



Announcement:

New Director of the NCRCRD



On behalf of Dr. Ray Hammerschmidt, Director, Michigan State University Extension we are delighted to announce that [Dr. Mark Skidmore](#) has been named director of the [North Central Region Center for Rural Development](#) (NCRCRD). He will take over the duties from Dr. Scott Loveridge effective January 1, 2016. We look forward to him continuing the NCRCRD's work with Extension professionals, researchers and their partners to enhance rural development outcomes in the 12-state north central region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

Dr. Skidmore remarked that he is looking forward to taking on the role of NCRCRD Director, and that in the coming years he plans to build on the center's many strengths as well as expand efforts to assist communities in improving local government fiscal sustainability and community resiliency.

Currently, Dr. Skidmore co-leads the MSU Extension Government and Public Policy Work Group and is a professor in the departments of Economics and Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics (AFRE) . He is also currently the Morris Chair in State and Local Government Finance and Policy. His former leadership experiences include his role as director of the Fiscal and Economic Research Center at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Skidmore received his master's degree and PhD in economics from the University of Colorado, and his bachelors in economics from the University of Washington.

Dr. David Schweikhardt chaired the search committee, and commented that "Dr. Skidmore brings an outstanding record of integrating innovative research and extension work on issues related to rural economic development and policy. In addition, he possesses the leadership skills needed to advance the mission of the Center."

Dr. Skidmore brings a wealth of administrative knowledge and experience in working with MSU Extension, and we are confident that his leadership will continue to carry forward the important work being done by the NCRCRD.

Dr. Skidmore will replace Dr. Scott Loveridge, who has successfully led the NCRCRD since July of 2009. Under Dr. Loveridge's leadership the NCRCRD initiated and implemented dozens of multistate projects that engaged hundreds of land grant professionals in the 12-state region.

Dr. Loveridge has been instrumental in moving the NCRCRD into regional and national prominence, and we are grateful to him for his leadership.