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# NEWS RELEASE

## JANIE DUNNING ANNOUNCED AS MISSOURI STATE DIRECTOR FOR USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT



President Barack Obama announced the appointment of Anita J. (Janie) Dunning as the Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development effective July 13, 2009.

“Janie Dunning will be an important advocate on behalf of rural communities throughout the state and help administer the valuable programs and services provided by the USDA that can enhance their economic success,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Dunning has been the Multi-Family Housing Program Director for Missouri USDA Rural Development since 2003. In this position, she directed the largest multi-family housing portfolio in the nation and is responsible for the statewide development and promotion of innovative and collaborative strategies for the delivery of Rural Development programs. Dunning has served as Acting State Director for Rural Development previously. Formerly, she served as the Community Development Director and led the agency into its expanded economic and community development role.

Raised in the northeast Missouri community of Kahoka, Dunning now resides in Columbia. She started her career with Farmers Home Administration in 1968 and has seen the agency go through many changes as well as names to the current name of Rural Development. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience having worked at the county, district and state level in a variety of positions.

Dunning has served as the President of the Missouri Community Betterment Board of Directors, President of the Missouri Rural Opportunities Council, and has worked with a variety of other organizations to forge partnerships and collaborate on economic and rural development improvements for rural Missouri.

Dunning balances her work responsibilities with devotion to her family, particularly her two daughters and their families including: Dr. Brandon and Kindra York of Lake Saint Louis, Missouri and Tim and Kirsten Moloney of Columbia, Missouri and their children, Emma and Shay.

Rural Development administers and manages over 40 housing, business, and community infrastructure and facility programs as laid out by Congress through a network of 145 employees in Missouri with the state office in Columbia, six Area Offices and twenty-two Sub Area Offices throughout the state. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of over \$114 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

Information on any of the rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting Missouri’s USDA web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo>.

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