**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

To: Area Media

From: Cheryl Osowski, Special Projects Coordinator

[cheryl@redriverrc.com](mailto:cheryl@redriverrc.com)

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RE: Ideas to Actions Summit Seeks Nominations

The impactful people, projects and ideas that make this region strong will again be celebrated at the second annual Ideas to Actions Summit, an event hosted by the Red River Regional Council (RRRC). The event is set for November 1, 2016 at the Grafton Public School’s Performing Arts Center.

“Last year’s event showcased the terrific talent, diligence and hard work of our communities and leaders,” said Dawn Keeley, Executive Director of the RRRC. “We are excited to continue to acknowledge the time, determination, vision, and enthusiasm put forth by our local citizens, organizations, and businesses. We are anxious to begin receiving nominations for this next round of awards, as we know there are so many deserving people, projects and ideas in our region.”

The RRRC is seeking nominations for the 2016 North Star, Catalyst and Determination Awards. The North Star Award will go to an idea that illuminates opportunities or creates a guiding light for progress within a community; the Catalyst Award will recognize an individual who acts as a kickstarter for an idea or a project; and the Determination Award will recognize a successful project that created a significant impact on a community.

More information about the award criteria and how to complete a nomination form can be accessed several ways - at the RRRC’s website at [www.redriverrc.com](http://www.redriverrc.com); the RRRC’s Facebook page; by calling the RRRC office at 701.352.3550 to request a form be mailed to you; or by emailing [cheryl@redriverrc.com](mailto:cheryl@redriverrc.com) . The deadline for nominations is September 30, 2016. The awards will be presented at the Ideas to Actions Summit in November.

The purpose of the Ideas to Actions Summit is to provide an opportunity to inform the public of the goals and activities of the Council, to create excitement about the potential of our region’s communities, and to recognize the excellent work of the region’s leaders and communities. The agenda includes a networking social, the keynote presentations which will include speakers addressing the topic of the impact of the tourism industry in northeast North Dakota, and the awards presentation. All events will be held at the Grafton Public School’s Performing Arts Center and are free and open to the public.

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The Red River Regional Council (RRRC) is one of eight regional planning councils in North Dakota established in 1973 to enhance the ability of local governments to jointly plan, address issues, and seize opportunities that transcend individual boundaries.

The RRRC is an independent quasi-governmental consulting group assisting local governments, business owners, homeowners, landowners, healthcare providers, and educational institutions in solving problems, creating holistic solutions, planning, and making dreams come true.