

Embracing leadership through diversity, community and self.

RLND 2015-2017 Class Mission



Class VII Summary

RLND 2015-2017


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

NDSU EXTENSION
SERVICE



Greetings and welcome to the Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Class VII (2015-2017) Summary Booklet.

During the past 18 months, 29 participants from across North Dakota have been challenged to learn more about themselves, their organizations, communities, state, nation and world. Class VII participants expanded their knowledge by participating in 10 seminars:

- Seven in-state seminars in Bismarck (two seminars), Minot, Dickinson, Fargo, Watford City and Belcourt/Bottineau
- One regional seminar in Minneapolis/St. Paul
- One national seminar in Washington, D.C.
- One international seminar in Thailand and Vietnam

RLND Class VII is a class of many firsts, including:

- Being the largest class in RLND history
- Raising more in seminar sponsorships than any class in RLND history
- Starting the RLND program in 2015 with 29 participants and graduating with all 29 in 2017
- Becoming the first class to get on an oil rig and fracking site (during the Watford City seminar)
- Being the first class to discuss the “Work of Leaders” DiSC profile in a seminar
- Becoming the first participants to discuss how they improved in their emotional intelligence (EQ) after retaking the assessment one year after completing the first assessment

Class VII participants brought their knowledge and networks from the seminars back to their home communities and organizations to help move projects and initiatives forward. The positive impact of Class VII projects listed in this book demonstrate that leadership is taking action on an issue/project that you are passionate about. Watching Class VII participants take on future issues/projects impact North Dakota positively will be exciting!

Congratulations, Class VII participants, on the successful completion of your RLND experience. Being on this journey with you has been an honor. You are a group of leaders who cared for each other as you shared new experiences the past 18 months. 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

Believe you can and you're halfway there.

Theodore Roosevelt



It comes as no surprise that North Dakota is a great place to live. In 2017, North Dakota ranked as the No. 1 best state to raise a family and ranked as the overall No. 4 best state to live.

Those are impressive statistics, but we know that a great place to live doesn't happen by chance. It takes dedicated, creative and visionary leaders to guide the aspirations and accomplishments of our organizations, communities and state.

Consider these facts for North Dakota:

- **8,314** North Dakota nonprofit organizations and governmental units require people to serve in leadership roles.
- **One in 24** North Dakotans age 18 and older are needed to meet the leadership demand.

These simple facts emphasize the need and value for your personal commitment to leadership. I thank you and I'm confident your families and neighbors also thank you for your commitment to leadership.

Through the Rural Leadership North Dakota program, each of you experienced personal development, gained leadership skills, and established a new professional network and a wealth of new friends. You became well-informed about important state, national and international issues, and directed community projects. You are fully equipped to be North Dakota's leaders for today and tomorrow. I await with anticipation to see what you will accomplish in the future.

I am honored to recognize you as Class VII graduates of Rural Leadership North Dakota and congratulate you on your accomplishments. However, please don't mistake this day and this graduation event as an end in your leadership journey. The transition from student to alumni brings additional expectations because of your enhanced leadership talents and insights. Your community and North Dakota needs you and your aspirations. Let's keep North Dakota No. 1.

Congratulations and best wishes!

Chris Boerboom

Director, NDSU Extension Service

**A leader is anyone who is
called to make a contribution.**

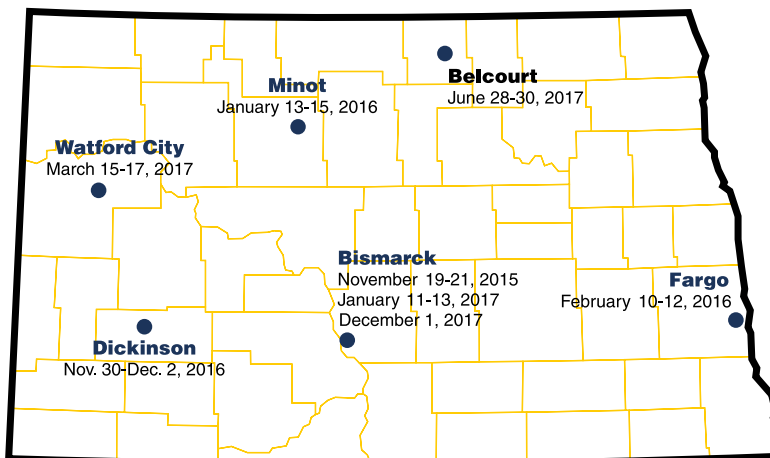
Meg Wheatley

RLND Class of 2017



Front row, left to right: Jeanna Smaaladen, Brandy Pyle, Rachel Bush, Kelli Bowen, Joyce ShiningOne Side, Kristi Schultz, RoxAnne Hoffarth, Georgia Miller, Kayla Burkhart, Joni Tillich, Jodi Larson, Marie Hvidsten (RLND Program Director)
 Middle row, left to right: Daniel Stenberg, Natalie Murato, Devin Jacobson, Erica Johnsrud, Gregg Schuetze, Jason Lindell, Jayme Davis, Jeremy Doan, Chuck Neubauer
 Back row, left to right: Larry Luick, Kwirt Johnson, Lucas Lang, Daniel Janes, Warren Solberg, Levi Jacobson, Alan Svangstu, Darrell Oswald, Pavel Danil

2015-2017 Seminars



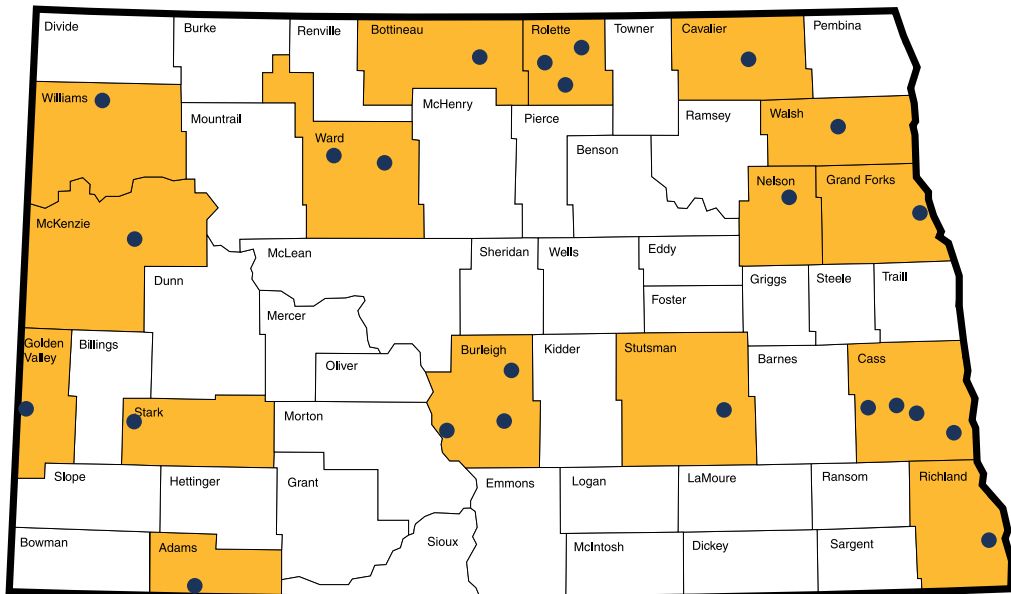
- **Washington, D.C.**
March 14-19, 2016
- **Minneapolis, Minn.**
June 21-26, 2016
- **Thailand/Vietnam**
February 2017

RLND Project Stories

2015-2017 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 2017 Communities



**Embracing leadership
through diversity, community and self.**

RLND 2015-2017 Class Mission

Supporting Agriculture

North Dakota Life



Kelli Bowen, grower service representative, Peterson Farms Seed, Wheatland

The project: Begin a blog about her life

The impact: Bowen focuses her blog, NoDak Kelli (www.nodakkelli.wordpress.com), on her day-to-day life as a wife and working mother of two small children in North Dakota. She hopes her stories help people see a little bit of themselves and realize that rural life here is like life anywhere else, or maybe a little better.

Rural Leadership North Dakota has been a life-changing experience. The skills and knowledge that I have gained in this short time will benefit me the rest of my life. The greater appreciation of North Dakota and friends I have gained through this process are priceless. — Kelli Bowen

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.

Amelia Earhart

GrowHer Farm Women Appreciation



Kayla Burkhart, grain department manager, CHS SunPrairie, Berthold

The project: Organize appreciation events for the often unseen heroes of the farm: the women

The impact: Each event had educational meetings on safety, agronomy and marketing, a great meal and a fun activity. The goal was to provide attendees with grain marketing and agronomy knowledge while having fun and showing them how much CHS SunPrairie appreciates their business.

I don't know if words can adequately express what RLND has meant to me. I have experienced personal and professional growth that I know I would not have if it were not for what RLND has provided me. I now have a global network of people and experiences to pull from to catapult me forward to be a better person and to help me enrich my community as well. RLND has been the single most important thing I have done for myself. — Kayla Burkhart



Cultural and Agricultural Internship Program



Profitability and Conservation



Rachel Bush, North Dakota state coordinator, Pheasants Forever Inc., Dickinson

The project: Bring conservation delivery into the 21st century through technology

The impact: Through a partnership of state, federal and local entities, Pheasants Forever can offer drastically discounted subscriptions for a precision agriculture business planning software and local technical support in Dickey, LaMoure, Ransom and Sargent counties. This software demonstrates that producers can benefit soil, water and wildlife and improve their bottom line by implementing conservation practices on unprofitable acres.

RLND has helped me to grow by allowing me to recognize areas of weakness and strength. I have gained the confidence to ask difficult questions and speak up on issues important to me. I have made lifelong friends. — Rachel Bush

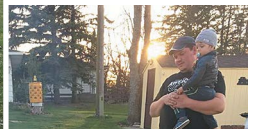


Pavel Danil, farrowing department manager, Nelson County Pigs Cooperative, Michigan

The project: Create an agricultural internship program in North Dakota for students from Moldova and Romania

The impact: Danil has made connections in Romania, Ukraine, Brazil, Thailand, Vietnam, Canada and Colombia, and has brought six students to North Dakota. Some of those students become agricultural managers when they returned home. Others have expanded their horizons by traveling to Canada, Australia and Switzerland.

RLND helped me become more educated in the communication area. I have become more confident. I've started to see the world, North Dakota and my community totally differently. I have become a leader for my students. — Pavel Danil



Using Regenerative Agricultural Principles

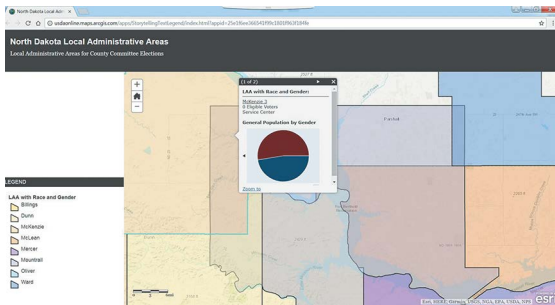


Darrell Oswald, district technician, Burleigh County Soil Conservation District, Wing

The project: Promote sustainability and stability in agriculture

The impact: Using regenerative agricultural practices such as improving soil health will help North Dakota be a leader in providing safe, dependable and wholesome food and a model for the world in sustainable agricultural practices. It also will encourage young people to return to North Dakota to farm and ranch.

RLND was a truly positive experience that helped me strengthen my weaknesses and enhance my strengths. I've met and experienced some wonderful individuals through the process. I was able to learn and experience some great things. — Darrell Oswald



FSA County Committee Election Finder



Daniel Janes, agricultural program technology specialist, USDA FSA, Horace

The project: Develop an online Farm Service Agency (FSA) County

Committee Election Finder

The impact: This tool provides a “one stop shop” for farmers and ranchers to identify boundaries for FSA county committee elections, access election materials and download nomination forms. It will increase the visibility and local participation in FSA county committee elections.

RLND has helped develop my communication and leadership skills. More importantly, the RLND experience helped me reach far beyond my comfort zone and provided an amazing opportunity to experience North Dakota and the world while making friends with truly amazing people. — Daniel Janes

Help CommonGround North Dakota



Kristi Schultz, sales support lead,
Peterson Farms Seed, Wheatland

The project: Help CommonGround
North Dakota develop a strategic
business plan

The impact: A business plan helped the grassroots organization of farm women transition to a new director, and it helps new volunteers understand the group's vision/mission and goals. The plan also will guide the organization as it works to increase its footprint in North Dakota while staying within budget.

Being a part of RLND has provided me with additional and new knowledge focusing on my personal development, my community, state and nation. In addition, I have been able to connect with and learn from each of my classmates while being able to use them as resources. - Kristi Schultz

What you get by
achieving your
goals is not as
important as what
you become by
achieving your
goals.

Henry David Thoreau



commonground™

Conversations About Farming and Food



Building Communities

Native American Leadership Program



Jayme Davis, program manager,
Native Governance Center,
Rolette/Minneapolis, Minn.

The project: Launch the Ojimaawi “To Become a Leader” Leadership Program

The impact: Turtle Mountain Community College secured \$300,000 for the program’s development and has launched successful graduates. This program will help Native American leaders take their place on policymaking boards.

During our first day in November 2016, we had to go around and say what we expected to get out of the program and why we are here. I took this moment to profess to the group that not only as a Native American but a Native American women, we need non-natives to care, to learn, to ask questions. I wasn’t quite sure what to expect after that, but the response was positively overwhelming. It was the beginning of some great conversations from all sides. I’m very thankful for that opportunity and to be a part of such an amazing group of people! Thank you, RLND! — Jayme Davis



Crosby Community Center Golf Showdown



Devin Jacobson, owner,
Jacobson Farms, Alamo

The project: Help pay off the debt on the new Crosby Community Center

The impact: A two-man golf scramble with a tournament playoff to decide the winner has raised more than \$5,500 in two years. That helps ensure that the community has a place for hockey, curling and community events, as well as for people to gather. The tournament will become an annual event.

The RLND program has been an amazing experience. The knowledge and skills gained from the program are immeasurable. — Devin Jacobson

Sunday at Scruffy's



Jodi Larson, owner, Scruffy's, Hettinger

The project: Provide a place for people and organizations in the community to hold fundraising events

The impact: Scruffy's owners open their restaurant one Sunday a month for a free-will supper to raise money for those with medical issues, school organizations or local community needs. This effort has raised \$19,614 and more than \$1,200 in in-kind donations. Those benefitting include people with cancer, the local FFA chapter, swimming pool renovations and Hettinger Future Business Leaders of America.

RLND has impacted me greatly, not only giving me more confidence in my leadership abilities, but connecting me with leaders from across our state that I now call my friends. Thank you, RLND, for this amazing experience!
— Jodi Larson



Park River Town Square



Jason Lindell, owner, Sundog Glass Design, Park River

The project: Transform three empty city lots into programmable outdoor space

The impact: The three empty lots on Park River's historic Main Street have been consolidated into city property. A board formed to turn the lots into space for cultural, multifaceted, community-building events has commissioned concept drawings and is raising funds to cover initial costs.

My time with Rural Leadership North Dakota has helped me develop a greater understanding of my community and region, and given me a greater sense of confidence and depth of patience. It has taught me, beyond all else, that I belong in my community; and in accepting that simple premise, I can find my path to adding value to North Dakota. — Jason Lindell



Building Communities



Marketing the South Central Dakota Regional Council



Georgia Miller, business consultant, South Central Dakota Regional Council, Jamestown

The project: Build referral relationships with bankers and economic developers to bring clients to the South Central Dakota Regional Council (SBDC)

The impact: This effort has increased the use of SBDC services in the region; increased awareness of those services and how they help North Dakotans start, manage and expand their businesses; and helped those who fund the program better understand the program's value to their communities.

RLND opened my eyes to myself, my backyard and the world. The RLND program helped me to be a little braver, a little bolder and a little more adventurous; gave me more experience, knowledge, self-confidence and understanding; helped to grow my network; and made me a better advocate and a stronger leader for North Dakota. — Georgia Miller

Theater Rehab



Natalie Muruato, auditor, City of Belfield, Beach

The project: Restore the closed Belfield Theater

The impact: The theater has become a regional cultural center and gathering place for community connectivity. Grants of \$164,000 and more than \$50,000 in donations helped fund the revitalization, which included a new roof, flooring and lighting; updated sound and movie projection equipment; and an enlarged stage.

It was through the RLND program I acquired the skills and knowledge necessary to take on a project like this and many others that have come after. I am a rural leader in North Dakota doing great things in my community. — Natalie Muruato



Building Communities



FLAMES (Future Leaders and Mentors Engaging Society)



Jeanna Smaaladen, dental hygienist, Nord Dental, Grand Forks

The project: Connect youth with mentors who can guide them in making successful choices as they lead their

communities

The impact: With the help of Carrie Knudson, an agent in the NDSU Extension Service's Grand Forks office, and Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota's superintendent of public instruction, and support of \$2,500 from the county's 4-H program, FLAMES is reaching ninth-graders at all North Dakota schools. During seminars, youth learn leadership skills and are paired with a mentor.

A wise leader once told me, "You will get out of a program what you put into it." Well, RLND has been a phenomenal program; it has given me a greater network of fine, outstanding leaders, but it has also taught me to stand tall, speak up and be proud of the wonderful state we live in. RLND has given me a greater understanding of our heritage, our strong sense of community and the value of the people who make North Dakota great.

— Jeanna Smaaladen

Watford Market



Daniel Stenberg, economic development coordinator, McKenzie County, Watford City

The project: Create the Watford Market

The impact: The weekly summer event combines a farmers market, live music, grilled hamburgers from the Lions Club and a place for community organizations to provide demonstrations from late July into September. Market organizers raised a little more than \$11,000, which allowed them to pay the musicians for their time, talents and efforts.

Being a part of RLND while starting and running Watford Market was helpful in that I got to learn about different local food practices, grant opportunities (including one that we were awarded), as well as leadership theory about how to work with different personalities.

— Daniel Stenberg



Building Communities

Cooperative Food Plots



Alan Svangstu, grain merchandiser,
United Quality Cooperative, Stanley

The project: Provide produce for local
food banks and community events

The impact: United Quality Co-op
(UQC) planted about an acre of sweet corn and potatoes,
including more than 11,150 feet of seed potatoes donated
by Enander Seed Farm, Grenora, in three areas near
Parshall and Ross. UQC employees and volunteers are
harvesting the produce. The project will continue next year
and expand to the Stanley area.

*The RLND experience has helped me to develop my
leadership potential while learning more about North
Dakota and international communities. My RLND
experience also helped build a network of leaders within
the state. — Alan Svangstu*



What do we live for
if it is not to make
life less difficult
for each other?

George Eliot



Regenerating Wildlife in North Dakota



Jeremy Doan, owner, Rolling Plains Adventures, Bismarck

The project: Create more habitat for various wildlife species and more avenues for spectators to view and

enjoy wildlife

The impact: Doan created eight dams with water flow gates to flood or drain land according to the season. These dams have increased the amount of wildlife in the area and allowed the wildlife to survive tougher climates, such as the drought this year.

I have learned/seen so much over these past two years and have made so many new friends. This experience has been so enjoyable and rewarding at the same time. My experience will stay with me forever, and I will continue to share these memories throughout my life.

— Jeremy Doan

Emergency Medical Technician Recruitment



RoxAnne Hoffarth, auditor, City of Langdon

The project: Recruit emergency medical technicians for Langdon

The impact: Seven people have become EMTs. As an incentive, potential EMTs were offered a \$1,000 loan to pay for training. If they completed the training, became a certified EMT, were hired by the hospital and worked at least a 24-hour EMT shift per month for a year, their loan became a grant.

I feel that RLND has made me a more confident person so that even my friends and family have seen the positive changes in the way I handle different work-related and personal situations. Having the RLND experience and the network of people will be of great benefit to me in my day-to-day position as the Langdon city auditor, and it's an experience I will always deeply treasure on a personal level.

— RoxAnne Hoffarth

**The purpose of life
is a life of purpose.**

Robert Byrne

Improving Water Quality



Levi Jacobson, private lands biologist, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Bismarck

The project: Promote North Dakota's Conservation Reserve Enhancement

Program (CREP)

The impact: North Dakotans will become aware of CREP, which was developed to improve water quality, reduce erosion, create wildlife and pollinator habitat, and decrease the amount of sediment and nutrients reaching waterbodies. That will benefit water quality, landowners, and the sportsmen and women of North Dakota.

RLND has given me the tools needed for both personal and professional development. It has also provided me a network of professionals in every walk of life that I would never hesitate to contact. It truly has been a great experience. — Levi Jacobson

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.

Booker T. Washington

Renovating the Church



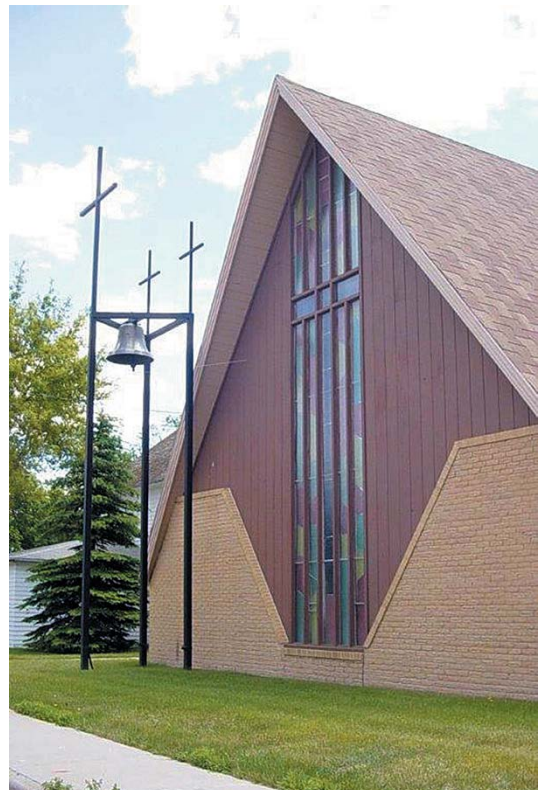
Kwirt Johnson, credit officer, Farm Credit Services of Mandan, Belfield

The project: Replace windows in the Sunday school rooms and the three entrance doors at Belfield Lutheran

Church

The project: The congregation donated more than \$12,000 to the project. These renovations, along with others, have improved the congregation's morale, and church aesthetics, security and safety.

In the midst of this renovation, I began coursework with RLND Class 7. It is the learning, inspiration and experience in RLND that helped me through this process. I am very thankful to RLND for the experience of a lifetime. — Kwirt Johnson



Build a Gym



Lucas Lang, owner, Whiteheart Family Grain, Sterling

The project: Build a gym for the school

The impact: A committee finalized floor plans, developed a budget, worked on community outreach and conducted community meetings to build support for the project. After residents voted it down in 2016, the committee redesigned the gym floor to cut costs and plan to engage voters one on one to alleviate concerns.

My time in RLND was especially valuable during this endeavor as it helped me become more confident when leading meetings and addressing less than supportive crowds, as well as helping me identify my personal leadership style and how to best apply myself and my committee. — Lucas Lang



McKenzie County Through Photos



Erica Johnsrud, auditor/treasurer, McKenzie County, Watford City

The project: Chronicle McKenzie County's history through displays of local photographers' work

The impact: A photographic history of the county from its beginning in 1905 through the present-day oil and gas activity in the Bakken Formation will line the McKenzie County Courthouse halls. The photos will focus on the county's people, wildlife, scenery and economic drivers.

RLND has impacted my personal and professional life in more ways that I thought possible. My ability to connect, understand and work with others has been enhanced through RLND. My leadership skills have been sharpened, and new tools and resources have been introduced to make me a better member of my organization, my community and my family.

— Erica Johnsrud

Enhancing Lives

Advocating for a Better Flood Water Management Approach



Larry Luick, owner, Luick Backhoe Service Inc., Fairmount

The project: Provide decision-makers with alternatives to a flood control dam south of the Fargo-Moorhead area

The impact: Luick explained alternatives to pro-dam organizations and the engineers working on the dam plan. He also spoke to agricultural and water groups, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and governmental agencies about a collaborative effort for basinwide water management to solve water issues while benefiting, rather than hampering, upstream farmers and cities.

RLND helped me gain the confidence and courage needed to meet with these groups and nay-sayers. Today, there are many more people who understand how this can work as a huge benefit for flood control. With the recent federal judge's decision to halt the Fargo dam's construction, I am hopeful the pro-dam groups will finally be willing to explore the beneficial alternatives. — Larry Luick



Research to identify nutrient loss.



The Waffle Plan uses farmland for temporary retention.



Fostering Mountain Biking



Chuck Neubauer, market president, Starion Financial, Bottineau

The project: Start a local chapter of the International Mountain Biking Association

The impact: The local chapter would foster the sport of mountain biking by providing a top-quality trail program that takes advantage of existing trails and the area's natural resources. The chapter also could start a certified race weekend, making Bottineau only one of three sites in North Dakota to offer certified races.

Thanks to the incredible RLND experience, I have been given the education and resources to be able to become a much more effective leader both in my career and in community activities and projects. What I have found most valuable is that while the projects themselves are the end game and show what we can do in our communities, most of the work takes place far ahead of the project itself. It starts with bringing a group of individuals together in the community who share a common vision and most importantly are dedicated and committed to seeing that vision become reality. — Chuck Neubauer

Butterfly Ball



Brandy Pyle, state legislator,
District 22, Casselton

The project: Raise funds to buy
playground equipment for fourth-
through sixth-graders at the Central

Cass School in Casselton

The impact: The Butterfly Ball, a father/daughter dance,
raised \$2,500 its first year. The PTA reused decorations
from the school prom, hired a DJ and served snacks.
During a grand march, local TV anchors announced the
fathers and daughters to the audience. Contributions from
local businesses and a registration fee covered the costs
to coordinate the event.

RLND, to me, has opened eyes, hearts and minds. It empowers the person to reach out and make an impact. It showed me my strengths and areas that I need to improve. RLND helps participants to build their own toolbox of skills, knowledge, confidence and network that can move an idea into action. That impact goes beyond the person and reaches family, community, our state and beyond. — Brandy Pyle



Simply Serving the Community



Gregg Schuetze, owner,
Watford Electric, Watford City

The project: Repair the
merry-go-round

The impact: Children have a safer
merry-go-round to ride on as a result of Schuetze
repairing two failed support braces with his own
materials. He hopes his work also instills the concept
of community service in his son, who went with him
when he fixed the first brace, and his 6-year-old
daughter, who assisted him on his second repair trip.

While my project is community service boiled down to the simplest form, my RLND experience has inspired me to pursue my first vision (a vast retirement village) as well as the many other possibilities as they unfold, but they will not be a "project;" they will be a part of my life. — Gregg Schuetze



Enhancing Lives



Repurposing San Haven



Joyce ShiningOne Side, Dunseith public school teacher, Dunseith

The project: Repurpose the San Haven property to benefit the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (TMBCI)

The impact: The TMBCI purchased the site of the former tuberculosis sanitarium in Dunseith with the intention of tearing down the old buildings and constructing other structures that bring job security and wellness to the TMBCI. ShiningOne Side is working with the TMBCI on issues such as identifying native species, and testing and protecting the water on the grounds.

Through participation in RLND, insight I gained: We share the same water, resources and land even in diversity; and with respect of each one, the benefactor will be our future generations.
— Joyce ShiningOne Side

Saving the Wild Rice Dam



Warren Solberg, warehouse/deliveries, Concordia College, Horace

The project: Keep the dam from being removed as a mitigation project for the Fargo-Moorhead flood control diversion project

project

The impact: Discussion continues on the fate of the dam, which was built by the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad in 1891 and reconstructed in the 1930s and again in the 1990s. Solberg provided the Southeast Cass Water Resource Board and its legal counsel with information on the dam's history and owner. He says one option may be to settle this in court.

In working on this project, I have had to learn to be patient when it would have been great to just get it done.
— Warren Solberg



Real Colors



Joni Tillich, head of operations,
Blue Chip Financial, Belcourt

The project: Train elementary school teachers how to best communicate with students and identify the students' personal strengths and weaknesses

The impact: Teachers are learning through the Real Colors communication training to identify each child's personality motivators and help improve the children's self-esteem while they learn. Stronger self-esteem will equip the children to overcome everyday barriers and help them be more successful in meeting life's challenges.

Upon entering RLND, I did not realize what I was about to embark on. After learning how the work of multiple industries throughout North Dakota - and essentially the world - affects our small towns in rural North Dakota, I was enlightened, intrigued and empowered to continue that teaching to those around me. Thank you for such an amazing and once-in-a-lifetime experience! — Joni Tillich

The only person
you are destined
to become is the
person you decide
to be.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Council Members 2015-2017

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.



Michael O'Keeffe
Chair
Mandan, ND



Lynette Flage
Director, Center for
Community Vitality,
NDSU Extension
Service,
Fargo, ND



Pamela Musland
Marketing and
Communications
Supervisor,
North Dakota
Farmers Union,
Jamestown, ND



Barry Medd
Vice-chair
Vice President,
First State Bank,
Grand Forks, ND



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



Scott Stofferahn
Executive Vice
President, Golden
Growers Cooperative,
Fargo, ND



Melissa Beach
Secretary-treasurer
Executive Director,
Trail County Economic
Development
Commission,
Hillsboro, ND
RLND Class IV



April Jepson
Rancher
Killdeer, ND
RLND Class III



Kathy Tweeten
Consultant,
Bismarck, ND



Chris Boerboom
Director,
NDSU Extension
Service,
Fargo, ND



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



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



Tim Bryan
Producer,
Bowbells, 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:

Dan Lund
Owner, Quality Seed
Genetics LLC,
Alice, ND

Ken Miller
Rancher,
Fort Rice, 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, Tom Bodine, Jerry Doan, Jody Hauge, DC Coston, Terry Goerger, John Warner, Steve Edwardson, John Jacobson, Keith Trego, Greg Vetter, Dan Wogsland

The organizations, businesses and individuals listed have graciously contributed to the RLND program from October 2015 to September 2017. 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
Turtle Mountain Community College

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

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■ Contributors

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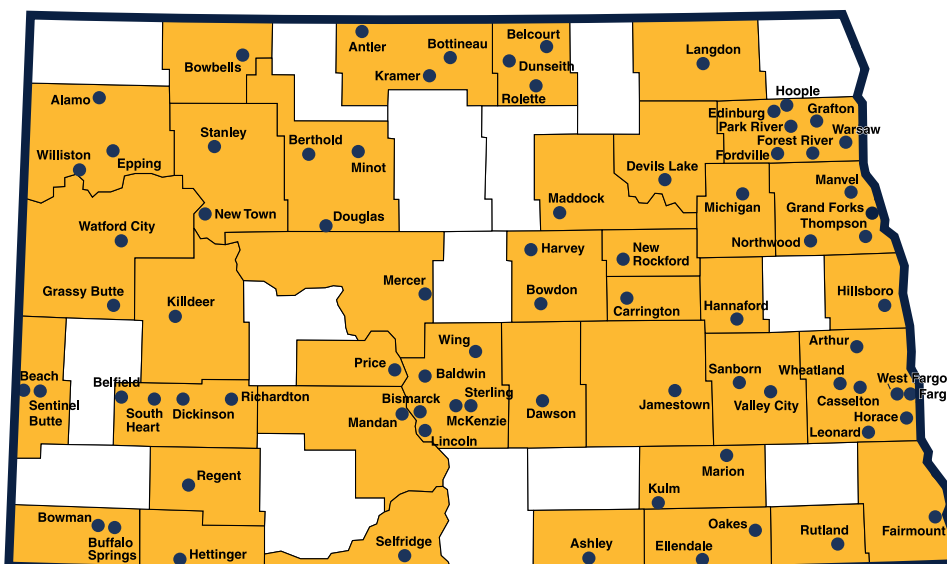
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RLND Alumni 2003-2017

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, 2009-11, 2011-13, 2013-15 and 2015-17. 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.



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 five grandchildren, and farm near Walcott, N.D.



NDSU Extension Service
NDSU Dept. 7390, 307 Morrill Hall
PO Box 6050
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

Phone: (701) 231-5803
Fax: (701) 231-8378

Email: nds.u.ruralleadership@nds.u.edu
Web site: www.ag.ndsu.edu/rlnd

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