

MEDIA ADVISORY
November 15, 2023

Northspan Receives \$2 Million in Federal Funding from the U.S. Department of Commerce to Support Underserved Entrepreneurs

Northspan Is One of 43 Awardees for the Department of Commerce Capital Readiness Program through the Minority Business Development Agency

Northspan Group, Inc. in partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa will be hosting a press conference and Native Heritage Month Reception celebrating the launch of this programming. The program name is DAWN, Driving Access to Wealth & Networks. During the press conference the U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development Don Cravins, will present a 4-year grant totaling \$2 million in federal funds to the Northspan Group, Inc. to launch the DAWN programming serving Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Mille Lacs, Pine, and St. Louis Counties and the Native Nations of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and Red Lake Nation.

DAWN's mission is to address needs related to successful entrepreneurship and business growth among Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI) in our region. DAWN works to enhance our entrepreneurial ecosystem focusing on inclusion of Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI). Barriers to successful entrepreneurship for SEDI inhibit growth, innovation, and equitable access to resources in the region. DAWN focuses its programming on Native Nations and our Black community, as well as women and veterans in northeast Minnesota. While all are welcome to access the programming, these are our focused communities for marketing and communications. Strong relationships and a deep understanding of existing cultures and racial groups are necessary to provide the most effective support to SEDI entrepreneurs.

WHAT: Press Conference and Native Heritage Month Reception Celebrating the DAWN Program Launch

WHO:

- Under Secretary of Commerce for Minority Business Development Don Cravins, CONFIRMED
- Lt. Gov. Flanagan, INVITED
- State of MN Representative Kozlowski, CONFIRMED
- Roger Smith Sr., Vice Chairperson & District III Representative, CONFIRMED
- Elissa Hansen, Northspan President & CEO
- Karl Schuettler, Northspan Vice President
- Bailey Olson, Northspan Consultant and DAWN Program Manager
- Nick Tietz, ILT Academy Founder & CEO
- Jacob Bell, Family Freedom Center Executive Director

WHEN: Monday, November 20th, 3:00PM

WHERE: Cultural Language and Learning Center, 1713 Mizhakii Road, Cloquet, MN 55720.

For more information please contact President & CEO Elissa Hansen at ehansen@northspan.org and if possible we'd appreciate an RSVP here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J8T2Z2R>