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# ***NEWS***

## **BNI, ALLETE Clean Energy donate \$50,000 to North Dakota engineering program**

Center, North Dakota—Donations from ALLETE Clean Energy and BNI Energy will help the University of Mary build a new School of Engineering.

ALLETE Clean Energy and BNI Energy each gave \$25,000 toward the new home for the engineering school at the private Catholic university in Bismarck, North Dakota. The University of Mary broke ground April 25 on the \$12 million project, an aggressive renovation of the university's old North Dining Hall. Currently, engineering classes are scattered across the campus.

"BNI and ACE are proud to partner to provide a collective \$50,000 donation toward this important workforce development resource," said ALLETE Clean Energy President Al Rudeck, who attended the groundbreaking on behalf of ALLETE.

The university's engineering program began enrolling students in 2016, when the program was created in response to an increasing demand for engineers, especially in the oil fields of western North Dakota. Today, the university offers civil, mechanical and electrical engineering and expects to have about 120 students enrolled this fall. The program graduated its first student in April.

BNI President and General Manager Wade Boeshans said the donation is a reflection of ALLETE's commitment to education and the importance of developing a skilled workforce.

"Workforce demands in North Dakota and the region continue to grow, and we're honored to play a part in helping the University of Mary educate the next generation of engineers, fill a workforce shortage and support a healthy economy," Boeshans said.

*BNI Energy and ALLETE Clean Energy are subsidiaries of ALLETE, which is headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota.*