

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Established in 2012 and with the leadership of its founding executive director since December 2013, the Rural Futures Institute (RFI) at the University of Nebraska has stimulated significant multidisciplinary work on behalf of rural people and places, resulting in scholarship, increased connections between the University and stakeholders and tangible results in rural communities.

This work was accomplished with 1,528 University of Nebraska (NU) administrators, faculty, staff and students from the four NU campuses as well as more than 96 partners and 201 rural communities dedicated to addressing critical rural issues and opportunities.

To continue the University of Nebraska's results-oriented commitment to rural communities in Nebraska and beyond, RFI underwent a rigorous six-month strategic planning process with consultants Dr. Jay Azarow and Lawrence Patrick III as well as 95 contributors. Through this process, RFI solidified its mission to harness the intellectual energy and resources of the University of Nebraska and its partners to positively impact the future of humankind. RFI also defined its ultimate goal—a thriving high-touch, high-tech future for rural Nebraska and the Great Plains by 2040. Audacious in scope, this goal requires a sturdy foundation of leadership with strategic foresight, combined with a mobilized team that actively forges strong connections and effectively communicates to diverse stakeholder groups.

This document provides all elements of a full mission statement, including a purpose, the belief statements and core values RFI has established to guide its work and the ultimate goal for the Institute. It then outlines RFI's short-term "Roadmap to 2020," which includes target objectives to gauge progress and success. RFI will intentionally connect students, communities and faculty to stimulate discovery and innovation; foster research and apply future-focused ideas and evidence-based practices; and recognize scholars, leaders, entrepreneurs and funders to elevate the voice of rural worldwide. These initial steps will allow RFI to build to its long-term strategies, which are discussed in this document. At the conclusion of the document are five appendices that provide context of RFI's work to this point as well as details of the strategic planning process.

RFI TIMELINE

DEC 2012

RFI is established by the NU Board of Regents

JAN & FEB 2013

First round of RFI Competitive Awards recipients receive funding

MAY 2013

Servicship starts through RFI Competitive Awards project

DEC 2013

Charles P. "Chuck" Schroeder starts as Founding Executive Director

MAY 2015

Connie Reimers-Hild, Ph.D., starts as Associate Executive Director

FEB 2016

Theresa Klein starts as member of Executive Team

JUN 2016

Shawn Kaskie of UNK starts as RFI Fellows Coordinator

AUG 2016

Katelyn Ideus starts as Director of Communications & Public Relations, final member of Executive Team

FEB 2017

RFI Fellows launch

MISSION

PURPOSE

We believe that for America to truly thrive, our rural residents and communities must thrive. We've learned that growing and sustaining a vibrant rural sector takes: future-focused leadership and entrepreneurship; social as well as technological capital and connectedness; the wise use of natural, agricultural and cultural resources; and rich collaborations. We harness the intellectual energy and resources of the University of Nebraska and its partners to positively impact the future of humankind.

BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe in people's capacity to shape their own futures.

We believe "communities" are not just localities, but also networked groups of individuals working together toward a common goal and shared purpose.

We believe "leaders" are known by their vision, ideas, energy, passion and engagement in collective action.

We believe "entrepreneurs" are individuals and communities that combine strategic foresight and grit to take action to reach their desired futures.

We believe diverse and inclusive leadership is needed to propel communities forward.

We believe our complex future requires mutual respect and collaboration between rural and urban regions and communities.

GOAL

A thriving high-touch, high-tech future for rural Nebraska and the Great Plains by 2040.

RFI established this goal in the context of Jim Collin's "Big Hairy Audacious Goal (BHAG)" construct—the long-term goal of the organization that is inspirational and energizing.

CORE VALUES

Future-Focus

We seek new possibilities at the intersection of strategic foresight, advancing technologies and what it means to be human.

Trust

We work with utmost character—integrity, reliability and fairness.

Respect

We recognize the value of all people and honor diverse perspectives.

Collaboration

We bring people and disparate ideas together to solve complex, interconnected problems.

Hopeful Grit

We value courageous perseverance, optimism and passionate confidence.

ROADMAP TO 2020

In the next three years, the Rural Futures Institute will focus on three strategic impact areas. RFI has established objectives in each area to advance the work of the University of Nebraska with communities and partners to reach a thriving rural future.

STRATEGIC IMPACT AREAS

CONVENE TO CREATE

Intentionally connect students, faculty and communities to stimulate discovery and innovation.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE

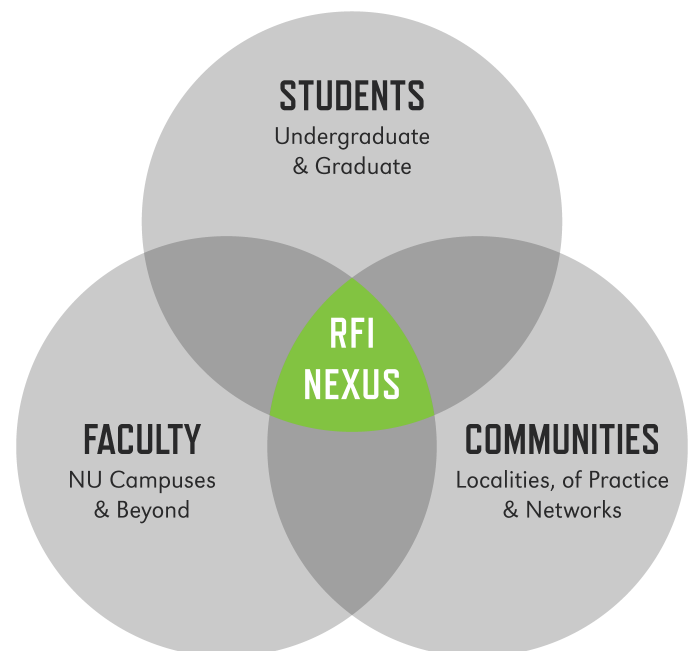
Stimulate research and apply future-focused ideas and evidence-based practices designed to grow the body of knowledge.

CELEBRATE TO ELEVATE

Share stories of successes and solutions from scholars, leaders, entrepreneurs and funders to elevate the value and voice of rural nationwide while demonstrating the University of Nebraska's leadership.

RFI NEXUS

We have determined that the central point of innovation for the highly complex nature of rural communities is where students, communities and faculty purposefully connect to (1) co-discover and co-create innovations that foster a positive future for rural residents and communities and (2) co-discover and co-create innovations for faculty and students in higher education designed to help the rural sector thrive. It is important to note how each group is defined. "Students" includes primary through adult learners, including traditional and non-traditional undergraduate and graduate students. "Communities" are not just localities, but also networked groups of people and communities of practice. "Faculty" includes the University of Nebraska and beyond.



CONVENE TO CREATE

Increase meaningful University-wide engagement with faculty and students by 30%.

Since 2013 RFI has engaged with 165 faculty, 60 administrators and 1,270 students across the NU system (Appendices I, II) and plans to increase both the number of relationships as well as its direct investment in intellectual capacity.

- Form strategic partnerships with faculty at each NU campus designed to increase scholarship and student engagement.
- Strengthen relationships beyond the NU campuses that benefit NU faculty and students.
- Strengthen and grow RFI Fellows program to create valuable innovations for both the University and the communities we serve.
- Launch RFI Student Fellows with the potential opportunity for tuition remission.
- Increase RFI's presence on each campus by hosting and partnering for in-person and online conversations, dialogues, scholarly presentations, etc.
- Assist with NU's efforts to consolidate systems and strengthen impact assessments across the campuses. RFI's work with each campus has provided the Institute with a unique perspective of the challenges and opportunities of University-wide endeavors.

Triple the number of communities actively collaborating with NU faculty and students.

RFI has connected 201 rural communities (Appendix III) with NU faculty and/or students. By 2020, RFI will increase this number to 600 communities (*with "communities" broadly defined, page 2*).

- Explore strategic partnership with the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) to strengthen and evolve the model.
- Evolve RFI Student Serviceship with faculty and department partners at all four campuses and use technology to make it scalable and sustainable while creating a community engagement cultural norm for the University.
- Partner with Nebraska's Department of Economic Development (DED) to increase the number of millennials who are engaged in and benefit from the Connecting Young Nebraskans (CYN) network. This partnership will elevate the status of CYN, DED and RFI as well as the University of Nebraska while keeping all partners engaged with young millennial leaders in rural Nebraska.
- Engage with faculty, students and partners focused on inclusion and diversity throughout a variety of topical areas such as leadership, entrepreneurship, health care, education, etc.

CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE

Triple future-focused scholarly output and partnerships at the intersections of faculty, student and community engagement.

- Create an index that serves as a leading indicator to monitor the vitality of rural areas. Establishing the “Rural Thriving Index” will require leadership from a tenure-leading or tenured faculty member and expert partners from across the NU system and beyond.
- Hire two tenure-leading or tenured faculty members as part of the RFI team to lead the research, development, execution and scholarly capacity of the Institute.
- Create undergraduate and graduate assistantship programs to strengthen research and teaching capacity.
- Evolve RFI Competitive Awards to increase scholarly output and external funding opportunities.
- Establish a future-focused research agenda for the Institute by engaging faculty, students and communities.

Secure a funding base from diverse sources.

- Partner with key NU faculty to secure extramural funding designed to establish a center for future-focused rural research and innovation.
- Co-create a fundraising strategy with the University of Nebraska Foundation.
- Engage grant-funding foundations and partners with an interest in rural innovation.
- Generate earned revenue to support RFI programs and initiatives.

CELEBRATE TO ELEVATE

Produce and/or stimulate 70 pieces of high-value, mass media content based on NU scholarship and impact that earn at least 1.8 million engagements.

- Provide high-quality, multimedia resources that elevate the impact of future-focused scholarly works for rural people and places and offer value-added information and tools that can be used by universities, colleges, communities and leaders.
- Launch a new interactive and dynamic website to house high-value content, provide a rural immersion experience and earn higher levels of engagement through a variety of mechanisms.
- Launch an awards program designed to recognize the contributions of scholars, leaders, entrepreneurs and funders who support a high-touch, high-tech rural future.

Triple the RFI “friends” database as well as RFI’s social media following to create a collective voice for rural.

- Report on the short- and long-term community, stakeholder and scholarly engagement and impact of funded projects, RFI Fellows, RFI initiatives and students engaged with RFI.
- Keynote and present nationally and internationally with a focus on scholarship, leadership and strategic foresight for rural America.

VISION & LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

To reach its ultimate vision for rural America, the Rural Futures Institute knows significant strategies are required. The University of Nebraska has the intellectual energy to help rural communities across the country establish and reach their goals. With a focus on leadership and scholarship, the long-term strategies on the following pages articulate the bold ideas necessary to reach a thriving high-touch, high-tech rural future by 2040.

VISION STORY

Rural America unleashes the full potential of its leadership, economic capacity, cultural creativity and natural resources, creating explicit value for small and large communities within and beyond its geography. Rural places have become the legitimate best choice for leaders, businesses, families, graduates and explorers. Rural people earn global respect for fueling the future of humankind.

With research and information at their fingertips as well as access to diverse perspectives and talents, **leaders choose** to thrive in rural America where they have multiple opportunities to make a significant impact on their communities and their world.

With access to a highly motivated, highly skilled workforce, technology and natural resources, **businesses choose** rural America to serve, launch, expand and compete globally.

With rural schools and daycares recruiting highly educated teachers, providing leading curriculum and creating unique engagement opportunities, **families choose** to raise children where they feel safe and connected to community.

With an instilled sense of grit and determination, **graduates choose** to stay in or return to rural America because of the leadership, employment, education and social opportunities that allow them to pursue their purpose.

With creative cultures and bustling main streets embedded in majestic landscapes, rich recreational opportunities and rugged outdoors, **explorers choose** to visit rural America to relax, reconnect and reenergize.

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES TO 2040

RURAL LEADERSHIP & FUTURING ACADEMY

Executive education-style programming presented as (1) an on-campus, tuition-based, instructor-led course focused on capacity building and leadership for future-focused rural leaders and (2) instructor-led, tuition-based online leadership course. This also includes a library of free, self-paced online classes. Incorporate a “hacking for rural” course where student teams work to solve complex problems critical to create thriving rural areas. Problem sets are crowdsourced from rural residents and leaders, and students refine their solutions in the real world.

DISTRIBUTED VIRTUAL LABORATORY FOR RURAL RESEARCH

Academic subject matter experts based in key research units and centers across the University assertively engage researchers to encourage them to focus on problems that impact rural areas. Using a model that is increasingly becoming the preferred approach of the National Science Foundation, RFI’s expert human “routers” also serve as a valuable resource to research teams by building interdisciplinary connections, bridging communication gaps across campuses and linking NU researchers with other academic researchers pursuing similar topics around the world.

RURAL CHALLENGE PRIZE

Major global prize competition designed to incentivize small teams to develop bold solutions to major problems facing rural communities. Teams can be faculty researchers, students, corporations and residents.

“The University of Nebraska’s Rural Futures Institute is a highly innovative, forward thinking entity that is catapulting the dedication, dialogue and direction needed to elevate and accentuate excellence in rural Nebraska and beyond. Its unparalleled ability to leverage partnerships and exploit talent is exactly what is needed to enhance the vitality of rural communities. Without a doubt, the RFI will be an increasingly critical player in advancing rural access to high quality health, education, and economic opportunity well into the future.”

–SUSAN M. SHERIDAN

DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES & SCHOOLS,
GEORGE HOLMES UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

APPENDIX I:

RURAL FUTURES INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA ENGAGEMENT

BY POSITION

60

ADMINISTRATORS

165

FACULTY

33

STAFF

BY INSTITUTION

23

UNIVERSITY
OF NEBRASKA
CENTRAL
ADMINISTRATION

39

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA AT
KEARNEY

125

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA-
LINCOLN

48

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA
MEDICAL CENTER

24

UNIVERSITY OF
NEBRASKA AT
OMAHA

“[RFI Competitive Awards] is important to me professionally because it gave me the opportunity to teach and mentor two graduate students in an applied research project.... I was able to expose students to rural communities to work in a team science environment to develop and implement mixed methods, community-engaged research project. This awards program also helped me to develop a line of research that I can grow in the future.”

–ATHENA RAMOS

COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER/INSTRUCTOR
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

ENGAGEMENT COLOR KEY

RFI COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Principal investigator of awarded project or reviewer of proposals.

RFI CONFERENCES

Involved in RFI's national conferences as a key advisor, member of a planning team or advisory committee and/or speaker.

RFI FELLOW

Current member of inaugural class of RFI Fellows.

COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP

Relationship outside of those previously mentioned that has and/or is resulting in action, service, programming, scholarship, etc., for the University of Nebraska and/or Nebraska's rural communities.

ADMINISTRATION

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Executive Vice President & Provost

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Former Interim Executive Director, Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska

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Assistant Director, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

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Executive Director, National Strategic Research Institute at the University of Nebraska

DAVID JACKSON ●

Vice Provost

ROBERTO LENTON ●

Former Executive Director, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

JAMES LINDER ●

Chief Strategist, University of Nebraska; President, University Technology Development Corporation

PETER McCORNICK ●

Executive Director, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

SAMUEL MEISELS ●

Founding Executive Director, Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska

J. B. MILLIKEN ● ●

Former President

JACKIE OSTROWICKI ●

Assistant Vice President & Director of Marketing & Strategic Communications

SANDY SCOFIELD ●

Former Director, Rural Initiative

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University of Nebraska Board of Regents**JIM McCLURG** ●

Former Chairman, District 1, University of Nebraska Board of Regents

BOB PHARES ●

District 7, University of Nebraska Board of Regents

BOB WHITEHOUSE ●

Chairman, District 4, University of Nebraska Board of Regents

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Director of Research, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

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Proposal Development Coordinator, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

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Fellows Coordinator, Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska

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Director of Communications

JESSE STARITA ● ●

Education Outreach Associate, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY

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ADMINISTRATION

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Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs

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Dean, College of Business & Technology

DOUG KRISTENSEN ● ●

Chancellor

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Dean, Natural & Social Sciences

DENNIS POTTHOFF ●

Former Associate Dean, College of Education

FACULTY

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Assistant Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences

MEGAN ADKINS-BOLLWIT ●

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MARC ALBRECHT ●

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TODD BARTEE ● ● ● ●

Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences

MATTHEW BICE ●

Assistant Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences

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Associate Professor, Biology

SONJA BICKFORD ●

Assistant Professor, Industrial Technology

TRAVIS BOURRET ●

Former Assistant Professor, Medical Microbiology & Immunology

GREGORY BROWN ● ●

Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences

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BREE DORITY ● ●

Associate Professor, Economics

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Professor, Chemistry

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Former Director, Honors Program

TRACI GUNDERSON ●

Assistant Director, International Education

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MARY HARNER ●

Associate Professor, Communications

KATE HEELAN ● ●

Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences

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Assistant Professor, Industrial Technology

L. ALLAN JENKINS ●

Professor, Economics

SUSAN JENSEN ●

Professor, Management

RON KONECNY ●

Professor, Management

“I believe the Rural Futures Institute is a critical element of the University of Nebraska system. It is one of the only organizations that focuses on the process of community engagement and working together. The University comes to life through RFI because we can work with communities to make a real impact—to share and to learn.”

–TODD BARTEE

PROFESSOR
KINESIOLOGY & SPORT SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY

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STAFF

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ODEE INGERSOLL ●

Director, Nebraska Business Development Center

RICHARD MOCARSKI ● ●

Director, Sponsored Programs & Research Development

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA—LINCOLN

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ADMINISTRATION

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Former Associate Dean & Associate Director, Nebraska Extension

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Assistant Vice Chancellor, Office of Research & Economic Development

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Emeritus Athletic Director, Athletics

HARVEY PERLMAN ●

Former Chancellor

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Director, Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program

“We are always excited to work with the Rural Futures Institute. They are on an important mission, and they are so deeply engaged with so many rural communities. They understand the challenges these communities face and are open to creative solutions to these challenges.”

–SHANE FARRITOR
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L.J. McELRAVY ● ●

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SHANE POTTER ●

Former Extension Educator, Nebraska State 4-H Office

LARKIN POWELL ● ●

Professor, School of Natural Resources

LISA PYTLIK ZILLIG ●

Research Associate Professor, Public Policy Center

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Associate Professor, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

MARY RITTENHOUSE ● ●

Assistant Professor, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

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PAUL SPRINGER ●

Associate Professor, Child, Youth & Family Studies

JEYAMKODAN SUBBIAH ●

Professor, Biological Systems Engineering

ZHENGHONG TANG ●

Associate Professor, Community & Regional Planning

ERIC THOMPSON ● ● ●

Director, Bureau of Business Research

DAVID ULFERTS ● ●

Interim Associate Research & Extension Director, Metro Extension District

DIANE VIGNA ●

Emeritus Associate Professor, Textiles, Merchandising & Fashion Design

ALLAN VYHNALEK ●

Extension Educator, Northeast Research & Extension Center

PETRA WAHLQVIST ●

Lecturer, Johnny Carson School of Theatre & Film

CARROLL WELTE ●

Extension Educator, Northeast Research & Extension Center

KIM WILSON ● ● ● ●

Director, Landscape Architecture Program

AMANDA WITTE ● ● ● ●

Project Manager, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families & Schools

YAN RUTH XIA ●

Professor, Child, Youth & Family Studies

HONGFENG YU ●

Assistant Professor, Engineering Computer Science

STAFF**ISTIAQUE ALI** ●

Database Developer & Analyst, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families & Schools

JUSTIN BAUGHER ●

IT Services Manager, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

TONYA BERNADT ●

Education & Outreach Specialist, School of Natural Resources

JIM CRANDALL ●

Coordinator, Agricultural Economics

MARYBETH CRAWFORD ●

External Relations Coordinator, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

NANCY EBERLE ●

Affiliate, Nebraska Extension

THOMAS FARRELL ● ●

Former Senior Advisor to the Chancellor, International Affairs

CATHERINE HAUPTMAN ●

Administration Associate, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

KEVIN MARTIN ●

Advisor, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

KIM MATTHEWS ●

M/P Temporary Worker, Bureau of Sociological Research

CHARLOTTE NARJES ●

Coordinator of Special Projects, Agricultural Economics

KATIE NIELAND ● ●

Assistant Director & Communications Coordinator, Center for Great Plains Studies

ERIN POOR ●

Education & Community Engagement Director, Lied Center for Performing Arts

RESHHELL RAY ● ● ● ●

Associate Director, East Campus Programs Student Involvement

REBECCA VOGT ●

Manager of Survey Research, Agricultural Economics

NICOLE WALL ●

Specialist Outreach & Research, School of Natural Resources

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

ENGAGEMENT COLOR KEY

RFI COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Principal investigator of awarded project or reviewer of proposals.

RFI CONFERENCES

Involved in RFI's national conferences as a key advisor, member of a planning team or advisory committee and/or speaker.

RFI FELLOW

Current member of inaugural class of RFI Fellows.

COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP

Relationship outside of those previously mentioned that has and/or is resulting in action, service, programming, scholarship, etc., for the University of Nebraska and/or Nebraska's rural communities.

ADMINISTRATION

ROBERT BARTEE ● ●

Vice Chancellor for External Affairs

H. DELE DAVIES ●

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

JEFFREY GOLD ●

Chancellor; Interim Chancellor, University of Nebraska at Omaha

GREGORY KARST ● ● ●

Executive Associate Dean, College of Allied Health Professions

CHRISTOPHER KRATOCHVIL ●

Associate Vice Chancellor for Clinical Research; Chief Medical Officer, UNeHealth

JENNIFER LARSEN ●

Vice Chancellor for Research

HOWARD LIU ● ●

Director, Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska; Assistant Vice Chancellor of Faculty Development

PAUL PAULMAN ●

Associate Dean for Clinical Skills and Quality, Family Medicine

JULIE SEBASTIAN ●

Dean, College of Nursing

JAMES TURPEN ●

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Executive Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

FACULTY

SHARON BAKER ●

Instructor, College of Nursing

MINDY CHADWELL ●

Assistant Professor, Munroe-Meyer Institute

LI-WU CHEN ●

Chair & Professor, College of Public Health; Director, Center for Health Policy Analysis & Rural Health Research

GARY COCHRAN ●

Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy

MARY E. CRAMER ● ●

Professor, College of Nursing

LYNDSAY DEAN ●

Instructor, College of Nursing

SHIRLEY DELAIR ●

Assistant Professor, College of Medicine

DEE ERNESTI ●

Instructor, College of Nursing

NANCY FOSTER ●

Assistant Professor, Munroe-Meyer Institute

JENENNE GESKE ●

Associate Professor, College of Medicine

BRANDON GRIMM ●

Director & Assistant Professor, Office of Public Health Practice

TERRY HUANG ●

Adjunct Professor, College of Public Health

MICHAEL HUCKABEE ● ●

Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs; Divisions Director & Professor, College of Allied Health Professions

PATRIK JOHANSSON ● ● ●

Associate Professor, College of Public Health; Director, Rural Health Education Network

HEIDI KEELE ●

Assistant Professor, College of Nursing

FAUSTO LOBERIZA ●

Former Co-Director, Clinical Translational Research Mentored Scholar Program

“Every opportunity to find new partners in workforce development is critical. I found the RFI Competitive Awards program to be supportive of innovation and willing to take risks to allow us to develop new pathways for rural students to find career opportunities in mental health.”

–HOWARD LIU

ASSISTANT VICE CHANCELLOR FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT
DIRECTOR OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER OF NEBRASKA
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

KIMBERLY McFARLAND ● ● ●

Associate Professor, College of Dentistry

JANE MEZA ●

Senior Associate Dean & Chair, College of Public Health

TED MIKULS ●

Umbach Professor, College of Medicine

DAVID PALM ●

Associate Professor, College of Public Health

AUDREY PAULMAN ●

Clinical Professor, College of Medicine

CAROL PULLEN ●

Professor, College of Nursing

ATHENA RAMOS ● ● ●

Community Health Program Manager/Instructor, College of Public Health

RISTO RAUTIAINEN ●

Professor, College of Public Health

JOHN REINHARDT ●

Professor, College of Dentistry

MICHAEL SITORIUS ● ●

Chair, College of Medicine

TARA SJUTS ●

Assistant Professor, Munroe-Meyer Institute

BRIGETTE SOLTIS-VAUGHAN ●

Nurse Practitioner, Specialist

ED VANDENBERG ●

Associate Professor, College of Medicine

SHINOBU WATANABE-GALLOWAY ●

Associate Professor, College of Public Health; Research Director for Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska

LANI ZIMMERMAN ●

Professor, College of Nursing

STAFF**KATHLEEN BRANDERT** ●

Workforce & Leadership Development Manager; Instructor, Office of Public Health Practice; Director, Great Plains Leadership Institute

ANTONIA CORREA ●

Outreach Project Specialist, College of Public Health

ROXANNA JOKELA ●

Former Director, Alumni Relations

ANN KRAFT ●

Program Coordinator, College of Medicine

JILL MACK ●

Office Associate, Allied Health, Health Service Administration Division

SONJA RUSSELL ● ●

Education Outreach Program Manager, College of Public Health

NATALIA TRINIDAD ●

Outreach Project Associate, College of Public Health

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

ENGAGEMENT COLOR KEY

RFI COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Principle Investigator of awarded project or reviewer of proposals.

RFI CONFERENCES

Involved in RFI's national conferences as a key advisor, member of a planning team or advisory committee and/or speaker.

RFI FELLOW

Current member of inaugural class of RFI Fellows.

COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP

Relationship outside of those previously mentioned that has and/or is resulting in action, service, programming, scholarship, etc., for the University of Nebraska and/or Nebraska's rural communities.

ADMINISTRATION

JOHN BARTLE ●

Dean, College of Public Affairs & Community Service

CANDICE BATTON ●

Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs

ROBERT BERNIER ●

Former Director, Nebraska Business Development Center

JOHN CHRISTENSEN ●

Former Chancellor

LYNN HARLAND ●

Associate Dean, College of Business Administration

CATHERINE LANG ● ●

State Director & Assistant Dean, Nebraska Business Development Center

B.J. REED ● ●

Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs

FACULTY

JOSEPH ALLEN ●

Associate Professor, College of Arts & Sciences

KIRAN BASTOLA ●

Associate Professor, College of Information Science & Technology

ROBERT BLAIR ● ●

Professor, College of Public Affairs & Community Service

GERT-JAN DE VREEDE ●

Former Distinguished Professor, College of Information Science & Technology

JEROME DEICHERT ●

Director, Center for Public Affairs Research

DOUGLAS DERRICK ●

Associate Professor, College of Information Science & Technology

DANAE DINKEL ●

Assistant Professor, College of Education

DAVID DROZD ●

Research Coordinator, College of Public Affairs & Community Service

ANNE HOBBS ●

Director, Juvenile Justice Institute, College of Public Affairs & Community Service

ALAN KOLOK ● ●

Professor, College of Arts & Sciences; Director, Nebraska Watershed Network (UNO); Director, Center for Environmental Health & Toxicology (UNMC)

GINAMARIE LIGON ●

Associate Professor, College of Business Administration

RONI REITER-PALMON ● ●

Professor & Director, College of Arts & Sciences

PAUL SATHER ●

Director, Service Learning Academy

LISA SCHERER ●

Associate Professor, College of Arts & Sciences

JEANNE SURFACE ● ● ●

Assistant Professor, College of Education; Former Rural Education Star Point Leader, Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska

RICHARD YODER ●

Manager, Nebraska Business Development Center

STAFF**KIRSTEN CASE** ●

Community Liaison, Service Learning Academy

“I have studied and engaged in the formulation and management of development activities in rural communities for more than thirty years. The University plays a critical role, serving as a partner with local entities; and in my opinion, the Rural Futures Institute provides the most promising strategy to coordinate the resources and expertise of the University of Nebraska campuses in these efforts.”

–ROBERT BLAIR

PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FOUNDATION

ENGAGEMENT COLOR KEY

RFI COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Principal Investigator of awarded project or reviewer of proposals.

RFI CONFERENCES

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RFI FELLOW

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COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP

Relationship outside of those previously mentioned that has and/or is resulting in action, service, programming, scholarship, etc., for the University of Nebraska and/or Nebraska's rural communities.

ADMINISTRATION

LORI BYRNE ●

Senior Vice President

BRIAN HASTINGS ●

President & Chief Executive Officer

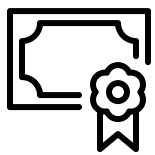
STAFF

DARLA HEGGEM ● ●

Director of Development, Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska

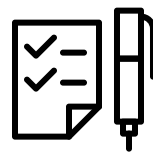
APPENDIX II:

RURAL FUTURES INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STUDENT IMPACT



1,207

RFI COMPETITIVE AWARDS



21

RFI INTERNS



38

RFI STUDENT SERVICESHIP



2

RFI GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Students may have participated in multiple roles.

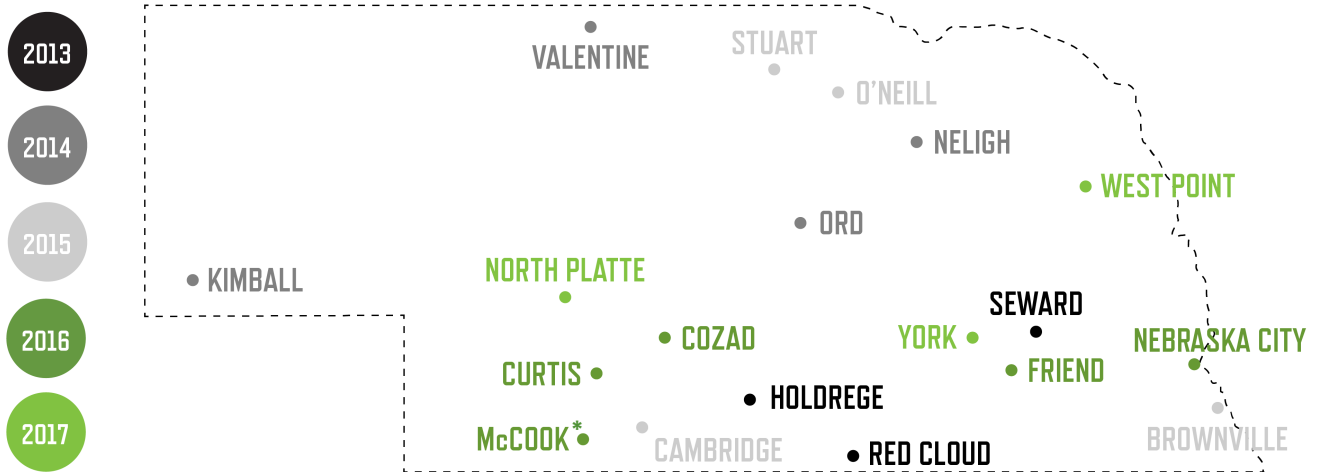
“It’s wonderful to discover and to know through research, but with the Rural Futures Institute you get to see it in another light. This is great information, but now what does it mean in the real world? What does it mean to these communities? What can they pull from this?”

–JORDYN BADER

RFI STUDENT SERVICESHIP INTERN SUMMER 2013
RFI GRADUATE ASSISTANT SUMMER 2014-2015

RFI STUDENT SERVICESHIP

HOST COMMUNITIES



*2016 & 2017

STUDENT SERVICESHIP INTERNS & HOMETOWNS

Andrew Ambriz
West Point, NE

Bethany Blackburn
Bassett, NE

Emily Coffey
Lincoln, NE

Kelsey Anderson
Elkhorn, NE

Tyan Boyer
Plainview, NE

Emily Compas
Omaha, NE

Darcy Arends
Lincoln, NE

Tyler Brown
Bloomfield, NE

Alyssa Dye
Alliance, NE

Jordyn Bader
Ainsworth, NE

Amanda Burau
Chicago, IL

Courtney Feagans
Rensselaer, IN

Jessica Bartak
Ainsworth, NE

Amanda Clymer
David City, NE

Collin Fleecs
Sutherland, NE

Sydney Hansen

Tekamah, NE

Riley Hickman

Rensselaer, IN

Jared Knobbe

Imperial, NE

Kenzee Kucera

Lawrence, NE

Sydni Lienemann

Princeton, NE

Brierly Kuhudzayi

Harare, Zimbabwe

Mackenzie Kuhudzayi

Middleville, MI

Kate Likens

Swanton, NE

Jamie Mashino

Spencer, NE

Brianna Meyer

Wolbach, NE

Trey Mogensen

Cedar Rapids, NE

Tanner Nelson

Bertrand, NE

Morgan Netz

Lincoln, NE

Paul O'Dell

Omaha, NE

Rachel Pettid

Omaha, NE

Jessica Remaly

Gretna, NE

Shelby Riggs

Mitchell, SD

Brooks Ronspies

Omaha, NE

Amber Ross

Callaway, NE

Courtney Ruda

North Platte, NE

Madeleine Schwinghammer

Cologne, MN

Michael Siefert

Hickman, NE

Jeff Story

Omaha, NE

Cassie Thornburg

Beatrice, NE

Emilia Woepfel

Firth, NE

RFI STUDENT INTERNS

Selena Aguilar**Grand Island, NE**

Journalism & Mass Communications
Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations

Alice Akers**Bodyke, County Clare, Ireland**

Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications
Agricultural Communications

Davis Behle**Kearney, NE**

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Agribusiness

Amber Burnheide**Howells, NE**

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Applied Science

Sam Conner**Lincoln, NE**

College of Engineering
Computer Engineering

Haley Dallmann**Blair, NE**

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Animal Science, International Agriculture,
& Entrepreneurship

Hannah Gaebel**Ashland, NE**

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Agronomy

Kodi Gehl**Ericson, NE**

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Agricultural Banking & Finance

Molli Hagge**Ord, NE**

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Agricultural Economics

Maci Hunke**Snyder, NE**

Education & Human Sciences
Elementary and Special Education

Kate Likens**Swanton, NE**

Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication
Agricultural Teacher Education

Jamie Mashino**Spencer, NE**

Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Agribusiness, Entrepreneurship

Julia Oestmann**Johnson, NE**

Journalism & Mass Communications
Advertising, Public Relations, & Applied
Communications

Natasya Ong**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Journalism & Mass Communications
Broadcast Journalism

Preston Peterson
Broken Bow, NE
 Law
 Juris Doctorate

Avery Sass
Firth, NE
 Journalism & Mass Communications
 Journalism

Micaela Rahe
Ceresco, NE
 Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication
 Agricultural Education - Leadership

Sarah Wollenburg
Beatrice, NE
 Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication
 Agricultural Teacher Education

Toni Rasmussen
Albion, NE
 Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication
 Agricultural Teacher Education

Morgan Zumpfe
Friend, NE
 Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
 Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Communication

Ashley Ray
Sutton, NE
 Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
 Agricultural Economics

RFI GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

Jordyn Bader
Omaha, NE
 Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
 Agricultural Economics

Bader, Jordyn. 2016. "The Influence of Projection Bias on Outcomes of Healthcare Financial Incentive Programs." Master's thesis, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Gustafson, C. R. & Bader, J. 2017. "Connecting the Dots: Improving Healthcare Recruitment Programs with Behavioral Economic Insights." Working paper, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Andrea Gebhart
Sioux Falls, SD
 Architecture
 Community & Regional Planning

Gebhart, A. 2013. "Planning the Future of Connecting Young Nebraskans: The Evolution of a Firtual Community." Master's professional project, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

APPENDIX III:

RURAL FUTURES INSTITUTE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ENGAGEMENT COLOR KEY

RFI COMPETITIVE AWARDS

Community participated in RFI Competitive Awards project at some level of engagement.

RFI Rural Regional Forums

Community hosted an RFI Rural Regional Forum in 2014 or 2016 and/or had a resident attend as a participant.

RFI FELLOW

Community of RFI Community Innovation Fellow.

RFI Student Serviceship

Community has hosted RFI Student Serviceship intern since 2013.

Connecting Young Nebraskans

Community has hosted a CYN summit or professional development workshop and/or has at least one resident who serves on the CYN steering team and/or has attended a CYN event.

The following list represents only geographic localities, but RFI will be expanding this list to represent its broader definition of “community” (page 2).

- AINSWORTH, NE ●
- ALBION, NE ● ●
- ALDA, NE ●
- ALLIANCE, NE ● ● ●
- AMES, IA ●
- AMHERST, NE ● ●
- ARCADIA, NE ●
- ARNOLD, NE ● ●
- ASHLAND, NE ● ●
- ATKINSON, NE ●
- AUBURN, NE ● ● ●
- AURORA, NE ●
- AUSTIN, TX ●
- AXTELL, NE ●
- AYR, NE ●
- BANCROFT, NE ●
- BASSETT, NE ●
- BEATRICE, NE ● ●
- BELLEVUE, NE ● ●
- BENEDICT, NE ●
- BENKELMAN, NE ●
- BERTRAND, NE ●

BERWYN, NE ● ●	CRESTON, IA ●
BINGHAM, NE ●	CRETE, NE ● ●
BLAIR, NE ● ●	CURTIS, NE ● ● ●
BLUE SPRINGS, NE ●	DAKOTA CITY, NE ●
BRADSHAW, NE ●	DANNEBROG, NE ●
BROCK, NE ●	DAVID CITY, NE ●
BROKEN BOW, NE ● ● ● ●	DENTON, NE ●
BROWNVILLE, NE ● ●	DESHLER, NE ●
BRUNING, NE ●	DEWITT, NE ●
BRUNO, NE ●	DILLER, NE ●
BURWELL, NE ● ●	EAGLE, NE ● ●
BUSHNELL, NE ●	EDMORE, ND ●
BUTTE, NE ●	ELBA, NE ●
CAMBRIDGE, NE ● ● ●	ELGIN, NE ●
CARROLL, IA ●	ELKHORN, NE ●
CENTER, NE ● ●	ELLENDALE, ND ●
CENTRAL CITY, NE ● ● ●	ELM CREEK, NE ● ● ●
CERESCO, NE ●	EUSTIS, NE ●
CHADRON, NE ● ● ●	EXETER, NE ● ●
CHAPPELL, NE ● ●	FAIRFIELD, NE ●
CLARKSON, NE ●	FAITH, ND ●
CLAY CENTER, NE ●	FALLS CITY, NE ● ●
CLEARWATER, KS ●	FIRTH, NE ●
CODY, NE ●	FORDYCE, NE ●
COLUMBUS, NE ● ● ●	FREMONT, NE ● ● ●
CONCORD, NE ●	FRIEND, NE ● ● ●
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA ●	FURNAS-HARLAN, NE ●
COZAD, NE ● ● ●	GENEVA, NE ● ●
CRAWFORD, NE ●	GERING, NE ●
CREIGHTON, NE ● ●	GIBBON, NE ●

- GOTHENBURG, NE ●
- GRAND ISLAND, NE ● ● ●
- GRANT, NE ●
- GREELEY, NE ●
- GREGORY, SD ●
- HALSEY, NE ●
- HARRISON, NE ●
- HARTINGTON, NE ●
- HASTINGS, NE ● ● ●
- HAYES CENTER, NE ●
- HEBRON, NE ● ● ●
- HEMINGFORD, NE ●
- HENDERSON, NE ●
- HICKMAN, NE ●
- HITCHCOCK COUNTY, NE ●
- HOLDREGE, NE ● ● ● ●
- HOOPER, NE ●
- HOT SPRINGS, SD ●
- HOWELLS, NE ●
- HUMBOLDT, NE ●
- HUMPHREY, NE ●
- HURON, SD ●
- HYANNIS, NE ●
- IMPERIAL, NE ● ●
- INMAN, KS ●
- JANSEN, NE ●
- JOHNSON, NE ●
- JULESBURG, CO ●
- KEARNEY, NE ● ● ●
- KIMBALL, NE ● ● ●
- LA JUNTA, CO ●
- LA VISTA, NE ●
- LAUREL, NE ●
- LEXINGTON, NE ● ● ●
- LINCOLN, NE ● ●
- LITCHFIELD, NE ●
- LOUP CITY, NE ●
- LYONS, NE ● ●
- MARQUETTE, NE ●
- McCOOK, NE ● ● ●
- MEAD, NE ● ●
- MINDEN, NE ● ● ●
- MONTROSE, SD ●
- MULLEN, NE ●
- MURRAY, NE ●
- NEBRASKA CITY, NE ● ● ● ●
- NELIGH, NE ● ● ● ● ●
- NELSON, NE ●
- NEMO, SD ●
- NEWELL, SD ●
- NEWMAN GROVE, NE ●
- NIOBRARA, NE ●
- NORFOLK, NE ● ● ●
- NORRIS SCHOOLS, NE ●
- NORTH BEND, NE ●
- NORTH PLATTE, NE ● ● ● ●
- OGALLALA, NE ● ●
- OMAHA, NE ● ● ●
- O'NEILL, NE ● ● ●
- ORD, NE ● ● ● ● ●

OSHKOSH, NE ●	STAPLEHURST, NE ●
OXFORD, NE ●	STAPLETON, NE ●
PENDER, NE ●	STROMSBURG, NE ●
PERU, NE ●	STUART, NE ● ● ●
PIERCE, NE ●	SUTHERLAND, NE ●
PILGER, NE ●	SWANTON, NE ●
PLATTSMOUTH, NE ●	SYRACUSE, NE ●
PLEASANTON, NE ●	TAYLOR, NE ●
PLYMOUTH, NE ●	TECUMSEH, NE ● ●
RANDOLPH, NE ●	TEKAMAH, NE ●
RAVENNA, NE ●	THAYER COUNTY, NE ●
RAYMOND, NE ●	THEDFORD, NE ● ●
RED CLOUD, NE ● ● ●	UPLAND, NE ●
ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE, SD ●	VALENTINE, NE ● ● ● ●
RUSHVILLE, NE ●	VALPARAISO, NE ●
SALINA, KS ●	WACO, NE ●
SCHUYLER, NE ●	WAHOO, NE ● ●
SCOTIA, NE ●	WALLACE, NE ●
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE ● ● ●	WARROAD, MN ●
SCRIBNER, NE ●	WAYNE, NE ● ● ●
SEWARD, NE ● ●	WEeping WATER, NE ● ●
SIDNEY, NE ● ● ●	WESSINTON SPRINGS, SD ●
SIOUX CITY, NE ●	WEST POINT, NE ● ● ● ●
SIOUX FALLS, SD ●	WHITEWOOD, SD ●
SNYDER, NE ●	WILCOX-HILDRETH SCHOOLS, NE ●
SOUTH SIOUX CITY, NE ●	WINNETOON, NE ●
SPALDING, NE ●	WISNER, NE ●
SPRINGFIELD, NE ●	WOOD RIVER, NE ●
ST. PAUL, NE ● ●	YORK, NE ● ●
STANTON, NE ●	

APPENDIX IV:

RURAL FUTURES INSTITUTE COMPETITIVE AWARDS PARTNERS

BUSINESSES

Allied Health
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Cargill
DuPont Pioneer
HyVee
Nebraska Enterprise Fund
Nemaha County Hospital
RMC Laboratory at Mazeno
Rocky Mountain Laboratories
Xpanxion Technologies, LLC

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Buffalo Economic Development
Cherry County Economic Development
Health & Human Services
McCook Economic Development
Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement
Nebraska Department of Economic Development
Nebraska Department of Education
Nebraska Department of Labor
Nebraska Energy Office
Nebraska Game & Parks
Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association
Nebraska Juvenile Services Division
Nebraska Public Power District

Nebraska State Bar Association
Nebraska Tourism Commission
Ogallala Economic Development
Public Health Department
South Central Economic Development
Urban Development Department
USDA Rural Development
Valley County Economic Development

ORGANIZATIONS

Art Farm
Asian Cultural and Community Center
Box Butte Development Center
Cedar Point Biological Station
Center for Great Plains Studies
Center for Leadership Development
Center for Public Affairs
Center for Research & Development
Center for Rural Affairs
Center for Rural Entrepreneurship
El Comite Latino
Everyday Democracy
Foster Grandparent Program
Great Plains Ecotourism Coalition
GROW Nebraska
Habitat for Humanity
Hartley Neighborhood Association

Heartland Center for Leadership Development
 League of Nebraska Municipalities
 Lied Center for Performing Arts
 Main Street Beatrice
 Midlands Mentoring Partnership
 Midwest Theater
 NamibRand Nature Reserve
 Nebraska Alumni Association
 Nebraska Art Teachers Association
 Nebraska Association of County Officials
 Nebraska Campus Compact
 Nebraska Center For Applied Rural Innovation
 Nebraska Community Foundation
 Nebraskans for Civic Reform
 Neighbor Works
 North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
 North Platte Chamber of Commerce
 North Platte Concert Association
 Petrified Wood Art Museum
 Phelps County Development Corporation
 Platte Valley Literacy Association
 RUPRI
 Salina Art Center
 Senior Corps of America
 Sheldon Art Museum
 Southern Heights Food Forest
 The Aspen Institute
 The St. Francis Hospital Foundation

UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

Central Community College
 Chadron State College
 Doane University
 Duke University
 Grand Canyon University
 Iowa State University
 Louisiana State University
 Michigan State University
 Mount Empire Community College
 North Dakota State University
 Peru State College
 Purdue University
 Sinte Gleska University
 South Dakota State University
 University of Colorado
 University of Missouri
 University of Montana
 University of Virginia-Wise
 Wayne State College

APPENDIX V:

RURAL FUTURES INSTITUTE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

RFI's strategic planning process included three Rural Regional Forums (West Point, North Platte and Chadron), two community visits (Seward and West Point), interviews with 26 key stakeholders, roundtable discussions in two rural communities (McCook and Ord), with the RFI Fellows and at the UNK campus. Input from each step of the process provided valuable insights into the short- and long-term priorities outlined in the RFI's Strategic Plan.

RFI RURAL REGIONAL FORUMS

3 

STATES

75 

COMMUNITIES

478 

ATTENDEES

107 

PARTICIPANT COMMITMENTS
TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

63 

DEFINED ACTION STEPS FOR PARTICIPANTS
TO IMPLEMENT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

In September 2016 the Rural Futures Institute co-hosted three Rural Regional Forums with local steering committees in West Point, Neb., North Platte, Neb., and Chadron, Neb. The forums included overviews of RFI-funded projects, tours of the communities that highlighted successes, a “community visioning” process for area youth, discussions with business, education and health care leaders and group work that aimed to address challenges in each region.

Each of the events served as an initial listening session for RFI prior to entering the strategic planning process in December 2016. Understanding the most critical challenges in the three regions of the state was crucial. Housing, business development, leadership transition and recruitment of residents and professionals topped the list at all three events.

RFI hosted an initial round of Rural Regional Forums in the fall of 2014 in the cities of Broken Bow, Nebraska City and Scottsbluff.

RFI STRATEGIC PLAN COMMUNITY VISITS

Two community visits were conducted in December 2016 to expose RFI's strategic planning team to high-functioning, successful rural communities. The team toured Seward, Neb., and West Point, Neb., and met with key community leaders to better understand the challenges, organization and connections needed to drive progress in a rural community. The groups also discussed how the University of Nebraska has helped and can continue providing assistance as these communities work toward their desired futures.

SEWARD, NEBRASKA | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

Jason Berry

Co-Owner, Bottle Rocket Brewing Company

Col. Gerald "Jerry" Meyer

Historian, Nebraska National Guard Museum

Doug Brand

Vice President, Ag Lending, Jones National Bank & Trust Company; Board Member, Seward County Agricultural Society

Roger Reamer

Chief Executive Officer, Memorial Health Care Systems

Kurth Brashear

Vice President, Institutional Advancement & General Counsel, Concordia University

Jeanne Wiemer

Owner, Red Path Gallery & Tasting Room

Pat Colviron

Owner, Liberty House Bed & Breakfast, Antiques & Gifts

Johnathon Jank

President & CEO, Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership

Julia Marble

Owner & Instructor, Marble Music

WEST POINT, NEBRASKA | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2016

Kim Bearnes

Extension Educator, Northeast Research & Extension Center

Mary Lauritzen

Former Owner, Family Vision Center; Commissioner, Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education; Theater Renovation Champion

Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong

Executive Director, West Point Chamber of Commerce

Willis Mahannah

Editor, West Point News

Erv Eisenmenger

Entrepreneur & Innovator, West Point Design/West Point Implement, Inc.

Dave Wimmer

Former Business Owner, Wimmer's Meat Products Inc.

Ed Kaup

Ag Producer & Innovator, Ed Kaup Farms & Trucking

Harry Knobbe

Entrepreneur & Owner, Harry Knobbe Feedyards & Knobbe Commodities

Chris Kreikemeier

Manager, West Point Nielsen Center

Brian Kreikemeier

Entrepreneur, Founder & President, B&B Video Productions, The Wedding Storytellers & Best Point Web Design

RFI STRATEGIC PLAN INTERVIEWEES

Strategic planning consultants Jay Azarow and Lawrence Patrick conducted 26 individual and pair interviews to garner constructive feedback about the work of the Rural Futures Institute and perspective on the Institute's next steps. Interviewees included University of Nebraska faculty and administrators as well as partner institution faculty. Community leaders were also interviewed.

Greg Adams

Executive Director, Nebraska Community College Association

Sandra Barrera Fuentes

Assistant Extension Educator, Nebraska Extension, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Robert Bartee

Vice Chancellor for External Affairs, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Charles Bicak

Senior Vice Chancellor, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Mike Boehm

Vice President & Harlan Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Hank Bounds

President, University of Nebraska

Lydia Brasch

Senator, District 16, Nebraska Legislature

Howard W. Buffet

Assistant Professor of Practice, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Jim Cavaye

Professor & Program Director, Institute for Resilient Regions, University of Southern Queensland, Australia

Garry Clark

Manager of Nebraska Opportunity Fund, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority

Dele Davies

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Barry Dunn

President, South Dakota State University

Susan Fritz

Executive Vice President & Provost, University of Nebraska

Ronnie Green

Chancellor, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Spencer Hartman

Former Student Regent, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Chuck Hibberd

Dean, Nebraska Extension, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Doug Kristensen

Chancellor, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Adam Morfeld

Senator, District 46, Nebraska Legislature

Bob Phares

Regent, District 7, University of Nebraska Board of Regents

Jim Pillen

Regent, District 3, University of Nebraska Board of Regents

Kyle Ryan

Associate Professor, Creator and Co-Director, Children's Health, Activity & Nutrition Community Engagement (CHANCE) Initiative, Peru State College

Susan Sheridan

Director, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families & Schools, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Ernie Weyeneth

President, Richard P. Kimmel & Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Bob Whitehouse

Chairman, District 4, Board of Regents, University of Nebraska

Amanda Witte

Project Manager, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families & Schools, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Ron Yoder

Associate Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

RFI STRATEGIC PLAN ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS

Four facilitated roundtable discussions were conducted with University faculty and administrations as well as community leaders and residents to refine RFI's mission statement and gather reactions, thoughts and suggestions on drafted goals.

RFI FELLOWS | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

Todd Bartee

Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Robert Blair

Professor, College of Public Administration, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Randy Cantrell

Rural Sociologist, Rural Futures Institute, Nebraska Extension

Marty Fattig

CEO, Nemaha County Hospital

Tom Field (*special guest*)

Director, Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Melissa Garcia

Community Affairs Manager, Black Hills Energy

Rachael Herpel

Assistant Director, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

Greg Karst

Executive Associate Dean, College of Allied Health Professions, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Greg Ptacek

Director, Economic Development, City of Neligh

Reshell Ray

Associate Director, Student Involvement, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Robert Stowell

Lawyer & Owner, Stowell & Geweke, P.C., L.L.O.

Eric Thompson

Associate Professor & Director, Bureau of Business Research, College of Business, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Milan Wall

Co-Director, Heartland Center for Leadership Development

Kim Wilson

Professor & Director, Landscape Architecture Program, College of Architecture, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Jeff Yost

President & CEO, Nebraska Community Foundation

McCOOK, NEBRASKA | MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017

Andrew Ambriz, McCook

Director, McCook Economic Development Corp.

Ben Longnecker, McCook

Entrepreneur, Owner, Longnecker Jewelry

Cloyd Clark, McCook

Co-Chair, Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival

Jared Muehlenkamp, McCook

Owner, ACME Print and Design

Dale Dueland, McCook

Farmer & Board Member, McCook Community Foundation

Ashley Rice-Gerlach, McCook

Economic Development Consultant, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Ben Dutton, McCook

Extension Educator, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Carol Schlegel, McCook

Tourism Director, McCook/Red Willow County Visitors Bureau

Denise Garey, McCook

Health Educator, Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

Craig Softley, Hayes Center

Entrepreneur, Economic Development Coordinator, Hayes County

Ronda Graff, McCook

Coordinator, McCook Community Foundation Fund, YMCA & Gold Star Community Member

Jeff Gross, McCook

Principal, McCook High School

Karen Kliment-Thompson, McCook

Vice President, Ancillary Services, McCook Community Hospital

Lena Koebel, McCook

Business & Community Education Coordinator, Mid-Plains Community College

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY | MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017

Pete Kotsiopoulos

Senior Director of Development, University of Nebraska Foundation

Dena Beck

Business Consultant, Center for Rural Affairs

Peter Longo

Dean, College of Sciences, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Lisa Tschauner

Assistant Director, Center for Entrepreneurship & Rural Development

Richard MocarSKI

Director of Sponsored Programs, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Ben Malczyk

Assistant Professor, College of Natural & Social Sciences, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Tim Burkink

Dean, College of Business & Technology, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Louis Harper

Student, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Jane Ziebarth-Bovill

Associate Professor, College of Education, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Jeremy Kroeger

Student, University of Nebraska at Kearney

ORD, NEBRASKA | TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

Zeb Augustyn, Ord

Ag Loan Officer, First National Bank

Caleb Pollard, Ord

Co-Owner, Scratchtown Brewing Company

Ryan Broker, Ord

Nebraska State Outreach Director, U.S. Senator Ben Sasse

Crystal Ramm, Ord

Regional Coordinator, Central Community College, Ord Learning Center

Kristina Foth, Ord

Assistant Director, Valley County Economic Development, & Ord Area of Chamber Commerce

Robert Stowell, Ord

Lawyer & Owner, Stowell & Geweke, P.C., L.L.O.

Kristine Gale, Bassett

Development Coordinator, Nebraska Community Foundation

Josh Zangger, Kearney

General Manager, Sales & Research, Zangger Popcorn Hybrids

Dahn Hagge, Ord

Coordinator & Director, Golden Husk/Valley Performing Arts

Trevor Lee, Ord

Director, Valley Economic Development

Jason Moudry, Ord

Water Programs Specialist, Lower Loup Natural Resources District