



NEWS RELEASE

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First Site and Building Development Project in CNEDD Region Receives Funding



The Central Nebraska Economic Development District (CNEDD) is proud to announce that Handlebend Copper Mugs has received and invested \$100,000 of Nebraska Site and Building Development Funds into expanding their unique manufacturing business in O'Neill. This is the first business that has received this funding in the District's 14-county region.

What started as a dream of making authentic copper mugs in a small

family shop has led to the renovation of a 1940's building into a community gathering place that houses the expanded copper mug manufacturing, a coffee company, flower and gift shop, and a photography studio. The District's non-profit organization was able to play a role in applying for these funds for Handlebend's manufacturing business expansion project.

"The addition of businesses and jobs in the Handlebend Building will enhance the quality of life and economic growth in the City of O'Neill," said CNEDD Executive Director Judy Petersen. "Many thanks to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for their investment in Handlebend's manufacturing expansion, and in our rural Nebraska communities."

The state's Site and Building Development Program was designed to create favorable conditions for improving the industrial readiness of the state. In the Handlebend project, the state's investment in the manufacturing space spurred additional small business growth within the building.

To learn more about this program, give Judy Petersen a call at 402-340-0106.

