

# DAVID HENGEL

102 First Street West, Suite 101, Bemidji, MN 56601 · (218) 444-5757

[dhengel@greaterbemidji.com](mailto:dhengel@greaterbemidji.com) · [www.linkedin.com/in/davehengel](http://www.linkedin.com/in/davehengel) · [@GreaterBemidji](https://twitter.com/GreaterBemidji)

## PERSONAL MISSION

I believe the great communities are built not born, and that the key ingredient to community success rests with steward-leadership. My mission is challenge and support community stewards looking to lay the foundation for regional economic success.

## EXPERIENCE

**2011 – PRESENT**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GREATER BEMIDJI, INC.**

Lead a team of 26 private and public sector leaders in the with a mission to drive development and promote prosperity in the greater Bemidji. Greater Bemidji is known as a leader and visionary in economic development in Minnesota, including one of the first economic development organizations in nation to create its own training center (Greater Bemidji's Minnesota Innovation Initiative: ), and entrepreneur one-stop-shop (Greater Bemidji's LaunchPad: [www.launchpadbemidji.com](http://www.launchpadbemidji.com) ).

Greater Bemidji LaunchPad provides the following support to new and emerging entrepreneurs in north-central Minnesota: coworking space, technical assistance, business assistance, financial support, mastermind groups, and mentoring from retired CEOs. For the past four years, the LaunchPad has hosted the "Entrepreneur Meet-Ups", weekly meetings of northern Minnesota entrepreneurs providing advice, counsel and training opportunities. To date, the LaunchPad has spun-off 51 new companies since its inception.

**1988 – 2011**

**DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP, HEADWATERS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Lead the five-county Headwaters Region of north-central Minnesota in economic development and community leadership. In that role, I was responsible for developing the infrastructure to support economic growth. In addition, I developed a regional economic development strategy to encourage growth and prosperity in the north-central Minnesota region.

## EDUCATION

**2010-2011**

**EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT, UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME**

Executive-level certificate program focused on leading teams and organizations, effective leadership strategies and executive leadership coursework.

1984- 1988

**BACHELOR OF ARTS- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL/REGIONAL AFFAIRS,  
WITH EMPHASIS IN ECONOMICS.** ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY, ST. CLOUD, MN

## **SKILLS**

- Organizational development and strategic planning
- Community leadership development
- Innovative economic development
- Talent recruitment and attraction
- Management
- Public and non-profit budgeting and finance
- Grant-writing
- Project development
- Public input and participation
- Marketing and promotions
- Public speaking
- Entrepreneur support/start-up community support
- Economic development policy

## **HONORS**

- Minnesota Vision in Economic Development Award
- Jaycee's Ten Outstanding Young Minnesotan Award
- Blandin Foundation Leadership Alumnus
- Alliance for Regional Stewardship's Organizational Excellence Award (for Bemidji Leads! initiative)
- National Association of Development Organization Innovation Awards