

Two join South Dakota Rural Enterprise board

Ruth Christopherson, senior vice president of community development at Citi, and Rachael Sherard, vice president of rural health services for Avera Health, join the board of directors of South Dakota Rural Enterprise in 2011.



Christopherson manages the programming and allocating of more than \$1.5 million in Citi Foundation Grants and charitable contributions in the state and regional area. She is also responsible for Citi's investments in affordable housing, a budget of approximately \$35 million annually in new construction and more than 1,500 units throughout the state. Previously, Christopherson was executive vice president and managing director of mortgage operations for CitiMortgage in St. Louis, Mo. She retired as a colonel in 2008 after a 30-year distinguished career within the South Dakota Air National Guard, during which time she served as joint strategic plans officer for the state of South Dakota. In that role, Christopherson worked directly with the Governor's office and state legislature, assuming responsibility for the planning and execution of contingency plans for all state emergencies.



Sherard oversees Avera Health's grant-writing efforts, rural facility strategic planning, community-based programs and workforce development. She also serves as a trainer for LeadershipPlenty and Creating a Value-Added Community programs for South Dakota Rural Enterprise. Sherard is a graduate of South Dakota State University and is in the process of completing a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Sioux Falls. Previously, she served as the nutrition director for Senior Citizens Services, Inc., now called Active Generations. In this role, she managed the daily operations of the Senior Nutrition program in southeastern South Dakota. A native of Hurley, Sherard returned to live there with her husband, Russ, and their children, Allison and Collin.

Both Christopherson and Sherard have demonstrated their commitment to economic development and to the prosperity of South Dakota communities. We are proud to welcome them to the South Dakota Rural Enterprise board of directors.