

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 9, 2007

Dorothy Barnett has been hired as the Growth Coordinator for Reno County 2020 Growth Coalition, Inc. The board of the Growth Coalition approved the Search Committee's recommendation of Barnett at a special meeting this week. Barnett, a 1982 graduate of Fairfield High School, will leave her job as Marketing and Special Events Director for the Hutchinson Recreation Commission to pursue this new opportunity. In her current job, she has been an active member of the business community for the past several years.

Barnett graduated from Hutchinson Community College in 2004, while working for HCC's ACT Center, and pursued a degree in Organizational Management and Leadership from Friends University. She is a 2005 graduate of Leadership Reno County. She currently serves, as the 2007 Chair for Market Hutchinson, is a member of the Downtown Hutchinson Revitalization Partnership, serves on the Vision 2020 Tourism Taskforce and is a member of the Hutchinson Chapter of Soroptmist. She has been an active volunteer in many organizations including Girl Scouts and various USD 308 committees.

Barnett played a key role in the recent passage of USD 308's \$78.8 million dollar bond issue. She was co-chair of the citizen-based *Our Kids Come First* committee which played a key role in a very complex ballot campaign. "As co-chair and facilitator for this group, I was able to bring together a broad representation of the community to work effectively together. This was a two-year project, which passed last November – its first time on the ballot – with 60% of the vote. It was a stunning success." Barnett remains active with USD 308 as co-chair of the Red Ribbon committee.

Reno County 2020 Growth Coalition, Inc. received thirty-one applications and interviewed five finalists. Jim Davis, chairman of the Growth Coalition, said "Barnett's understanding of the Growth Coalition's mission, her extensive background in working with and

being a volunteer, her part in the success of the USD 308 bond issue passage, and her western Reno County roots all contributed to her being chosen as our new Growth Coordinator.”

Her compensation package for this full-time position includes a salary of approximately \$55,000. The Growth Coordinator will have an office at 111 N. Walnut. The office, located in a building owned by the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, will have an entrance south of The Chamber’s entrance, which is currently used by the American Red Cross and Girl Scouts Wheatbelt Council. This downtown Hutchinson location affords an opportunity for Reno County 2020 Growth Coalition, Inc. to interact easily with business and elected officials as well as county and community leaders. This public office also will permit frequent interaction with the staff and leadership of both the privately funded Spirit of Success (business recruitment and retention) and the Quest Center (a entrepreneurial business incubator). The Growth Coalition, Spirit of Success, and Quest Center are key partners in the implementation of the Blueprint for Growth, which was adopted by the Reno County Commission on September 29, 2004.

Barnett will begin her new position on February 26th.

CONTACTS:

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