



RLND 2009-11 Class IV Summary




**Rural
Leadership**
NORTH DAKOTA
Supporting Agriculture and Community Development


NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE
Center for
COMMUNITY
Vitality

NDSU EXTENSION
SERVICE

Prepare and develop effective leaders to
strengthen rural North Dakota.
RLND Mission





Greetings and welcome to the Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Class IV (2009-11) Summary Booklet.

The RLND Class IV participants have been on a journey of discovery about themselves, their community, the state of North Dakota, the province of Manitoba and Washington, D.C., the past 18 months. They have had the opportunity to learn about themselves, learn about working effectively in communities to help them prosper and grow, and learn about issues and connections in Washington, D.C., and Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, that affect North Dakotans.

Leadership is relationship building. Class IV participants created long-lasting relationships with fellow RLND participants, RLND alumni, numerous speakers and presenters in North Dakota, Washington, D.C., and Winnipeg. They shared a seminar with members of the Minnesota Ag and Rural Leadership (MARL) Program, also creating relationships with our neighbors to the east.

Class IV participants put their RLND experience and knowledge into action by leading projects in their communities and/or organizations. Their project summaries are listed in this book. RLND Class IV projects included opening R. Rooster BBQ Co., a restaurant in Williston; starting a recycling program in Medora; creating a nine-month leadership program at Dickinson High School; and making weather radar information available year-round.

The RLND mission is to prepare and develop effective leaders to strengthen rural North Dakota. RLND Class IV participants have made a personal commitment to strengthen organizations and communities across North Dakota. Their dedication and service in moving North Dakota forward is to be commended.

Cordially,

Marie Hvidsten, Ed.D.
RLND Program Director

Leadership is ultimately about creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen.

– Alan Keith, Lucas Digital



Congratulations to all RLND 2009-11 class members! Your leadership journey during the past two years provided you with an opportunity for professional growth along with re-emphasizing the importance of community service. We hope the skills and experiences you gained during this time have equipped you with abilities to help your community, and our state, continue to move forward.

Rural communities in our state have a resilient history and a culture of “taking care of ourselves.” This history and culture speaks volumes of the people in North Dakota and it points to the importance of leadership no matter where you live.

North Dakota communities are what they are because of the people who live there and the initiative they take to always seek improvement. And while most of the nation is struggling through a lingering recession, North Dakota has been experiencing unprecedented growth and a strong economy. This type of environment provides many opportunities. However, without LEADERSHIP, many of these opportunities end up passing us by.

Also, even during these prosperous times, we face many challenges; i.e.: the summer of 2011 brought record flooding events to many North Dakota communities; the Devils Lake basin continues to swell with no clear relief in sight; the greater Fargo area continues to pursue permanent flood protection; and western communities are being stretched to the max to meet the influx of the energy boom. Dealing with these challenges creates much debate around public policy and resource commitments. However, the single most important trait needed to maneuver through challenging times has always been, and continues to be, LEADERSHIP!

RLND was created to prepare you to help your community deal with challenging times and a changing world. Your leadership is needed to address social, economic and environmental issues. This program has provided you with an opportunity to enhance your critical and creative thinking and conflict-resolution skills. And we hope this experience has provided you with increased self-confidence and motivation to promote positive change.

We are proud of the fact that you are the fourth class to graduate from this program, and we look forward to your active involvement in addressing issues and the positive impacts you will make in your community and in our state.

Duane Hauck, Director
NDSU Extension Service

RLND Class of 2011

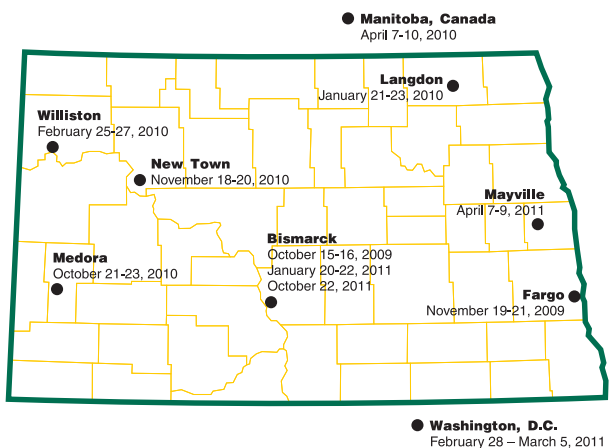


Front row: Ashley Ueckert, Debbie Tracy, Jennifer Weisgerber, Mary Siverson, Maeve MacSteves, Kim Schuler, Jen Ondracek, Medora Stevenson and Teresa Huff. Back row: Maureen Delzer, Chris Schilken, Kevin McLean, Melissa Beach, Suzi Sobolik, April Haring and Chet Hill.

Empowering rural leaders to develop visionary thinking and collaborate partnerships to ensure the future growth of North Dakota.

RLND 2009-2011 Class Mission

2009-11 Seminars

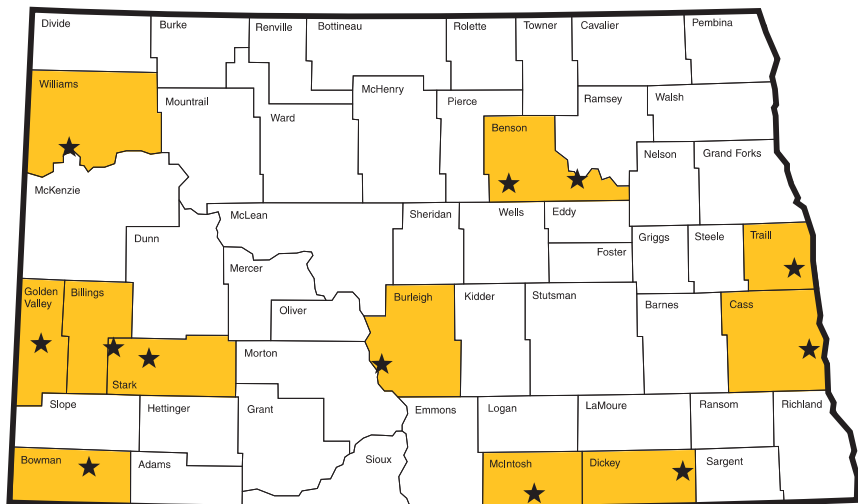


RLND Project Stories

2009-11 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 2011 communities



Learning for Life

Leadership Dickinson



Suzi Sobolik, physical therapist and rehabilitation director, St. Joseph's Hospital and Health Center, Dickinson

The project: Help high school seniors develop leadership skills and learn about opportunities for them in Dickinson

Impact: High school seniors have a better understanding of the skills they need to be a successful leader. They also are aware of the career and leadership opportunities for them in Dickinson. The students spend one day a month in a nontraditional class that immerses them in the community, allowing them to interact with local leaders away from the classroom. Leadership Dickinson's goals include increasing the number of youth who stay in the community and ensuring that the youth have the skills to succeed and lead wherever they are. After the class's first year, six of the nine participants said they would like to stay in the Dickinson area.



Rural Leadership has helped me to understand the importance of working as a community to become a better community, empowering me to feel I can share my thoughts and concerns to leaders and other community members to help our community excel.

– Suzi Sobolik

The project allows you to apply in real time the concepts that you learn in RLND.

– Kevin McLean

Mentors for Math



Kevin McLean, associate vice president for power, Ulteig Engineers, West Fargo

The project: Develop a math mentorship program for middle school students

Impact: The program began with 15 students each from grades seven, eight and nine. They were selected based on their need for help in math to reach academic standards. The students completed lessons through a computer program, were introduced to new math concepts and received one-on-one assistance from mentors when necessary. The pilot project was so successful that it was renewed for a second year and school administrators would like to expand it to all students in the school district.

STEM: Education for the Future



Kim Schuler, tax appraiser, Burleigh County, Bismarck

The project: Expose high school and middle school students to science, technology, engineering and math

Impact: Students are involved in North Dakota State College of Science programs in nanoscience, alternative energy, microelectronics and biotechnology, which helps prepare students in these areas before they move on to college. The students participate in science days at the college and college representatives travel to Langdon to make presentations to the students. The students also learn that North Dakota has the potential to be a leader in wind energy, oil production and biomass, which offers those with skills in science, technology, engineering and math opportunities for careers that will allow them to stay in the state.

The Rural Leadership North Dakota program not only made me a stronger advocate for North Dakota; it made me want to become proactive in its future.

– Kim Schuler

Learning for Life

Learning for Life

A Learning Garden



Jennifer Weisgerber, copy editor, Bismarck Tribune, Bismarck

The project: Create a community garden at Bismarck State College

Impact: This garden would educate the community about the benefits and potential significance of permaculture, which is an approach to garden and agricultural design that uses relationships found in successful ecosystems and organic techniques. The garden also would create a stronger focus on sustainable agriculture and its future role in the world, provide a learning and service opportunity for Bismarck State students, attract visitors to the college and be a springboard for other activities, such as incorporating some of the produce grown into the campus food service menu and garnering support for higher education in permaculture and sustainable agriculture.

ArtSage: Creative Aging



Teresa Huff, coordinator, RSVP+ Southern Valley, West Fargo

The project: Bring the arts to older adults

Impact: Older adults have access to high-quality art activities such as writing their family history, pottery, water colors, wood carving, theater, folk art, photography and dance, and are able to showcase their work in art exhibits. ArtSage collaborates with other organizations and senior programs to develop and implement these programs at many locations throughout the community. Its first fundraising event, "Creativity Blossoms with Age; Sing, Paint, Dance, Live!" in May 2010, ArtSage raised enough money to receive its status as a nonprofit organization and keep operating until it held its second fundraiser in 2011.

This project pushed me further than I ever thought I could go. It built character, confidence, gave me purpose and an opportunity to make a difference in my community.

I now take on leadership roles in the community knowing I can do it and I can make a difference.

– Teresa Huff



Enhancing Lives

Grill Masters



Chet Hill, Extension area agricultural diversification/value-added specialist, Williston

The project: Replace the Williston Korner Lions Club grill

Impact: Lions Club members, community residents and the Williston Convention and Visitors Bureau raised more than \$12,000 for the new grill. It replaces the grill the club used for 20-plus years to cook burgers and hotdogs and flip pancakes at more than 30 events each year. The new grill, which is larger and more efficient, has garnered many compliments from Lions and community members. Because of the community's enthusiasm for retiring the old grill, the club is working on building a concrete slab for the grill to sit on at the football field.



Being involved in RLND motivated me to volunteer to chair the committees to explore, design and build a new barbecue grill and ask the community to donate toward a worthwhile project. What a satisfaction that overcomes you when you see end result for a new grill and the tremendous support of the community.

– Chet Hill



24/7 Weather Protection



Medora Stevenson,
administrative assistant,
Bowman County
Extension, Bowman

The project: Provide year-round weather radar coverage

in southwestern North Dakota

Impact: Residents of Bowman County and the surrounding area no longer have to keep an eye on the sky for bad weather. They now have weather radar coverage from the system in the city of Bowman 24 hours a day all year long. The county was part of a three-state area without continuous weather radar protection.

I have gained confidence in what I do on a daily level as well as a larger scale with community projects. Throughout my project, I have made some important contacts that have served as vital stepping stones, for which I am very grateful. Lastly, I have learned that through collaboration and an open mind, we can make great things happen in rural North Dakota.

– Medora Stevenson

RLND gave me the avenue to bring realization to my smoke detector project. I have never thought of myself as a connector in my community. However, I was pleasantly pleased at all the connections I realized who would benefit from my smoke alarm safety check.

– Mary Siverson

Ensuring a Safer Community, One Battery at a Time



Mary Siverson, director, RSVP+ Central ND, Bismarck

The project: Check and replace smoke detector batteries for elderly residents

Impact: Volunteers inspected and replaced batteries in 142 smoke alarms in 47 homes,

provided fresh batteries for 11 carbon monoxide detectors and installed 10 smoke detectors. The volunteers also provided residents with a brochure on fire safety that included local fire statistics and safety tips from Bismarck's fire marshal.



Building Communities

A Place to Gather



Ashley Ueckert, Golden Valley County Extension agent, Sentinel Butte

The project: Create the Golden Valley County Fair Building and Community Center

Impact: The building, which will provide meeting space for the community, is taking shape and gaining support daily. The Fair Association has allocated enough funds to purchase insulation and Sheetrock to complete the interior. Fundraising is continuing for heating and air conditioning. People are excited about the possibilities for the building and what it will mean for the community.



RLND has helped me to look beyond the surface of an issue and dig to find the real source of the problem or conflict.

– Ashley Ueckert

Committed to Progress



April Haring, city auditor, Oakes

The project: Draw attention to the community's commitment to progress and success, and upgrade the National Guard Armory

Impact: Oakes has new promotional material for tourists, prospective residents and new businesses, and the first phase of improvements at the armory is complete. Grants through the Department of Commerce and a local bank funded the development of new marketing materials, including a new logo, tagline and brochures, and led to the development of a short promotional video. These marketing materials are included in a packet for new or returning residents. National Guard Armory improvements include making its heating and lighting system more energy efficient. The armory has become a hub of social events and community activities.



RLND was an amazing experience. It helped me realize my potential in a leadership role and the ability to make improvements in my community and in my life.

– April Haring

This project has taught me how to bring private industry needs and team up with public entities to provide opportunities to enhance communities.
 – Chris Schilken

Building

Making Business Expansion Possible



Chris Schilken, executive director, Forward Devils Lake Development, Devils Lake

The project: Develop a business and industrial park

Impact: Companies wanting to expand will have adequate acreage to grow and be able to tap into less expensive forms of transportation. The park, which has rail service and highway access, has 125 acres available for development.



Barbecue, Anyone?



Maeve MacSteves, owner, R. Rooster BBQ Co., Williston

The project: Establish a restaurant

Impact: Williston has a thriving, new restaurant, R. Rooster BBQ Co. The 28-seat dining room is open seven days a week. It's staffed with two full-time and eight part-time employees, and generates more than \$1,500 per month in sales tax revenue. The yearlong project included gutting a vacant building and rebuilding the interior.

My RLND experience was the catalyst for starting my business. The networking tools, communication skills and leadership actions helped me find the resources to open and run a business.

– Maeve MacSteves

Communities

Collaboratively Marketing Trail County



Melissa Beach, executive director, Trail County Economic Development Commission, Hillsboro

The project: Develop a countywide website to showcase

Trail County to residents and visitors

Impact: Trail County communities have a website with countywide as well as city-specific information, including economic development resources such as available properties, land available for development and financing sources. The website also provides information on community organizations, businesses, churches, health care, schools and recreational opportunities. Communities can use the information on their own websites, which reduces the amount of time they need to spend updating those websites. Plus, the information needs to be updated in only one place, which ensures the content is accurate and up to date.

My time with RLND has been an invaluable experience, which has connected me to a network of lifelong learners. As a class, we worked through numerous personal development strategies to improve ourselves and our communities. RLND has provided us with an environment to learn and grow as leaders while creating a vision for the future of North Dakota.

– Melissa Beach



Going Green

Preserving Medora



Jen Ondracek, executive assistant, Red River Energy LLC, Belfield

The project: Start a recycling program in Medora

Impact: Medora residents have a place to get rid of their recyclable garbage without sending it to the landfill. With assistance from the city, Billings County and the Medora Chamber of Commerce, a recycling area has been designated in Medora city limits. Items collected at that site are hauled to recycling centers in Beach and Bismarck. This recycling program is helping reduce the truckloads of garbage Medora sends to the landfill each year.

*RLND has helped me
open my eyes to the
strong leader
I am and the person
I aspire to be.
– Jen Ondracek*



The rural leadership program helps you reach deep down inside yourself and realize all the potential you have to lead, and most importantly, how to be the person others want to follow.

– Debbie Tracy

Celebrate!

Rural Renaissance Festival



Debbie Tracy, social services, Maddock

The project: Show what rural North Dakota communities have to offer

Impact: The community pulled together to host a fall festival in 2010 to draw attention to Maddock as a great place to live, work and raise a family. Local farmers and seed companies collaborated on creating a five-acre corn maze that also was a work of art. Area fire departments sponsored a chili cook-off, and local food vendors sold their specialties. A local organization served a community breakfast. Activities included a bonfire, farmers market, hayrides, petting zoo, 5k run, classes and lefse-making demonstration, as well as best recipe, cutest pet, and pumpkin carving and decorating contests.



125 Years and Counting



Maureen Delzer, economic developer, Ashley

The project: Plan Ashley's 125th anniversary celebration

Impact: Plans are well under way for the community's quasiquintennial celebration in June 2013. Activities will include an all-class reunion, tours of the Ashley Public School, a tri-county fair, craft fair, flea market, kiddy parade, street dance, fireworks display, Ashley centennial pageant reunion, entertainment and a tractor trek. Local quilters are making two quilts, and the area's German-Russian heritage will be showcased. Several events, including a snowmobile poker run, burger feed, and meat and quilt raffles, have raised money for the celebration.

My experience with the RLND program was absolutely empowering, and I am grateful for the opportunity and all the wonderful experiences that I was involved in.

– Maureen Delzer

Council Members

RLND Council members are individuals who volunteer to serve up to two 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.



April Jepson
Chair
Economic
Development Director,
Dunn County JDA,
Killdeer, ND
RLND Class III



Jerry Doan
Secretary/Treasurer
Rancher/Producer,
McKenzie, ND



Keith Trego
Executive Director,
North Dakota Natural
Resources Trust,
Bismarck, ND



Melissa Beach
Executive Director,
Traill County Economic
Development
Commission,
Hillsboro, ND
RLND Class IV



Duane Hauck
Ex-Officio Council
Member,
Director, NDSU
Extension Service
Fargo, ND



Kathleen Tweeten
Director,
Center for Community
Vitality,
NDSU Extension Service
Bismarck, ND



Tom Bodine
Leadership
Development
Assistant,
North Dakota Farm
Bureau,
Velva, ND



Jody Hauge
Producer,
Mandan, ND



Greg Vetter
Chief Operating Officer,
American Bank Center,
Bismarck, ND



Tim Bryan
Producer,
Bowbells, ND



Janel Lee
Vice President/Cashier,
McKenzie County Bank,
Watford City, ND
RLND Class II



John Warner
Senator, Fourth
Legislative District,
Ryder, ND



Dr. D.C. Coston
Interim President,
Dickinson State
University,
Dickinson, ND

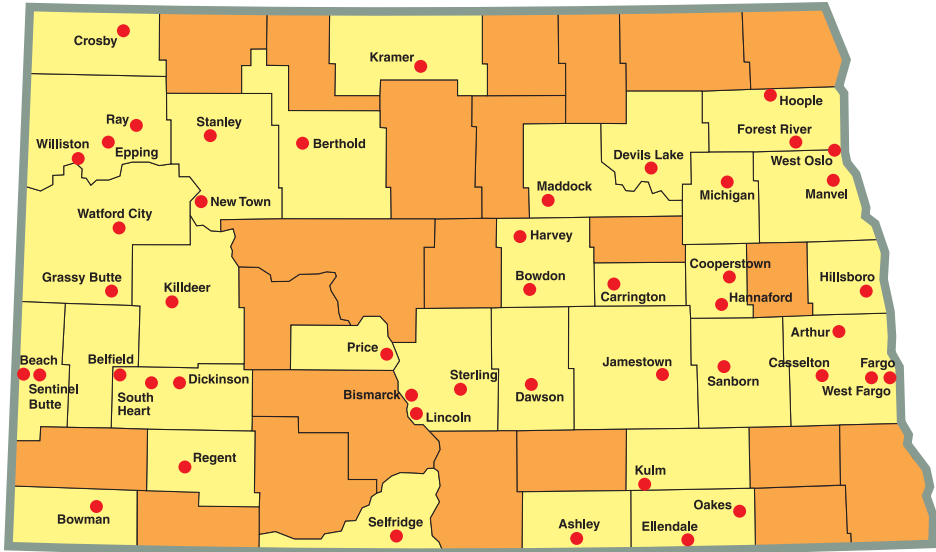


Michael O'Keeffe
Chief Executive Officer,
Farm Credit Services
of Mandan,
Mandan, ND

Not pictured:
Terry Goerger
Owner,
Goerger Seed &
Supply Co.,
Mantador, ND

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 Eighmy, Vicki Monsen, Allan Orwick, Al Gustin, Mark Johnson, Michelle McMormack, Ryan Taylor, Kayla Pulvermacher



RLND Alumni 2003-2011

The RLND alumni map highlights the communities and counties where RLND alumni are located in North Dakota. The alumni include the classes of 2003-05, 2005-07, 2007-09 and 2009-11. The goal of the RLND program is to have an RLND graduate in every community in every county in North Dakota.

As a good gardener prepares the soil, so a wise leader creates an environment that promotes community. ... Community involves a common place, a common time and a common purpose. Just getting people in the same place at the same time does not produce a team. Community requires a common vision.

– Diane Dreher

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's professional experience also includes 11 years as a music teacher and eight years working with numerous grant programs, including a teacher center, mentorship program, arts school, Center for School Change initiative with the University of Minnesota, and curriculum director for the Thief River Falls School District. Marie was part of a community team that created and implemented a nine-month leadership program for the Thief River Falls community as a result of completing a yearlong Blandin Community Leadership program.

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.



Cindy Selstedt
RLND Program Coordinator

Cindy Selstedt began working for Rural Leadership North Dakota in December 2004. Before coming to RLND, Cindy worked for Counseling and Disability Services, NDSU. Cindy and her husband, Randy, have three children and farm near Walcott, N.D.

*Do the best you can where you are, with what you have.
No person can do more, and no one person should do less.*

– Harold Schafer, Entrepreneur

Contributors

2009-11 RLND Class

The organizations, businesses and individuals listed have graciously contributed to the RLND program from October 2009 to September 2011. 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, but 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+
North Dakota Department of Commerce

Leader Corp Benefactor – \$10,000+
The Farm Credit Services Foundation, Inc.

Leader Corp Investor – \$5,000+
CHS Foundation

Leader Corp Sponsor – \$2,500+
Competitive Power Ventures – CPV
In memory of Ron Erickson

Leader Corp Member – \$1,000+
Federal Home Loan Bank - Des Moines
Dennis and Nancy Johnson
Lakeside State Bank
Steffes Corporation

Founders Corps

The Founders Corps honors individuals, organizations and businesses for their cumulative contributions to the Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Program. Founder Corps contribution categories begin at the \$10,000 cumulative giving level. Contributors in this category have made investments in the RLND Program from the beginning of the program, January 2003, to the writing of this summary booklet. The generosity of Founder Corps members is greatly appreciated.

\$100,000+

\$50,000+
North Dakota Department of Commerce

\$20,000+
Craig and Shelley Larson
Julie and Brad Burgum

\$10,000+
SW REAP Development Zone/CONAC

Contributors

Contributor contribution categories begin at the \$500 giving level.

\$500+

Baker Boy
Basin Electric
The Consulate General of Canada
Lynette and Lon Flage
Forward Devils Lake
Golden Valley County Extension Commission
Marie Hvidsten and Larry Haugen
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation
Mayville State University
Medora Fire Association
NCC
NDSU Research and Technology Park
Oakes Community Area Foundation
United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation
Western Cooperative Credit Union

\$200+

American State Bank and Trust of Williston
Best Western Ramkota Hotel
Billings County Museum
Cavalier County Farm Bureau
Cavalier Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Cenex Harvest States Cooperative - Milton
Choice Financial of Langdon
City of Beach
Dakota Community Bank
Dickey Rural Networks
Farmers and Merchants State Bank
First State Bank of Munich
Horizons Resources
James Valley Grain, LLC
Kadmas, Lee and Jackson
Klemetsrud Plumbing and Heating
MacDon Industries
Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative
North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
North Dakota League of Cities
Shirley Duckart
State Historical Society/Chateau
Tracy's Market
United Pulse Trading
Williston Herald
Williston State College

\$100+

Agri-Industries, Inc.
Ashley and Cody Ueckert
Chet and Lynda Hill
CM Welding, Inc.
Coca-Cola Distributing
D&B Motors
Dale's Food Pride
Devils Lake Chamber of Commerce
Economart
El Rancho Motor Inn
Farmers Union Oil of Beach
Finley Motors Inc

First and Farmers Bank
First State Bank of ND
Jen and Derek Ondracek
Kathleen and Howard Tweeten
Knotty Pine Peanut Bar
LaPlaya Mexican Restaurant
Maeve and Bill MacStevens
Mary and Arnie Siverson
Mary and Dwight Schmitt
McIntosh County Bank
Medora's Photoworks
Montana-Dakota Utilities
Mountrail County Abstract and Title Co.
Ms. Sandra Simonson
National Information Solutions Cooperative
Nightlife Limousine
Northern Plains Radio/KEYZ
Oakes Community Hospital
Portland Credit Union
Prairie Packing
Red Trail Campground
Samson Electric, Ltd
Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture
Suzanne and Damian Sobolik
Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
Maintenance Dept.
Thunderbird Ranch
Train ND
Ulteig
US Bank
Wilbur and Elaine Hill
Williston Chamber of Commerce
Williston Economic Development
Williston Korner Lions Club
Williston Small Business Development Center
Zunich Agency - Farmers Union Insurance

\$99 and under

All Seasons Sport About Inc.
Alton Grain Terminal
Bread Pan
Brudvik Law Office, P.C.
Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Dakota Community Bank
Dakota Western Bank
Farm Credit Services of Mandan, Bowman Office
Farmers Union Oil Company
First State Bank of Golva
Hickory Hut
Hometown Inn
Hornbachers
Manger Insurance
Medora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
North Star Caviar
Red Trail Energy
Teresa and Jeffrey Huff
Viking Insurance and Realty
Warehouse Foods

*Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.*

– Frank Outlaw



**Rural
Leadership**
NORTH DAKOTA
Supporting Agriculture and Community Development

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NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE



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