

Press Release  
Friday, November 18, 2011  
SDARL Names new Executive Director

South Dakota Agricultural and Rural Leadership, Inc., (SDARL); announces the recent hire of Lori Cope, Rapid City as Executive Director to succeed Dan Gee of Brookings who is retiring after ten years reports Craig Dybedahl, President of SDARL Board of Directors “Dan Gee has been instrumental in helping to refine the directional vision of SDARL and ensure that South Dakota rural and agricultural communities keep pace with the rate of change, and provide leadership opportunities for our rural men and women and arm them with the resources and skills to become spokespersons that represent the agricultural industry.” To address these needs, SDARL provides an intensive study and training experience for future agricultural leaders of South Dakota.

“As we go forward it is imperative that we continue the momentum that will further advance the goals of SDARL” says Dusty Anderson, Board Member. “Lori Cope’s experience in leadership and fund development and her style of leadership is one of an approach to provide direction, implement a plan-of-action and motivate people to rise to their call for leadership.”

“Leadership development is a journey and an experience that is life changing and the SDARL experience better prepares our people in SD to become involved, active spokespersons in their community, state and nation” said Cope. ” I look forward to continuing the strong program experience for our class participants while cultivating strong support with the SDARL alumni.”

Lori Cope and her family lived in Aberdeen, SD for 22 years. As of August 2011, she and her family have moved to Rapid City. Prior to SDARL, Lori worked five years for the Cooperative Extension Service in Mitchell, worked seven years as the Executive Director of the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce and currently has her own business called Leadership Dynamics. She primarily works with companies and organizations conducting strategic planning, team leadership training, coordinated fundraising efforts and has assisted with numerous community capitol campaigns. Lori also provided supervision and leadership for organizations undergoing major company realignment or reorganization efforts. She will begin as Executive Director effective February 1.