



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SRDI NAMES NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raleigh, NC – The governing board of directors for the Southern Rural Development Initiative (SRDI) announced its new members today. The fifteen member board is chaired by MACED Executive Director Justin Maxson and strives for inclusive multi-cultural representation of grassroots, regional, and national leadership around community economic development in the South.

Savi Horne, *Land Loss Prevention Project*

Executive Director and Senior Attorney at Land Loss Prevention Project, Savonala (Savi) Horne works with grassroots organizations to formulate legal strategies to address environmental equity and other rural justice issues. She also directs the Partners in Agriculture Program and coordinates the Southern Sustainable Research and Education project. She is a member of a National Environmental Justice Advisory Subcommittee and serves on the Rural Coalition Board.

John Littles, *McIntosh Sustainable Economic and Environmental Development*

John is Executive Director of McIntosh SEED, a grassroots, community-based organization working in McIntosh County, GA whose work is guided by the social, economic, environmental and cultural interests of the community. The organization works to provide quality education, better housing and recreational facilities, business opportunities and environmental protection and restoration. Its board and staff are committed to creating and sustaining a healthy and diverse community through community development, community organizing, advocacy and direct service.

Tim Marema, *Center for Rural Strategies*

Tim entered the non-profit media field after a seven-year career in daily newspaper journalism. In 1988 he helped found the Chapel Hill (North Carolina) Herald, a daily edition of the Herald-Sun of Durham. He served as editor of the newspaper for five years before joining Appalshop as development director in 1992. Tim has been a grants panelist for several agencies and has been active in regional organizations such as the Coalition on Religion in Appalachia and the Kentucky Appalachian Commission Citizen's Council.

Partnering for INCOME, ASSETS, AND RACIAL EQUITY in the rural South

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Ines Polonius, *alt. Consulting*

Ines is one of the founding members, specializing in business turnarounds. She has also worked with numerous early-stage companies in manufacturing, services, distribution and retail. She regularly conducts organizational and financial audits, facilitates planning sessions and customizes management systems for businesses. She has worked with over 80 rural businesses in the Delta Region. Her previous experience includes work with the North Carolina Institute for Minority Economic Development and work with rural micro-enterprise development projects in Chile and the Dominican Republic, and financial management in Germany.

Karl Stauber, *Danville Regional Foundation*

Karl works at the Danville Regional Foundation as President/CEO, which seeks to develop, promote and support activities, programs and organizations that improve the health, welfare and education of the residents of Danville, Pittsylvania and Caswell Counties in VA. Karl previously served as the Northwest Area Foundation's President/CEO, their Vice President of Programs, Deputy Undersecretary of Agriculture, and Undersecretary of Agriculture. He was the chief policy strategist for rural and small community development in his tenure with the government.

For a full listing of SRDI board members, visit http://www.srdi.org/who_we_are/board.

The board also noted the contributions of the board members whose terms were ending: Keith Corbett (NC), Senator Robert Jackson (MS), Emily Jones (TN), and former chair Bernie Mazyck (SC).

Formed in 1993, the Southern Rural Development Initiative (SRDI) works with local partners to increase income, individual and community assets, and racial equity in low-wealth regions of the South. The organization supports rural leaders to grow sustainable economies rooted in local culture, a healthy environment, and inclusive values. The agency currently partners with grassroots groups in Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, and Louisiana to strengthen the power of our constituency to shift policy, practice democratic and inclusive philanthropy, and model economic development in ways that effectively use local assets to solve rural poverty and inequality.

#30

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