

## New Employee Past Submissions

**Jody Ward** has joined the School of Medicine and Health Sciences staff as a critical access hospital network coordinator with Center for Rural Health. Jody will assist North Dakota Critical Access Hospitals with their ongoing quality improvement efforts and assist facilities in achieving compliance with their Medicare Conditions of Participation.

Prior to joining the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Jody worked eight years for North Dakota Health Care Review, Inc. Prior to NDHCRI, she worked as an ICU RN at UniMed Medical Center in Minot. She earned her B.S. from Minot State University.

Jody's most recent work has been as a health care quality improvement project coordinator. She worked with Critical Access Hospitals on their clinical data collection, validation, and analysis of clinical quality topics such as heart failure and pneumonia. She also coordinated other project topics such as Rural Organizational Safety Culture and Systems Improvement and Organizational Culture Change.

In her spare time, Jody enjoys reading and gardening. She is on the Executive Committee Board of Our Redeemer's Christian School in Minot. Jody's husband, Terry Ward, is employed by the City of Minot as a fire fighter/EMT, and is a part-time farmer. They have two daughters; Megan will be a junior in college majoring in nursing, and Breann will be a junior in high school.

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**Susan Rundquist** has joined the staff as an administrative assistant for the Center for Rural Health. Her new responsibilities include providing administrative support for the Rural Assistance Center and maintaining a data base of rural health contacts. She states, "I look forward to being a member of the rural health team and working with the numerous projects involved at the Center".

Sue is a graduate of Aakers Business College. She has been with the University of North Dakota for several years, most recently working in the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Sue and her husband Neil have two children; Nathan attends UND and Kaylee is a student at NDSU

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**Heidi Gienger** has joined the School of Medicine and Health Sciences as a laboratory technician with the Department of Pharmacology, Physiology and Therapeutics. Prior to joining the School of Medicine, she worked as a lab assistant for UND's Energy and Environmental Research Center. Heidi earned her B.S. in health science from Valley City State University.

In her spare time, Heidi enjoys a round of golf.

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**Ann Miller** has joined the School of Medicine and Health Sciences staff as an administrative secretary with the Center for Rural Health. Her responsibilities will focus on administrative support for the National Resource Center on Native American Aging.

Prior to joining the School of Medicine, Ann worked for the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul and the Arthritis Foundation, Georgia Chapter, where she served as an instructor for the Foundation's pain management course.

Ann is always 'on the move'. She grew up in Iowa and Missouri, then moved to Minnesota, Texas, Massachusetts, back to Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, back to Minnesota and now North Dakota. Besides traveling and a special interest in archeological sites and art exhibits, she enjoys reading, knitting, and crafts. Ann and her husband Glenn have two adult children and 4 grandchildren.

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**Brian Barclay** has assumed the position of web and database specialist for the Center for Rural Health. Prior to joining the staff at the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Brian worked as an online educational media developer for the UND Division of Continuing Education. He earned his Bachelor's in graphic design from UND.

Brian has a special interest in photography and he also coaches the Grand Forks Central Football team. He and his wife Tracy, an elementary school teacher, are expecting their first child in June.

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The UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center for Rural Health welcomes **Wendy Opsahl**, communications coordinator. Wendy will be responsible for promoting the activities of the Center through media relations, newsletter productions, preparing and proof-reading reports, planning special events and working on grant projects in a communications capacity.

Wendy is not new to the School of Medicine. For the past two years she assumed the role of marketing and alumni relations coordinator and prior to that, she was a senior publicist for Busch Gardens/Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, VA. Wendy is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in educational leadership. She earned her Master's in communications and her Bachelor's in communications and sociology, all from UND.

Wendy is a member of the Greater Grand Forks Young Professionals Network, a member of the marketing subcommittee for UND's 125th anniversary and she volunteers her public relations services for Sun, Country, and You, an animal-assisted therapy non-profit organization. Wendy and her husband Matt have an infant daughter, Annika.