



Cory McCaskey - RLNDAA Prestigious Eagle Award Recipient (2023) Class V (2011-2013)

For centuries, the eagle has been the symbol of bravery, freedom, courage, and grace. The eagle epitomizes many traits of leadership: vision, strength, fearless, ambitious, confident, nurturing, loyal, brave, and generous. The 2023 recipient of the Rural Leadership North Dakota Alumni Association (RLNDAA) Prestigious Eagle Award, Cory McCaskey, cares not only about Rural Leadership North Dakota, but also the Alumni Association.

Cory has served on the RLNDAA Board of Directors in various leadership capacities since 2013. In 2015, he was elected to the RLND Council, and in 2022, he was elected Chairman of the Council. In addition, he also serves as the RLNDAA Foundation Chairperson. Cory helped develop the RLNDAA's first website to help build networking amongst the RLND Alumni and has been a driving force in keeping the RLNDAA alumni program alive, helping with communications, social events, fundraising, website maintenance and our online financial program (and more!).

A few short years ago, Cory worked to build the RLNDAA Endowment Foundation and RLNDAA Non-Endowment Fund. The RLNDAA Foundation is a permanent fund that was created in 2016 to act as the charitable arm of the RLNDAA. As a non-profit organization, RLNDAA is committed to building on the more than \$7 million impact that the RLND program projects have created over the past 20 years. This permanent fund was created to provide matching funds for RLND community projects of our current RLND program participants as well as our alumni. This past year RLNDAA was able to award its second grant of \$1,050 to the Traill County Historical Society. The Non-Endowment Funds are used to provide financial resources for professional development opportunities to RLNDAA paid members across the state.

With Cory's vision and drive, RLNDAA is fortunate to be able to continue making a difference within our communities and the great state of North Dakota.