

Competitive Awards

2013 Funded Projects

TEACHING AND ENGAGEMENT

There was an outstanding response to the call for proposals with 33 applications submitted. Each application was evaluated by three reviewers. Those receiving a positive evaluation by two or more reviewers were forwarded to a final review team, who, in consultation with Dr. Green selected the following proposals to receive funding.

Ecotourism and Agritourism Development in Nebraska – Lisa Pennisi, UNL with other UNL partners and Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development, GROW Nebraska, Valley County Economic Development

Teaching ecotourism with a strong service learning and community engagement component. Students will apply ecotourism principles and develop entrepreneurial, community planning, capacity building and tourism marketing skills while engaging stakeholders in rural communities.

Engaging Nebraska, Impacting Communities, Transforming Students – Jeff Day, College of Architecture, UNL

Develop transformational curricula with civic engagement at its core by establishing a robust service-learning program embedded in the College of Architecture curricula. Transform twelve existing courses and develop new courses and programs that engage students in service-learning projects across the state of Nebraska.

Juvenile Re-entry to Nebraska's Rural Communities – Anne Hobbs, UNO with UNK, also partnering with Nebraska DHHS and Geneva and Kearney Youth Rehabilitation Centers.

Matches college student mentors from rural towns with youth committed to the Youth Rehabilitation Centers (Kearney & Geneva). Student mentors will work with youth on educational, employment, social skills and other goals.

Rural Community Serveship Program – Thomas Field, Director, Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program, partnering with the UNL Office of Student Involvement, the Center for Civic Engagement, the Heartland Center for Leadership Development, the Nebraska Human Resources Institute and the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR).

Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program and Nebraska Human Resources Institute will heavily recruit student participants interested in leadership development and entrepreneurship. Communities in Holt, Valley and Garden Counties have expressed interest in participation in the two-year pilot program. Students will be placed in rural communities in teams of at least two. These teams will assist the community with a project specified by the community leadership. Students will be expected to participate in community service activities outside of their serveship project.

The Rural Public Health Undergraduate Student Research Project – Patrik Johansson, UNMC with Chadron State, Peru State, Wayne State and UNK.

The proposed project will support faculty-led undergraduate student public health research projects at Nebraska's three state colleges in Chadron, Peru, and Wayne, and the University of Nebraska Kearney, as a means for introducing undergraduate students to the transdisciplinary world of public health.

Students Engaged in Economic Development of Rural Areas – Kaye Sorensen and Marc Albrecht, UNK.

Engages UNK students in the creation and assembly of rural economic development ideas – both their own and those of members of their rural communities. The most promising ideas will be presented to the RFI.

RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT

There were 67 research and engagement pre-proposals submitted. Each submission was evaluated by at least three reviewers and the evaluations were used by a seven-member final review committee to select those to be invited to submit full proposals. Of the sixty-seven pre-proposals, eighteen were invited to submit a full proposal. The full proposals were evaluated by the final review committee and five were selected for funding. The following research and engagement proposals were funded:

Entrepreneurship Based Economic Development – Robert Bernier, UNO with UNK, Iowa State University and the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI)

Pilot an entrepreneurship incubator tested predictive model with communities to identify actions communities can take to increase entrepreneurship.

Community Marketing: Taking a New Look at Rural Communities in the Great Plains – Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel, UNL with South Dakota State University and North Dakota State University

Research whether confidence, capacity building, and behavior toward marketing their community can be increased through a series of study circle based community wide conversations.

Communities Creating Their Own Innovation and Entrepreneurship – Anita Hall, UNL Extension, partnering with Nebraska DED, USDA Rural Development, NPPD, Heartland Center for Leadership Development

Entrepreneurial Community Activation Process (ECAP) is a holistic facilitative process with the goals of attracting and retaining working age populations and creating entrepreneurial environments that lead to community vitality. This project will test the model in eight communities.

Rural Sourcing – Shawn Kaskie, UNK, partnering with Nebraska Alumni Association and Paul Eurek, Xpansion

The concept of “rural sourcing” relates to existing and start-up companies strategically locating operations in rural areas to reduce labor costs and increase employee reliability. This project builds on a successful “cross-sourcing” model to recruit University of Nebraska alumni back to rural Nebraska in targeted professional service occupations.

Using Crowdsourcing for Leadership Development in Rural Communities – Roni Reiter-Palmon, UNO, with UNK

This project will design and implement a virtual (crowdlearning) case based leadership development program for rural Nebraska civic and business leaders. (Case based programs use realistic and engaging scenarios to help develop skills in leadership, creative thinking and problem-solving.

For questions or comments please contact:

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