

## EDC helps new welding business get started

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A new business project that received assistance from the Cass County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), has now been completed.

Lee's Welding and Repair, LLC, is owned by Lee Wangsted. In May 2013, Lee first came to the EDC. He was finishing college at Central Lakes College and wanted to start his own business. Throughout six months of business counseling, Lee chose a location, developed a business plan and obtained financing for his new business. The EDC helped him at every step along the way.

Lee will start construction on his new business in Lake Shore this spring. The business will employ two individuals, and it will broaden the tax base by about \$250,000. The project is being financed by Bremer Bank.

There are 210 welding jobs in north central Minnesota, and the demand for this skill is high. The occupation of welders, cutters, solderers and brazers ranks 23rd among more than 600 occupations for employer demand, according to a March 2013 Department of Employment and Economic Development publication. For this reason, Lee's customer base will include both business-to-business and retail.

"The Cass County EDC made the whole process work for me," Lee commented.

The EDC also thanks Lee for trusting them to help with his business plans.

If you want to expand your business, start a business or if you know someone who does, contact the Cass County EDC at (218) 947-7522, or email to Executive Director Gail Levenson at [gail.levenson@co.cass.mn.us](mailto:gail.levenson@co.cass.mn.us).

The EDC knows the new economic development programs and tools to help you get started.