



media release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jill Klinger, 507.385.6646
jklinger@greatermankato.com

Shelly Megaw, 507.385.6642
smegaw@greatermankato.com



2012 Brian Fazio Business Creation Project Recipient Announced

MANKATO, Minn. (May 10, 2012) – The Greater Mankato Business Accelerator program has announced the entrepreneur selected as the 2012 winner of the Brian Fazio Business Creation Project, sponsored by Charter Business. Entrepreneurs applied for the competition this past spring, with finalists presenting their projects to an independent panel of judges from the business community in April.

This year's winner is Zak Fick, a Bethany Lutheran College student, who created an interactive website to match college students with area residents wanting short term jobs done. As this year's recipient, Zak receives \$5,000 in seed funding from Charter Business to help jump start his new endeavor. "Charter Business supports the Brian Fazio Business Creation Project because it aligns well with Charter Business' mission; providing broadband solutions so businesses can meet their goals," said Joni Brengman, Director of Charter Business Sales in Minnesota. "All of us at Charter congratulate this year's winner, Zak. We commend him on his entrepreneurship and wish him success in the future."

The Brian Fazio Business Creation Project, named for community economic development advocate Brian Fazio, is a program of the Greater Mankato Business Accelerator, which connects start-up and growing businesses with the resources they need to succeed. The Greater Mankato Business Accelerator is a program of the City of Mankato, Greater Mankato Growth, Inc. and REDA (Regional Economic Development Alliance). "Entrepreneurism is a key component of our marketplace's enduring vitality," said GMG President and CEO Jonathan Zierdt. Zak will also be guided throughout the year by Business Accelerator staff and, if needed, have access to business space in the Greater Mankato Business Development Center compliments of the City of Mankato.

Visit greatermankato.com/business-fazio.php for photos and a video of this year's recipient.

About Brian Fazio

Brian Fazio led area economic development efforts as the executive director of Greater Mankato Economic Development Corporation from 1998 until his unexpected passing in 2003. Brian gave selflessly to the community. He was a coach and referee for youth hockey and served on many committees and boards, including the MSU-CSET Industrial Advisory Board. He is remembered not only for his upbeat personality, but his diligent efforts to boost the local economy. His love for the community was reflected in his passion for promoting its distinctive assets – particularly higher education. Recognizing the unlimited potential of the area's 17,000+ students, he was an enthusiastic advocate for business/education partnerships and entrepreneurship.

###