

Creating connected communities
through vision, relationships and engagement
with humor and passion.

RLND 2017-2019 Class Mission



Class VIII Summary

RLND 2017-2019



Greetings and welcome

to the Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Class VIII (2017-2019) Summary Booklet.

The RLND mission is to prepare and develop effective leaders to strengthen North Dakota. Twenty-three RLND Class VIII participants lived out that mission throughout their 18-month journey.

RLND Class VIII participants started their RLND experience with their orientation seminar Nov. 30, 2017. During the next 18 months, RLND Class VIII participants learned about themselves, the state, country and world as they became friends and mentors to each other.

RLND Class VIII participants expanded their knowledge by participating in 10 seminars:

- Seven in-state seminars in Bismarck (two seminars), Bottineau, Fargo, Bowman, Watford City and Grand Forks
- One regional seminar in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minn.
- One national seminar in Washington, D.C.
 - Met with Kentucky leaders while in Washington
- One international seminar in Chile

RLND Class VIII is a class of several firsts, including:

- Raising more in seminar sponsorships than any class in RLND history. In fact, RLND Class VIII participants raised 35% more than previous classes.
- David, our tour guide in Chile, was flown to North Dakota so he could be with us for our last seminar in Grand Forks
- Being the first class to experience a Congressional Insight workshop
- Being the first class to experience the Unconscious Bias curriculum

Class VIII participants brought the knowledge and networks they gained from their RLND participation back to their communities, organizations and industries. The participants demonstrated their leadership skills through the projects they initiated and carried out during their RLND experience. This summary booklet highlights the impact of those projects across North Dakota communities, organizations and industries.

Congratulations, Class VIII participants, on your successful completion of your RLND experience! I'm honored to have the opportunity to have been on the journey with you. You are a group of leaders who care about each other, your community and industry, and North Dakota. I look forward to working with you as alumni of the RLND program and members of the RLND Alumni Association!

Marie Hvidsten
RLND Program Director

Some people add so much beauty to being human.

Kobi Yamada



Nearly 8,500 governmental units and nonprofit organizations in North Dakota need engaged leaders in counties, cities, townships and school districts.

That means one in 23 people age 18 and older needs to step up to a leadership role. But finding good leaders doesn't happen by chance.

North Dakota requires dedicated, creative and visionary leaders to guide the aspirations and accomplishments of our organizations, communities and state.

That is why North Dakota State University Extension leadership development programs such as Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) are so vital. They help citizens learn the necessary skills to create and maintain thriving rural economies, lifestyles and communities.

During the past 18 months, you, as members of RLND's Class VIII, have experienced personal development, acquired and enhanced your leadership skills, established a new professional network and gained a wealth of new friends. You also became well-informed about important state, national and international issues, and undertook projects to benefit your operation, business, organization, community or region. Your commitment and dedication were essential for your success.

I am honored to recognize you as graduates of Rural Leadership North Dakota and congratulate you on your accomplishments. You are fully equipped to be North Dakota's leaders for today and tomorrow.

However, please don't mistake this graduation event as the end of your leadership journey. The transition from students to alumni brings additional expectations because of your enhanced leadership talents and vision. You have the opportunity—perhaps even an obligation—to help shape the future. I am eager to see what you will accomplish.

Congratulations and best wishes!

Greg Lardy

Interim Director, NDSU Extension

*Change happens from the outside in
but transformation happens from the inside out.*

Dan Burrus

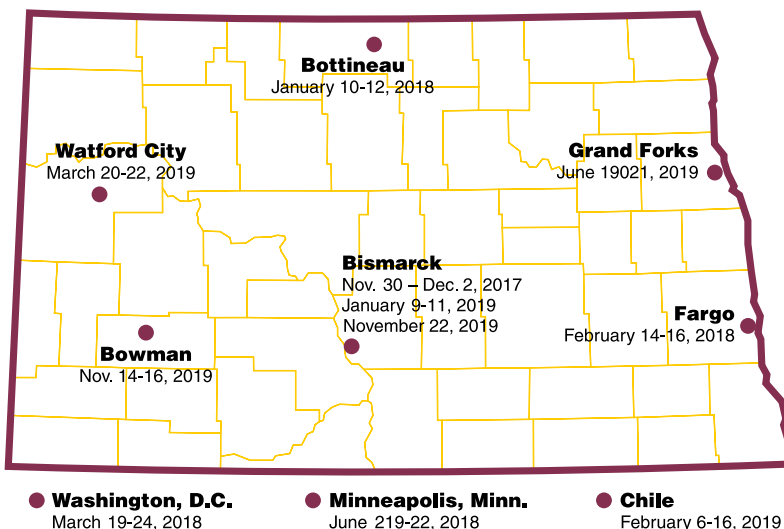
RLND Class of 2017-19



Front row, left to right: Kristen Knudtson, Annika Plummer, Brenda Stallman, Trudy Ruland, Paula Anderson, Mandy Kvale, Tammy Jo Taft, Marsha Van Laere, Heather VanGelder
 Second row, left to right: Shanda Morgan, Searle Swedlund, Tyler Bowen, Whitney Gonitzke, Stephanie Goeller Johnson, Matt Dahlke, Brooke Kessel
 Third row, left to right: Chris Smaaladen, Kasey Bitz, Gwen Crawford, Ruth Buffalo, Doug Naze, Bjorn Solberg
 Fourth row, left to right: Chris Adams, Jon Bertsch, Marie Hvidsten
 Not pictured: Suhail Kanwar



2017-2019 Seminars

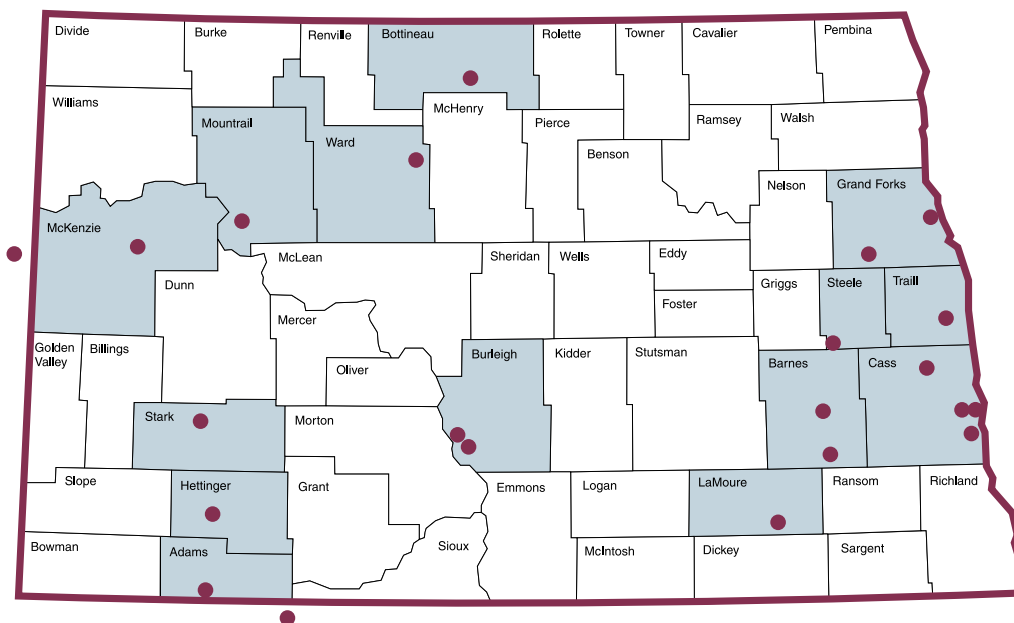


RLND Project Stories

2017-2019 Class

Every RLND participant worked on a project in his or her community or organization. Some projects take a few months, while others take a few years to complete. RLND projects improve the quality of life for individuals in communities and organizations throughout North Dakota. These projects create positive change in the community, as well as the RLND participant.

RLND Class 2019 Communities



**Creating connected communities
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RLND 2017-2019 Class Mission



**Chamber of Commerce
City to Farm Tour 2019**

Did you know Grand Forks and Park County have an estimated 2,292 farms? Did you know the Adams Family Farm is one of the Adams Family Farms in the 2017 City to Farm Tour? Chamber of Commerce will host a field, explore farm machinery and learn more about local crops. The Adams Family Farm Partnership is dedicated to producing the highest quality food products in the Red River Valley. Their produce sells weekly food to markets all around the world. Have fun and meet farmers with local farmers following the event.

ADAMS FAMILY FARM
brought to you by
The Chamber of Commerce
Agriculture Committee

Thursday, July 25, 2019
4:00-5:30pm
2017 450th Avenue SW
East Grand Forks, MN

This year's topic will be
"Hemp Production"
Free Event!

For more information please call
701-772-7271 or
email: info@chamber.org

Chamber of Commerce
Agriculture Committee

*They need contain 5% oil with essential oils needed for our diet. They contain omega-3 fatty acids, one of the best complete plant based proteins on the planet. They contain the highest protein content in any of any other grains that we use. Some companies, some storage, some marketing!

© Chris Adams
Adams Family Farm



City to Farm Tour

Chris Adams, partner, Adams Family Farm, Grand Forks, N.D.

The project: Create an environment for local community members to learn about agriculture and its the impacts on the community, state and world

The impact: More than 100 people toured the Adams Family Farm, where they saw different crops and learned how the crops are sowed, harvested and marketed. The goal is to make this an annual event to encourage people to support farmers instead of opposing them on issues such as pesticide use, genetically modified technologies and subsidies. Thirty volunteers helped with this effort, and sponsors donated more than \$5,000.

RLND has been a blessing to me in many ways. Not only have I met lifelong friends from this adventure, I also learned a lot about different parts of North Dakota. I was able to visit numerous cities that I otherwise wouldn't have, and those two things were the most valuable part of my experience. – Chris Adams



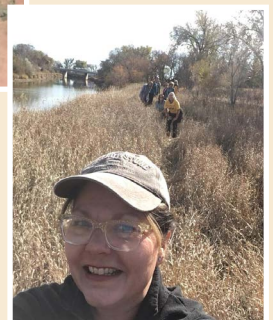
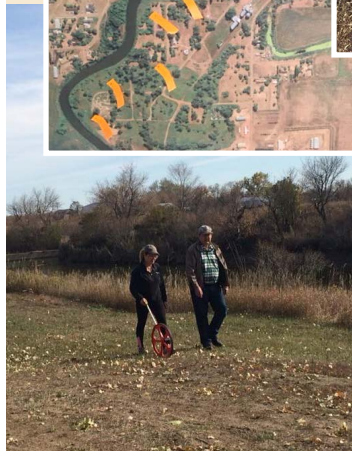
Cannonball Trail

Paula Anderson, director, Consolidated Telecom Board, Regent, N.D.

The project: Create the Cannonball Trail, a natural walking trail along the Cannonball River in Mott

The impact: The trail, which will be 1 1/5 miles long and 10 feet wide, will provide an outdoor experience for walkers, bikers, bird watchers, fishermen and nature lovers. The \$25,000 project is funded through local donations, in-kind services and a grant from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. The trail will start south of the school and follow the river along the channel dam toward Main Street. Then it will cross over to West Mott on the bridge sidewalk.

The biggest leadership challenge that I learned is that you need to create a shared vision. The experiences of RLND were many, including the things I learned about my own state through various tours and many great people. A bonus was travelling to Chile and learning about agriculture, history, traditions of the people and knowing we face the same challenges around the world. I am grateful for the friendships I gained and the travel (and dining) experiences I had. I hope to be a better person and leader because of RLND. - Paula Anderson





Online Ministry Upgrades

Jon Bertsch, managing partner/
president, Bertsch Farms/
Bertsch Trucking, Hillsboro, N.D.

The project: Upgrade the online broadcast system at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hillsboro

The impact: The new high-definition, two-camera, easy-to-use system is operated from a single iPad. The system streams to YouTube, Facebook Live and Twitter, allowing the church's message to be delivered worldwide. The church has secured its own channel on the local telecommunications company's cable lineup, which means residents in community assisted-living facilities and nursing homes can watch church broadcasts. The new system also allows for future expansion. Six volunteers helped assemble the system and learn how to use it.

The RLND experience has been a great one, to say the least. I have made lifelong friends through RLND, for which I will forever be thankful. I know if I am facing an issue where I need some input, I can make one phone call, text or email to a great group of people who will give very good feedback and help me with anything. The experiences were great, but the people definitely make the program a great one. – Jon Bertsch



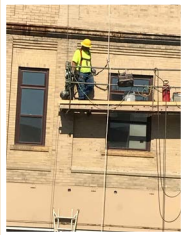
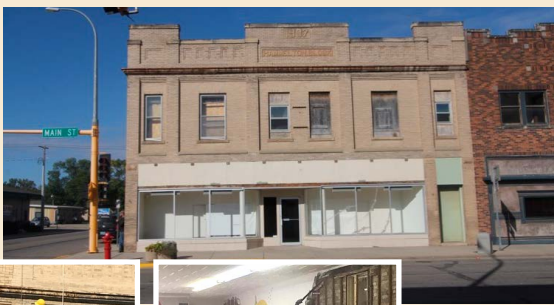
Forage Management Program

Kasey Bitz, owner, Bitz Farms,
and teacher, LaMoure, N.D.

The project: Collaborate with local organizations to develop a forage management program for local producers

The impact: Bitz worked with the LaMoure FFA Alumni Chapter, NDSU Extension office in LaMoure County, LaMoure County Soil Conservation District, CHS Nutrition Consultants and area livestock producers to host a workshop on forage management in LaMoure. This workshop focused on correct storage of forage, how to take forage samples and the correct rations for a herd. Bitz hopes to continue this program and add a component on careers in the livestock industry for area FFA chapters.

With this experience from RLND, I have been able to challenge myself to be a better person and leader in my professional and personal life. I was able to learn so much about myself during the time our class had with discussions and also the visits around the communities. The different environments allowed me to self-reflect and think what I could be doing different. – Kasey Bitz



Rehab the Hammelton

Gwen Crawford, auditor, city of Lisbon, Kathryn, N.D.

The project: Turn the empty Hammelton Building into a once-again useful space

The impact: The Hammelton will house two retail stores, a Taekwondo center and five single-bedroom apartments. This project will help increase the property tax on the property and sales tax revenue for Lisbon, as well as fill a need for newer apartments. Doosan employees cleaned out the building, Fraedrich Transport donated Dumpsters for the demolition and Chose Painting donated paint and labor to paint the front of the building. A local family purchased the building and is renovating the interior.

Not growing up in North Dakota, RLND gave me a greater understanding of what this wonderful state has to offer. It gave me the opportunity to see and experience things I never would have been able to otherwise. The people I met and the networking I have been able to do through this program, not only in my personal life but my professional life as well, has been priceless.

– Gwen Crawford



Camp ReCreation Networking

Matt Dahlke, loan officer, Farm Credit Services of

Mandan, Lincoln, N.D.

The project: Incorporate server technology at Camp ReCreation for camp board members

The impact: The new technology will increase efficiencies at the camp, which is for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The technology also will help save board members' time and better promote the camp. Dahlke has worked with board members to determine their technological needs, analyze options and prices of technology to best serve the board members, set up the new technology and train board members on how to use it.

I have learned and experienced so many great things through the RLND program. I have visited and traveled to all corners of this great state, and made a trip to our nation's capital and a trip to another beautiful country, Chile. I personally have developed professionally, created countless personal and professional networks, and formed many great friendships throughout the RLND program. – Matt Dahlke





Marketing Bottineau County

Whitney Gonitzke, director, Bottineau County Economic Development Corporation, Kramer, N.D.

The project: Brand and market Bottineau County to bring more visitors and new residents to the area

The impact: A newly branded website, www.bottineau.com, was launched in 2018 and a social media campaign started in 2019 under the theme of “Let’s Go” to promote the county’s attractions, such as Lake Metigoshe and great ice cream. Consistent branding is the key as strategic initiatives and messages are developed to support local businesses, attract new businesses and a workforce, encourage visitors and long-term investments in the community, and bring in new residents.

When I started RLND, I was a brand new resident of North Dakota. RLND was a crash course in the best of the best of North Dakota. I was able to visit communities all over the state and meet people at the top of their game. I walked away with so much insight into what possibilities are out there for my community. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in RLND, and the personal/professional relationships that I developed cannot be replicated. – Whitney Gonitzke



Stop the Bleed Education

Stephanie Goeller Johnson, registered nurse, Essentia Health Trauma Department, and rancher, Luverne, N.D.

The project: Provide the Stop the Bleed education developed by the American College of Surgeons free of charge to medical and nonmedical personal

The impact: The goal is to train Americans of all ages how to respond successfully to bleeding emergencies in accidents. Working with Essentia Health, the program has provided education to more than 200 people in the state. This includes emergency medical services, fire and police departments, local businesses, school employees, women’s groups and community clubs. All medical personal attending are certified and able to teach the class in their own communities.

RLND has helped develop my leadership skills while helping me gain a better understanding of my region, state and international communities. I am lucky to have been part of such a wonderful program. The things I have learned will help me add value to my community and state. I am thankful to have gained a new network of leaders (and friends) across the state. Thank you, RLND, for this amazing journey. – Stephanie Goeller Johnson





A Trail to a National Park

Suhail Kanwar, public works administrator/county engineer, Watford City, N.D.

The project: Connect a multi-use 10-foot-wide paved path from Watford City to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park with the county trail system

The impact: The trail will provide a connection for the county's largest population center to the most popular natural resource, Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It will add another way to promote excursions to the park that will help promote healthy activity for people. A trail system also will benefit the area's growing tourism industry and related local events. Kanwar would like the trail system to connect with the popular Maah Daah Hey Trail south of the scenic Little Missouri River eventually.

Being part of the RLND class was the best thing that could happen to me at this stage of my life. Not only I enjoyed the camaraderie and love of my class fellows but I also learned a lot about the leadership, people and places. Lessons learned through the program are directly relevant to my role as a leader and as a person. Friendships I made are relevant for life. It has left a lifelong impression on my way of thinking. I am proud to call myself an alumnus of this great program. – Suhail Kanwar



Ladies Ag Night

Brooke Kessel, county executive director, Adams County Farm Service Agency, Hettinger, N.D.

County Farm Service Agency, Hettinger, N.D.

The project: Organize a Ladies Ag Night for local women in the community

The impact: The goal was to provide women with knowledge and tools to better their farm and ranch operation. Speakers included five local businesswomen who shared their knowledge and expertise on legal descriptions, public documents, abstracts, patronage, bank accounts and quick, healthy meal options. Seventy women attended the event and 17 businesses donated more than \$1,000 to provide a meal and door prizes. This was a collaborative effort with the new NDSU Extension agent in Adams County.

I am thankful for the opportunities RLND has provided to experience and explore so many wonderful North Dakota, regional and international communities. We have been able to connect with and learn from the best leaders and businesses in North Dakota. Now we are challenged to act to incorporate these ideas into our home communities to make a positive difference. – Brooke Kessel





Concussion Awareness

Kristen Knudtson, program specialist, U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, Fargo, N.D.

The project: Increase community knowledge of concussion prevention and recovery

The impact: The program is changing the way people think about concussions and concussion safety for young athletes. The program provides community education on the signs and symptoms of concussions, as well as tools to identify concussions. As a result, sports are becoming safer for young athletes and the community is gaining an understanding of the long-term effects that concussions can have on life and the need to allow athletes to recover from concussions.

RLND has given me the confidence to speak up on issues important to me and push me out of my comfort zone. The life-long relationships will ensure I remember my time with RLND for years to come. – Kristen Knudtson



Blowin' Smoke: the Lemmon Pulling Association

Mandy Kvale, credit officer, Farm Credit Services of Mandan, N.D., Thunder Hawk, S.D.

The project: Take over the annual tractor pull after the local fire department decided not to continue hosting the event

The impact: Diehard tractor pullers established the Lemmon Pulling Association in the spring of 2017. The association, which has more than 25 members/volunteers, has hosted three tractor pulls and helped local youth raise money for their organizations by selling concessions. To celebrate the successful events, the association partnered with American Legion Post 66 to host an awards supper and dance for the community to enjoy. Donations from local businesses and entry fees covered the costs associated with the annual event.

RLND empowers a person to reach out and make an impact. It helped me enhance my strengths and improve my weaknesses while building skills, knowledge and networks to move an idea from a dream to reality. It is an unforgettable experience. – Mandy Kvale

The number one predictor and factor of success is not talent, title, wealth, or appearance. It is grit!

Angela Duckworth



Pay it Forward Rodeo Clinics

Shanda Morgan, owner, Branded Envy, Bismarck, N.D.

The project: Develop affordable rodeo clinics to give youth a taste of what rodeo competition and life on a ranch is like

The impact: Participants were provided with horses, calves, ropes and anything else they needed to participate in various rodeo events. Youth, who often are one or two generations removed from farming and ranching and don't understand where their food comes from (besides grocery stores), were exposed to animals and Western-type events. The goal is to make youth less likely to believe negative things about farming and ranching when they hear about them in the news or on social media.

RLND has been an amazing experience that I am not sure words can adequately express. I have met so many wonderful people who I know are going to be lifelong friends. The personal and professional development growth I experienced was exponential and I am truly grateful for the lessons I learned, not only from the seminars but also from each participant.
– Shanda Morgan



Ever-changing Ag

Doug Naze, sales manager, Dakota Agronomy Partners

Seed, Surrey, N.D.

The project: Bring local citizens together with agricultural producers and suppliers so they all gain an understanding of the benefits of today's agricultural methods and products

The impact: This project connects consumers and producers. Consumers learn about agricultural producers, who are a global supplier of agriculture products in a highly competitive market. Consumers also learn about how agriculture, a rapidly changing industry with new genetics, chemistries and technologies, is drastically different today than it was only a generation ago. Producers and suppliers gain an understanding of consumers' concerns and questions.

My experience in the Rural Leadership North Dakota program has allowed me to rapidly grow as a leader. Academically approaching leadership is gaining awareness of yourself and those around you and the effects your actions and words have on the outcome. RLND has proven to me that the network of people and resources you have are irreplaceable and absolutely necessary. The more diverse the network is, the more effective and useful it is to your success. – Doug Naze





Opportunities in Agriculture

Annika Plummer, administrative secretary, Dickinson State University Department of Agriculture and Technical Studies, Dickinson, N.D.

The project: Create an event to expose the students in Dickinson State University's Department of Agriculture and Technical Studies to job, internship and graduate school opportunities in the region, offer them a forum to present their senior capstone projects and inspire them with a dynamic keynote speaker

The impact: The event started with eight businesses/agencies in the career fair portion of the event, three senior capstone presenters and no keynote speaker. The eighth annual event in November 2019 is expected to host 18 to 20 regional businesses/agencies, four senior capstone presenters and RLND Class VIII member Chris Adams, who will speak about dealing with succession planning and expanding into the export market.

It is very rewarding to bring back what I've learned through the RLND experience to the students at Dickinson State University. I've met great people all across the state through RLND, and it is fulfilling to build this network of friends and colleagues. Through our RLND trips, both in-state and out of state (Minneapolis, Washington, D.C., and Chile), I've been fortunate to encourage our students to expand their networks, learn more about what is around us and experience other cultures. I am so grateful to have had this RLND experience. – Annika Plummer

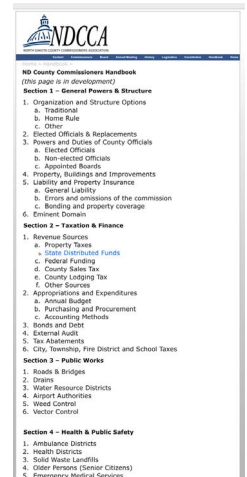


County Commissioners' Handbook/Kids for Kids

Trudy Ruland, owner, Ruland Ranch, New Town, N.D.

The project: Develop a resource that outlines county commissioners' duties and responsibilities and the role of county government

The impact: The resource will assist current commissioners in their job, educate new commissioners and the public about county government, and encourage participation in county government.

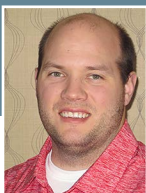


The project: Enable children with no goat experience to participate in a Mountrail County 4-H goat project and Achievement Days

The impact: Goats are an excellent 4-H starter project and introduction to animal agriculture. Big Bend Nubians donated two registered Nubian goat kids, which were given to youth selected to receive them. United Quality Cooperative of New Town and CHS Payback donated about \$200 worth of equipment and feed for each goat.

It is my honor and privilege to a part of the RLND community. This community has provided the resources and the encouragement so that I may positively impact my greater community. –Trudy Ruland





Young Leaders Mentorship Program

Chris Smaaladen, technical manager, Ulteig Engineers, West Fargo, N.D.

The project: Create a mentorship program to ease the transition from college to the workplace by connecting young employees with senior industry leaders

The impact: The program will give young employees an opportunity to learn and talk through potential challenges they may have to deal with throughout their careers. The goal is to roll out the program to the local universities, which will give college students the opportunity to network with local industry leaders. This will allow students to get associated with the industry earlier and start to understand what to expect prior to graduating from college.

The RLND program has given me the opportunity to not only connect with my peers from across the state, but it also has given me the chance to meet business and government leaders from our state. This experience has helped me understand how I can make a difference by getting involved and taking action in our communities. The skills and lessons that I have learned throughout the RLND program I will continue to use the rest of my life.
– Chris Smaaladen



Game Night

Bjorn Solberg, owner, Hugh's Gardens, Horace, N.D.

The project: Hold a community event in Halstad, Minn., to showcase the many local businesses in the region and their commitment to investing in their communities

The impact: An estimated 30 businesses and 200 community members are expected to take part in the event, which is designed to help develop a sense of community among all of the small towns in the area. Because of the sponsorships and donations for prizes from area businesses, community members will have a chance to learn more about what these businesses do while having an opportunity to win a prize.

My experience in the RLND program has given me the knowledge and tools to develop into being a better person and leader while at the same time connecting me with a broad network for personal and professional growth. I can now be confident in myself and my abilities, which is very important in order to become a successful leader. – Bjorn Solberg

The most important characteristic of a leader is optimism.

Bob Iger, CEO of Disney



Hillsboro Backpack Program

Brenda Stallman, director,
Traill District Health Unit,
Hillsboro, N.D.

The project: Start a Backpack Program in Hillsboro to meet the weekend nutritional needs of students struggling with hunger

The impact: The program provides meals to 40 students in kindergarten through sixth grade on weekends. It also has significantly heightened awareness of the existence of hunger in the community. A Hillsboro School staff member fills the backpacks each Friday, and a Facebook page and newspaper feature educated the community about the program. The committee formed to help promote and implement the program has raised \$29,300 to fund it.

Being involved in RLND has been life changing. Not one past life experience can parallel the opportunities of this program. The friendships made, the communities visited and the learning experienced all have been impactful beyond measure. – Brenda Stallman



Louis L'Amour His Jamestown Legacy

Louis L'Amour was born in Jamestown, N.D. on March 22, 1908. He was the youngest of eight children. His father, L.C. LaMoore, was a prominent citizen of Jamestown. L.C. worked as a large animal veterinarian and held various city-appointed occupations. Louis' mother was trained as a teacher and embedded the importance of books in all her children. In 1923, the LaMoore family left Jamestown due to the poor farm economy.

Louis went on to become a successful and professional writer. He wrote and published 117 novels, 400 short stories, and poems. Forty-five films and television series were produced based on his writing, movies such as *Conagher* featuring Sam Elliott, and *Shalako* featuring Sean Connery and Bridget Bardot.

Louis often referenced his upbringing and the places of his childhood in his autobiography *Education of a Wandering Man*. The Alfred Dickey Free Library was instrumental in his education and is home to a Louis L'Amour Exhibit, located at 105 3rd ST SE. Franklin School, located at 308 2nd ST SW, is where he attended school and can be viewed in a self-guided tour. Both locations are part of the Louis L'Amour walking tour.



Engaging Visitors in Downtown

Searle Swedlund, executive
director, Jamestown Tourism,
Valley City, N.D.

The project: Create an exhibit highlighting the home in Jamestown where American novelist and short-story writer Louis Dearborn L'Amour was raised and the years before he and his family left Jamestown

The impact: The exhibit, which is at the Alfred Dickey Free Library, was completed in February 2019, in time for the library's 100th anniversary. The exhibit is a reason to direct visitors to the library, which is in the heart of downtown Jamestown. That, in turn, created an opportunity to direct visitors to the businesses in the downtown area. The community raised \$18,000 to fund the project.

"RLND has been a great way to reconnect with agriculture and rural North Dakota." – Searle Swedlund

Arthur ORCHARD

The Arthur Orchard was first planted in the summer of 2016 with the help of a special donation from Cass County and the State of North Dakota. The goal of this project is to provide a place for students to learn about agriculture, to spend time outdoors, and to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The orchard is a gift to the community and will be a source of pride for all who live in Arthur, ND.

We would like to express our appreciation to the community, state, and local organizations that have supported this project. We are grateful for the support and assistance of all who have helped make this project possible.

SPECIES LIST

- APPLE
- CHERRY
- PLUM
- PEAR
- PEACH
- ORANGE
- LEMON
- LIME
- GRAPE
- RAISIN
- STRAWBERRY
- BERRY
- PLUM
- PEAR
- PEACH
- ORANGE
- LEMON
- LIME
- GRAPE
- RAISIN
- STRAWBERRY
- BERRY

COMMON USES OF FRUIT IN THIS ORCHARD

- Apple: Applesauce, Cider, Pie, Jam, Candy
- Cherry: Pie, Jam, Candy
- Plum: Jam, Candy
- Pear: Jam, Candy
- Peach: Pie, Jam, Candy
- Orange: Juice, Marmalade
- Lemon: Lemonade, Marmalade
- Lime: Marmalade
- Grape: Wine, Juice, Raisins
- Raisin: Raisins
- Strawberry: Jam, Candy
- Berry: Jam, Candy
- Plum: Jam, Candy
- Pear: Jam, Candy
- Peach: Jam, Candy
- Orange: Juice, Marmalade
- Lemon: Lemonade, Marmalade
- Lime: Marmalade
- Grape: Wine, Juice, Raisins
- Raisin: Raisins
- Strawberry: Jam, Candy
- Berry: Jam, Candy

ArthurND.US/Orchard



The Arthur Orchard

Tammy Jo Taft,
communications specialist,

AE2S, Arthur, N.D.

The project: Plant an orchard in Arthur

The Impact: The orchard provides fruit for the residents of rural Cass County, connects students with the environment and gives residents a space to gather outdoors. The orchard received two grants from the state of North Dakota totaling more than \$5,000. Volunteers completed the planting by June 2019. Northern Cass High School students created artwork for signs around the orchard identifying various fruit trees and their uses.

RLND has been a great balance of classroom learning, new experiences and networking with others from across the state. I have really appreciated the opportunities given to our class and the doors that this program has opened for me personally and professionally.

– Tammy Jo Taft



Professional Women in Agribusiness

Marsha Van Laere, northern Plains sales representative,

Gowan USA, Northwood, N.D.

The project: Create a group focused on mentoring and networking for women on the professional side of agribusiness

The impact: Professional Women in Agribusiness gives women a safe space to ask questions and get answers on how to deal with situations that may arise in a work environment. Seminars are held throughout the state and focus on a variety of topics from time management to mental health in the agricultural industry. Various agricultural companies have donated money for the seminars.

RLND will be a lifelong learning experience. When I look back on my time, I know that it has given me the courage and knowledge to approach new things with my eyes open and excitement instead of with my eyes closed and trepidation. – Marsha Van Laere

PROFESSIONAL WOMEN IN AGRIBUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018
6 PM
PETERS SMITHS CASH & GILL, 2050 17th AVE. EAST, DISBURY ND

The Professional Women in Agribusiness group would like to invite you to attend a networking opportunity for you! It's a short program to share what we've done at other meetings and hear plans for the future. Our intent is to help professional women in agribusiness with their career development and business skills.

Please bring your comments and ideas to share as well as business cards as you have about other women in agribusiness.

Agribusiness will be served during the program. Everyone attending is welcome to purchase their own meal or drink as they choose.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT BRIGITTE FRANKS @ 701-799-9949 OR DANIELA THOMAS @ 701-779-0486. YOU CAN REGISTER @ [HTTP://WWW.WOMENINAGRIBUSINESS.COM](http://www.womeninagribusiness.com) OR BY CALLING BRIGITTE @ 701-799-9949.





Renovating an Empty Lot

Heather VanGelder, community relations coordinator, ONEOK Rockies Midstream, Sidney, Mont.

The project: Turn an empty lot next to the MonDak Heritage Center in Sidney into useful space

The impact: This project will improve the quality of life for the community by offering an educational greenspace for people to visit. The lot will be landscaped with plants native to Montana and North Dakota. Students will write a short description of each plant for informational plaques. Each of four information stands will focus on one aspect of the city (oil and gas, agriculture, history and a map of Sidney for tourists). The lot also will include a handicap-accessible walking path.

This program has helped me feel more confident in my ability as a leader, but more importantly, has connected me with an amazing group of people who I will always cherish. Our experiences and time together have given us a whole new world of memories, which I will always hold close. We have all grown in many ways and I am grateful to have these relationships as a result of RLND.

– Heather VanGelder

Listening is more than a conflict management tool; it's the heart and soul of effective leadership.

Terry L. Paulson

Council Members 2017-2019

RLND Council members are individuals who volunteer to serve up to three three-year terms. Council members' responsibilities include providing direction, creating policies and procedures, advocating for the program, maintaining appropriate fiscal policies and assisting with class selection. RLND Council members are individuals who "walk the talk" of leadership through their service to the RLND program.



Barry Medd
Chair
Grand Forks, ND



Pete Hanebutt
Director of Public Policy,
North Dakota Farm Bureau,
Bismarck, ND



Mary Mertens
Member Relations Specialist,
North Dakota Farmers Union,
Fargo, ND
RLND class VI



Cory McCaskey
Vice-chair
Accountant,
Big Lease Trucking LLC,
Dickinson, ND
RLND Class V



April Jepson
Rancher,
Killdeer, ND
RLND Class III



Michael O'Keeffe
Mandan, ND



Melissa Beach
Secretary-treasurer
Ag & Business Banker,
Dakota Heritage Bank of North Dakota,
Hillsboro, ND
RLND Class IV



Erica Johnsrud
McKenzie County Auditor/Treasurer,
Watford City, ND
RLND Class VII



Scott Peterson
Deputy Director,
North Dakota Game and Fish Department,
Bismarck, ND



Jon Erickson
Producer/Rancher,
Minot, ND



Greg Lardy
Interim Director,
NDSU Extension,
Fargo, ND



Scott Ressler
Environmental Services Director,
North Dakota Stockmen's Association,
Mandan, ND



Lynette Flage
Assistant Director,
Family and Community Wellness,
NDSU Extension,
Fargo, ND



Bonnie Malo
Director, Division of Community Services
North Dakota Department of Commerce
Bismarck, ND



Scott Rising
Legislative Director,
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association,
Bismarck, ND

Not pictured: **Ken Miller**
Rancher,
Fort Rice, ND



In memory of:

Dale Ihry
Executive Director,
North Dakota Corn Council

Former RLND Council members: Gene Veeder, Keith Bjerke, Maynard Helgaas, Connie Nicholas, Lynette Nieuwsma, Carol Goodman, Julie Burgum, Paul Govig, Connie Sprynczynatyk, Dennis Hill, Craig Larson, Deborah Kantrud, Myron Eighthy, Vicki Monsen, Allan Orwick, Al Gustin, Mark Johnson, Michelle McMormack, Ryan Taylor, Kayla Pulvermacher, Tom Bodine, Jerry Doan, Jody Hauge, DC Coston, Terry Goerger, John Warner, Steve Edwardson, John Jacobson, Keith Trego, Greg Vetter, Dan Wogsland, Tim Bryan, Janel Lee, Kathy Tweeten, Scott Stofferahn, Dan Lund, Pamela Musland

Contributors

The organizations, businesses and individuals listed have graciously contributed to the RLND program from October 2017 to September 2019. These contributors have made offering the RLND program to individuals across North Dakota possible. They understand that people are the greatest resource North Dakota has to strengthen communities and organizations across the state. We greatly appreciate all of their generous contributions!

We've made every effort to list the names correctly. In the event we have made an error or omitted a contributor, please contact the RLND office.

■ Leader Corps

Leader Corps contribution categories begin at the \$1,000 giving level. Leader Corps contributions exclude RLND tuition payments.

Leader Corp Visionary – \$50,000+

Leader Corp Innovator – \$20,000+

Leader Corp Benefactor – \$10,000+

CHS Foundation

Leader Corp Investor – \$5,000+

Leader Corp Sponsor – \$2,500+

Farm Credit Services Across North Dakota
ONEOK

Leader Corp Member – \$1,000+

Adams Family Farms
American Crystal Sugar Company
Asgrow/Dekalb from Bob Sanders
Bank Forward
BankNorth
Bertsch Farms/Enterprises, LLC
Brosz Engineering
Compass Business Consulting
Consolidated Telcom
Corteva Agriscience
Lynette and Lon Flage
Moore Engineering
Mycogen from Kelly Egg
North Dakota Farmers Union
Oasis Petroleum
RLND Alumni Association
Solberg Farms
SRF Consulting
Steve and Darla Adams
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
Winfield United from Aaron Franklund and
Garret Krueger

■ Tuition Sponsors Class VIII

The Tuition Sponsors are individuals and businesses who sponsored tuition for participants of RLND Class VIII. The generosity of Tuition Sponsors is greatly appreciated.

Adams Family Farm
Dow International
City of Lisbon
North Dakota Department of Commerce
Farm Credit Services of Mandan
Cornerstone Bank
Bottineau Economic Development Corporation
McKenzie County
North Dakota Natural Resources Trust
American Bank Center
Starion Financial
Dakota Agronomy Partners

Dickinson State University
Mountrail Williams Electric Coop
Hugh's Garden
Warren and Mara Solberg
Traill District Health Unit
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Jamestown Tourism
AE2S
Gowan USA
North Dakota Farm Bureau
ONEOK
North Dakota Soybean Council
Red River Valley Sugarbeet Association

■ Contributors

\$500+

AgriBank
Barry Medd
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Bell Bank
Bottineau County Economic Development Corporation
Bremer Bank - Lisbon
Burns & McDonnell
Cass County Electric Cooperative
CHS Sun Prairie
Clifford Hall
Cloverdale Foods
Cork N Bottle – Brenda Gonitzke
Dakota Agronomy Partners
Dekalb/Asgrow Seed Sales
Erica Johnsrud
Farm Credit Services of Mandan – Bowman Office
Galchutt Seed – Matt Danuser
Gowan
Kadmas, Lee & Jackson Inc.
Melissa Beach
North Dakota Grain Growers Association
ProSeed
Rahr Malting Company
RDO Equipment Company
Scruffy's Restaurant
Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Stockmen's Livestock Exchange
Whitney Gonitzke

\$200+

Adams County Development Corporation
April Jepson
Baker Boy
Bank of North Dakota
Bowman Grain Inc.
Choice Financial
Cory McCaskey
Crooked Lane Farm
Dakota Heritage Bank
Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative
Dickinson State University Collegiate Farm Bureau
Essentia Health
Halstad Telephone Company
Interstate Engineering
KC's Dockside Bar & Grill
Kilbourne Group
McKenzie County Job Development Authority
North Dakota Trade Office
Ohnstad Twichell Law Firm
Ruland Ranch
SRT Communication
True North Equipment
United Quality Cooperative

\$100+

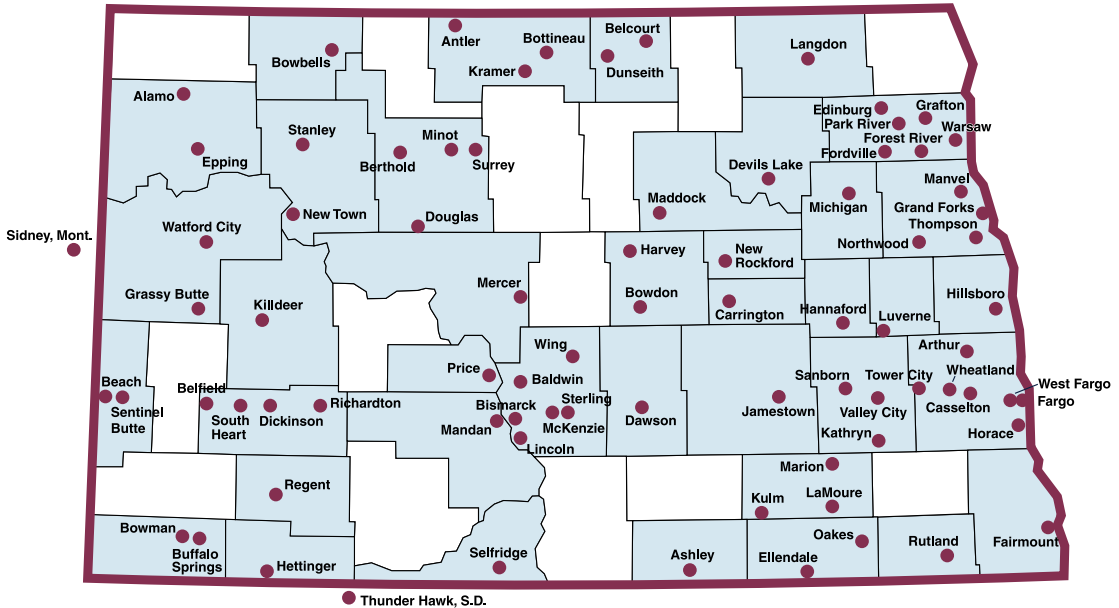
Jon Erickson
Ken Miller
Mike O'Keeffe
NoKota Packers, Inc.
Scott Ressler
Vision Bank

\$99 and under

Barrell of Fun
Dickinson State University
Widman's Candy
Williston Coca-Cola

RLND Alumni 2003-2019

The RLND alumni map highlights the communities and counties where RLND alumni are located in North Dakota. The alumni include Class I to Class VIII. The goal of the RLND program is to have an RLND graduate in every community in every county in North Dakota.



RLND Staff



Marie Hvidsten, Ed.D.,
RLND Program Director

Marie Hvidsten is the rural leadership specialist and Rural Leadership North Dakota program director with the NDSU Extension Service. She has been in her Extension position since October 2002. Prior to coming to NDSU, Marie was the corporate learning and development manager at Digi-Key in Thief River Falls, Minn., for eight years.

Marie holds a bachelor's degree in music from Bemidji (Minn.) State University, a master's degree in educational administration from the University of North Dakota, and a doctorate in education in the area of Organization Development from the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis.



Maria Reinhiller,
RLND Administrative Assistant

Maria Reinhiller began working as the administrative assistant for Rural Leadership North Dakota in April 2018. She manages seminar details for each class, including speakers, meals, travel and hotel arrangements. Beyond the office, Maria likes spending time with her family. You usually can catch her gardening, in-line skating or cheering on her kids at their sporting events.



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