

2019 International Legislators Forum

Biography

Angela Ehlers

Executive Director

South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts

sdoffice@sdconservation.net

For 31 years, Angela Ehlers has been the executive director of the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts. Prior to that, she managed the American Creek Conservation District in central South Dakota. When asked to describe her position, a friend called Angela the cruise ship captain, making sure the ship stays afloat and nobody goes overboard. She is passionate about developing local leaders both in natural resources conservation and community engagement. During her tenure, the Association has grown from one part-time staff to a technical resource team of 15. As part of their local capacity building, the Association was instrumental in establishing and nurturing two grass roots organizations: the South Dakota Grassland Coalition and South Dakota Soil Health Coalition. The National Association of Conservation Districts, Region 8 EPA , USDA-NRCS, and USDI-Fish & Wildlife Service honored Angela with awards in recognition of her partnership building efforts.

Raised on a diversified crop and livestock operation located between the Ft. Pierre National Grasslands and Lower Brule (Kul Wicasa Oyate) Reservation, Angela graduated from South Dakota State University with double major in Commercial Economics and Ag Business. Still on her bucket list is to go back and finish her master's – or become a master woodworker. Angela has also been a newspaper editor & publisher. Setting an example of community engagement, she is president of the Presho City Council, secretary-treasurer of the Medicine Creek Golf Course, financial administrator of the Lyman County Ambulance District, and a 42-year EMT (Emergency Medical Technician).