

# SPIRIT OF SPEARFISH

## DR. PRISCILLA ROMKEMA

The **Spirit of Spearfish Award** is given to an individual that lives and breathes Spearfish, who goes above and beyond serving the community and whose overall contributions better our community.

The words positive, personable, and powerful describe this year's Spirit of Spearfish recipient. Dr. Priscilla Romkema is one who dares to dream, has the courage to act, and makes a difference. There are dreamers and there are doers. This person is a dreamer that does. With vision, mission, and a plan of action, she takes the helm in every worthy ship that sails in our community. She represents what we should all aspire to be: strong, kind, smart, and true to all.

One of the most respected community leaders in Spearfish, the Black Hills region, and the State of South Dakota, she has touched hundreds of individuals and organizations. She is a wonderful spokesperson, a public personality, and lives with the passion that embodies Spearfish. She loves her community, has dedicated much of her life to the betterment of others through education, has been and continues to be engaged with numerous local organizations. She continues to seek growth and opportunity for the town she calls home.

Black Hills State University and Regional Health are two of the largest employers west of the Missouri and within the past 20 plus years, she has held influential roles with both of these organizations. And she does it all with that special smile and warm and caring energy. All of her roles have directly supported our community and her inspiration and motivation is fueled by her love for this community that her family has been a part of for many, many years. Spearfish is a community that exists today because of many influential people. I am confident in saying that Spearfish is Spearfish because of the love and dedication of people like the great Dr. Priscilla Romkema.

Born and raised in Spearfish and a graduate of Black Hills State University, Priscilla's roots in our community run deep. While she is incredibly charming, accomplished and capable of anything that comes her way, the common theme and hallmark contribution of her life is that of service, compassion, and the well being of the community.

Priscilla is a humble woman, that would rather see those around her receive the accolades for accomplishments. She has proven this time and time again, yet time and time again is publicly recognized for her contributions. She has received many awards and honorable mentions, far too many to list tonight. One worth mentioning though, Priscilla is the first individual to receive the Spirit of Spearfish award twice! She was also honored in 2006 with this prestigious award. Who has seen her without extended arms, an open heart, and a beautiful smile? She IS the Spirit of Spearfish.