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## *the Minot Memo e-News*

### **SKYSKOPES OPENS MINOT OFFICE AND LAUNCHES SKYSKOPES ACADEMY**

MADC ended the year of 2016 with a huge milestone for Minot. On Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, [SkySkopes](#) announced the opening of a Minot office, which marks the company's first location outside of Grand Forks, ND. SkySkopes is a national leader in UAS flight operations and specializes in energy infrastructure inspection, security purposes, precision agriculture, industrial inspection, and other uses.

In addition to announcing the Minot expansion, SkySkopes has also launched [SkySkopes Academy](#) and an internship program through UND, one of the top aviation schools in the country. SkySkopes has secured a long-term partnership with [Minot Public Schools](#) to help [educate and recruit drone pilots](#) at a young age. [SkySkopes Academy](#) is geared toward anyone with a desire to learn more about unmanned aircraft and the overall industry. The program offers flight training, data collection and analysis, sensor and business aspects of the unmanned industry, and a focus on engineering. [Click here](#) for the full press release.

### **MADC LAUNCHES THE MAGIC SKY INITIATIVE**

MADC welcomes a new initiative for 2017, MAGIC Sky, which leverages Minot's unique advantages to attract new businesses in the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) industry to our Magic City. [Click here](#) to read more about MADC's new targeted

industry- [UAS](#).

MADC began pursuing the UAS industry in May 2016 by first attending the AUVSI Conference in New Orleans, then co-hosting the 2016 "Bridging the Atlantic" Business to Business Seminar, which was deemed the "best B2B yet." The momentum of these two events led to a trade mission to Norway, which solidified MADC's role in UAS. As a result of the trade mission, MADC secured a new business to Minot and also gained two more serious business leads. The MAGIC Sky initiative falls under MADC's responsibility to attract new business, to create jobs, diversify Minot's community, and stimulate growth to the Minot area.

## 2017 NPGA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Did you know 2016 was the International Year of Pulses (IYP)? North Dakota has a significant role in the Northern Plains Region, which accounts for more than 80% of the nation's pulse production. Forecasts show a 35% increase in 2017 for pulse production, which is great news for North Dakota farmers. Pulse demands continue to grow for various reasons, some of these include: pet food changes, nutrition demands, health trends, to accommodate population growth overseas, and more.

The [Northern Pulse Growers Association \(NPGA\)](#) held the 2017 Annual Convention in Minot, Jan. 23-24. This annual event built off the momentum from record-breaking attendance at Montana Pulse Day, held in Dec. MADC was a silver sponsor for the event and promoted the Minot area, in search of value-added ag businesses looking to expand in the Minot area.

The event highlighted exciting milestones for the International Year of Pulses, along with forecasts for 2017 from industry experts. The [USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council \(USADPLC\)](#) launched a campaign in 2016 to increase pulse consumption in the U.S. As a result of the campaign, 75% of people increased their consumption of pulses after taking a [Pulse Pledge](#). The campaign also generated 3.44 billion social media impressions, greatly surpassing their goal of 500 million impressions.

## MADC BOARD OF DIRECTORS TOURS MAGIC CITY CAMPUS

[Minot Public Schools \(MPS\)](#) hosted MADC's Board of Directors on Jan. 12th for an outstanding tour of their [Career & Technical](#)

Education offerings. MPS's Career & Technical Education features the following programs:

- [Agriculture Education](#)
- [Biomedical Science](#)
- [Business Education](#)
- [Career Development](#)
- [Family & Consumer Sciences](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Marketing Education](#)
- [Medical Careers](#)
- [Technology & Engineering Education](#)

In addition to these programs, MPS also offers hands on training in the following industries:

- [Auto Collision Repair & Painting](#)
- [Auto Technology](#)
- [Aviation Technology](#)
- [Construction Technology](#)
- [Welding](#)

The tour of MPS stemmed from MADC's recent visit to the Aviation Technology class, MADC staff was completely wowed by the opportunities MPS provides for grades 9-12. MADC highly encourages the Minot community to take advantage of the Career & Technical Education offered by MPS; it's a perfect way for young adults to get hands on experience and qualifications that can lead to a lifetime career. [Click here](#) for more information.

## **MADC ATTENDS KMOT AG EXPO**

2017 marks the 46th year of the annual KMOT Ag Expo, the largest indoor ag show in the Upper Midwest. With more than 1,000 booths and estimated traffic of 30,000, the KMOT Ag Expo is always a great way for MADC to promote the Minot region. As agriculture continues to be a target market for MADC, the expo enables MADC to meet with potential businesses, local farmers, and serves as an opportunity to engage with the general public.

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***Thank you for supporting economic development in the Minot area and investing in Minot's future! The following businesses renewed their yearly investment in December and January:***

**All American Trophies  
Artco Promotional Products  
Braun Intertec Corporation  
C&C Plumbing & Heating, LLP.  
Center for Family Medicine  
Central Machining & Pump Repair  
Classified Directories  
Connole & Somerville P & H  
Creative Printing Inc.  
CTS Properties LLC.  
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch  
Dakota Certified Development  
Excavating, Inc.  
Farstad Oil/Super Pumper  
Gourmet Chef, Inc.  
Helgeson-Norton Agency  
I Keating Furniture World  
Jerome's Collision Center  
Knowles Jewerly  
Magnum LTL, Inc.  
Mattson Construction Co.  
Maxson Law Office, PC  
Mi Mexico  
Norsk Hostfest Association  
Northern Brake Service  
Odney  
Olson Family Dental  
Prairie Federal Credit Union  
Preferred Restaurant Group,  
Inc./Taco Johns  
Quentin Burdick Job Corps Center  
RDO Equipment Co.  
Ready Builders, Inc.  
Ryan Family Dealerships  
Tires Plus  
Watne Inc. Realtors**

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