

# NEWS



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## Sunflower Receives Business Achievement Award



Megan Wagner and Clare Gustin receive award from Commerce Secretary David Kerr

Hays, Kan.—June 5, 2008— The Kansas Department of Commerce presented the Workforce Excellence Award to Sunflower Electric Power Corporation at the department's annual Kansas Business Appreciation Month Northwest Regional Awards ceremony in Russell on June 2.

This is the inaugural year for the Workforce Excellence Award, which will be presented annually to businesses that demonstrate excellence in workforce practices, specifically recruitment and retention strategies.

"Sunflower has long recognized that our employees are our most important assets," said Clare Gustin, Sunflower's vice president of member services and external affairs. "We are proud to be the recipient of this award and agree that we consider ourselves blessed to have such a talented staff, both tenured and recently recruited."

Sunflower has implemented the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Leadership program in which every employee participates. The program focuses on learning styles, working styles, and the development of the company's culture traits that include technical competency, respect and dignity, accountability, integrity, trustworthiness, and servant leadership. Sunflower's culture, combined with highly competitive pay and benefits, have resulted in successful recruitment of a talented workforce and a low turnover rate.

"Sunflower Electric Power Corporation has made outstanding investments in the personal development and growth of its employees, creating a culture in which employees are valued and empowered to be leaders," said Commerce Secretary David Kerr. "I'd encourage companies throughout western Kansas and all regions of the state to consider incorporating Sunflower's workforce strategies into their own workplace."

Sunflower was one of 37 northwest Kansas businesses recognized for the contributions made to their communities and one of two businesses selected for the Workforce Excellence Award.

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**About Sunflower—**

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation is a regional wholesale power supplier that operates a 1,257 MW system of wind, gas, and coal-based generating plants and a 2,300-mile transmission system for the needs of its six member cooperatives who serve more than 400,000 customers living in central and western Kansas. Visit Sunflower's website at <http://www.sunflower.net>

Sunflower's member cooperatives include Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Dighton; Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Ulysses; Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Norton; the Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Dodge City; Western Cooperative Electric Association, WaKeeney; and Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Scott City, Kansas.