



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

John Hoeven
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Roger Johnson
Agriculture Commissioner

News Release

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For Immediate Release

HOUSING AGENCY HONORS REAL ESTATE BROKERS AND AGENTS

BISMARCK—The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) presented Champion of Affordable Housing Awards to four local real estate agents and brokers at the 2005 North Dakota/South Dakota REALTORS® Convention.

“The public-private partnership between NDHFA and the real estate community is integral to the success of the Housing Finance Agency’s FirstHome program,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “Together we are working to inform North Dakotans of the assistance that makes homeownership more affordable for first-time buyers.”

The Housing Finance Agency recognized **Park Company/GMAC Real Estate of Fargo** and **Greenberg Realty, Inc. of Grand Forks** with broker awards. **Ronald Rheault of Fargo** and **Tate Cymbaluk of Williston** received agent awards.

“Real estate agents are often the prospective homeowners’ principal source of home buying information, playing an important role in promoting NDHFA’s homeownership programs,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

“Champion Award recipients are judged on their participation in the NDHFA homeownership programs, and their involvement in local community activities and projects that promote affordable housing and successful homeownership,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

The Champion of Affordable Housing Awards recognize the work of individuals, non-profit or for-profit organizations, public agencies and private housing developers or providers who have made exceptional contributions to affordable housing in North Dakota. Participating lenders are also honored for leadership and housing production at NDHFA’s annual housing conference in February.

“NDHFA is charged with providing affordable mortgage options for low- to moderate-income North Dakotans. We feel it is important to recognize the role our private sector partners play in fulfilling this mission,” said Mike Anderson, NDHFA acting executive director. “Without their assistance, it would be very difficult and expensive for our agency to get information about our affordable housing programs to the homebuyers that benefit from such assistance.”

The FirstHome program has provided financing to more than 27,000 North Dakota households since 1982. To help these buyers overcome one of the biggest obstacles in the purchase of a home, NDHFA also offers down payment and closing cost assistance. Currently, more than 40 percent of NDHFA’s borrowers receive this added boost.

For more information about NDHFA’s homeownership programs contact a real estate agent, participating lender, home builder or the Housing Finance Agency at (701) 328-8080, (800) 292-8621, (800) 366-6888 (TTY) or www.ndhfa.org.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, who serves as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, oversees NDHFA.

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Mike Anderson or Sarah Mudder (701) 328-8080