



The Glacial Lakes Area Development (GLAD) group, in cooperation with the Northeast South Dakota Community Action Program (NESDCAP) has hired Darah Darrington as its Executive Director to promote

economic development in the Greater Marshall County area. From left to right are Darrington, NESDCAP Executive Director Marcia Erickson, and GLAD Board of Directors President Lucas Lentsch.

## GLAD Hires Economic Development Director

The Glacial Lakes Area Development group (GLAD) has announced the hiring of an economic development director.

GLAD, which includes the communities of Eden, Langford, Britton, Pierpont, Veblen, and Lake City, has affiliated with the Northeast South Dakota Community Action Program (NESDCAP) for consultation and a shared staff member, Darah Darrington. She is newly hired as the part-time Executive Director for GLAD.

Darrington is originally from the Waubay area. She earned her

Bachelor's degree in sociology with a human resources emphasis and has minors in business and public recreation from South Dakota State University. Darrington received her Masters degree in public administration in the fall of 2005 from the University of South Dakota.

The new GLAD director assisted Jim Beddow, Executive Director of the Rural Learning Center, and Diane Fredrickson, entrepreneur from Lake City, on a "Greater Marshall County" community assessment and transformation project in the summer of 2004. She has

worked for the Northeast Council of Governments and currently is working for NESDCAP in Sisseton.

"NESDCAP is pleased to announce the partnership with the Glacial Lakes Area Development team," said Marcia Erickson, NESDCAP Executive Director. "It is exciting to see this new organization begin to take its formal structure through the hiring of a new Executive Director. It is our vision that the partnership and sharing of staff will prove beneficial to both GLAD and NESDCAP in many ways."

Erickson said that NESDCAP and the Northeast South Dakota Economic Corporation (NESDEC) are also excited to assist GLAD in efforts to become regionalized and support economic development in a larger collaborative effort, which will strengthen the ability to complete economic and community development initiatives in the region.

The GLAD Executive Director will facilitate and guide economic development activity on a local as well as regional level. Darrington will be available for each municipality on a local level to identify economic issues that need to be addressed and to be a resource for citizens.

She will also be responsible for working with GLAD on issues that will be defined that affect the county and region. Local economic groups will still be responsible for working on local issues with the assistance of the development director. Darrington will be a facilitator and resource to help get those working projects completed.

"We are extremely pleased to have Ms. Darrington as our Executive Director," said GLAD Board of Directors President Lucas Lentsch. "Darah's education, experience, and enthusiasm more than qualifies her for the GLAD position."

Darrington will work out of an office located in the Marshall County Community Building next to the Veteran's Service Office and can be reached at 448-0005. The GLAD and NESDCAP office will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

GLAD is a newly incorporated non-profit community and economic development corporation made up of a group of business people, government officials, banking personnel, and citizens from area communities. With an aging population and cities with similar needs, the group recognized the need to band together to promote economic and community development, tourism, and to help each other sustain the resources that residents have in northeast South Dakota.

The group's mission is to be the catalyst for the preservation and enhancement of the area through the open exchange of resources and ideas. GLAD encourages entrepreneurs, young and old; assists existing and new business owners; and works with residents and community leaders to help formulate and implement plans to improve the economic status of the region, which, in turn, will serve to market the area for new residents.

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