

## BUSINESS DIGEST

### Gross Graduates From School Of Banking

Jeral Gross, Vice President Senior Business Banker at First National Bank South Dakota in Yankton, recently graduated from the Graduate School of Banking at Colorado.

The Graduate School of Banking is an intensive 25-month banking school providing senior management and leadership training for community banking professionals. The School is held each summer on the campus of the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado. Each student has been recognized by their bank as a rising star within the organization, and completing the School is a significant accomplishment in the banking and financial services industry.

Students receive a diploma upon successfully completing six weeks of classroom training focusing on the areas of General Management, Lending, Leadership and Human Resource Management, and Financial Management. Requirements also include comprehensive examinations, intersession research projects, and participation in a bank management simulation course designed to provide the banker with experience in managing a bank.

Gross was among 135 graduates of the 60th Annual School Session which was held July 11-23



Gross

### Anderson HSC August Employee Of Month

Diane Anderson has been honored as the August Employee of the Month at the South Dakota Human Services Center (HSC), Yankton, South Dakota, announced Cory D. Nelson, MPA, Administrator / CEO.

Anderson graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing from Mount Marty College, Yankton. Anderson currently works as the Human Services Nurse Trainer coordinating nurse aide certification and staff continuing education.

The Employee of the Month award nominations submitted on Anderson's behalf praised the way she meets all the pillars of Character Counts, which include trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Staff honored Anderson for her commitment to highest quality patient care, her willingness to accommodate staffing schedules, her support for helping staff achieve nurse aide certification, and her great sense of humor.

Diane is married to Jim Anderson and the couple lives in Yankton.



Anderson

### Federal Prison Camp Honors Kapla

Warden Jordan R. Hollingsworth announced the following award on July 28, 2010, at the Federal Prison Camp, Yankton, South Dakota.

Chad J. Kapla, Recreation Specialist, was recognized as Employee of the Quarter for his efforts to enhance recreational programming for the inmate population. In addition to his regular duties, he also completed training as a Dispute Resolution Specialist.

It is with great pleasure that we recognize these accomplishments.

### AVSHH Lab Receives Accreditation

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Laboratory, Yankton, South Dakota, has been awarded accreditation by the Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), based on the results of a recent onsite inspection.

The laboratory's director, Richard D. Strom, MD, was advised of this national recognition and congratulated for the excellence of the services being provided. Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Laboratory is one of more than 7,000 CAP-accredited laboratories worldwide.

### SCORE Conducts Workshop Aug. 14

SIOUX FALLS — SCORE, counselors to America's small business, will be conducting a workshop, "How To Really Start Your Own Business," Saturday, Aug. 14, running from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Ramkota Hotel Best Western, 2400 N. Louise Avenue (I-29 at Russell St./Exit 81) in Sioux Falls.

This workshop will cover the areas of cash flow, financial projections, business organizational structure, marketing, basic business plans, and what a banker looks for in a business plan, as well as IRS tax advice for small business.

SCORE and guest speakers will discuss what services are available from SCORE, Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Governor's Office of Economic Development. There will also be a roundtable discussion by local business owners who will share their experiences.

Attendees are asked to pre-register, and register early as space is limited. For more information, call 330-4243.

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# Area Designer Named Top Achiever

UTICA — Mary Neal, Utica resident and accomplished designer with Celebrating Home, has just been recognized among the company's Top 25 Achievers for the month of May.

"It's amazing what hard work and determination will do," Neal said. "I am so appreciative to the Celebrating Home team for honoring me for my achievements in May. I'm glad to know that my achievements are being recognized."

Besides its high quality products, like wall decor, home accents, dining and entertainment pieces, as well as gourmet food, Celebrating Home provides a way for people to grow financially while also giving them flexible hours, freedom and time with their

families, Neal said. The company was designed to bring success to people everywhere by giving them an opportunity to live the American Dream.

"I am thankful that with Celebrating Home I am able to make my own time and my own money," Neal added. "It is a great feeling to have the lifestyle of success - running my own business, while still having time to spend with my family."

For more information about the Celebrating Home business in Utica, please contact Mary Neal at (605) 661-7717 or maryneal23@yahoo.com. To order products on-line, please visit [www.celebratinghome.com](http://www.celebratinghome.com).

Celebrating Home, headquartered in

Marshall, Texas, offers high-quality products to decorate and enliven homes, including stoneware pottery, candles, wall decor, gourmet food mixes, dining and entertainment pieces and accessories for your home and garden. Celebrating Home enables thousands of women across the United States to earn extra income, have fun and make friends while working from home as Designers.

Additional information about Celebrating Home products or business opportunities is available via the company Web site at [www.celebratinghome.com](http://www.celebratinghome.com) or by contacting Sue Kiple, Director of Marketing and Promotions at 903-935-4197 x1810 or [skiple@celebratinghome.com](mailto:skiple@celebratinghome.com).

# Leaders To Gather For Rural Assembly

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Rural community leaders and government officials will gather at the 2010 Midwest Rural Assembly (MRA) to exchange ideas and strategies for rural prosperity.

The MRA will be held on Aug. 16-17 in South Sioux City, Neb. Along with rural community leaders from throughout the region, participants will include U.S. Department of Agriculture State Rural Development Directors from Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas. Keynote speakers include South Dakota state representative Kevin Killer and Iowa State professor and writer/poet Debra Marquart.

"Rural communities have been particularly hard hit by these tough economic times," said Jim Kleinschmit, director of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy's Rural Communities program. "But there's also a lot of innovation, energy and ideas coming out of our small towns. This is an opportunity for rural leaders and government representatives to learn about what's working, and as importantly, how we can join together to face many of our common challenges."

A special area of focus is to identify strategies to attract and retain young people in rural communities. Young rural leaders from Minnesota,

Montana, Wisconsin and Kansas will share their priorities. Other leaders will discuss successful examples of increasing rural prosperity through cooperative business models, sustainable energy, local food systems, green job creation, rural teacher training, micro-enterprise programs, integration of immigrants, rural infrastructure projects and more. Policy discussions will cover federal health care reform, farm policy and broadband policy.

In addition to IATP, coordinating organizations include: Avera Rural Health Institute, Center for Rural Affairs, Center for Rural Policy and Development, Center for Rural Strategies, Dakota Rural Action, Great Plains Rural

Policy Network, Heartland Center for Leadership Development, Iowa Policy Project, League of Rural Voters, Meadowlark Institute, National Rural Assembly, National Wildlife Federation, Nebraska Housing Developers Association, North Central Regional Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, Renewing the Countryside, Rural Learning Center, Rural Policy Research Institute, South Dakota Rural Enterprise, Inc., and West Central Initiative.

The MRA will be held at the Marina Inn Conference Center in South Sioux City, Neb. To register, and read the full agenda and speakers list, go to [www.midwestruralassembly.org](http://www.midwestruralassembly.org).

### S.D. Rated Among Top 10 Biz States

PIERRE — A new report from an independent source ranks South Dakota among the most business-friendly states.

The Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States annual study, released today, rates states on 33 factors, such as taxes, energy costs, workers compensation laws, economic incentive programs and state economic development efforts.

This year's study ranks South Dakota in eighth place among all states in terms of attractiveness to business opportunities.

"We are pleased with our ranking, but certainly not surprised," said Gov. Mike Rounds. "We work hard to make South Dakota a great

place to do business, raise a family and enjoy life. We cut the red tape for businesses, but we do not cut corners."

Pollina officials say South Dakota and other Top 10 states serve as models for retaining and growing jobs and businesses.

"Considering all the negative press about jobs lost during the recession, you and your administration should be proud of the efforts your state has made to preserve jobs, strengthen your economy and improve the economic well-being of your residents," Brent A. Pollina, company vice president wrote in a letter to Gov. Rounds.

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