

Dear Employer,

Your employee is applying to participate in the Rural Leadership North Dakota (RLND) Program. The RLND Program is a statewide leadership development program dedicated to preparing and developing leaders to strengthen communities across North Dakota. Additional information on the RLND Program is located on our website at www.ag.ndsu.edu/rlnd.

As his/her employer, you will be asked to make a commitment. Your commitment will be to support your employee in this effort and to allow him/her time away from work to attend the seminars. Full or partial tuition support for the RLND Program would be another way to demonstrate your support to your employee. Please read below and place a check next to each statement that you agree to support the candidate during their time in the Rural Leadership North Dakota Program.

☐ I agree to the time commitment outlined below.

RLND participants must make a commitment of time, energy, and money. RLND participants will be expected to attend ten seminars during the 18-month program. The time commitment for the RLND Program will be approximately 23 days the first year and 25 days the second year. In-state seminars are held January, February, March, June, and November for three, occasionally four, days. Seminars usually start around noon on Wednesday and conclude around noon on Friday. Travel time to and from these seminars is not included in the time commitment estimation.

Undivided attention is required during seminar hours. Class members are required to adhere to the electronic device policy and refrain from working on electronic devices while seminars are in session unless their use pertains directly to the seminar. They may conduct outside business during free time.

The RLND Council is firm that participants attend all seminars to graduate from the program.

☐ I agree to accommodate time for the candidate to travel on the Regional and National Study Seminar.

Each class participates in a 5-day Regional Seminar to Minneapolis, MN and a 7-day National Seminar in Washington D.C.

Undivided attention is required during seminar hours. Class members are required to adhere to the electronic device policy and refrain from working on electronic devices while seminars are in session unless their use pertains directly to the seminar. They may conduct outside business during free time.

☐ I agree to accommodate time off for the candidate to travel on the International Study Seminar.

During February or March of the second year of the program, each class travels to an international location for a 12-day International Study Seminar.

Undivided attention is required during seminar hours. Class members are required to adhere to the electronic device policy and refrain from working on electronic devices while seminars are in session unless their use pertains directly to the seminar. They may conduct outside business during free time.

Your investment in the sponsorship of an RLND participant from your organization or community will give back to your business in several ways, including:

- Employees with additional knowledge and experience.
- Future committee and board members.
- Employees who have the skills to take an idea from inception to completion.
- A network of RLND participants and alumni across the state.

Your signature on the RLND application will support your employee in this endeavor. Thank you for your willingness to provide this RLND opportunity to your employees. You will be assisting in preparing leaders to help North Dakota grow and prosper into the future.

Cordially,

Katie Tyler, Ph.D.

Extension Specialist and Program Director

Rural Leadership North Dakota

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As the participant's employer, I agree to support the RLND participant by providing time for the participant to be involved in the RLND meetings and activities.

Employer's Signature _____ Date _____

If applicable, sponsor signature agreeing to pay full or partial amount of the \$4,500 tuition.

Employer's Signature _____ Date _____