

RURAL DEVELOPMENT STATE DIRECTORS

As of September 8, 2009

ARKANSAS: Lawrence Edward McCollough, 501-301-3200

McCullough has worked for over 38 years with USDA Rural Development in Arkansas. He started with the Farmers Home Administration in Ashdown, Ark., in 1971, and has work in various positions across the state. McCullough helped to lead the Arkansas Single Family Housing program as one of the leaders in guarantees and direct loans and grants. He is retired from the Army reserves, has served on the Governor's Task Force on Supported Housing, and serves as a member of the Arkansas Weather Policy Advisory Council.

ALASKA: Jim Norlund, 907-761-7705

Norlund owns Norlund Carpentry, LLC, a small business that specializes in residential construction and remodeling in Anchorage, Alaska. Previously, he was the Director of Public Assistance for the state of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services where he oversaw 500 employees and a \$250 million budget. Norlund served as a state representative in Alaska and is an active board member on power and energy associations based in his home state. Norlund was also Vice-Chairman of Chugach Electrical Association. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado and a bachelor's degree in government from St. John's University in Minnesota.

CALIFORNIA: Dr. Glenda Humiston, 530- 792-5800

Humiston recently finished a Ph. D. in the Division of Society and Environment, College of Natural Resources at the University of California at Berkeley, completing a dissertation entitled "Sustainable Agriculture as U.S. Farm Policy: Opportunities and Threats to Reform." Previously, she served as Deputy Under Secretary of the USDA from 1998 to 2001 where she managed all aspects of USDA conservation mission and environmental programs, a \$1.4 Billion budget and over 11,000 employees. Dr. Humiston is continuing her over 20 years of work facilitating local community's efforts for sustainable development.

COLORADO: Jim Isgar, 720-544-2903

Isgar is currently a Colorado State Senator and chairs the Agriculture and Natural Resources committee. He served as President of the Board of Agriculture for the State of Colorado and has policy experience on energy, healthcare, water research and rural economic issues. Isgar has worked on water conservancy efforts for Colorado and is currently a member of several local boards that focus on the issue. Since 1976, he has managed his family farm with his son.

DELAWARE/MARYLAND: Jack Tarburton , 302-857-3590

Tarburton is currently the Owner of Tarburton Consulting, which is a liaison between Perdue Farms and State government officials in Delaware. Tarburton served as the Secretary of the Delaware Department of Agriculture from 1993 - 2001. Also, he has worked at the Defense Intelligence Agency from 1965 - 1966, before operating a potato and grain farm for 23 years. He has served with various organizations throughout Delaware including a period as President of the Delaware Farm Bureau and as President of the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts.

GEORGIA: Shirley Sherrod, 706-546-2162

Since 1985, Sherrod has served as Director of the Georgia Field Office for the Federation of Southern Cooperative/Land Assistance Fund. She has also served as Georgia State Lead for the Southern Rural Black Women's' Initiative for Economic and Social Justice. From 1999-2000, Sherrod served as Executive Director for Community Alliances of Interdependent Agriculture, Inc., in Albany, Ga. Sherrod has more than 15 years experience working with agriculture-focused organizations. Sherrod received a B.A. in Sociology from Albany State University in Albany, Ga., and a M.A. in Community Development from Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

HAWAII: Donna Kiyosaki, 808-933-8380

Kiyosaki is currently the Senior Vice President for Waimana Enterprises, a development company in Hawaii that works on projects involving energy development, water and telecommunications infrastructure. Previously, she served as the Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer on the Board of Water Supply for the City and County of Honolulu, where she directed a staff of 600 employees and implemented plans to acquire additional water systems and expand into recycled water delivery. Prior to that role, Kiyosaki worked for the Department of Public Works for the County of Hawaii, as well as for the Hawaii Electric Light Company, where she contributed to innovative programs that delivered electricity to rural communities. Kiyosaki is active with many civic organizations, including professional associations and community groups. She has a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Stanford University.

IDAHO: Wallace Hendrick, 208-378-5603

Hendrick most recently was the General Manager for Esco Supply and established retail stores across six western states. He started a natural resource marketing and management firm, Resources Northwest, Inc., that successfully coordinated with government and private organizations on issues of economic development. Hendrick served as the first Executive Director of the Idaho Lottery and launched it into a profitable organization. He is a third generation resident of rural Idaho and holds leadership roles on education boards in his community. Hendrick received a B.S. in resource management from the University of Nevada-Reno, and has a master's degree in marketing and management from the University of Northern Colorado.

ILLINOIS: Colleen Callahan, 217-403-6200

Callahan is currently the President of Chicago Farmers and runs Colleen Callahan Communications, where she provides communications services to a variety of organizations, including the USDA. In 2008, Callahan was a candidate for the 18th congressional district of

Illinois. She has extensive experience in broadcast radio producing segments on agricultural and agribusiness issues. Callahan was the first woman elected as President to the National Association of Farm Broadcasting in 2002, and has received many awards for her broadcast work and contributions to agricultural associations. Her family raises purebred Angus cattle on a family farm near Kickapoo, Illinois. Callahan has a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

INDIANA: Philip Lehmkuhler,

Lehmkuhler has worked as the Manager of Economic Development and Member Service for the Indiana Municipal Power Agency since 2005, where he coordinates economic development opportunities throughout 52 rural cities and towns in Indiana. As an adjunct professor at Indiana University, he teaches courses in government finance and public affairs. Lehmkuhler worked with the Indiana Department of Commerce and also served as a legislative liaison for Indiana Tobacco Prevention. He has many years of experience working with elected officials in Indiana on state issues, including economic development. Lehmkuhler worked for Congressman Lee Hamilton from 1987-1999 and then for Senator Evan Bayh from 1999- 2001. Lehmkuhler has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Louisville, and a bachelor's degree in public affairs from Indiana University.

IOWA: William Menner, 515-284-4663

Menner is currently the Executive Director for Poweshiek Iowa Development, where he manages, raises funds and develops strategy for a county-wide non-profit economic development organization. Since 2001, Menner has also been an Executive Director for Grinnell Renaissance where he managed the downtown development organization that made an impact on the Central Business District. Additionally, Menner has been an Executive Director for the Grinnell Tourism Group since 2003 where he manages advertising, organizes community celebrations, develops strategies for increasing local tourism and led a ballot initiative to increase hotel-motel tax. Menner also served as the Senior Program Director to the State Public Policy Group, Inc from 1998-2001 as well accumulating 24 years of public radio experience. He has dedicated many years of service to various boards and committees in Iowa that are committed to innovation and development. Menner holds a master's degree in political science and a bachelor's degree in journalism, both earned from Ohio State University.

KANSAS: Patricia Clark, 785-271-2700

Clark is the Director of Operations for the Kansas Leadership Center in Wichita, Kan. Prior to that, she worked with the Kansas Department of Commerce on the agency's rural programs and also served as the Director of the Public Policy Division at the Kansas Farm Bureau. Clark was honored as an Outstanding Young Alumnus by Kansas State University and is the founding member of the Kansas Ag and Rural Leadership Program. She holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture from Kansas State University.

LOUISIANA: Clarence Hawkins, 318-473-7921

Clarence Hawkins served as Mayor of Bastrop, Louisiana from 1989 to 2009. Previously, he spent 20 years in the Morehouse Public School System serving in a variety of roles including Assistant Principal, Curriculum Supervisor, and Co-Director of Personnel. Hawkins has served on

numerous Boards including the Louisiana Housing and Community Development Advisory Task Force, the Louisiana Municipal Association, and the National Conference of Black Mayors. Mr. Hawkins holds a Bachelor's Degree from Grambling State University and a Master's Degree in Education from Northeast Louisiana University.

MAINE: Virginia Manuel, 207 990-9160

Manuel is the founder of Manuel and Associates, which provides strategic planning and development services to connect Maine organizations with international business, government, academic, and civic leaders. She is currently the Chair of the Aroostook County Democratic Committee and an elected member of the Maine Democratic State Committee. Manuel also worked for the Department of Commerce from 1994 to 2001 as a Special Assistant in the Office of the Assistant Secretary, International Economic Policy, and a Senior Advisor in Market Access and Compliance.

MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT AND RHODE ISLAND Jay Healy, 413-253-4310

As a legislator, Healy worked with others to create the first in the nation Agricultural Preservation Program. While at the Department of Agricultural Resources, he developed a series of programs that received national recognition for their innovation in bringing economic development to farmers across the Commonwealth. Healy has also managed his family farm for many years.

MICHIGAN: James Turner, 517-324-5190

Since 2004 Turner has worked as State Advisor on Renewable and Alternative Energy for U.S. Senator Carl Levin, where he monitors renewable energy and alternative energy development in Michigan. He also serves as the Systems Administrator and oversees all IT systems in the Senator's state operations. Through his work as a Regional Representative for the mid-Michigan region, Turner has worked with local officials and community managers on policy and development issues. He has over 30 years of experience working on constituent issues in Michigan. Turner holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Ferris State University.

MINNESOTA: Colleen Landkamer, 651-602-7801

Landkamer has been the County Commissioner for Blue Earth County, Minnesota, since 1988. In this position, she represents constituents of the first district and manages an \$80 million dollar budget for government services. Landkamer served as the President at the National Association of Counties (NACo) and has experience working on issues of rural development with local, national and international organizations. As an active participant in many civic organizations, she dedicates time to regional boards and professional groups focused on rural and environmental issues. In 2007 Landkamer was honored with a dedicated service award from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Minnesota Chapter.

MISSISSIPPI: Trina George, 601-965-4316

George has worked with Congressman Bennie Thompson's office since 1994 as a Special Projects Coordinator and Office Manager. She is responsible for coordinating outreach services, participates in district development events and works with federal agencies to resolve constituent issues. Prior to her position in Congressman Thompson's office, George was an Office Manager at the Mississippi Health Awareness project. In 2007, she received certification in Management and Leadership from the NeighborWorks Training Institute of America and is currently a Ph.D candidate in Public Policy and Administration at Walden University. She also has a master's degree in instructional technology and a bachelor's degree in computer science. George serves on many civic organizations, including education and volunteer groups.

MISSOURI: Anita Dunning (Janie), 573-876-0976

Dunning has been the Multi-Family Housing Program Director for Missouri USDA Rural Development since 2003. In this position, she directs 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 also served as Acting State Director for the FSA on two occasions and has worked in various roles for USDA rural development since 1968.

MONTANA: Matthew Jones, 406-585-2580

Jones is the Director for Economic Development in the office of U.S. Senator Max Baucus. He has worked extensively with USDA Rural Development while coordinating economic development strategies for the state. Previously, Jones worked for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee where he contributed to energy tax policy and worked on transportation issues. He worked on energy and industry issues while an associate at Brickfeild, Burchette, Ritts and Stone PC. Jones earned his bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Montana and his J.D. from Georgetown University.

NEBRASKA: Maxine Moul, 402-437-5551

Moul is the Coordinator of EndowNebraska, a nonprofit that works to build permanent endowments of Nebraska nonprofits by utilizing charitable tax credits. Previously, she served as President of the Nebraska Community Foundation, a statewide 501(c)(3) that helped distribute more than \$76 million for community and economic development in Nebraska. Prior to her work there, Moul was Lt. Governor of Nebraska under then Governor Ben Nelson and later served as the Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. From 1969-1990, she worked in journalism starting as a reporter and later became a publisher, owner and CEO of a newspaper publishing company that she founded with her husband. Moul is active on a variety of civic organizations that focus on rural issues and is currently one of two Nebraska advisors to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She is a journalism graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

NEVADA: Sarah Mersereau-Adler, 775-887-1222

Mersereau-Adler currently serves as Grants and Special Projects Manager for the Carson City School District in Carson City, Nevada. From 1993-2000, she served as State Director of USDA Rural Development in Nev., where she dramatically increased service levels to rural communities and oversaw significant investment in grants, loans and loan guarantees. From

1986-1993, she served as Rural Program Co-Director for the Nevada Commission on Economic Development. She also has served as Deputy Director for the Nevada Office of Community Services, and from 1982-1983 served as a Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) volunteer with Advocates to End Domestic Violence. Mersereau-Adler received her B.A. in Political Science from Williams College in Massachusetts, her M.P.A. from the University of Nevada-Reno, and her teaching credentials from Sierra Nevada College in Nevada.

NEW JERSEY: Howard Henderson, 856 787-7700

Henderson has served as Vineland Area Director for the New Jersey Department of Agriculture since 1998. Previously he held several positions with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture State Office, and Farmers Home Administration since 1975. He has worked in the state and national offices of USDA, working in the Delaware/Maryland Rural Development office as a Farmer Program Specialist, as well as the New Jersey State offices.

NEW MEXICO: Terry Brunner, 505 761-4950

Brunner has been the State Director for Senator Bingaman since 2002, managing 5 district offices and 19 staff. He served as the Senator's outreach staff on the issues of economic development, public health, energy and public lands. Brunner has a Masters M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University in New Mexico, with an emphasis in Political Science and Community and Regional Planning.

NEW YORK: Jill Harvey, 315-477-6400

Harvey has directed Senator Schumer's effort in the 10-county central region of New York for the last decade. She has experience coordinating FEMA and USDA relief for communities affected by summer droughts, ice storms, floods and snow storms. Harvey has 24 years of public service experience in community relations, public affairs, and legislative issues. While working as a Legislative Director for New York State Assembly member Alex Grannis for 9 years, she developed expertise on issues of statewide importance. Harvey holds a degree in social sciences and visual arts from SUNY College at Purchase.

OKLAHOMA: Ryan McMullen, 405-742-1000

Since 2004 McMullen has been a state representative in Oklahoma where he represents southwestern and central regions of the state. During his time as a state representative, his policy and legislative efforts have focused on agricultural and rural economic development issues. Previously, McMullen worked with the El Reno Chamber of Commerce and Development Corporation as Executive Director. He has broadcast radio experience and is familiar with rural economic issues throughout Oklahoma. McMullen holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Oklahoma State University.

PENNSYLVANIA: Thomas Williams, 717-237-2299

Williams is currently the District Projects Director for Congressman Paul Kanjorski. He works with local government agencies to help communities and businesses throughout

Northeastern Pennsylvania obtain access to funding for development projects. Previously, Williams ran a family restaurant and also served as the Executive Director for the Department of Community Development for the City of Nanticoke. He holds a master's degree in political science from Bloomsburg University and a bachelor's from Wilkes University. Williams is actively involved in nonprofit community economic development efforts.

PUERTO RICO: Jose Otero-Garcia, 787-766-5095

Otero-Garcia, from San Juan, P.R., has served as the state director for USDA Rural Development since August of 1999. Prior to becoming state director, he served as Puerto Rico's Commissioner for Municipal Affairs from 1996 to 1999 and as its Deputy Commissioner from 1995 to 1996. In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of Puerto Rico's municipal affairs, Otero-Garcia developed a uniform accounting computer system and improved the overall disbursement of Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) that benefited the island's 78 municipalities. Otero-Garcia has served as a member of the Governor's Council on Economic Development and Committee for the Development of Main Street. He has received the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Best Practice Blue Ribbon Award for the development of new strategies on citizen participation in the CDBG program.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Vernita Dore

Dore has been an Area Director for USDA's Rural Development since 1999, where she has been responsible for developing and implementing strategies in coordination with Federal, state, nonprofit and private sources to assure the orderly growth of rural communities. Previously, she spent three years as a Management Analyst for the U.S. Department of Army in South Carolina. Ms. Dore currently serves on the Beaufort County Affordable Housing Council, Beaufort Jasper Higher Education Commission, an ex-officio member of the Low-country Regional Home Consortium, and the South Carolina Women's Connection. Dore continues her 25 years of service with the USDA in her role with Rural Development.

SOUTH DAKOTA: Elsie Meeks, 605-352-1100

Elsie Meeks is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Tribe, and was recently the CEO/President of First Nations Oweesta Corporation (OWEESTA) a subsidiary of First Nations Development Institute. OWEESTA provides investment capital, technical assistance and training to help Native communities develop community development financial institutions. Meeks has over 20 years experience working for Native community economic development. Prior to her leadership and work at OWEESTA, she was active for 15 years in the development and management of The Lakota Fund, a small business and microenterprise development loan fund on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Meeks has served on and chaired numerous boards, including the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights where she was the first Native American to serve on the Commission. Meeks attended Oglala Lakota College for General Studies.

TENNESSEE: Bobby Goode

Goode has been a USDA Rural Development Area Director since 2006. Previously, he served as Supervisory Farm Loan Manager for the Farm Service Agency from 1995 to 2006. Goode also served in various roles in the Farmers Home Administration from 1979 to 1995. In

this role, Goode focused on rural issue and loan development, critical to the Rural Development position. In his new position, he will build on his three decades of Agricultural experience.

TEXAS: Francisco Valentin Jr., 254-742-9700

Valentin formerly served as the Director of the Rural Utilities Service with USDA Rural Development. For 28 years, he worked with USDA in various capacities, including his tenure as Rural Development Manager in both Georgetown and Bryan, Texas. He gained familiarity with community facilities and multi-family housing loans while serving as a USDA Rural Development Housing Loan Specialist. During the period of 1982-1991, Valentin was county supervisor for the USDA Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) in Caldwell, Texas. Prior to that position, he served as Assistant County Supervisor in Gilmer Texas for FmHA. Before beginning his federal career in 1979 he worked as a ranch manager. Valentin holds a Bachelor of Science in agriculture from Southwest Texas State University.

UTAH: David Conine, (801) 524-4324

Conine has worked for the past seven years with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC). In this role, he assisted the housing needs of low-income residents and provided much needed information on the USDA housing programs and the broader issues of rural community and economic development in conjunction with USDA's Rural Development staff. Conine worked to provide technical assistance on grant applications and training programs on housing organization staffs, including construction, supervisors, and assisting to have more plans to develop housing that is more energy efficient for low income residents.

VIRGINIA: Ellen Matthews Davis, 804-287-1551

Davis formerly served as the State Director of USDA Rural Development in Virginia. She was appointed in 2006. In that position she oversaw regional offices and a portfolio over \$2.1 billion. From 1978-1982, Davis was the Director of Human Resources at the Virginia Farm Bureau. In 1996 she established a management consulting business and worked in association with the Virginia Corn Growers Association and the Virginia Small Grains Association to increase visibility of grain production in the state. Davis is involved in a taskforce that is focused on the production effects of biofuels on rural communities. She attended the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

WASHINGTON: Mario Villanueva, 360-704-7740

Villanueva is currently the Catholic Charities Housing Services Director in Yakima, Washington. From 1995-1999, he was the Housing Development Coordinator for the Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing in Washington state. He also served as a Housing Planner for that organization, where he worked on affordable agricultural housing projects that were supported by USDA Rural Development funding and other federal and state programs. During Villanueava's tenure as the Self-Help Housing Program Manager with the Neighborhood Housing Services of Eastern Washington, he was responsible for the implementation of a first-time homebuyer program. His experience in affordable housing includes the development of community-based, single family and multi-family units. Villanueva attended the University of Wisconsin.

WEST VIRGINIA: Robert Lewis, 304 284-4860

Lewis is currently the Director of Community Development for the West Virginia Development Office, where his duties include management and oversight of several programs including the Appalachian Regional Commission Program (ARC) in West Virginia, the Department Housing and Urban Development Small Cities Block Grant Program (HUD -SCBG), and the Governor's Community Participation Grant program. He currently manages an office of 25 employees with a budget of \$70 million including \$2 million in tax credits. Previously, Lewis served as County Commissioner/President of the McDowell County Commission and City Councilman and Mayor of Welch, W.Va.

WISCONSIN: Stan Gruszynski, 715-345-7615

Gruszynski is currently the director of Rural Leadership and Community Development for the Global Environmental Management Center at the University of Wisconsin's Stevens Point College of Natural Resources. Prior to that position, he served as the Director of Public Affairs for USDA Rural Development in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, for seven years. While at Rural Development, he promoted rural program initiatives and fostered working relationships with community groups, Indian Tribes and underserved populations. Gruszynski was also appointed acting State Director for several months in 2003. From 1984-1994, he represented the 71st district in the Wisconsin State Assembly and served on both the rural affairs and natural resources committees. While working as the Midwest District Field Services Officer at the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, he focused on affordable housing issues. Gruszynski served as the Majority Caucus Director for the Wisconsin State Senate and is currently a board member on several environmental and academic organizations. He holds a bachelor's degree in sociology from Northland College in Wisconsin.

WYOMING: Darrel Carruth, 307-233-6700

Carruth retired from USDA after 31 years in Rural Development and its predecessor agency, the Farmers Home Administration. Currently, he and his wife own a food concession business and travel to various fairs, festivals, and tournaments. Carruth serves on the Casper College Alumni Association Board, of which he was President from 2005-2007.