

# Rural Development Leadership Network

EARN A DEGREE WHILE WORKING IN RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**The Rural Development Leadership Network** is a national multicultural organization supporting community-based development in poor rural areas.

**The Program** – Duration: 18-36 Months. Demanding curriculum includes: Field Project implementation, related independent study, RDLN Rural Development Institute (4 ½ weeks) for intensive study, exchange and networking. Qualified participants may earn a certificate or master's degree. (We are willing to work with schools for bachelor's or PhD also.)

Each RDLN Leader works with the guidance of a Field Advisor and Study Advisors. Each has a Sponsoring Organization, which serves as an umbrella for the Field Project and contributes financially to RDLN. The amount required is \$3,500 (certificate) - \$20,000 (M.A. option, subject to change). Travel, accommodation, textbooks and other miscellaneous costs are not included in this cost.



*1997 RDLN Graduation*

**Application Procedure** – Write to RDLN for an application, to include: autobiographical essay describing previous work in rural community development, outline of proposed RDLN Field Project and study program, resume, other background material, three letters of recommendation. Telephone interviews of finalists.

**Sponsoring Organizations:** Write to RDLN for information and agreement form. You will be asked to commit programmatic, financial, and logistical support for the RDLN Leader you sponsor.



*Leaders at Orientation for the RDLN Rural Development Institute at the University of California at Davis.*

**Criteria for Selection** – 1) Proven dedication to community-based rural community development. 2) Completed a B.A. degree for the master's program. 3) Commitment to building relationships with other rural people and communities. 4) Willingness to report regularly to RDLN. 5) Ability to work cooperatively and in self-directed, self-motivated way. 6) Presentation of a feasible and valuable RDLN Community Development Project. 7) Sponsorship by an organization, which can make the required programmatic and financial contribution to RDLN.

**Apply ASAP** – Application available on website. Telephone interview, academic transcripts required. While your application is being processed, you may continue identifying funds for the Sponsoring Organization contribution. The RDLN Rural Development Institute is held approximately every other year.



*RDLN Leaders on a Site Visit*

**Board of Directors** – Moises Loza (Chair), Shirley Sherrod (Vice Chair), John Zippert (Treasurer), Mily Treviño-Sauceda, (Secretary), and Twila Martin-Kekahbah, (Parliamentarian).