

featuring GIVING OPPORTUNITY

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION DAKOTA VENTURE GROUP



The Dakota Venture Group (DVG) is a University of North Dakota student run venture capital investment fund. DVG is the first entirely student run venture capital fund in the United States. It is unique because DVG is the first fund where students complete all the due diligence, make the final investment decision, and negotiate the deal's investment structure.

The Dakota Venture Group was established in September 2006 through a donation from the Dakota Foundation and is an entity of the Center for Innovation Foundation. The Center for Innovation Foundation is the catalyst for entrepreneurship and innovation in the region and nation.

By participating in the Dakota Venture Group UND students receive an extraordinary opportunity for experiential learning in the field of venture capital and angel investing. The investment strategy of DVG includes making investments in high-growth ventures started by entrepreneurs in the United States, with preference given to regional and student initiated ventures. All investments are made with the goal of fostering economic growth.

ENDOWMENT OPPORTUNITIES

To continue the growth and successful experiences that UND students receive through their involvement in Dakota Venture Group, the following areas are needed to annually maintain and enhance these opportunities.

- **Student Conferences:** **\$7,500**

- **University Summit Private Equity Conferences:**

The five managing directors of DVG attend this Salt Lake City based conference annually to hear panels of experts from the venture capital and private equity sectors share their insights on the industry.

- **Angel Capital Conferences:**

These venture and finance conferences are great learning and networking opportunity for all members of DVG to attend.

- **New Member Recruitment:** **\$3,000**

Potential new recruitment events

- **Investor Outreach and Networking Events:** **\$4,500**

Annual DVG events, DVG Newsletter, numerous business meetings with potential investors throughout the area.

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **Evergreen Fund:** **\$100,000+**

DVG currently has a non-profit "Evergreen Fund" fueled by benefactors since 2006. The organization is currently in the process of starting a for-profit Harvest Fund which intends to produce returns for Harvest Fund investors. With the addition of the Harvest Fund, DVG members have the opportunity to receive scholarships generated by the Harvest Fund.

CURRENT PORTFOLIO COMPANIES

Acuity Medical Systems- The first clinically proven treatment for dry macular degeneration that stops the progression and helps restore visual acuity.

Larada Sciences Inc.- Larada Sciences is a science-based medical technology company dedicated to the safe elimination of human head lice infestations using only controlled warm air rather than harsh chemicals.

Leikas Group- The Leikas Group works to create high quality websites that are attractive and modular.

*A complete list of Portfolio Companies and additional info can be found at dakotaventuregroup.com

TESTIMONIALS

“Dakota Venture Group fosters experiential learning, which goes well beyond the material covered in lectures of textbooks. Experiential learning is furthered even more so with numerous internship opportunities. I personally have been an intern with one of our portfolio companies, Ntractive, where I have experienced firsthand the excitement and challenges that small start-up businesses face. I will be moving to Colorado Springs, in August, to intern at Homeland Security’s Center of Innovation at the Air Force Academy. The opportunity would not have been possible without the experience and network I’ve gained through membership in Dakota Venture Group.”

-Mickayla Zinsli, DVG Alumni

DVG ALUMNI SUCCESS

From the time Dakota Venture Group was established in the Fall of 2006, sixty successful alumni, from all different educational backgrounds, have passed through the fund. Of these alumni nearly 25% have started their own companies and over 43% are involved with one or more start-ups.

These figures illustrate the positive effect DVG has had, and will continue to have, on fostering economic growth and entrepreneurial interest in young adults in the North Dakota area.

RECENT SUCCESS

• DVG is proud to announce that it has formed a unique relationship with **Edgewood Management Group**. Dakota Venture Group was recently given the opportunity to invest gifted funds into the company’s newly established Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT).



photo caption: Jonathan Musselwhite, Phil Gisi, Alex Naastad

To maximize the learning potential from this opportunity, Edgewood generously offered an internship position and board seat to one DVG member. Following an application process, the Directors of DVG selected Michael Carlson as the intern for the first year, and Tom Kading for the second year. Both are very enthusiastic about this opportunity, and look forward to learning more about real estate investing through the REIT structure.

• DVG is in the final stages of creating the **Harvest Fund**, a for-profit angel investment fund, and will be looking for investors shortly. This fund will allow us to invest in more companies and will create scholarships for DVG members.

• **Clean Republic**, a DVG portfolio company that retails personal alternative energy products has had recent success including CEO Mike Shope (UND Alumni) being awarded Top Entrepreneur in the region.

CONTACTS

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