Young Professionals (YP) Network Development

- **Goals**
  - Create a Robust Statewide Young Professionals Network
  - Increase economic development knowledge for young people
  - Connect young people to each other and to their communities
  - Connect Rural and Urban YP Networks
  - Underscore the benefits and opportunities of rural life
- **Gathered Partners**
  - Governor's Office
  - Senator Conrad's local office
  - Senator Dorgan's local office
  - Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND)
  - Department of Commerce
  - ND Department of Commerce
  - USDA Rural Development
  - Fargo, Jamestown, Bismarck, Grand Forks YP Networks
- **Initiated Statewide YP Network**
  - Statewide Summit - Meeting - planning and facilitation for Statewide Network - July 28, 2006
    - 40 Statewide YP members participated
    - Leadership presentation by Davina French
    - Participation by Governor Hoeven and other state officials
  - Recruited steering committee from rural and existing urban networks
  - Steering Committee charged RDC with preparing organizational template
  - Statewide Leadership Event Planned
    - USDA Rural Development
    - Jobs Clearinghouse
    - How to write a grant proposal
    - Pride Lesson - North Dakota and Rural Places
    - Economic Development
  - Liaison among Urban and Rural Network and their communities
    - Tribal Outreach for Native American Young Professionals
    - Relocation issues
    - Creating opportunities for community, Native American & College-based members
- **Initiated Rural YP Network**
  - Recruited rural economic developers for steering committee
    - Nikki Mertz, Carrington
    - Cori Otto, Stanley
    - Christina Wiederrich, Jamestown
    - Jacob Bratvold, Renville County
    - David Olson, Crosby
  - **Created working models for Rural Networks**
    - Social, Professional Development, Community Service
    - Chamber of Commerce model
    - College sponsored model
    - Activity (leisure activities) focused model
    - Jobs Development Authorities sponsored