

PLEASE POST

# Educational Opportunities

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 1/2 weeks) at the University of California at Davis for intensive study, exchange and networking. Qualified participants may earn a certificate, Ph. D, master's or bachelor's degree through cooperating universities. 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 \$7,500-\$20,000 (B.A. or M.A. degree option).



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



RDLN Leader Theresa Isley of North Carolina on field trip to visit farmworkers during RDLN Institute

**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, resumé, 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.

**Criteria For Selection** - 1) Proven dedication to community-based rural community development, 2) For master's degree, B.A. degree. For B.A., prefer two years of college, 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.

**Board of Directors:** Moises Loza, Housing Assistance Council; Shirley Sherrod, Federation of Southern Cooperatives; The Honorable Dr. Unita Blackwell, former Mayor, Mayersville; Anita LaRan, Helping Hands/ Mujeres Unidas; Twila Martin-Kekahbah, United Tribes Technical College; G. David Singleton, Applied Development Economics; Mily Trevino-Sauceda, Lideres Campesinos; Maria Varela, Rural Resources Group; John Zippert, Federation of Southern Cooperatives.

**Application Schedule - Deadline: December 15, 2008.** 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 every other year.

## RDLN Development Leaders

### Sponsoring Organizations:

**Group I:** Leticia Carreón-Milligan (Housing Assistance Council), Yvonne Hampton (Southern Rural Women's Network), Ernest Johnson (Federation of Southern Cooperatives), Birgil Kills Straight (First Nations Financial Project), Kathy (Murray) Supernaw (Delaware Tribe of Western Oklahoma), Shirley Sherrod (Federation of Southern Cooperatives), Ben Tafoya (Rio Grande Center), Shoua Vang (Hmong/Highlander Development Fund/Indo China Resource Action Center), and Jadine Whitaker (Institute for Community Education and Training). **Group II:** Francisca Cavazos (Maricopa County Organizing Project), Hector Correa (Institute for Community Development Education and Training/Producir), Jack Guillebeaux (FOCAL), Robert Jackson (Quitman County Development Organization), C.J. Jones (The Mendenhall Ministries), Winona LaDuke (Seventh Generation Fund), and Teri Vautrin (Dungannon Development Commission). **Group III:** Cleo Askew (PLBA Housing Development Corporation/Federation of Southern Cooperatives), James Banks (Self-Help Enterprises), Minnie Bommer (Community Resource Group), Cynthia Ellis (Agricultural Missions/Belize Rural Women's Association), Humberto Fuentes (Idaho Migrant Council), Julie Moss (Cherokee Nation), Diane Padilla (Merced County Office of Strategic and Economic Development/Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce), and Annie (Wright) Huff (Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center). **Group IV:** Hector deLeon (Idaho Migrant Council), Meredith Dean (Appalachian People's Service Organization), Linda Maria Hedstrom (Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation), Shirley Ortega (Saguache County Community Council), and Marilyn Savage (Gwandak Broadcasting Corporation). **Group V:** Beverly Brown (Highlander Center), Jorge Diaz (Housing Assistance Council), NKwanda Jah (Central Florida Community Action Agency/Cultural Arts Coalition), Carol Jorgensen (Native American Fish & Wildlife Society/Alaska region), Alice Paris (Federation of Southern Cooperatives), and Mily Trevino-Sauceda (California Rural Legal Assistance/CRLA Foundation). **Group VI:** Leon Clark (Boys, Girls Adults Community Development Center), Karen Derry (Karuk Community Development Corporation), Sylvia Joyner (Voice of Calvary Ministry), Trong Dang Khoa (Nordic Assistance to Vietnam), Anita LaRan (Helping Hands/La Jicarita Enterprise Community), Shirley McClain (North Carolina Hunger Network). **Group VII:** Mike Acosta (Community Council of Southwest Texas), Martha Beatty (North Carolina Hunger Network), Meredith Coleman (Federation of Southern Cooperatives), Nancy Warneke (Salish Kootenai College). **Group VIII:** Evelyn Conley (Cherokee Nation), Emma Dixon (Third Baptist District), Suzanne Kinkade (Salish Kootenai College), Zana McDonald (Blackfeet Community College), Arlene Valdez (Ganados del Valle). **Group IX:** Monica Caye (Ktunaxa Community Development Corporation), Lillie Fields (National Museum of Voting Rights), Geraldine Hewonkorn (Ktunaxa Community Development Corporation), Rose Hill (Coalition of Alabamians Reforming Education) Carol Judy (Woodland Community Land Trust), Naida Lefthand (Ktunaxa Community Development Cor-



Four RDLN Leaders from the Flathead Reservation make a presentation to their peers at the RDLN Institute. [l to r: Monica Caye, Issa Nichols, Geri Hewankorn, and Naida Lefthand]

portation), Clarissa Nichols (Ktunaxa Community Development Corporation), Edith Richardson (Maine Coalition for Food Security), Lillie Webb (Center for Community Development), Gayle Zepeda (Nothern Circle Indian Housing Authority).

**Group X :** Michelle Cole (Cole Evangelical Ministries), Scherri Greene (ONOBEN, Inc.), Sarah Hidalgo-Cook (Community Council of Southwest Texas); Angie Main (Native American Development Corporation), Tirso Moreno Farmworker Association of Florida), Chuckkou Thao (National Hmong American Farmers).

**Group XI:** Trina Cunningham (Maidu Summit Group), Yolanda Garibay (Big Valley Rancheria), Theresa Isley (Sanford Arts Coalition), Tony Jack (Big Valley Rancheria), Maria Moreira (Heifer Project), Euneika Rogers (Black Freedmen's Living Historical Farm for Children), Lydia Villanueva (CASA del Llano).

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**RDLN Advisory Board:** Joe Brooks, PolicyLink; Frances Moore Lappé, Small Planet Institute; Siobhan Oppenheimer-Nicolau, Hispanic Policy Project; Sascha Rockefeller; Gloria Steinem, Ms. Magazine.