



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT RECOGNIZES VICKI SCHURMAN OF NEBRASKA FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES

WASHINGTON, December 9, 2008 — Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Douglas L. Faulkner today announced the selection of Vicki Schurman for the 2008 USDA Rural Development High Mark award. The award is given annually to the public information coordinator who best exemplifies the spirit of USDA Rural Development's national outreach and communications initiatives. Schurman is USDA Rural Development's public information coordinator in Nebraska.

“Vicki Schurman exemplifies the type of employee who motivates staff, develops key partnerships with business and community leaders, and works tirelessly to promote our programs and services,” Faulkner said. “I am honored to present her with this award.”

Among her accomplishments, Schurman developed a unique partnership with the Nebraska Bankers Association resulting in placement of Rural Development public service advertisements in the organization's statewide publication. She also wrote a two-page article for the association highlighting Rural Development's guaranteed home loan program.

Largely as a result of Schurman's efforts, Rural Development employees in Nebraska are all required to perform marketing or public information activities on behalf of the agency. Schurman, who has more than 20 years' federal service, resides in Lincoln, Nebraska.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$111 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 2 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. More information on rural

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