

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: DRN
Janell Hauck
701-344-6012
jhauck@drtel.com
www.drtel.com

Kent Schimke named CEO/general manager of DRN

Ellendale, ND, January 11, 2019— Kent Schimke, Ellendale, ND, has been named DRN's new CEO/General Manager and assumed his new position Jan.1. He replaces Robert K. Johnson, who will be retiring March 8.

“The DRN board of directors is very encouraged by the growth and direction of the cooperative under Mr. Robert Johnson’s leadership. With the announcement of his pending retirement, the board performed a national search for a new CEO/GM. The pool of candidates was outstanding. We are pleased to announce Mr. Kent Schimke as our successful candidate. Mr. Schimke was selected based on his knowledge of our cooperative, the operations, our employees, and the communities we serve. Kent is committed to DRN and will continue to move the cooperative forward with the support of our fine employee group,” said DRN Board President Ralph Neu.

Schimke has been employed by DRN for the past 19 years. Before joining DRN, he worked for James Valley Electric in Edgeley. Schimke attended high school in Garden City, KS, but spent every summer of his youth helping on his grandparent’s farm west of Ellendale. Kent attended Garden City Community College and Johnson County Community College, KS which helped him obtain a journeyman electrical license. He holds a business management certificate from Rasmussen College and is currently enrolled in Rasmussen College School of Business. Kent and his wife, Andi, have three children—Kaitlyn (20), Kennedy (18) and Kade (13).

"I am very proud to be a part of the DRN team/family and plan to move the cooperative forward. The next couple of months of transition into my new role will be aided by Bob Johnson. We have an exciting time ahead of us and together we will continue to be successful and will continue to be one of the most progressive cooperatives in the nation,” said Schimke.

During his tenure at DRN, Johnson's leadership was instrumental in the purchase of Insight Technologies, Compquest Technology and in growing/expanding the Managed IT services through Read iTech, a subsidiary of DRN. Johnson plans to enjoy retirement with his wife, Robbie, children and grandchild at their lake home in Minnesota.

About DRN & Read iTech

DRN was founded in 1950 to bring telephone service to south central North Dakota. It has since expanded to provide high-speed Internet, video, security systems and managed IT to approximately 8,100 area residents and businesses. It has a 100% fiber optic network to deliver these advanced services. DRN, headquartered in Ellendale, ND, is a cooperative business, governed by an elected board of directors. Its mission is to deliver the latest telecommunications. For more information, visit www.drntel.com.

Read iTech is a managed IT service company with headquarters in Ellendale, North Dakota. It also has a location in Aberdeen, SD. Read iTech specializes in being a Managed IT Solutions provider by offering a suite of services that can boost, secure and streamline business operations- IT support and management; cloud services; computer hardware; computer software; security systems and phone systems plus project management. To learn more about Read iTech, visit www.readitech.com.

###