



Shannon County Schools

Located in South Dakota, the Shannon County school district encompasses the towns of Batesland, Rockyford and the Lakota Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Lakota Pine Ridge Reservation is one of America's most impoverished communities. In the past, dropout rates on the reservation have been as high as 70% for teens and the current school facility is in serious disrepair.

In order to improve its facilities, reduce dropout rates through improved early education programs and attack exceedingly high unemployment rates, Shannon County Public Schools officials decided to modernize two elementary schools located in Rockyford and Batesland.

The two new facilities will accommodate a growing population and provide modernized classrooms and technology to improve the quality of education for some of America's neediest students. However, the cost for the rehabilitation and expansion presented a significant challenge to the Shannon County Public School system so Dakotas America, a Community Development Entity serving North and South Dakota, and Citi Community Capital, who provided \$44.1 million in NMTC financing for the project.

The new Rockyford facility provides space for outreach programs such as sports, art, music, theater, language education and summer camps to improve the overall quality of education. The expansion of the Batesland facility included the addition of a new gymnasium, classrooms, support areas, reading room/ library, community room and a new cafeteria with kitchen, as well as a new geothermal heating/cooling system. Additionally, the project retained 356 employees and generated 28 construction and 20 new much needed permanent jobs.

"This project is a model of how the public and private sector can work as partners to improve the education of our children and provide a near-term boost to the economy," said Senator Tim Johnson.

NMTC ALLOCATEES

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COMMUNITY PROFILE

- The Lakota Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota
- 49% poverty rate
- 80% unemployment rate

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Expansion and renovation of two schools
- Total Project Cost: \$44.1 million
- NMTC: \$44.1 million
- Investor: Citi
- Jobs: 28 construction, 20 permanent new, 356 retained



Top: Rendering of the new Rockford, SD pre K - 8th grade school

Bottom: Teacher Denise Schulz works with a student during class at Batesland Elementary School