

John Barlow

Dr. John Barlow's impressive achievements include scientist, scholar, and teacher. He displays diplomacy and humility in his most impressive achievements, leadership and teaching.

In 1965, he joined the Laboratory of Clinical Medicine. His influence helped create a regional reference laboratory; the nucleus of the Sioux Valley Hospital Pathology department. He contributed to development of the Medical Technology program and Pathology Residency at Sioux Valley Hospital, and the Sioux Falls Community Blood Bank. He provided oversight for the both the two-year and four-year Medical Schools, developing Sioux Valley Hospital into a regional clinical leader.

Dr. Barlow travels to outreach hospitals and the USD School of Medicine in Vermillion multiple times per week, directing the Pathology department of Sioux Valley Hospital. In 1985, while practicing Pathology, he became Chairman of the Board for the institution in Rapid City, leading it into the Integrated Medical System for Western South Dakota.

Robert Burns

Robert Burns earned his BA at SDSU, then his MA and PhD in Political Science from the University of Missouri. An officer in the Army during Vietnam, he was awarded a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. During his distinguished tenure at SDSU, he was named Teacher of the Year seven times, Distinguished Professor (and Emeritus) by the Board of Regents, and Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation. Burns was head of the Political Science and Philosophy and Religion Departments, Director and Dean (and Emeritus) of the SDSU Honors College, and an Acting Director at USD.

In retirement, Bob continues his involvement in government and politics, serving various community organizations, earning many prestigious awards. Bob and his wife Donna enjoy three adult children, and 11 grandchildren close to their home in Brookings.

Christine Hamilton

Christine E. Hamilton is Managing Partner of Christiansen Land and Cattle, Ltd., a central South Dakota diversified agricultural operation, and co-owner of Dakota Packing, Inc., a Vegas-based company providing protein products to local and national accounts., and currently serves on the Board of.

Ms. Hamilton helped launch two state-based venture capital organizations, and provides leadership for various entities including the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank (Ninth District), the Discovery District Board, the South Dakota Habitat Conservation Fund Board, and SAB Biotherapeutics, Inc., a state-based biotech company.

Her vast contributions to agri-business equip her to advocate for excellence in agriculture and rural development. In 2000, she helped form the Matson Halverson Christiansen Hamilton Foundation (MHCH) to promote South Dakota's place in the global economy and to launch initiatives promoting rural economies.

Christine has a degree in Philosophy from Smith College and an MBA in Entrepreneurship from the University of Arizona.

Richard Holm

Dr. Richard P. Holm of Brookings, SD is the South Dakota voice of healthcare. For 25 years, his vision has helped countless medical professionals provide accurate medical information to the public; especially to people with limited access to healthcare professionals. In addition to his medical practice, Dr. Holm is an established expert in public communication and the myriad of topics surrounding healthcare.

Dr. Holm is the host and editor of the PBS television show *On Call with the Prairie Doc*, the weekly radio broadcast *Prairie Doc Radio*, and offers his media globally through prairiedoc.org. He writes the syndicated editorial *Prairie Doc Perspective*, which appears in many Midwest newspapers. He founded and directs the *Hopeful Spirit Chorale*, performing for hospice patients.

This doctor-media host-philanthropist served as President of the South Dakota State Medical Association as well as the Governor of the SD Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

Marcus King

Marcus King became head of household shortly after finishing high school, when he lost his father. He supported his family by working at the grocery store, eventually earning the manager's position. Several years later married his wife, Dianne.

His experience helped him launch his own business, expanding his grocery stores to seven central South Dakota communities. Employees were trained as managers, and eventually granted the opportunity to buy the stores they managed.

Marc is a well-known force for good in the town of Platte. He spearheaded efforts to create the craft venue "The Creamery", an antique museum, and led the town in renovating the Lyric Theatre. He serves his local church, has helped lead the Affiliated Foods Board for 30 years. He remains dedicated to the City of Platte, benefitting the small community through projects such as the hospital expansion and a new pool.

JoEllen Koerner

JoEllen Koerner is a farmwife, grandmother, author, editor, speaker, researcher, educator, nurse executive, entrepreneur, and a true daughter of South Dakota. Her 48 years of experience in nursing, education, regulation, and management equipped her to foster high standards in patient care. She is the former Senior VP for Patient Services at Sioux Valley Health System, the Past President of the American Organization of Nurse Executives, and earned the AONE Lifetime Distinguished Service Award for Patient Care Research and Education.

Dr. Koerner served as Nursing Chair at Freeman Jr College, Executive Secretary of the SD Board of Nursing, and VP for Program Development at InteractiveThink. Her career initially focused on patient care and leadership development, then shifted to virtual education and workforce development for society's underrepresented sectors. Today, she serves as Sr. VP for Clinical Quality at CareSpan, a cloud-based primary care clinic serving rural and reservation-based populations.

Elizabeth Meyer

Elizabeth Meyer is proud of her father's 3rd generation South Dakota roots, and her mother's Cherokee Nation heritage. After high school in Alexandria, SD she earned her degree from Sioux Valley Hospital X-Ray Technology School.

She worked with the first mammography and breast cancer screening program in SD, presenting over 80 educational sessions on American Cancer Society screening mammography guidelines. She then launched the first mobile mammography services available to rural hospitals and clinics in a three-state area.

Elizabeth was awarded the "Un-Sung Hero" honor from the National Conference of State Legislators Women's Network for heading up state-mandated insurance coverage for mammography screening.

Her leadership helped the SD Susan G. Komen Foundation raise one million, providing funding for numerous S.D. breast health programs through "All Women Count". As a Trustee of the National Consortium of Breast Centers, she helped author the first national Breast Center Accreditation program.

Joy Nelson

Lifelong Watertown resident Joy Christine Nelson is considered to be the city's leading real estate broker, owner, and developer. At age of 44, Joy put aside financial success and bought a 100-acre ranch overlooking a small lake several miles northwest of Watertown. She began developing it for the horses, dogs and cats that shared her life.

She noticed how people, especially children, were touched by her animals. Inspired by this, Joy donated her ranch to Lutheran Outdoors of South Dakota and helped raise more than \$12 million to build an 1880s Western town called Joy Ranch. The Ranch opened in 2012 as a retreat center serving 48,000 special needs youth, adults and in the Upper Midwest.

“What life gives us by nature is short, but the memory of a life well spent is eternal. There are eternal things we are experiencing at Joy Ranch.”

Jack Redden

Raised in Illinois, educated at Dartmouth and Harvard, Redden's geology study of the Black Hills began after his service as a Marine in World War II. Jack leads the hundreds of geologists attempting to unravel the secrets of the Black Hills with his 50 years of mapping and interpretation. His work has resulted in the most comprehensive geological map of the Black Hills in existence. At the SD School of Mines, he taught hundreds of students, many of whom became experts themselves. Redden helped form the Darton Geological Society in the early 1970's. The Society still meets to discuss the geological issues of the day. Redden has published over 50 geological papers, creating a better understanding of the Black Hills' mineral makeup, and is considered one of the most preeminent geologists of his day. Jack, his late wife Harriet, and their family were active community members in his beloved Black Hills.

William Russell

South Dakota native BILL RUSSELL is an exceptional playwright, lyricist and director who frequently creates work about his South Dakota roots. His musicals have been performed on and off-Broadway, London, the UK, Brazil, Japan, Israel, Germany, Thailand, Canada, Australia, Sweden, and all across America. In 1997, he received Tony Award nominations for SIDE SHOW, critically acclaimed on Broadway in 2014. In 2016, he will direct his co-authored work PAGEANT at the Black Hills Playhouse, and continue his tradition of hosting benefit concerts in Spearfish. He wrote lyrics for the Radio City Music Hall CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR, and the official theme for the Gay Games. In 2015, three original cast albums of his shows were released, and two new shows will have world premieres in 2016. Mr. Russell received honorary doctorates from Morningside College and the Boston Conservatory. He contributes his writing talents to various charity events.