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**Northwestern Regional Housing Authority Receives National Merit Award in Project
Design for its Historic Wilkesboro School**

BOONE, NC (July 18, 2013) — The Northwestern Regional Housing Authority has been chosen as a winner of the prestigious National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Awards of Merit for its rehabilitation of a 1937 Works Progress Administration elementary school in the town of Wilkesboro, NC.

It was envisioned that the existing building and a new addition would provide affordable housing for seniors, repurpose a landmark that had fallen into disrepair, and integrate the residents and site into the community. With renovations and additions complete, the fully occupied project now provides 41 affordable housing units, common spaces for resident and community use, and site improvements that enhance the historic downtown district of which it is an integral part.

"NAHRO members have been leading the way with innovative solutions to address resident services, management and operations, affordable housing preservation and sustainable development, and economic revitalization in their communities," said NAHRO President Betsey Martens. "They have stepped up, taken advantage of opportunities to find new and creative ways to address local housing needs and we are proud to recognize their achievements."

The 2013 NAHRO Awards of Merit recognize outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs in five categories.

Administrative Innovation recognizes innovative methods in areas such as maintenance, community relations, and interagency cooperation. **Program Innovation — Affordable Housing** includes special programs for homeownership, public/private partnerships, and innovative financing. **Program Innovation — Community Revitalization** includes innovative use of programs in areas such as economic development, neighborhood preservation, and creative financing. **Program Innovation — Resident and Client Services** includes innovative use of programs such as special activities for children, families, and the elderly, anti-drug programs, social services, and self-sufficiency. **Project Design** includes efforts such as new housing design, housing modernization, enduring design, and landscape design.

About NAHRO

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, established in 1933, is a membership organization of over 23,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO's membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

About Northwestern Regional Housing Authority

The Northwestern Regional Housing Authority's mission is to promote adequate and affordable housing for those less fortunate in their communities, providing economic opportunity and a suitable living environment free from discrimination.

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