
News Release

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Editors: A photograph of Michael Burr is available at <http://sd.water.usgs.gov/public/newsroom.html>. Pictured left to right – Michael Burr, supervisory hydrologic technician, receives award from Darin Larson, assistant director of the USGS Huron Programs Office.

Michael Burr receives Superior Service Award of the Department of the Interior

The U.S. Department of the Interior has recognized Michael Burr, supervisory hydrologic technician, with a Superior Service Award for his outstanding scientific contributions to the surface water program of the U.S. Geological Survey.

“Mike Burr has provided indispensable support to the South Dakota Water Science Center and with key cooperators in the State, most notably the South Dakota Department of Transportation,” said Mark Anderson, Director of the South Dakota Water Science Center in Rapid City as he quoted from the letter by USGS Director Mark Myers during a conference call to the Huron Programs Office.

Burr serves as the Huron Programs Office’s leader for managing and directing the data collection programs in surface water, ground water, and water quality. During almost 35 years of exceptional service, Burr has earned the respect of colleagues in Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and throughout the Water Resources Discipline. He has provided invaluable insights, advice, and recommendations to Center management and projects chiefs on surface water, ground water, data collection, real-time monitoring, and safety.

When extensive flooding was taking place in the upper Midwest in 1997, Burr coordinated the broad-scale collection of data across north-central and eastern South Dakota. This included the coordination of information to water managers including city, state, and national contacts. Ensuring that USGS was providing the most accurate data possible to local and national water managers was of utmost importance and helped to ensure the safety of the public with road closures and evacuations. The streamflow measurements from 1997 are still the largest measurements on record for the majority of the gaging stations in this area of South Dakota.

Larry Putnam, a hydrologist in Rapid City, also received the Superior Service award for scientific contributions in water-resources programs in South Dakota and North Dakota.

The Superior Service Award was established in 1971 as a Department of Interior honor award. Employees are granted the Superior Service Award based on significant acts, services, or achievements that materially aid or affect successful accomplishment of the Department of Interior’s mission.

Additional information about USGS water-resources studies in South Dakota can be obtained by visiting the USGS South Dakota Water Science Center home page at <http://sd.water.usgs.gov>.

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