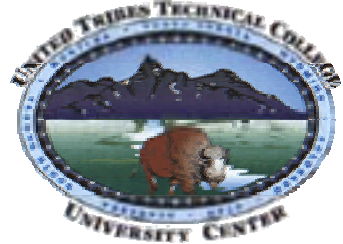




NDSU
Extension Service
North Dakota State University



**Rural Entrepreneurship In Indian Country:
A Listening Session on Programs, Strategies, and
Possibilities
June 12, 2005
United Tribes Technical College**

Draft Report
July 22, 2005



North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
Iowa State University • 107 Currier Hall • Ames, Iowa 50011-3050
(515) 294-8525 • (515) 294-7880 fax • www.ncrcrd.iastate.edu



Western Rural Development Center
Utah State University • 8335 Old Main Hill
Logan, UT - 84302 • (435) 797-9730 phones
<http://extension.usu.edu/wrdc>

Rural Entrepreneurship in Indian Country: A Listening Session on Programs, Strategies, and Possibilities: Summary

Thirty people registered for the session. We had some no-shows and some people drop in. For most of the day we had 5 groups of 5 people working. In addition we had Barbara Schmitt and Karen Paetz (UTTC), Mary Emery (NCRCRD), Jim Goodwin (WRDC), and Kathy Tweeten (NDSU Extension) to help with facilitation. The group included a number of people not from Indian Country, and some of these had little to no background working in Indian Country and some were also new to the field of entrepreneurship. We were fortunate to have the former Rural Development Council Director, Cornelius Grant (Turtle Mountain Band) and Bill Davis (State USDA Rural Development) because they knew many people and had a great deal of background to offer. In addition we had two interns from Northwest Area Foundation and the Humphrey Institute. Two participants were also connected to the Bush Foundation who has a strong interest in the outcome of these sessions in areas where they fund. We also had a number of tribal planners and one tribal council member from the Fort Peck Tribes. Several people working in communities adjacent to reservations attended. Finally, we had one congressional staffer attend for a brief time.

Discovering What is Working Well

In the session that focused on what is working well in nurturing entrepreneurship in Indian Country, key ideas included:

- Making use of existing tools
- Education
- Good planning
- Building on a positive history of entrepreneurship
- Receptive Tribal Councils
- Grassroots involvement
- Tribal support without Tribal intervention
- Opportunities to revisit codes to create a supportive infrastructure

What Would It Look Like If It Were Working Even Better

In the second small group session, the group shared ideas about what Entrepreneurship in Indian Country would look like if it were working even better.

- Better communication among entrepreneurs, tribal communities, communities adjacent to reservations, and service providers
- Ease of access to capital for:
 - Entrepreneurs
 - Programs
 - Training
- Entrepreneurship education: K-12 and teacher education on entrepreneurship
 - Start with youth
 - Cradle-to-grave opportunities
- Focus on sustainable entrepreneurship

- More recognition of and appreciation of how entrepreneurship benefits the community
- Financial literacy, especially starting with youth
- Support systems for entrepreneurs including clubs, clusters, and regional meetings
 - Networking opportunities for entrepreneurs
- Capacity building opportunities for Rural Leaders training
 - Developing and sustaining entrepreneurial leaders and mentors
- A common voice for support and policy development
- A political lobby for entrepreneurship – advocacy for entrepreneurship programs
- Using Universities and Tribal Colleges to do research on business ideas and then sharing those ideas with communities and prospective entrepreneurs
- Universal healthcare
- The financial community is more willing to lend to entrepreneurs
- Using our resources (land and people) effectively

The group also developed a list of things they wished for in order to create more opportunities for entrepreneurs.

- Sovereignty – access to capital
- Be able to identify and access resources
- There needs to be unity in the thought process – what is entrepreneurship and how can it be developed?
- Grassroots involvement from the start
- Infrastructure needs to be in place to make advancements in other areas
- Need to allow people to dream and to knock down barriers to those dreams
- Mentorship at all levels, especially for youth
- Get entrepreneurs to understand all areas of new businesses they might want to start to help them be successful. Know how to locate human capital to fill in the areas they don't know about
- Land use and land rights know-how to utilize what you have on your land
- Need a central source of information for entrepreneurs
- Find knowledgeable mentors – people who have expertise that you need

Provocative Propositions

Finally the group worked on strategies to move from where things are working well to where they will work even better.

Policy Issues:

- Remove the BIA to increase entrepreneurship – need government to local/tribal government direct money flow.
- Mandated tax incentives that provide incentives to support small business development.
- Create a birth benefit that grows until age 18 to support education or starting a business. Interest can be borrowed by parents, but no one can touch the principle.

- Have a national health-care program for entrepreneurs as this is a big barrier to starting a business.
- Most CDFI and RLF funding supports training and loans, but there is a need for operating funds.
- There needs to be a Rural America policy to articulate why rural is important at local, state, and national levels. How do we define rural?

Strategies for a National Coalition:

- Help develop a grassroots rural business voice.
- Congress needs to hear individual success stories from Native and non-Native communities.
- Advocate for local control on reservations by listening to Tribal advice and working with the National Congress of American Indians. The BIA is top heavy with administration, so money doesn't get to the Tribes. Advocate for elimination of government-funded middlemen.
- Identify strategies that work for marketing programs to support entrepreneurship.
- Develop a national clearinghouse.
- Funders tend to drive discussions and programs, so find a way to get all the stakeholders at the table and address the problems rural people have in hearing about programs.
- Look for examples of how communities can successfully share risks with entrepreneurs.
- Work with banks so they can loan to people with less than perfect credit records.
- Support spreading information by working with the National Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education.
- Organize NCRE with community-up representation.

Strategies that might be included in the Farm Bill:

- Decouple rural development from the 2007 Farm Bill. Development efforts in Rural America never get enough money - too much money to subsidies. Rural development is way too small a percentage of the total.
- Focus on creating financial opportunities by creating tax incentives for non-Native Native lenders to lend to Native communities and assist with developing the infrastructure to support these potential ventures.
- Increase funding available to market programs that provide capital assistance as well as training and other services.
- Provide funding for a national clearinghouse.
- Support for packaging and updating information on programs regularly.
- Need to revise USDA scoring systems for access to many programs as it is unfair and inaccurate in regard to many communities.
- Lagging census and other statistical data sources causes problems because we cannot spot very current trends, so addressing this need is important.
- Provide support for rural entrepreneurship education at Native and non-Native community colleges in rural areas.
- Needs to be much more government to rural people outreach and increase outreach to reservations.

Strategies for Right Here and Right Now in Indian Country

- Focus on creating financial opportunities by finding non-Native dollars to invest in Native venture funds.

- Get larger Tribes to share casino profits by providing loans or grants to entrepreneurs.
- Invite Tribal, local, and state politicians to Tribal business conferences.
- Entrepreneurship should be a portion of the discussions at the UTTV Summit; get Tribal Council buy in.
- Would like to see a Native American Development Council.

Strategies for Native and Non-native and Communities

- Develop better partnerships between Native and non-Native populations by breaking down barriers.
- Help develop a grassroots rural business voice.
- Focus on creating financial opportunities by providing cross training among communities.
- Develop strategies to create better partnerships between Indian and non-Indian communities.
- Develop a state-wide association for entrepreneurship.
 - Have an entrepreneurship C-SPAN TV show
 - Have regional representation
- Support and develop marketplaces for entrepreneurs.
- Have periodic round-table discussions on why things work and why they don't and find ways to work together.
- There is trouble with so many entities working in economic development; entities need to share and work together.

**Entrepreneurship in Indian Country, United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck July 12,
2005: Flipchart Notes**

What's working well?

Make use of tools
Education
Good planning
Building on positive history of entrepreneurship
Receptive tribal council
Grassroots involvement
Tribal support without intervention
Revisit codes, etc. (ground work) – social infrastructure

What would it look like if it were working even better?

Communication on both sides is very good – entrepreneur, tribal community, community
Ease of access to capital for
 Entrepreneurs
 Programs
 Training
Education K-12 plus teacher education on entrepreneurship
Focus on sustainable entrepreneurship, programs starting with youth – cradle to grave
More recognition and appreciation of how entrepreneurship benefits the community
Financial literacy esp. starting with youth
Develop support systems for entrepreneurs – regional meetings, clubs, clusters
Develop capacity building programs for rural leadership training
Networking among entrepreneurs
Need a common voice for support and policy development
Entrepreneurs need political lobby – more advocacy for entrepreneurship
Using universities and tribal colleges to do research on businesses ideas and then share it
Developing and sustaining entrepreneurial leaders, mentoring etc.
Universal healthcare
Financial community more willing to loan to entrepreneurs
Using our resources (both land and people) effectively

Three Wishes

Sovereignty-Access to capital
Be able to identify and access resources
Needs to be unity in the thought process – what is entrepreneurship?
How can it be developed?
Grassroots involvement from the start
Infrastructure needs to be in place to make advancements in other area
Need to allow people to be able to dream, and to knock down barriers
Mentorship at all levels – especially youth
Get entrepreneurs to understand all areas of a new business they might want to start
Land use and land use rights know how to utilize what you have on your land

Need to have central source of information for entrepreneurs
Find knowledgeable mentors – people who have expertise that you need
Know how to locate the human capital to fill in the areas they don't know about

Provocative propositions

- 1) Remove BIA to increase entrepreneurship: we need government to local government direct money flow.
 - NCRE would advocate for local control – listen to tribal advice – work with National Congress of American Indians. BIA way to top heavy with admin - money doesn't get to the tribes.
- 2) Develop better partnership between Native and non-Native populations – break down barriers.
- 3) De couple rural development from 2007 farm bill. Rural American development never gets any where enough money. Too much money to subsidies. Rural development is way too small a % of total. Break it out.
- 4) There is not grassroots small rural business voice.
- 5) Focus on creating financial opportunities – share training sessions in Native and non-Native areas
 - Want funding for cross-training among communities
 - Tax incentives in farm bill for non-Native lenders to lend to Native communities and more of it. Must first of all have infrastructure in place to attract money and business
 - Congress needs to hear the individual success stories
 - Need outside money to invest in native venture capital funds. Tax investments to get money into native lending funds.
- 6) Mandated tax incentives: have tax incentives not only big business, but small business too. Too often these funds don't have marketing money to educate people about their programs.
- 7) How to create better partnerships between Indian and non-Indian communities:
 - Have a national clearinghouse
 - Have NCRE be an advocate for elimination of certain government programs that create middlemen
- 8) Funders tend to drive the discussions and programs. Must have all the stakeholders at the money table. Rural people have trouble getting the news about programs.
- 9) Create a birth benefit that grows until age 18. Interest can be borrowed by parents, but not principle. Help the child with school or to start a business.
- 10) Get larger tribes to share casino profits. Could be a loan or a grant: money would go to entrepreneurs.

- 11) Have a national healthcare program for entrepreneurs. Healthcare is a big barrier in starting a business.
- 12) NCRE could look at how communities can share risk with entrepreneurs.
- 13) Most RLF and CDFI's dollars are available for only certain things like training and loans; need operating funds.
- 14) Banks need to lend to less than perfect credit records.
- 15) There needs to be a Rural America policy. Why is rural important at local, state, and national levels?
- 16) What is an agreed upon definition of rural?
- 17) Need to revise USDA scoring system for access to their many programs. Unfair and inaccurate to many rural communities.
- 18) Lagging census and statistical data causes problem by not spotting very current trends.
- 19) Need to have information packages in formats useable to all. Need to be updated regularly.
- 20) NCRE should support spreading info for the group.
 - a. Work with national consortium for entrepreneurship education
 - b. Farm bill funding for funding rural entrepreneurship education at Native and community colleges in rural areas
- 20) Statewide association of entrepreneurship
 - a. Have an entrepreneurship c-psan
 - b. Have regional representation on an entrepreneurship organization
- 21) Farm bill needs to be much more government to rural people outreach; increase outreach to reservations.
- 22) "Marketplace for entrepreneurs" in every state with a national impact.
- 23) Invite tribal, state and local politicians to tribal business conferences.
- 24) Have periodic round table discussions in the area to discuss why things work and why they don't and find ways to work together.
- 25) Entrepreneurship should be a portion of the discussions at the UTTC Pow Wow; get tribal council buy in.
- 26) Trouble with too many entities working economic development; entities need to share and work together.

27) Would like to see a Native American development council.

28) Organize NCRE with community up representation.

Bismarck Entrepreneurship Listening Session Table Notes and Interview Notes

“Discovering the Positive Core of What is Working”

Interview Questions

1 & 2. Focus on a specific example of how things are working really well and tell me about the event or example. What was it about the situation that made it possible for this event or example to be successful?

- MHA systems-new business-multi building, boosted employment, get younger generation involved.
 - Addressed need for the tribe-data processing-MHA systems has an opportunity to grow and expose the unit to other communities. Good management. Tribal support.
- Combined business with community support-video/pizza operation
 - Population, knowledge of specific business
- Bike trail-generate tourism, Career Center-create more jobs
 - Community talking to local government officials, incentives, building projects
- Economic Summit-brought leaders within community/state/region together to plan which started the collaborative process
 - A funder from the region-economic development efforts become more focused. Also being a federally designated enterprise community was helpful.
- Little things count up. Towing business-used to own resources to start small; 150,000 equity built up in 8 years
 - Tribal college services
 - CDFI
- Better understanding of issues and communication
 - Exposure and willingness of both sides
- Working with center with 92
 - Work with banks-tribe-economic development funds
 - Hired financial professor with construction background and banking industry-take businesses out of shoebox-T.A for operations
- EDA program was well thought out (EDA is Economic Development Administration)-tech assistance program had money available to add feasibility.
 - Tribes used program well, and for community development projects, leveraged into Economic Development. Created a shopping mall at Turtle Mountain and the capacity evaluation, which asked “what stores could community support?” Chose clothing store, post office.
- Knowledgeable about goals-started a pizza place/video rental-new population base, enough people
 - Had enough people in Lummi, positive location at ferry terminal
 - Willing to take risks
 - We, a video business, paid for an employee to learn VCR repair to add another service to the community

- Worked for an Empowerment Zone but wasn't accepted in the beginning but with some hard work she eventually was
- Good paying jobs for some people- 2 or 3 endorse government BID grants and SBA loans
- Land-renewal zone designation at Turtle Mts
 - Helped with tax resources, write-offs as renewal zone
- UTTC-family-oriented, child care resources, housing and HCP-goes out to its community in it's 14-county area, mandates equal representation
 - Hands-on/direct partnership
 - Small successes
 - Buy-in
- Water Project-supply water to all of NE Montana/Pipeline is employing people from the community
 - Collaboration of equities that have this problem-all people working together
 - Tribunal council has a state senator in the legislator has helped
- REAP-Rural Economic Area Partnership-is working due to networking between each counties and the programs they have created. Programs such as Revolving Loan funds, Research & Development funds (i.e. grants and loans)
 - Leadership with Sen. Dorgan @ USDA Rural Development to provide money and staff. Nec. and dedicated to the project.

3. What role did community play in this story?

- Parshall community representative-the tribal councilman pushed for it. The community supported it.
- Later tribe terminated lease and replaced with convenience store
- The community was a part of the process of planning the event, attending the event thus they had more ownership in economic development in their region
- Support
- Extend invitations and reach out, foster dialogue
- Community job loss if companies go down
- Tribes in state are progressive. UT (United Tribes) was established in 1969 to keep Indian owned/operated vocational center. Other states do not have all tribes on same board of directors. North Dakota-a partnership between state government. We have a voice in DC(Conrad, Dorgan, Pomeroy)
- Supportive community, employed 8 people, combined business with community service
- With consultant developed plans for reservation-Land Use Plan, Uniform Commercial Code, Workforce identification skills, Small Business Center
- Equal Reps at the Planning Table-government, business, youth, people of color, etc
- Collaboration with non-Indians that have the same problems. Very recent that people start working together.
- Communities participated in the development of strategic plan. Regular attendance is ongoing. Assisting with implementing the strategic plan.

4. If we were able to make things even better than the example you gave, what would it look like? What would people be doing? How? Why?

- MHA Enterprises-a tribal construction office where they would coordinate re-investment to the community. Use tribal funds for investment into new businesses versus grants and improved communications.
- Include more community members in the process of planning economic development, which in town increases the # of businesses and jobs in the rural communities.
- Infrastructure, resolve trust land issues.
- Should make every effort to use local contractors. Building relationships for work off reservation. Access to capital to expand businesses.
- Due to casino feeling that the business was competing with their business and managed to get his business closed.
- Implementation of plans. People go through small business learning. Understand the business development needs/skills
- Change perceptions-1) “The best and the brightest leave.” 2) entrepreneurship can begin out of High School or at different ages
- Main purpose is to develop a workforce and bring jobs into the community. Oil and gas development might help more people.
- Have more money, more staff, and marketing to our communities. Improve targeted funding-more business targets.

5. What three wishes do you have for entrepreneurship in Rural America?

- Availability of funding programs
- More targeted market opportunity for products and services that can be produced on the reservation.
- Communications- a system to overcome the challenges of the information needed to start a business; i.e. regulations, funding and technical assistance.
- Rural America (people) become just as important politically as the MSA’s in the nation.
- More resources for rural entrepreneurs and agencies providing rural programs dealing economic and community development.
- Our “Rural Communities” become just as important and third world countries!
- Financial education starting in high school
- Intertribal Chamber
- Focus on tech assistance
- Access to capital funds
- More readily available tech assistance for existing businesses in each tribe
- More grant dollars for small business start up
- Access to capital
- Regional districts offer smaller group to find common interests
- More knowledge by business creators (knowledge of product they sell and create
- More willingness to take risks, understanding of financial matters
- Greater access to funds for small business grants and development
- Recognition of small towns and rural needs in farm bill-not just corporate farm
- Networks to strengthen voice of rural needs in policy development.

- Decrease barriers to new committees-non-threatening to Native
- Retaining Native residence
- Increase attention to land/ environmental impacts of businesses(corp. farms, casinos)
- Increase lending institutions
- More funding for programs
- Communities and tribe put up more resources. Have leadership more involved. Colleges/state and tribal
- Coordinated government involvement in the process including tech assistance

Worksheet # 1

1. Share what you heard from your interview partner about what is working with your group.

- Worked for an Empowerment Zone and wasn't accepted when they first moved into the community.
- Small business development with education components is key to the rural area-with support from local/regional agencies dealing with entrepreneurship.
- Create more loan institutions for rural Native American communities that provide assistance based on character instead of credit score.
- Better communications, more dialog has started
- Youth initiatives are being developed to train/mentor young entrepreneurs.
- Grass roots efforts that include all community in planning, utilizing appreciative inquiry
- Water project-NE Mt.-collaboration of organizations- both now and tribal, good employment-quality water
- Mall on the reservation-SBA loan qualifications.
 - Unity within the tribes
 - Collaboration
 - Knowledge of what it takes to run business
- REAP zones working because of collaboration
- Renewal zone
 - Tax credits
 - Incentive for new businesses
 - Land issue-ownership of land
 - Land use plan
 - Developed universal commercial code
 - Labor survey
 - Just opening a small business center
 - Need for people to understand what it takes for a small business
- NWAFA-ABE Tribal Council Member-H2O project NE Montana collaboration of area people
 - State senator-tribal council
 - Gov is working with tribe
 - Pipe lines economic gain
 - Need supply of quality H2O

- Cor. Grant-Mall-store qualify to have store
 - SB Loan Act together of running a profit business
 - Success unity
 - Foundation bring the education, work, etc
- Lyman Turtle Lake
 - Renewal zone tax credits
 - Tax write off's
 - Buildings lacking support financially
 - Land issue is major-who owns the land, land use plan?
 - Uniform commercial code
 - Work force
 - Just opening a small business center
 - Need to understand small 16
 - Training
- Cheyenne river-require and complete course
 - Business planning
- SBA-Government Regional Centers within that's available
- Spread sheet for bands
- Knowledge and preparation by prospective entrepreneurs
- Businesses need community support. Is the opportunity there to be successful? They also need to be competent in the field they are going into.
- MHA Nations have new tribal data entry business that has been successful. There is opportunity for the younger employee base in the community.
- Bush Foundation realizes the importance of all the education needed to get into business in all areas.
- Do the tribes have the necessary infrastructure to be successful? The UCC needs to be done on tribes to make it easier for access to capital. There must be give and take between tribes and society.

2. **As you listen to others, listen for common themes in the stories. What does success in generating and sustaining entrepreneurship look like?**

- Start with the younger generation
- Develop mentorship programs
- Implementation of training, educational courses
- Mentoring
- Need to have more cooperation with state resources
- Need to recognize rural issues
- Address marketing in a recognizable manner
- Importance of partnerships-how can we inspire trust in our partners-perhaps stay away from the tribal governments
- Cultural differences that need to be overcome as one transitions to non-Reservation land

3. **Focus on at least three important themes your group wishes to share with the larger group?**

- Grass roots involvement

- Partnerships, partnerships, partnerships-lending institutions, nonprofit
- Mentorship programs starting with the youth (seamless entrepreneurial education, lifelong learning model)
- More attention to land/environmental impacts of businesses/corp. farms/casinos
- Small town values
- Social infrastructure before physical infrastructure
- Unity of thought-developing partnerships, identify who is available to help them in their rural area, network the resources
- Resources tied into technology-funding education, need for support(mentoring), let people dream and believe and help them marketing ideas
- Central point of contact for information-marketplace resource directory, state directory
- Knowledge of business you create-take care of paperwork and other concerns, find people who are knowledgeable to assist you, encourage ideas/etc
- Know competition/market-don't start a video store next to two other video stores, etc
- Infrastructure needs to be there-water/electricity/streets/buildings/T1 internet
- Sovereignty issues-lending on the reservations
- Land use/land rights
- Move on from welfare system and into the mainstream society like other citizens. Become independent!

“Dreaming/Visioning for the Future”

Worksheet 2

1. **Share what you heard about what it would look like if we were even better at generating and sustaining entrepreneurship in Rural America with your group.**
 - Land basis-not put the cart before the horse. Identify unmet needs-buying it or find someone. Allow or develop the attitude, can do-attitude, character, basic financial info (education) mentor.
 - Communication on both sides have improved considerably on and off the reservation. More recognition of what entrepreneurship can do to benefit the community. Banks willing to make loans to entrepreneurs. Stronger networking between entrepreneurs. Tribal colleges.
 - Starting the entrepreneurship training in elementary school
 - Unity in the thought process, more collaboration
 - Focus on youth and stable funding, marketing/awareness of
 - Long-term funding is necessary, geared towards providing a sustainability

2. **As you listen to others, search for important themes in the descriptions of the future.**
 - Little things can count up
 - Celebrate successes
 - Tribal councils being supportive without interfering
 - Need to invest in the young people (skill development)
 - Better sharing of information

- Collaboration, partnerships
- Build from grass roots (involvement with the community), no top-down
- Groom new leaders (power shift as a good thing, not being afraid to pass power to others)
- Buying from within
- Sustained leadership (so you don't have to retrain leaders), maintain relationships.

3. Identify at least three important insights into building and expanding successful programs to generate and sustain entrepreneurship in Rural America to share with the larger group.

- Resource-grow small rural business. Capital-for programs-need money to keep doors open.
- Financial Lit. education
- Resources-utilizing our people and land effectively
- University, tribal college's entrepreneurship program. Research business opportunities
- Expand leadership at local level. Improve awareness.
- Develop local financial capital for entrepreneurship
- More funding. More inclusion of minorities/women.
- Capacity-building programs, technical knowledge-builders
- Developing leadership within a community through sustaining.
- Accommodations.

Summary Worksheet

1. What did you like best about the listening session?

- The communication amongst those in attendance
- The information that was discussed
- The presenters were very interactive
- Group participation
- Empowerment of each person
- Great meeting different people and hearing their stories
- Good, group/individual participation
- Open approach-very inclusive
- Use of the appreciative inquiry process
- Opportunity to meet interesting people
- The interaction and mixing up of the groups
- Lots of ideas
- The ability to network and learn from other people working in rural committees
- The mix of the participants. Sharing of information and ideas.
- Networking and listening to people in groups about their local situation
- Group work-listening to everyone
- Sharing of ideas and information in group discussions especially between Native Americans and non-Native Americans
- Discussion on groups and the fact that we rotated
- Meeting North Dakota tribal entrepreneurship leadership up close; build/establish relationships
- Hearing from a variety of people about experience
- Learning about resources that were unknown to me previously
- Connecting with people that I will stay in touch with

2. What suggestions do you have for improving future sessions?

- Additional entrepreneurship information
- A little more time (more than one day)
- Participants responsible to bring another one or two to next session or similar sessions
- Provide an opportunity to submit written comments for inclusion in the Farm Bill recommendations
- Need to allow more interaction time-lesser number of issues/questions. Only use a few questions so can really get into it in depth.
- Bring in proven successful business people and have them explain what it takes to be successful
- More time. Water/beverages available. A few more breaks. More room for breakout.
- More control over “side conversations” while the rest were listening.
- More time
- State or tribal decision makers need to present to create change.
- Power point for visual resources etc.
- Improving the introduction for those who have had no experience in this area.

- Invite BIA/Tribal Government reps. Provide education on how their respective office/programs/sves fit into the entrepreneurship equation
- Many of question were redundant so conversations repeated themselves

3. Other comments:

- Very informative
- Facilitators and organizers did a great job. Kept it lighthearted but productive. Fun group of participants. Great accommodations and food.
- Thank you for having this. It was good information.
- North Dakota should have a Indian Business Development Council that has “Outreach Objectives”
- Good session overall. Would like to see another session-roundtable listening session
- This group should continue meeting and work together.
- Actual examples or guest entrepreneurs (small presentations)

People who would like to be a part of a national electronic list of people working on rural entrepreneurship

John P. Miller – rsteda@gwtc.net

Renee Kipp – marketplace6@btinet.net

C. Grant – cgrant@state.nd.us

William Davis – bill.davis@nd.usda.gov

Becky Meidinger – heartrap@drtel.net

Lyman J. Bercier – lymanb@utma.com

Brenda Dissette – Brenda@griggs-steeleez.org

Marilyn K. Kipp – marketplace@btinet.net

Brek Maxon – bmaxon@uttc.edu

Tara Young Bird – tyoungbird@hotmail.com

Raymon Ogle – rogle@fortpecktribe.org

Adib Jamshedi – a.jamshed@comcast.com