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**
Serviceship 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.

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

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrators</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>University of Nebraska Central Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>University of Nebraska at Kearney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>University of Nebraska at Lincoln</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BY INSTITUTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Nebraska Central Administration</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nebraska at Kearney</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nebraska at Lincoln</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nebraska Medical Center</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Nebraska at Omaha</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“[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

Hank Bounds • •
President

Susan Fritz • • •
Executive Vice President & Provost

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

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

Robert Hinson •
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 McCormick •
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

BOARD

SPENCER HARTMAN • Former University of Nebraska–Lincoln Student Regent, 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

FACULTY

NICHOLAS BROZOVIC • Director of Policy, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

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

STAFF

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

SHAWN KASKIE • Fellows Coordinator, Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska

MELISSA LEE • 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

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

CHARLES BICAK • •
Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic & Student Affairs

TIM BURKINK •
Dean, College of Business & Technology

DOUG KRISTENSEN • •
Chancellor

PETER LONGO • • • •
Dean, Natural & Social Sciences

DENNIS POTTHOFF •
Former Associate Dean, College of Education

FACULTY

BRYCE ABBEY •
Assistant Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences

MEGAN ADKINS-BOLLWIT •
Associate Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences

MARC ALBRECHT •
Associate Professor, Biology

TODD BARTEE • • • •
Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences

MATTHEW BICE •
Assistant Professor, Kinesiology & Sports Sciences

NATE BICKFORD • •
Associate Professor, Biology
“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
CHRISTY KOSMICKI •
Lecturer, Art & Design

ANITA LORENTZEN •
Former Lecturer, English

WENDY McCARTY •
Associate Professor, Teacher Education

MATTHEW MIMS •
Associate Professor, Counseling & School Psychology

DUSTIN RANGLACK •
Assistant Professor, Biology

KAYE SORENSEN •
Senior Lecturer, Mathematics & Statistics

GERALDINE STIRTZ •
Emeritus Director, Office for Service Learning

ASHLEY WEETS •
Visiting Lecturer, Communications

STAFF

MARGARET ABELS •
Director, Health Science Programs

SARA BENNETT •
Business Consultant, Nebraska Business Development Center

ODEE INGERSOLL •
Director, Nebraska Business Development Center

RICHARD MOCARSKI •
Director, Sponsored Programs & Research Development
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA–LINCOLN

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

MIKE BOEHM •
Vice President & Harlan Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources

ARCHIE CLUTTER •
Dean, Agricultural Research Division

RICHARD EDWARDS • •
Director & Chair, Center for Great Plains Studies

SHANE FARRITOR • •
Executive Chairman of Board of Advisors, Nebraska Innovation Studio

RONNIE GREEN • •
Chancellor

TIFFANY HENG-MOSS •
Associate Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources

CHUCK HIBBERD • • •
Dean & Director, Nebraska Extension

LINDA MAJOR • •
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

SCOTT MICKELSEN • •
Former Associate Dean, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

NANCY MITCHELL •
Director of Undergraduate Education & Professor, College of Journalism & Mass Communications
ALAN MOELLER • • •
Former Assistant Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources

WAYNE MOORE • •
Former Associate Dean & Associate Director, Nebraska Extension

MONICA NORBY • • •
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Office of Research & Economic Development

TOM OSBORNE •
Emeritus Athletic Director, Athletics

SHELLEY ZABOROWSKI •
Executive Director, Nebraska Alumni Association

FACULTY

MARC ANDREINI •
Former Senior Research Scientist, Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute at the University of Nebraska

BRET BETNAR •
Former Assistant Professor, College of Architecture

RICHARD BISCHOFF •
Department Chair, Child, Youth & Family Studies

BECKY BOESEN •
Former Lecturer, Lied Center for Performing Arts

HOWARD W. BUFFETT • • •
Assistant Professor of Practice, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources

MARK BURBACH • •
Geoscientist, School of Natural Resources

CHERYL BURKHART-KRIESEL • • •
Extension Associate Professor, Panhandle Research & Extension Center

TRENTEE BUSH •
Associate Professor, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

ROGER BUTTERS •
Former Associate Professor, College of Business Administration

RODRIGO CANTARERO •
Associate Professor, Community & Regional Planning

SUSAN SHERIDAN • •
Director, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families & Schools

CHERYL BURKHART-KRIESEL • • •
Extension Associate Professor, Panhandle Research & Extension Center

ELLEN WEISSINGER •
Emeritus Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs & Professor of Educational Administration

RON YODER •
Associate Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources

WELDON SLEIGHT •
Emeritus Dean, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

STEVE WALLER •
Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources

STEVE WALLER •
Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources

ALAN MOELLER • • •
Former Assistant Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
RANDY CANTRELL • • •
Rural Sociologist, Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska

GUSTAVO CARLO •
Adjunct Professor, Psychology

MIGUEL CARRANZA •
Emeritus Professor, Sociology

GINA FE CAUSIN • •
Former Assistant Professor, Nutrition & Health Sciences

VIRGINIA CHAIDEZ •
Assistant Professor, Nutrition & Health Sciences

JEFFREY DAY •
Professor, College of Architecture

MARIA DE GUZMAN •
Associate Professor, Child, Youth & Family Studies

KIRK DOMBROWSKI •
Professor, Sociology

TONIA DURDEN •
Former Assistant Professor, Child, Youth & Family Studies

BEN DUTTON • •
Associate Extension Educator, West Central Research & Extension Center

LINDSEY ELLSWORTH-BAHE •
Associate Professor & Interim Director, Interior Design

DOTTIE EVANS •
Former Lecturer, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

HELEN FAGAN •
Lecturer, Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

MICHAEL FARRELL •
Assistant Professor of Practice, Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

THOMAS FIELD • • •
Director, Engler Agribusiness Entreprenuership 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
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF ADVISORS
NEBRASKA INNOVATION STUDIO
MICHAEL FORSBERG •
Assistant Professor of Practice, Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

KRYSLE FRIESEN •
Former Instructor, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

JILL GOEDEKEN •
Assistant Extension Educator, Northeast Research & Extension Center

JESSYE GOERTZ •
Extension Educator, West Central Research & Extension Center

ASHU GURU •
Assistant Professor, 4-H Youth Development

CHRISTOPHER GUSTAFSON • • •
Assistant Professor, Agricultural Economics

JACKIE GUZMAN •
Extension Educator, Panhandle Research & Extension Center

ANITA HALL • •
Emeritus Extension Educator, Northeast Research & Extension Center

CONNIE HANCOCK • •
Extension Educator, Panhandle Research & Extension Center

LINDSAY HASTINGS • • •
Director, Nebraska Human Resources Institute; Assistant Professor, Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

TIMOTHY HEMSATH •
Associate Professor, College of Architecture

PETER HIND •
Former Assistant Professor, College of Architecture

SOO-YOUNG HONG •
Associate Professor, Child, Youth & Family Studies

TANYA IHLO •
Research Associate Professor, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families & Schools

JESSICA JONES •
Associate Extension Educator, Southeast Research & Extension Center

DENNIS KAHL • •
Emeritus Extension Educator, Southeast Research & Extension Center

MICHELLE KANG •
Associate Professor, Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication

DAVID KARLE •
Assistant Professor, College of Architecture

SARAH KARLE •
Assistant Professor, Landscape Architecture

DEEPAK KESHWANI • •
Associate Professor, Biological Systems Engineering

JENNIFER KESHWANI •
Assistant Professor, Biological Systems Engineering

NATHAN KIL •
Former Visiting Professor, College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources

KAREN KUNC •
Professor, School of Art, Art History & Design

GINA KUNZ •
Research Associate Professor, Nebraska Center for Research on Children, Youth, Families & Schools
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHARON KUSKA</strong></td>
<td>Professor, College of Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ROBERT KUZELKA</strong></td>
<td>Emeritus Associate Professor, School of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BRADLEY LUBBEN</strong></td>
<td>Extension Associate Professor, Agricultural Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRED LUTHANS</strong></td>
<td>Emeritus Distinguished Professor, College of Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GINA MATKIN</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor, Agricultural Leadership, Education &amp; Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>L.J. McELRAVY</strong></td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Agricultural Leadership, Education &amp; Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JESSICA MEESKE</strong></td>
<td>Former Clinical Instructor, College of Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LINDA MOODY</strong></td>
<td>Director, Center for Civic Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YUNWOO NAM</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor, Community &amp; Regional Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIMOTHY NELSON</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor, Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANGELA PALMER-WACKERLY</strong></td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Communication Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LISA PENNISI</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor of Practice, School of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHANE POTTER</strong></td>
<td>Former Extension Educator, Nebraska State 4-H Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LARKIN POWELL</strong></td>
<td>Professor, School of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LISA PYTLIK ZILLIG</strong></td>
<td>Research Associate Professor, Public Policy Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BRAD RAMSDALE</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARY RITTENHOUSE</strong></td>
<td>Assistant Professor, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARIlyn SCHlake</strong></td>
<td>Assistant Extension Educator, Agricultural Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHYLLIS SCHOENHOLZ</strong></td>
<td>Emeritus Extension Educator, Southeast Research &amp; Extension Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ANTHONY SCHUTZ</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor, College of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEE SHERRY</strong></td>
<td>Extension Educator, Northeast Research &amp; Extension Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JESSICA SHOEMAKER</strong></td>
<td>Assistant Professor, College of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JOLENE SMYTH</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor, Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JORDAN SOLIZ</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor, Communication Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PAUL SPRINGER</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor, Child, Youth &amp; Family Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JEYAMKODAN Subbiah</strong></td>
<td>Professor, Biological Systems Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>zhENGHONG TANG</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor, Community &amp; Regional Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ERIC THOMPSON</strong></td>
<td>Director, Bureau of Business Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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

RESELL 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

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
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
“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
“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
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

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
“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

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

*2016 & 2017
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Hansen</td>
<td>Tekamah, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley Hickman</td>
<td>Rensselaer, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jared Knobbe</td>
<td>Imperial, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenzee Kucera</td>
<td>Lawrence, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydni Lienemann</td>
<td>Princeton, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brierly Kuhudzayi</td>
<td>Harare, Zimbabwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackenzie Kuhudzayi</td>
<td>Middleville, MI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Likens</td>
<td>Swanton, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie Mashino</td>
<td>Spencer, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brianna Meyer</td>
<td>Wolbach, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trey Mogensen</td>
<td>Cedar Rapids, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanner Nelson</td>
<td>Bertrand, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morgan Netz</td>
<td>Lincoln, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul O’Dell</td>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachel Pettid</td>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Remaly</td>
<td>Gretna, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelby Riggs</td>
<td>Mitchell, SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooks Ronspies</td>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amber Ross</td>
<td>Callaway, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courtney Ruda</td>
<td>North Platte, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeleine Schwinghammer</td>
<td>Cologne, MN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Siefert</td>
<td>Hickman, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Story</td>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassie Thornburg</td>
<td>Beatrice, NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emilia Woeppel</td>
<td>Firth, NE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RFI STUDENT INTERNS

Selena Aguilar  
Grand Island, NE  
Journalism & Mass Communications  
Journalism, Advertising and Public Relations

Kodi Gehl  
Ericson, NE  
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources  
Agricultural Banking & Finance

Alice Akers  
Bodyke, County Clare, Ireland  
Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communications  
Agricultural Communications

Molli Hagge  
Ord, NE  
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources  
Agricultural Economics

Davis Behle  
Kearney, NE  
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources  
Agribusiness

Maci Hunke  
Snyder, NE  
Education & Human Sciences  
Elementary and Special Education

Amber Burnheide  
Howells, NE  
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources  
Applied Science

Kate Likens  
Swanton, NE  
Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication  
Agricultural Teacher Education

Sam Conner  
Lincoln, NE  
College of Engineering  
Computer Engineering

Jamie Mashino  
Spencer, NE  
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources  
Agribusiness, Entrepreneurship

Haley Dallmann  
Blair, NE  
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources  
Animal Science, International Agriculture, & Entrepreneurship

Julia Oestmann  
Johnson, NE  
Journalism & Mass Communications  
Advertising, Public Relations, & Applied Communications

Hannah Gaebel  
Ashland, NE  
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources  
Agronomy

Natasya Ong  
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
Journalism & Mass Communications  
Broadcast Journalism
PRESTON PETERSON
Broken Bow, NE
Law
Juris Doctorate

MICALEA RAHE
Ceresco, NE
Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication
Agricultural Education - Leadership

TONI RASMUSSEN
Albion, NE
Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication
Agricultural Teacher Education

ASHLEY RAY
Sutton, NE
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Agricultural Economics

ANDREA GEBHART
Sioux Falls, SD
Architecture
Community & Regional Planning

JOYNDYN BADER
Omaha, NE
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Agricultural Economics

AVERY SASS
Firth, NE
Journalism & Mass Communications
Journalism

SARAH WOLLENBURG
Beatrice, NE
Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication
Agricultural Teacher Education

MORGAN ZUMPFE
Friend, NE
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources
Agricultural & Environmental Sciences Communication


**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 •
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BERWYN, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BINGHAM, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLAIR, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLUE SPRINGS, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRADSHAW, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROCK, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROKEN BOW, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROWNVILLE, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUNING, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUNO, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BURWELL, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSHNELL, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUTTE, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMBRIDGE, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARROLL, IA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTER, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CENTRAL CITY, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CERESCO, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHADRON, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPPELL, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLARKSON, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAY CENTER, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLEARWATER, KS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CODY, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLUMBUS, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCORD, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COZAD, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAWFORD, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREIGHTON, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRESTON, IA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRETE, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURTIS, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAKOTA CITY, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DANNEBROG, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVID CITY, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENTON, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESHLER, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEWITT, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DILLER, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAGLE, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDMORE, ND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELBA, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELGIN, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELKHORN, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELLENDALE, ND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELM CREEK, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUSTIS, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXETER, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIRFIELD, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAITH, ND</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FALLS CITY, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRTH, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORDYCE, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMONT, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIEND, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FURNAS-HARLAN, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENEVA, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERING, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIBBON, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Towns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gothenburg, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Island, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greeley, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gregory, SD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halsey, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hartington, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hastings, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayes Center, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebron, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemingford, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henderson, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hickman, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitchcock County, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holdrege, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooper, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Springs, SD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howells, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humboldt, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphrey, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huron, SD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyannis, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperial, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inman, KS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jansen, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julesburg, CO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kearney, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimball, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Junta, CO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Vista, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurel, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexington, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litchfield, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loup City, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyons, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquette, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCook, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mead, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minden, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montrose, SD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mullen, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska City, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neligh, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nelson, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nemo, SD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newell, SD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newman Grove, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niobrara, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norfolk, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norris Schools, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Bend, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Platte, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogallala, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omaha, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Neill, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ord, NE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OSHKOSH, NE •
OXFORD, NE •
PENDER, NE •
PERU, NE •
PIERCE, NE •
PILGER, NE •
PLATTSMOUTH, NE •
PLEASANTON, NE •
PLYMOUTH, NE •
RANDOLPH, NE •
RAVENNA, NE •
RAYMOND, NE •
RED CLOUD, NE • • •
ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE, SD •
RUSHVILLE, NE •
SALINA, KS •
SCHUYLER, NE •
SCOTIA, NE •
SCOTTSBLUFF, NE • • •
SCRIBNER, NE •
SEWARD, NE • •
SIDNEY, NE • • •
SIoux CITY, NE •
SIoux FALLS, SD •
SNYDER, NE •
SOUTH SIoux CITY, NE •
SPALDING, NE •
SPRINGFIELD, NE •
ST. PAUL, NE • •
STANTON, NE •
STAPLEHURST, NE •
STAPLETON, NE •
STROMSBURG, NE •
STUART, NE • • •
SUTHERLAND, NE •
SWANTON, NE •
SYRACUSE, NE •
TAYLOR, NE •
TEcumSEH, NE • •
TEKAMAH, NE •
THAYER COUNTY, NE •
THEFDORd, NE • • •
UPLAND, NE •
VALENtINE, NE • • •
VALPARAISO, NE •
WACO, NE •
WAHOO, NE • •
WALLACE, NE •
WARROAD, MN •
WAYNE, NE • • •
WEEPING WATER, NE • •
WESSINTON SPRINGS, SD •
WEST POINT, NE • • •
WHITEWOOD, SD •
WILCOx-HILDRETH SCHOOLS, NE •
WINNETOON, NE •
WISNER, NE •
WOOD RIVER, NE •
YORK, NE • •
APPENDIX IV:
RURAL FUTURES INSTITUTE
COMPETITIVE AWARDS PARTNERS

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

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

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

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

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATES</td>
<td>COMMUNITIES</td>
<td>ATTENDEES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>478</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARTICIPANT COMMITMENTS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES</td>
<td>DEFINED ACTION STEPS FOR PARTICIPANTS TO IMPLEMENT IN THEIR COMMUNITIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong
Executive Director, West Point Chamber of Commerce

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

Ed Kaup
Ag Producer & Innovator, Ed Kaup Farms & Trucking

Harry Knobbe
Entrepreneur & Owner, Harry Knobbe Feedyards & Knobbe Commodities

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

Willis Mahannah
Editor, West Point News

Dave Wimmer
Former Business Owner, Wimmer’s Meat Products Inc.

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

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

Melissa Garcia  
Community Affairs Manager, Black Hills Energy

Tom Field (special guest)  
Director, Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Program, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

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

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

Jeff Yost  
President & CEO, Nebraska Community Foundation
Andrew Ambriz, McCook
Director, McCook Economic Development Corp.

Cloyd Clark, McCook
Co-Chair, Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival

Dale Dueland, McCook
Farmer & Board Member, McCook Community Foundation

Ben Dutton, McCook
Extension Educator, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Denise Garey, McCook
Health Educator, Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department

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

Ben Longnecker, McCook
Entrepreneur, Owner, Longnecker Jewelry

Jared Muehlenkamp, McCook
Owner, ACME Print and Design

Ashley Rice-Gerlach, McCook
Economic Development Consultant, Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Carol Schlegel, McCook
Tourism Director, McCook/Red Willow County Visitors Bureau

Craig Softley, Hayes Center
Entrepreneur, Economic Development Coordinator, Hayes County
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT KEARNEY | MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017

Pete Kotsiopulos
Senior Director of Development, University of Nebraska Foundation

Peter Longo
Dean, College of Sciences, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Richard Mocarski
Director of Sponsored Programs, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Tim Burkin
Dean, College of Business & Technology, 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

Dena Beck
Business Consultant, Center for Rural Affairs

Lisa Tschauner
Assistant Director, Center for Entrepreneurship & Rural Development

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

Louis Harper
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