



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2019
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Gwen Crawford receives 2019 Leadership Excellence Award

Gwen Crawford, Lisbon Auditor, received the 2019 Leadership Excellence Award for an Appointed Official from the North Dakota League of Cities (NDLC) during the League's 2019 Annual Conference, Sept. 20, in Bismarck.

In his announcement that this award was being presented to Gwen, NDLC Executive Director Blake Crosby outlined a few of her many accomplishments:

Gwen has attended NDLC Annual Conferences and March Madness, the Main Street Summit, Economic Development of North Dakota conferences and Municipal Finance Officers Association events. She not only looks to expand her knowledge base but establishes contacts with other agencies which can help her with her work as city auditor and economic development director.

Those relationships and contacts have helped her find sources and write grants for over \$300,000 for projects in the city including:

rehabbing one of the oldest buildings on main street to prevent it from being demolished; moving the fire hall due to flood levee placement; and making restrooms at the Ransom County Fair ADA accessible.

She also created a "Meet the Badges" night where the public can meet police, fire department and emergency services personnel, look at their vehicles and participate in live simulations that these public safety officers face in their jobs.

When the library needed a new furnace and air conditioning, she organized and worked the bake sale. A local theater had an idea to have a large car show staged at the theater; she saw the potential of such an event and got it done.

As a member of the eighth Rural Leadership North Dakota Rural Leadership program, each person is responsible for a seminar - Gwen did two! She found the funding, organized speakers, set up tours and created the agenda. Her group spent three days in Fargo in a Future of Agriculture seminar and five days in Washington D.C. on a National Trends in Agriculture seminar. And, as a part of the RLND program, she traveled to Chile, South America, for a 10-day study of their farming practices, culture and heritage.

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Showing cattle at age seven on the national level got her elected to a board position on the Junior Nationals. Before moving to North Dakota, she was Director of Junior Activities for the American Shorthorn Association and was responsible for the Junior Nationals. The Association allowed her to work from home, but she missed the personal interaction, so she also started working part-time in Lisbon. When the Association moved to Kansas City, Mo., Lisbon was looking for a full-time Auditor and she was hired.

In the nomination for Gwen, two comments stood out. The first - "she hits the ground running" - and the second – "she gets it done" – truly describe Gwen and why she was chosen to receive this award.

Photo L to R: Dan Stenvold, Park River Mayor and NDLC President; Gwen Crawford; Blake Crosby, NDLC Executive Director

The North Dakota League of Cities provides service, advocacy, leadership, education and support to the state's 357 cities. The League's mission - Strong. Dynamic. Cities. - expresses the value of services offered by the League.