

HOUSING AGENCY RECOGNIZES REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY SUPPORT

BISMARCK—The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) recently presented Champion of Affordable Housing Awards to four local real estate agents and brokers at the 2004 North Dakota/South Dakota REALTORS® Convention.

“The partnership between our Housing Finance Agency and the real estate industry is important in our efforts to build awareness about the state's housing programs,” said Governor John Hoeven. “Together we are working to inform our citizens of the programs that help make homeownership more affordable.”

NDHFA presented Park Company/GMAC Real Estate of Fargo and Continental Real Estate, Inc., of Dickinson with broker awards. Kathleen E. Rodgers of Bismarck and Katherine Hammer of Wahpeton were recognized with agent awards.

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

“Real estate agents are often the prospective homeowners’ principal source of homebuying information and can thus play an important role in promoting NDHFA’s programs,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

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. In addition to the real estate awards, participating lenders are honored, and awards are presented in housing production and leadership categories, 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 homeownership division 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 Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, who serves as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, oversees the state’s Housing Finance Agency.

NDHFA administers the “FirstHome Loan Program,” which provides a low-interest home mortgage for first-time buyers. The agency also offers homebuyer education, and downpayment and closing cost assistance. 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.