

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

3:30 PM	Conference Registration Available throughout the evening.	<i>Atrium</i>
4:30 PM	Welcome <i>Ronnie Green, NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor, University of Nebraska</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
4:45 PM	Living Beyond Boundaries Video Sit back and enjoy a captivating series of stories that illustrate the value of rural people and places.	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
5:00 PM	Envisioning Beyond Boundaries: Thoughts from Thomas Jefferson <i>Clay Jenkinson, author, humanities scholar and director of The Dakota Institute</i> Clay Jenkinson portrays President Thomas Jefferson in a one-of-a-kind performance. Gather insight into what Jefferson thought about boundaries and the new world and how the RFI parallels his vision.	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
6:15 PM	Laying the Groundwork: Conference Objectives <i>Ronnie Green, NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor, University of Nebraska</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
6:30 to 8:00 PM	Welcome Reception (<i>hors d'oeuvres and drinks</i>) Special musical entertainment by Daniel Christian of Tecumseh, Nebraska	<i>Atrium</i>

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

7:00 AM	Conference Registration Available throughout the day.	<i>Atrium</i>
7:00 AM	Breakfast	<i>Lancaster 1-3</i>
7:10 AM	RFI Grant Information Meeting Enjoy breakfast while you learn about the 2014 RFI Competitive Grant Program that will fund research, education and engagement endeavors.	<i>Lancaster 4-6</i>
8:00 AM	Rising to the Challenge <i>James B. Milliken, President, University of Nebraska</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
8:15 AM	Charge for the Day <i>Bob Barte, Vice Chancellor of External Affairs, University of Nebraska Medical Center</i>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
8:30 AM	The Rural Futures Institute Journey From the initial idea to present day vision, this video will walk you through the on-going journey of the Rural Futures Institute.	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
8:40 AM	The RFI Today <i>Mark Gustafson, Interim Director, Rural Futures Institute</i> <i>Chuck Schroeder, Founding Executive Director, Rural Futures Institute</i> In a conversational manner, Interim Director Mark Gustafson and Founding Director Chuck Schroeder will discuss the various milestones and accomplishments of the RFI. Several people collaborating with the Rural Futures Institute will also make an appearance. These people include: Jodi Bruns, Extension Agent and Staff Development Coordinator, North Dakota State University Sam Cordes, Key Advisor, Rural Futures Institute Barry Dunn, Dean of College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences and Director of Extension, South Dakota State University Paul Eurek, Founder and CEO, Xpanxion Shawn Kaskie, Director, Center for Rural Research and Development, University of Nebraska at Kearney B.J. Reed, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, University of Nebraska at Omaha Roni Reiter-Palmon, Professor, University of Nebraska at Omaha Stephanie Sands, Research Associate, The Center for Collaborative Science, UNO Sarah Skerratt, Director, Scotland's Rural College—Rural Policy Center Milan Wall, Director, Heartland Center for Leadership Development	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
10:00 AM	Networking & Refreshments	<i>Atrium</i>

10:30 AM	<p>Innovating Beyond Boundaries <i>Tom Koulopoulos, author, speaker, visionary and founder of the Delphi Group</i></p> <p>Tom Koulopoulos will provide insight on innovative practices and methods to address complexities that exist regarding the future of rural places.</p>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
11:45 AM	<p>Announcements</p>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
12:00 PM	<p>Noon Luncheon</p>	<i>Lancaster Room</i>
1:15 PM	<p>Working Beyond Boundaries <i>Tom Koulopoulos, author, speaker, visionary and founder of the Delphi Group</i></p> <p>An interactive session facilitated by the keynote speaker, Tom Koulopoulos.</p>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
3:00 PM	<p>Networking & Refreshments</p>	<i>Atrium</i>
3:30 PM	<p>Quick Pitch Spotlight <i>Moderators: Haley Harthoorn, Student, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Adam Kruger, Student, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Shelby Rowan, Student, University of Nebraska at Kearney</i></p> <p>Conference participants pitch their bold ideas about the rural future. Much like an entrepreneurial quick pitch contest, this session encourages out-of-the-box thinking and allows others to provide feedback on the big idea.</p>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
4:30 PM	<p>Igniting Ideas: What's next? <i>Matt Rezac, Director of Rural Community Partnerships, The Sherwood Foundation</i></p>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
4:45 to 6:30 PM	<p>Collaborating Beyond Boundaries Reception: Posters and Partnering <i>(hors d'oeuvres and drinks)</i></p> <p>Along with the traditional poster session, this “mash-up” session provides communities the opportunity to pose challenging questions with the goal of connecting faculty, students and other partners to address the question/challenge.</p>	<i>Lancaster Room</i>
7:00 PM	<p>After Hours for Young Leaders</p> <p>Young leaders are welcome to attend a special networking gathering to meet peers and colleagues who share common interests.</p>	<i>Yankee Hill 3</i>

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

7:00 to 8:00 AM	Breakfast	<i>Olive Branch</i>
7:10 AM	Teaching & Engagement Grant Information Meeting Research & Engagement Grant Information Meeting	<i>Arbor Room 1 Arbor Room 2</i>
8:00 AM	Moving Beyond Boundaries <i>Chuck Schroeder, Founding Executive Director, Rural Futures Institute</i> Hear thoughts and aspirations from the newly-appointed RFI director.	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
8:30 AM	Youth Working Through Complexity <i>Moderator: Nicole Sedlacek, Executive Director, Holt County Economic Development Meghan Bown, Community Health Coordinator, Get Fit Itasca/SHIP Joe Johnson, City Administrator, City of Nebraska City Katie Meiklejohn, Program Director, Agrarian Freedom Project Scott Moore y Medina, Principal Architect and Community Builder, Blue Star Studio Inc.</i> Hear from a panel of energetic young leaders who strive to make their rural communities vibrant places that they are proud to call home. Among other things, they will discuss turning challenges into opportunities in order to address complex situations.	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
9:30 AM	Networking & Refreshments	<i>Atrium</i>
10:00 AM	Turning Knowledge into Action (concurrent sessions) <i>*see session descriptions on pages 16-18</i> Building Vibrant Communities through Entrepreneurship Governing the Land: Maximizing Rural Places Locally and Globally The Essential Conversation: Linking Communities and Higher Education Innovative Approaches to Rural Health #Visioning4aNEWfuture The Rural Commons	<i>Hawthorne Lancaster 1-3 Arbor 1 & 2 Lancaster 4-6 Yankee Hill 3 Garrat</i>
	Please note that the concurrent sessions are continuous, not repeated. The morning breakout session will continue into the afternoon breakout. Since the afternoon breakout session is NOT a repeat of the morning breakout session, we encourage you to choose the one track you are most interested in and attend the entirety of the session (both morning and afternoon sessions).	
11:30 AM	Noon Luncheon Box lunches will be available in the Atrium and lower-level lobby. Depending on the breakout session, participants will return to the breakout rooms for either a working or networking lunch.	

12:30 PM	<p>Turning Knowledge into Action (concurrent sessions continued) <i>*see session descriptions on pages 16-18</i></p> <p>Building Vibrant Communities through Entrepreneurship Governing the Land: Maximizing Rural Places Locally and Globally The Essential Conversation: Linking Communities and Higher Education Innovative Approaches to Rural Health #Visioning4aNEWfuture The Rural Commons</p>	<p>Hawthorne Lancaster 1-3 Arbor 1 & 2 Lancaster 4-6 Yankee Hill 3 Garrat</p>
1:45 PM	<p>Redefining the Boundaries <i>Rachael Herpel, Outreach Specialist, Daugherty Water for Food Institute/Rural Futures Institute</i> <i>Chuck Schroeder, Founding Executive Director, Rural Futures Institute</i></p> <p>After reconvening from the various breakout tracks, winners from the poster contests and the Quick Pitch Spotlight will be announced. Then, enjoy the conference highlight reel video and hear closing remarks from the new RFI director.</p>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
2:10 PM	Networking & Refreshments	<i>Atrium</i>
2:30 PM	<p>Rural America: New Markets, New Understanding, Unlimited Opportunity <i>Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture</i></p> <p>Rural America provides a great deal for all Americans, but also faces modern challenges to growth and prosperity—from a declining population to diminishing influence in Washington. U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will lay out his vision to create new opportunity for rural America and grow the rural economy in the long term. He'll focus on the need for new, innovative partnerships across various priority areas.</p> <p><i>*This session is jointly sponsored with the Heuermann Lectures in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln.</i></p>	<i>Grand Ballroom</i>
3:45 PM	Conference Adjournment	
Available throughout conference	<p>The Nook Do you need a space for a networking meeting or an important collaborative brainstorming session? The Nook is available throughout the conference. You are free to use the room if it is unoccupied; there is a sign-up sheet located outside the room if you'd like to reserve a specific time.</p>	<i>Ivanhoe</i>

CONCURRENT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Building Vibrant Communities through Entrepreneurship

Hawthorne

Jim Crandall, Cooperative Business Development Specialist, University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Dell Gines, Sr. Community Development Advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City
Anita Hall, Extension Educator, University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Connie Hancock, Extension Educator, University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Dave Ivan, Institute Director, Michigan State University Extension
Shawn Kaskie, Director of the Center for Rural Research and Development, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Phyllis Schoenholz, Extension Educator, University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Bill Shuffstall, Extension Educator, Penn State University
Diane Vigna, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Greg Wise, Community Development Specialist, University of Wisconsin Extension

Rural community stakeholders, practitioners, students, and faculty will explore the many ways entrepreneurship can positively affect the future of rural communities. Participants will have the opportunity to share ideas about how the Rural Futures Institute, Extension and other university/higher education programs can collaborate with rural communities to build an entrepreneurial culture within businesses, organizations and communities. Innovative approaches will be shared along with updates provided from funded proposals in the first round of RFI grants.

Governing the Land: Maximizing Rural Places Locally and Globally

Lancaster 1-3

Johnathan Hladik, Senior Policy Advocate, Center for Rural Affairs
Bill Hopkin, Grazing Specialist, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
Jerry Jefferson, Student, University of Nebraska College of Law
Chad Nabity, Director, Hall County Regional Planning
Preston Peterson, Student, University of Nebraska College of Law
Alister Scott, Professor, Birmingham City University
Jessica Shoemaker, Professor, University of Nebraska College of Law
Meghan Sittler, Coordinator, Lower Platte River Corridor Alliance
Danelle Smith, Attorney, Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP
Daniel Uden, Graduate Research Assistant, Nebraska Coop Unit
Richard Wakeford, Professor of Environment, Land and Rural Strategy, Birmingham City University

Are rural lands being used to their best potential? How do government, law, and policy influence landowner decisions about optimal and sustainable land use? This highly interactive session will incorporate the expertise and experiences of scholars from abroad, including work from the international Office of Economic Cooperation and Development's Rural Working Group, as well as regional experts on topics ranging from energy development to water concerns and land use planning to natural resource management. International, federal, state, and tribal jurisdictions will all be considered, and audience members will have the opportunity to play a game we are calling Plainsopoly that encourages participants to explore and develop a vision for the future of rural lands.

The Essential Conversation: Linking Communities and Higher Education

Arbor 1 & 2

Bethany Blackburn, Student, UNL
Allie Buesing, Student, Peru State College
Grace Ford, Student, Cody-Kilgore High School
Nancy Fuller, Director of Curriculum, Auburn Public Schools
Jean Gleichsner, Associate Professor, Fort Hays State University
Sheri Grotrian-Ryan, Associate Professor, Peru State College
Dennis Kahl, Extension Educator, University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Jean Karlen, Professor Emeritus, Wayne State College
Jon Larchick, Student, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Michael Lechowicz, Student, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Jordyn Lechtenberg, Intern, Rural Futures Institute
Jenny Manry, Associate Professor, Fort Hays State University
Alisha Markle, Student, Fort Hays State University
Linda Moody, Service-Learning Director, University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Katie Ostgren, Executive Director, Holdrege Area Chamber of Commerce
Scott Peters, Faculty Co-Director, Imagining America
Reshell Ray, Associate Director, University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Abbey Rudd, Student, Fort Hays State University
Sonja Russell, Administrative Program Coordinator, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Kyle Ryan, Associate Professor, Peru State College
Janet Shelbourn, Work-based Learning Teacher, Cody-Kilgore Unified Schools
Geraldine Stirtz, Faculty, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Jeff Story, Student, University of Nebraska—Lincoln
Lindsey Toman, Student, Peru State College
Milan Wall, Co-Director, Heartland Center for Leadership Development

This interactive session will challenge rural community stakeholders, practitioners, faculty, and students to be creative in designing synergistic partnerships that address unmet community needs. Participants will be asked to reflect on various models used for community organizing and for developing trusting partnerships. Best practices from students, faculty, and communities participating in the first round of the RFI Teaching & Engagement grants will also be shared. Participants will contemplate “big” questions throughout the session regarding the identification of community needs and communication challenges, as well as defining the roles and functions of partnerships and boundary issues.

Innovative Approaches to Rural Health**Lancaster 4-6**

Scott Alwin, Practice Administrator, Box Butte General Hospital
Mary Cramer, Professor, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Dee Ernesti, Instructor, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Tammy Hatting, Business Development Manager, Avera Health
Kate Heelan, Professor/Director, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Kyle Klammer, Student, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Tim McBride, Professor, Washington University in St. Louis
Jessica Meeske, Dentist, Pediatric Dental Specialists of Greater Nebraska
Dianne Travers Gustafson, Adjunct Professor, Creighton University

Healthy individuals and communities are essential for rural Nebraska to be resilient and successful. Valuing current health promoting practices, envisioning what could be better, and creating new strategies for improving health outcomes for rural people and places will be the focus of this session. Rural practitioners will share their innovative approaches to improving health outcomes in their communities, thought leaders will envision what may be just over the horizon, and participants will engage in an exercise to explore innovative ideas that address the complex rural health opportunities and challenges of the future.

#Visioning4aNEWfuture**Yankee Hill 3**

Facilitator: Deb Burnight, President, Facilitated Resources
Wes Blecke, Executive Director, Wayne Area Economic Development
Garry Clark, Executive Director, Cuming County Economic Development
Chris Kreikemeier, Manager, Nielsen Community Center

Building on the ideas and strengths of those in the room, this session will encourage new ways of thinking around the “brain drain” phenomenon. There is no doubt that integrating youth (8-35 years old) into the basic workings of rural communities is integral to positive rural futures, but it is also important to listen to young leaders who are working to create a vision for the future. Together, conference participants will have a conversation about how the RFI and its partners can attract, retain and develop young leaders in rural areas and provide them opportunities, from a young age, to assume major leadership roles in building stronger rural futures.

The Rural Commons**Garrat**

Facilitator: Andrea Gebhart, Multimedia Design Specialist, Rural Futures Institute

Utilizing open space technology, conference participants will have the ability to set the agenda of this session. Through participant-generated and participant-led conversations, conference participants will discuss topics and complexities not specifically addressed elsewhere in the conference agenda. This interactive process generates communication, collaboration, innovation, and other solutions to challenges around themes or issues identified by conference participants.
