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RLND Class VI participants experienced the Entrepreneurship and Leadership Seminar in the Dickinson area March 12-14th. Jodi Bruns, NDSU Extension Service, kicked off the seminar presenting information from the book, *Crucial Conversations*, to Class VI participants. The panel on entrepreneurship was next on the agenda. Panel members included Ray Ann Kilen; Interim Associate Director, Strom Center and Regional Director SBDC; Seth Murphy, CEO of SM Fencing & Energy Services; Paul Steffes, CEO of Steffes Corporation and Lucas Hoff, rancher from Richardton. The panel shared information about what entrepreneurship meant to them and lessons learned from their journey as an entrepreneur.

The RLND Leadership Dinner was held Thursday evening at Lady J's in Dickinson. Area RLND Alumni and special guests joined Class VI participants for the evening. Dr. D. C. Coston, President of Dickinson State University, was the guest speaker. Dr. Coston spoke about leadership and how vital it is for communities and organizations. The evening ended with Jessie Veeder sharing her story through her music and stories.

Friday was a day of learning as Class VI participants got on a bus and visited businesses and organizations in the Richardton and Dickinson areas. A visit to the Assumption Abbey in Richardton started the day. Brother Placid Gross provided information about the Abbey and the Benedictine Monks that live there as he showed the participants around the grounds.



Brent Swanson of Amber Waves

The next stop was Amber Waves in Richardton. Brent Swanson showed the group how their quality custom bins are made to fit the specifications of their customers.

Hoff Dairy south of Richardton was the next visit. Harvey and Janel Hoff have been working in dairy all of their lives. They have a dairy of around 200 milking cows. They installed two robots to milk the cows throughout the day. It was interesting to see how the cows and robots "make milk" together.

The last stop before lunch was the Enchanted Highway and a visit with Gary Greff, the creator of 10 metal sculptures situated along North Dakota Hwy. 8 from I94 to Regent, ND. The group stopped at the deer sculpture and heard the story of Gary's 24 year journey creating the metal sculptures along the Enchanted Highway.

After lunch Class VI participants visited with Willard (Willy) Tormaschy, Co-founder, VP & Operations Manager of the Medora Corporation north of Dickinson. Willy shared information about the company's history and showed the group how their signature invention, solar bee, is created and how it keeps bad algae from growing in bodies of water, e.g. water towers, lakes, waste water ponds.

The next visit was with Allen (Woody) Woodbury. The group learned about Woody's Feed & Grain Co. and the performance horse feed the company makes. Woody shared that half of the horses in last year's Kentucky Derby were on Woody's performance horse feeds. Participants also heard from Woody's daughter, Jill Healy and her husband Patrick, about their business, Trial Runners. Trial Runners is a ophthalmology contract research organization (CRO) providing biotech and pharmaceutical companies with clinical research management.



Hande's Equine Therapy

The last visit was to Hande's Equine Therapy in Dickinson. Travis and Jamie Hande opened their "spa for horses" last year. Jamie oversees the operation where horses spend time in their 12' long jacuzzi "aquatred" with 16 water-jets massaging the horse while the horse trots on a treadmill.

Class VI participants shared pictures and reflections of their Costa Rica/Panama experience on the last morning of the seminar. Class VI participants also shared an update of their RLND project with fellow Class VI participants. The tenth and final seminar for Class VI participants will be held June 24-26th in Devils Lake.