

# Northern Hills Drug Court

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## Northern Hills Drug Court Mission Statement

The Northern Hills Drug Court's mission is to increase community safety, foster healthy families, and proficiently utilize public funds. This will be accomplished by streamlining and coordinating services to felony offenders whose crimes are substantially related to the abuse or dependence upon a controlled substance with a primary consideration given to methamphetamine abuse or dependence. The Northern Hills Drug Court will increase long term abstinence by holding offenders accountable and ultimately reducing drug-related crimes.



*Tim VanderHeide, Butte County State's Attorney*

As keynote speaker at the NHDC graduation ceremony, Tim VanderHeide presented a thoughtful and personal message for the new graduate.



Northern Hills Drug Court welcomes Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard, as keynote speaker, in celebration of our newest graduate and National Drug Court Commencement Day.

### **National Drug Court Commencement Day—May 15**

Northern Hills Drug Court is very excited to welcome Lt. Gov. Dennis Daugaard as the next drug court graduation keynote speaker on May 15.

NHDC is fortunate that Lt. Gov. Daugaard set aside time in his busy schedule to be a part of our commencement ceremony as well as a nation-wide celebration. Drug courts throughout the United States will celebrate National Drug Court Commencement Day on May 15, to coincide with a national celebration at the site of the first drug court in Miami-Dade Florida, which was established 20 years ago.

Daugaard was raised on a family farm near Garretson, SD. In 1971, he graduated from Dell Rapid High School and went on to receive a B.S. in Political Science from USD and a Juris Doctor from Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, ILL.

Currently, he serves as executive director of the Children's Home Society of SD. He is responsible for the Sioux Falls and Black Hills Children's Homes which provide emergency shelter to abused and neglected children.

Daugaard became involved in politics in 1996 when he was elected to the SD State Senate and was re-elected in both 1998 and 2000. In 2002, Daugaard, was elected to Lt. Governor as running mate with Mike Rounds.

## THANK YOU!!

The Northern Hills Drug Court extends a special THANK YOU to the First Western Bank Greater Sturgis Area Foundation for their monetary support of the drug court program. NHDC was awarded \$500 to be utilized to offset costs for participants who otherwise cannot afford day-to-day living expenses, as well as provide opportunities for participants to attend beneficial seminars or classes.

Thank you to Hersruds of Sturgis for lending toy tractors for a drug court graduation reception.

- Northern Hills Drug Court saved the South Dakota taxpayers over \$65,000 last year by supervising the participants in the community versus the costs for sending them to the penitentiary.
- A participant graduated on April 7. He said in his graduation speech that drug use came at a high price, not only monetarily, but also with regards to relationships, a process he has worked hard to rebuild.
- One participant is enrolled in college taking primarily night classes so she is able to work during the day.
- One former participant was featured in a local news broadcast featuring NHDC. He described the hard work involved with the program but also the payoff of becoming a productive family and community member.
- The drug court is seeking sponsors to provide centerpieces, refreshments, etc., for the special commencement reception on May 15. Please call 347-7648 for more information.

## For the reporting quarter, January through March 2009:

- 276 drug tests given to 12 participants
- 96% of the tests were negative for all substances
- 4,024 contacts with 12 participants
- 82% of the participants are employed, are students or are performing community service
- 1 participant completed inpatient treatment and is seeking employment
- 1 participant graduated in January 2009
- 2 Participants are in Phase I (first phase of program), 4 participants are in Phase II, 2 participants are in Phase III and 2 are in Phase IV, the final phase of the program.

### Northern Hills Drug Court

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### TEAM MEMBERS

Jesse Sondreal	Mike Pisciotta
Bruce Hubbard	Joe Gutierrez
Ron Merwin	Mary Wood-Fossen
Judge Michelle Percy	Mari Denker

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

*All of you who helped to make the April 7 graduation a special celebration for the drug court graduate.*