

South Dakota Agricultural & Rural Leadership Class IX Announced

BROOKINGS, S.D. – Lori Cope, Executive Director of the South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership announces new class to participate in the next SDARL program beginning November 2016. Selected into Class IX SDARL: Brian Bannwarth, Mitchell; Shelby Bartling, Gregory; Ryan Beer, Lemmon; Peggy Bieber, Leola; Scott Biskeborn, Chamberlain; Lacey Caffee, Wessington Springs; Rebecca Christman, Sioux Falls; Billy Clanton, Buffalo; Matt Dybedahl, Pierre; Adam Ehlers, Presho; Brian Gilbert, Sioux Falls; Danielle Hanson, Pierre; Jennifer Henrie, Philip; Sarah Hill, Brookings; Kara Kayser, Emery; Jonathan Kleinjan, Brookings; Derek Little, Brookings, Chad Nelsen, Viborg; Bart Randall, Chamberlain; Tiffani Robertson, Hermosa; Lee Sanderson, Conde; Kyle Schell, Wall; Adam Schindler, Reliance; Bo Slovek, Philip; Ben Stout, Kadoka; Brian Ternus, Valley Springs; Rob Thuringer, Madison; and Jason Warrington, Groton.

The SDARL leadership program is designed and will provide leadership training to these twenty eight rural South Dakota residents representing farming, ranching, agri-industry and agricultural organizations. The goal is to grow and enhance participants' vision, knowledge, confidence and commitment necessary to assume leadership roles in South Dakota's rural communities and agricultural industry. "Cope says SDARL is a comprehensive eighteen month program combining leadership development with hands on field experience. Training emphasizes understanding of political, social, economic and cultural issues as well as basic skills in communications, interpersonal relations, decision making and problem-solving. Participants gain firsthand knowledge of trends, key issues and Agriculture innovations and developments in South Dakota." A SDARL experience prepares them to serve on boards, volunteer within their community and Ag industry organizations, and increases analytical and strategic planning skills for assessing an ever-changing environment. Seminars are designed to allow participants opportunity to directly interact with private business leaders, government leaders, state and federal agency personnel, and build relations with SDARL alumni. Starting November 2016 through April 2018, the eighteen months includes ten in-state seminars, one national study seminar to Washington, DC and a two-week international study seminar. All centered on local, regional, national and international agriculture. SDARL started in Year 2000 and its alumni organization now exceeds 245 graduates.

The SDARL program is a Private/Public partnership funded through tuition and sponsorships. For additional information about South Dakota Agriculture and Rural Leadership go to www.sdarl.org