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February 11, 2018

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**THE CITI FOUNDATION DONATES \$250,000 TO EXPAND THE RURAL LEARNING CENTER**

*The new Maroney Rural Learning Center expansion will have the capacity to support training and education outreach for 1,500 to 2,500 people annually.*

**PIERRE, S.D.**— Today, President and CEO of [the Citi Foundation](#) and Director of Corporate Citizenship Pamela Flaherty presented a \$250,000 check from the Foundation to Howard, South Dakota’s Rural Learning Center to fund components of the center’s efforts to expand its renewable energy industry development project.

The funding will go towards components of the Growing Green Rural Partner’s program and help to design and build five Mobile Renewable Energy Training Units to support distance learning for trainees in the [wind energy](#) field. It will also fund a marketing and recruitment plan to promote the training program to potential trainees and to renewable energy industries, and help with predevelopment costs related to the construction of the facility.

“As a rural state with only 800,000 residents, South Dakota struggles to keep its young people from leaving our borders for amenities and jobs that pay higher wages in larger cities. Many of the state’s young people would like to stay in South Dakota to work and raise their families and Citi is pleased to play a role in helping to develop more green, higher-wage permanent jobs in the renewable energy industry that will keep more young people in South Dakota and improve the state’s economy,” said President and CEO of Citi Bank (South Dakota) Kendall E. Stork.

The new facility will be named the [Maroney Rural Learning Center](#), as it will be in tribute to local businessman and advocate Pat Maroney. The facility will focus on delivering quality training to rural workers in South Dakota and around the nation to help meet increasing green industry workforce demands.

The 36,000-square-foot Maroney Rural Learning Center expansion will be built to the highest Leadership in Energy and Environment Design ([LEED](#)) standards. The design will feature solar electric panels, geothermal heating systems, wind turbines, living roof gardens, rammed earth and straw bale walls and an emphasis on local materials. It will also include meeting space for several hundred people, onsite lodging and food service, and telecommunication capacities for reaching national and international audiences.

“Citi’s support has provided the center with a national and international platform for the challenge to rural communities everywhere to ‘reimagine rural.’ The quality training in renewable energy occupations means access to better jobs, which in turn benefits the individual, the community, the state and the country,” said Randy Parry, president of the Rural Learning Center.

Parry sees a pay off in partnering with companies engaged in rural city development like Citi. Howard's city sales tax revenue has tripled in the last 10 years and renewable energy companies have created more than 150 living wage jobs since 2003. Additionally, school enrollments are rising and the community population is projected to increase in the upcoming Census for the first time in eight decades.

### **About Citi**

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