

Directions



Holiday GREETINGS

All of us at the Sioux Falls Development Foundation extend the heartiest of holiday wishes to you, your family and colleagues for a joyous season of celebration and a healthy and happy 2009.

Sioux Falls
Development Foundation



Volume 32, Number 6
November-December, 2008

Spirit of Sioux Falls Award presented to Griffin

Mark Griffin, long-time community business leader and past chairman of Forward Sioux Falls, the Development Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce, was this year's recipient of the Spirit of Sioux Falls Award at the Sioux Falls Development Foundation's annual meeting November 20. The meeting theme, illustrating the importance of building on yesterday's successes to create a prosperous tomorrow, was *Proud Past, Promising Future*. Former Lieutenant Governor Steve Kirby, the 2004 recipient of the Spirit of Sioux Falls Award, introduced Griffin to the record crowd at the annual meeting.

"Mark Griffin represents the spirit of participation and leadership that sets Sioux Falls apart from other communities," said Mark Shlanta, Development Foundation chair. "As Steve Kirby reminded us, Mark has always stepped forward to help us achieve our economic development goals."

In thanking the Development Foundation for the award, Griffin spoke of the organization's leaders in whose memory the award was created. As vice chairman of Forward Sioux Falls in 1993, Griffin was invited to accompany Roger Hainje, David Birkeland and Angus Anson on the trip to Cincinnati which resulted in their deaths. Their sacrifice and their dedication will always be remembered, Griffin said.

In addition to the presentation of the award, the meeting featured a report by Chairman Shlanta on the successes of 2008. He also introduced the winners of the Development Foundation's Spirit of Sioux Falls Scholarships. This year, Matthew Adamson, pursuing a degree in economics at USD; Alison Klinkhammer, an accounting major at University Center; Natasha Reeder, a University of Sioux Falls student majoring in Business Administration and criminal justice, and Ronna Ringen, a Business Administration student at USE, each won a \$2,500 scholarship for pursuing a course of study in business.

"In good times and in bad, our area's economy is consistently recognized as one of the strongest in the nation," said Shlanta said. "Thanks to our excellent board of directors, our dedicated staff and our faithful members, the Development Foundation continues to work to keep our economy strong and our community the best place in America to live and work."



Mark Griffin, President and CEO of Lewis Drug, Inc.



Sioux Falls named best place to seek a job

Job seekers often look for positions in cities like New York or Chicago. But those are not the places where they're most likely to find a job. According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported by **CareerBuilder.com**, job seekers are better off looking in Sioux Falls, the top-ranked community in the nation based on job growth and unemployment rates. Jobless rates were higher in 338 of the 369 U.S. metropolitan areas surveyed this July, which means 92 percent of cities have seen an increase in their unemployment rates. Despite these startling national figures, several cities, led by Sioux Falls, have low unemployment rates and sizable job growth. Sioux Falls' number one ranking came as a result of an unemployment rate of 2.3 percent and job growth of 1.6 percent.

Four retire from Development Foundation board

Four regional business leaders, representing the diversity and prosperity of the Sioux Falls region, are retiring from the board of directors of the Sioux Falls Development Foundation.

Steve Crim, formerly general manager at John Morrell & Company, is retiring as Development Foundation board secretary. Also retiring after terms of service on the board of directors are **Don Marker**, general manager and CEO of Sioux Valley Energy; **Kendall Stork**, president and CEO of Citibank (South Dakota), NA, and **Steven C. Palmitier**, who served in Sioux Falls as president and COO of Midland National Life Insurance and president and CEO of Sammons Securities Company.



Steve Crim



Don Marker



Ken Stork



Steve Palmitier

“Our organization depends on the leadership and the dedication of volunteer board members such as our retiring group this year,” said Mark Shlanta, Development

Foundation chairman. “We thank them for their service and counsel during their respective terms.”



County development groups hold annual meeting



Jeff Eckhoff, executive director of Minnehaha and Lincoln County Economic Development Associations, gives his annual county update at the combined annual meeting in the Holiday Inn City Centre. SFDF president Slater Barr was the keynote speaker at the meeting November 6.

Directions
is published six times yearly by the

Sioux Falls 
Development Foundation

P.O. Box 907, Sioux Falls, SD 57101
Phone 605-339-0103, Fax 605-339-0055
Karen Ruhland, Editor

SFDF Board of Directors

Mark Shlanta, Chair	Steve Palmitier
Cathy Clark, Vice Chair	Dr. Jim Robl
Steve Crim, Secretary	W. Tom Simmons
Jack Hopkins, Treasurer	Fred Slunicka
Dana Dykhouse, Past Chair	Kendall Stork
William L. Baker	Gerry Sweetman
Jeff Erickson	
Jeff Holcomb	Ex-Officio:
Dale Jans	Mayor Dave Munson
David Knudson	Mike Cooper
Don Marker	Commissioner
Mark Mickelson	Anne Hajek
Becky Nelson	

Working for regional economic development in partnership with:

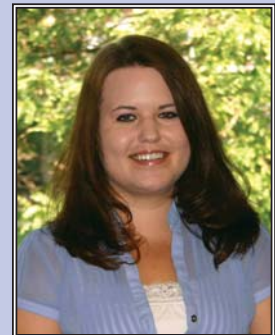
Forward
SIOUX FALLS 


Lincoln County
Economic Development Association


Minnehaha County
Economic Development Association

Business administration student wins Spirit of Sioux Falls Scholarship

Natasha Reeder, a business administration and criminal justice major at the University of Sioux Falls, is one of four area students to receive the **2008 Spirit of Sioux Falls Scholarship** to continue their post-secondary business education. The \$2,500 scholarships are awarded annually by the Sioux Falls Development Foundation to students who are Sioux Falls residents or who have completed at least one year of post-secondary work in a South Dakota institution.



Natasha Reeder

Reeder is a college musician, performing with the USFWind Ensemble, and an athlete on the USF softball team. She is a winner of the University of Sioux Falls Excellence Award and the recipient of the Adam Bruce Millikan Scholarship. She recently interned at the South Dakota State Penitentiary, working in the Department of Corrections business office.

“My goal is to work for state or federal government for a few years, then attend law school,” Reeder said. “My business studies will help me prepare for law school, and a business background will help me in any job or career I pursue.”

The Sioux Falls Development Foundation is proud to be the sponsor of the Spirit Scholarships and congratulates Natasha on her achievement.

Chairman's Report



By Mark Shlanta

Proud past is a great foundation for the promising future

Our community, and our region, are unique in many ways. One of the most significant right now, with the economic stresses so much of our nation is experiencing, is our economic stability and confidence in our promising future. As we celebrated at our annual meeting recently, the **proud past** of Sioux Falls provides us with the perspective and the confidence to forge forward to a **promising future**, despite national economic woes.

Our area's economy is consistently recognized as one of the strongest in the country. With our friends and colleagues in the surrounding communities of Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties, we create an environment that attracts new companies to our area and encourages the expansion of the well-established businesses growing right here. Once they get here, they realize, as we do, what a great place we've all chosen for our homes and businesses!

Thanks to the strong leadership of people like our 2008 Spirit of Sioux Falls Award winner Mark Griffin, Sioux Falls has become a community that continues to attract attention, draw young people to start their careers and build on each year's consistent economic strength.

Our volunteer board of directors is proud of this community, and we are proud of their service to our organization. This year, **Steve Crim**, **Don Marker**, **Steve Palmitier** and **Ken Stork** are retiring from our board, and we will miss their enthusiasm and participation. Newly elected members are **Paul Hegg**, Hegg Companies; **Chris Houwman**, Malloy Electric; **Kristi Niechwiadowicz**, Citi, and **Carl Rapp**, ADP. Congratulations, and thank you all!

And our thanks to you for attending our annual meeting this year and for your support of our organization. We appreciate the kind words expressed at our meeting and anticipate another great year in 2009.



Ground broken for Dawley Farm Village

Ground was broken November 6 for Phase I of the Dawley Farm Village Development, a \$40 million retail project. The Shoppes at Dawley Farm will be a 575,000 square foot retail shopping center. The initial phase will be about 32 acres, with 275,000 square feet of retail space on the growing east side of Sioux Falls. The second phase of the retail project will include an additional 35 acres, making the total retail development approximately 70 acres of the 300-acre master-planned Dawley Farm Village. The projected cost of Phase II is estimated at \$40 to \$50 million. Upon completion, the project will provide retail shopping and entertainment for the greater Sioux Falls area. The estimated number of employees will range from 400 to 800 when construction is completed. Phase I is expected to open in October, 2009.



Sioux Falls
Development
Foundation

President's Report



By Slater Barr

Now is the time *we must act*

This year's annual meeting theme was *Proud Past, Promising Future*. Each year, we celebrate not only the achievements highlighted in our annual report, but also those of the past 54 years. Our community has had a commitment to economic development going back over half a century through the committed volunteers and staff of the Sioux Falls Development Foundation.

Our residents have seen a consistent focus on economic development that has created the economic engine that is Sioux Falls. With the lowest unemployment rate of any metropolitan area in the nation, you could call us a "Diamond in the Rough—Economy." And the nation **is** facing economic challenges. As Yogi Berra so eloquently said, "The future ain't what it used to be."

But this organization and this community have been through rough economies before. Since the inception of the Development Foundation, we have been through six recessions. In fact, this organization was birthed during bad economic times, during the recession of 1953-1954. So a group of forward-thinking businessmen, in the very midst of financial turmoil, created a foundation for the economic growth of Sioux Falls that has led to the prosperity that this community currently enjoys.

A proud past—yes. A promising future—yes...**IF** we recognize what the founders of the Development Foundation did, that the only time that we have to act, the only time to create our future, is that thin line between our Past and our Future—that time we call Today!

The next year will be difficult for our nation. But now is the time we must act! Over the next year we will, day by day, continue the strategies of our Proud Past that have made the Development Foundation so successful. But we'll also be planning—we'll be creating our Promising Future.

I want to thank you for being part of the past success of this community and for your commitment to the future. I'm excited to be a part of it with you.

Sioux Falls
Development Foundation
P.O. Box 907
Sioux Falls, SD 57101
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED.

**Brighten 2009
with a
Sioux Falls
location!**

Land in our Sioux Empire Development Parks is the best value in the Sioux Falls region—build-ready sites with infrastructure in place at prices starting at just \$1.95 a square foot.

Whether you're constructing a steel building or a corporate headquarters, we have a site for you.

Call Dan Hindbjorgen at 605-339-0103
www.siouxfallsdevelopment.com

Sioux Falls
Development Foundation