the most recent best-practice guidelines intended to assist you in providing a safe environment for your employees and customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Technical measures



- ✦ Increase ventilation in the workplace.
- ✦ Increase outside air circulation in the workplace.
- ✦ Provide tissues to cover coughs.
- ✦ Provide no-touch trash cans.
- ✦ Provide soap and water and/or hand sanitizer in multiple locations.
- ✦ Perform routine environmental cleaning.



- ✦ Provide disinfectant wipes to encourage frequent cleaning of items and high touch surfaces.
- ✦ Discourage workers from sharing items, or disinfect them between use.

## Personal Protective Equipment



### Use of gloves:

- ✦ While your skin is an excellent barrier, if gloves are used, change them frequently.
- ✦ Perform hand hygiene before and after removing gloves.



### Use of masks:

- ✦ Leave mask in place, and do not touch/adjust mask.
- ✦ Avoid removing the mask frequently.

## Organizational measures



- ✦ Implement flexible sick leave policies.
- ✦ Establish social distancing policies.
- ✦ Implement flexible or staggered shifts.
- ✦ Determine how you will function with increased absenteeism.



- ✦ Assess your essential functions.
- ✦ When possible, allow employees to work from home.
- ✦ Increase physical space between employees and customers.

## Personnel measures

- ✦ Employees with symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath) should notify their supervisor and stay home.
- ✦ Employees presenting to work with symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath) should be separated from other employees and sent home.
- ✦ Consider implementing employee screening at arrival for their shift by the following criteria:
  - ✦ Fever >100.4F
  - ✦ Cough
  - ✦ Shortness of breath
  - ✦ Exposure to a known positive COVID-19 patient
- ✦ Any employees with symptoms should contact their health care provider.
- ✦ Sick employees should remain home as directed by the SD Department of Health or their health care provider.
- ✦ Employers should not require employees to be tested for COVID-19 if they've called in sick or are returning to work. Follow the directions of the SD Department of Health or their health care provider.
- ✦ If an employee is confirmed as COVID-19 positive, follow the instructions of the SD Department of Health by following up with the employee's contacts.



## Governor Noem's "Back to Normal" Plan

Governor Kristi Noem unveiled her "Back to Normal" plan earlier this month. [Here](#) is a link to the plan including recommendations for South Dakota businesses.



## Enclosed Retail Businesses that Promote Public Gatherings:

As defined in Executive Order 2020-08, this includes any indoor restaurant, bar, brewery, café, casino, coffee shop, recreational or athletic facility, health club, or entertainment venue.

- Resume operations in a manner that allows for reasonable physical distancing, good hygiene, and appropriate sanitation
- Consider restricting occupancy and continue innovating in this uncertain environment

## Employers:

- Encourage good hygiene and sanitation practices, especially in high-traffic areas
- Encourage employees to stay home when sick
- If previously operating via telework, begin transitioning employees back to the workplace
- Where appropriate, screen employees for symptoms prior to entering the workplace

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## **New Job Shows Value of BHSU Degree for Graduating Senior**

SPEARFISH, S.D. – May 5, 2020

Black Hills State University graduating senior Cayley Schmitt from Tea is already using her college degree on the job at Spearfish Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) where she started working April 1, a month before her official graduation from the university.

Cayley studied the effects of political decisions and stimulus checks on a struggling economy in her business and political science courses. She never imagined she would be dealing with those same concepts in the first days of her professional career.



“The coronavirus is affecting Spearfish directly right now. It’s affecting jobs, businesses, the whole community, and that’s what I get to work with here at SEDC,” says Cayley.

As the Marketing and Administrative Coordinator, Cayley is responsible for administering office operations and supporting SEDC’s marketing strategy and implementation. The mission of SEDC is to grow the Spearfish community by expanding business development and job creation.

Cayley’s path to landing her full-time job started when she chose her focus area as part of the business administration degree at BHSU. The university offers 7

business specializations. Cayley chose a specialization in economics and finance.

“I got curious about finance and investing. I talked with Dr. Greg Farley, dean of the College of Business & Natural Sciences, about revamping the Investment Club,” says Cayley.

Cayley and the Investment Club members worked with the BHSU Foundation to invest \$25,000 in long-term stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. Each year the Foundation plans to donate a portion of the investment profits to deserving Investment Club members in the form of scholarships.

The BHSU School of Business AACSB Accreditation was one of the main reasons Cayley chose to attend college in Spearfish.

“I liked that Spearfish is small and inviting, with many outdoor activities,” says Cayley. “BHSU is more affordable than other schools I was looking at, being a South Dakota resident, and has AACSB accreditation, which most other schools I was looking at did not.”

When Cayley first arrived on campus in 2016, she joined the BHSU Triathlon team. After two years as a scholar-athlete, she decided to work in the community. She landed a job at Pioneer Bank & Trust as a teller, and when she decided to focus on economics and finance in her courses at BHSU she began working with the investment department at Pioneer Wealth Management.

“I couldn’t have gotten this job at SEDC without what I learned in college,” says Cayley. “My degree at BHSU set me up perfectly for working in public finance and with government entities – it set me up for what I’ll learn and use here in this position.”

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## Local Economic Development News

### **BH Pioneer:**

[Proposed timber sale reductions in forest could decimate timber industry](#)

[Spearfish workforce housing design approved by council](#)

[Spearfish is open for business](#)

[National Mutual Benefit launches NMB Cares program](#)

[Jackson Blvd. project will move forward in 2020](#)

[Spearfish native recognized in Forbes Magazine’s ‘30 under 30’](#)

### **Rapid City Journal:**

[SEDC receives \\$6000 grant](#)



[Black Hills Energy works to ensure service during pandemic](#)

[MDU donates \\$500,000 for pandemic response efforts](#)

**Newscenter:**

[Spearfish companies pair up to produce face shields](#)



**KEVN:**

[8 cents, 3 kids, and a lot of hope: A Spearfish family's hard work pays off](#)

**KELO:**

[Spearfish community supports local businesses one gift card at a time](#)

## BY THE NUMBERS

| Building Permits | 2020        | 2019        | YTD 2020     | YTD 2019    |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| New Residential  | 8           | 7           | 32           | 13          |
| New Commercial   | 2           | 0           | 5            | 2           |
| Total Permits    | 37          | 44          | 106          | 101         |
| Total Dollars    | \$6,403,202 | \$3,010,027 | \$17,774,732 | \$9,806,369 |

| Sales Tax           | 2020      | 2019      | YTD 2020    | YTD 2019    |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 2nd Penny Sales Tax | \$344,617 | \$247,377 | \$1,369,368 | \$1,206,320 |
| Hospitality Tax     | \$49,810  | \$36,301  | \$202,474   | \$173,589   |

- Building Permits & Sales Tax based on most recent City of Spearfish report from April 2020.

| Labor Force  | 2020   | 2019   |
|--|--------|--------|
| <b>City of Spearfish</b>   |        |        |
| Total Labor Force  | 6,270  | 6,118  |
| Total Employed   | 6,095  | 5947   |
| Total Unemployed   | 175    | 171    |
| Percentage Unemployment  | 2.8%   | 2.8%   |
| <b>Lawrence County</b>   |        |        |
| Total Labor Force  | 13,426 | 12,025 |
| Total Employed   | 12,029 | 12,644 |
| Total Unemployed   | 397    | 381    |
| Percentage Unemployment  | 3.0%   | 2.9%   |
| <b>Northern Hills (Butte, Lawrence, Meade &amp; Pennington counties)</b> |        |        |
| Total Labor Force  | 89,227 | 87,927 |
| Total Employed   | 86,160 | 85,086 |
| Total Unemployed   | 3,067  | 2,841  |
| Percentage Unemployed  | 3.4%   | 3.2%   |

- Labor Force Data based on most recent SD Dept. of Labor & Regulation report from March 2020.



# Get Involved!

## **BHSU Virtual Commencement Ceremony**

Friday, May 8th, 2020 @ 4:00 on the BHSU Website

[Learn More Here](#)

## **Sawyer Gravel Challenge**

Challenge Open Until May 9th  
Award Drawing on May 10th!

[Learn More Here](#)

## **Free SD CEO Women in Networking Virtual Lunch**

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 12:00 on Zoom

[Register Here](#)

## **Women in Leadership Sessions are Open for Registration**

Registration is limited to the first 36 people!

[Learn More Here](#)

## **SD CEO 2020 Enterprising Women Awards Nominations are Open!**

[Learn More Here](#)



Please share your upcoming events with fellow SEDC members and friends. Send your events to [Cayley Schmitt](#), SEDC Marketing Coordinator.



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Let's Be Friends!

