

Northeast Community College

# Connections

Fall/Winter 2014

## A Global Reach

**Northeast Community College offers Global Opportunities as part of its Institutional Priorities and students take full advantage. Pg. 3**

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# A Message from President Chipps

Dear Friends,

There are many ways to measure student success. Achieving a good grade on a test, scoring the winning shot in an athletic contest, or receiving a degree or certificate at graduation are just a few. But at Northeast Community College, we measure student success in many other ways.

Day in and day out, I have the opportunity to witness our faculty and staff demonstrating the skills they possess; going out of their way to assist our students with their tasks. We work hard to see that the only challenge our students face is with their course work and that their college experience will be successful and fruitful.

Northeast Community College offers a number of resources to help students succeed in the classroom or as they begin to develop the skills that will lead to a successful career. Our faculty and staff show their care and concern for each individual student and make them feel welcome.

Northeast continues to move forward as we look toward the future and our role in serving our students. We have been engaged in redesigning students' educational experiences through the collaborative efforts of our administration, faculty and staff. This includes areas such as the establishment of an advising and academic support center, a math success center, and drop-in tutoring in several classes with expanded evening and weekend hours.

There is an important component to our identity as Northeast Community College. Look closely at our middle name "Community." You may have heard the phrase, "It takes a village to raise a child." The same holds true here, but we would say that 'It takes a community to see our students succeed.'

It takes all of us at Northeast – faculty and staff – to ensure that our students receive a high quality education while they are here and are well prepared to achieve their career goals.



*Dr. Michael R. Chipps*

Dr. Michael R. Chipps, President

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Connections Magazine is published twice a year for Northeast Community College alumni and friends of the College.

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# Northeast welcomes the world to Nebraska

Northeast Community College students, faculty and staff are seeing the world in a whole new way. Over the past several years, each group has had several opportunities to become globally engaged. Students have said they have a better understanding in knowing that they have more in common with global citizens than they first believed. Although language and cultures vary, students, faculty and staff have discovered that the needs, wants and values of those they have met are quite comparable.

Global Educational Opportunities is one of eight institutional priorities at Northeast. The priority calls for developing opportunities for students and faculty to engage in learning activities designed to enhance cultural awareness and increase workforce competitiveness.

Due to its reputation and the level of quality of education that is offered, there continues to be growth in the number of international students looking to attend Northeast Community College as their school of choice for postsecondary education.

There are 40 international students from 16 countries attending Northeast Community College during the fall 2014 semester. This does not include students who have residency status, but who are first generation Americans.

"I think Northeast offers the perfect environment for Nebraska students to take that first step onto the global stage," said Ted Myers, a Northeast advisor who works with international students. "That's whether they are a first time traveler abroad with one of the College sponsored trips or simply willing to be roommates with one of the international

students. Local resident students are experiencing so many world cultures without necessarily leaving campus."

Wendonda Julien Koala, of Burkina Faso, said a friend from his home country who attended Northeast recommended that he do the same. "I am so happy to be here," Koala said. "All my teachers are so kind and professional."

The freshman nursing student wants to use his degree to help others in need. "For me, nursing will permit me to take care of people. I want to become a professional and help people in Africa who really need assistance."

Myers said as a region largely driven by the agriculture industry, students get a better understanding of how communities, farmers and others deal with global concerns on a daily basis. "Whether it is commodity prices in South America or contracts sold in Europe or China, Northeast seeks to include that global perspective into the curriculum that it teaches, as well as with the many opportunities provided to the students. Having international students on our campus is a natural step in growing our global capacity as a school." ■



*ABOVE: Diego Rubio, Bogota, Columbia, (center) spreads caramel on sweet milk cheese for Philip Herman, Norfolk, at Northeast Community College's 11th Annual Culture Show at the Lifelong Learning Center on the Norfolk campus. The event features food, entertainment, and parade of flags representing each of the international students.*

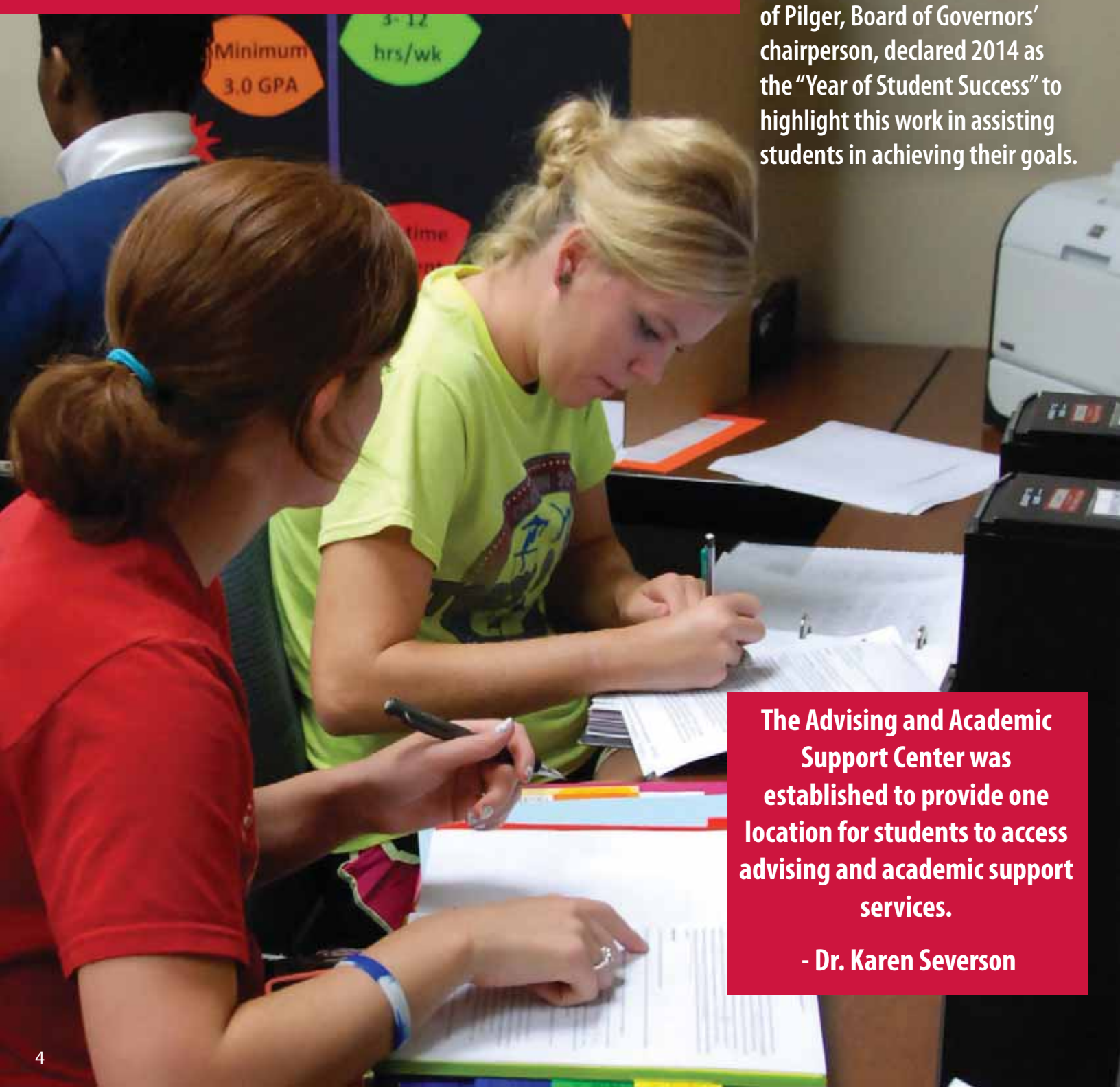
*LEFT: Students gaze up at the flags of the countries of international students attending Northeast Community College this year. The flags are on display inside the atrium of the College Welcome Center on the Norfolk campus. Pictured (from left, back row) are Sarah Kadim, Iraq, Andres Garcia, Colombia, and Dable Akounato Yobo, Cote d' Ivoire (Ivory Coast). Front row, (left) Benao Kobi Hyppolite and Wendonda Julien Koala, both of Burkina Faso. **Flags also pictured on the front cover.***



# 2014: The Year of Student Success

Northeast Community College is providing expanded opportunities for students and the community.

“Success Starts Here” is more than just a tag line at Northeast Community College. It’s a belief shared by the entire faculty and staff in which they ensure that each and every student has the opportunity to complete their education in order for them to be successful. John W. Davies, of Pilger, Board of Governors’ chairperson, declared 2014 as the “Year of Student Success” to highlight this work in assisting students in achieving their goals.



**The Advising and Academic Support Center was established to provide one location for students to access advising and academic support services.**

**- Dr. Karen Severson**

## HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED

A number of initiatives have been instituted at Northeast Community College with student success and retention as the primary focus. "The Advising and Academic Support Center was established, providing one location for students to access advising and academic support services," said Dr. Karen Severson, vice president of student services.

"The space was redesigned to allow for group tutoring, as well as a centralized student study space. Evening and weekend hours were also established to better meet student needs.

We also utilized grant funds to pilot drop-in tutoring in 17 courses over the next academic year. In addition, we expanded tutoring hours to include evenings and weekends."

A Math Success Center was established for all students needing help with math instruction. Math faculty members spend time in the lab, along with paid professional math tutors, to help students be successful in their math classes.

## REVERSE TRANSFER

Earning an associate's degree is a milestone in anyone's life and a proud accomplishment that anyone would love to have on their resume. But there are some students who transfer to four-year colleges or universities before they complete a degree. Some of these students eventually earn a bachelor's degree through a combination of credits from both institutions. However, some students may not earn the bachelor's degree due to situations beyond their control. Recognizing that many students leave Northeast without completing a degree, the College has begun an effort called a "reverse transfer" initiative in partnership with Nebraska's Coordinating Commission on Postsecondary Education and the state's other community colleges.

"This program is designed to award associate's degrees to students who



transfer vertically from community colleges to four-year colleges prior to completion of a degree," said John Blaylock, vice president of educational services. "By transferring courses from the four-year college back to Northeast, the associate's degree may be awarded to the student. It is important for employers to see some type of degree attainment. If a bachelor's degree is the student's goal, that's great. However, if something interferes with that goal, the reverse transfer process may be able to help the student with degree completion."

The College has identified more than 100 students who may be eligible for this initiative.



## GRADUATION SUCCESS

Northeast Community College keeps in contact with its students to ensure that they have found employment or transferred to a four-year institution after graduation. The 2013 Northeast Graduate Employment Report indicated that 97 percent of 2013 Northeast graduates either found jobs or continued their education.

Of the graduates who found employment following graduation, 83 percent of them gained employment in their field of study.

"Northeast is doing more than its part to plug the 'brain drain.'" said Dr. Michael Chipps, Northeast president. "The 2013 Graduate Employment Report states that a majority of our graduates reported they are either working or continuing their education. It is pleasing to note that 88 percent of Northeast graduates are employed in Nebraska. Workforce development training is our top priority at Northeast Community College. It is our job to provide students a quality education so they can in turn find employment," Chipps continued. "It is part of our mission in meeting the needs of the residents across our 20-county service area." ■



# Alumni Spotlight

## Alumni Hall of Success and Distinguished Service Awards



*John Hollatz*



*John W. Davies*



*Loren Zimmer*

### ALUMNI HALL OF SUCCESS

#### *John Hollatz*

John Hollatz graduated from Northeast Community College, prior to receiving a Bachelor of Science from the University of Nebraska – Omaha. John is a Professional Engineer in the State of Nebraska. He started his career as a Design Engineer for Vulcraft in Indiana, later transferred to Nebraska and worked his way up the corporate ladder to be the General Manager of Nucor Building Systems in South Carolina. Currently John is responsible for leading an entire operating Division of Nucor.

John is married to Michele, who is an accountant. They have two daughters, Kaylor & Kinsey, who keep them on their toes. ■

#### *John W. Davies*

John W. Davies was working for Nucor Steel and decided he would go back to school to be a Physician's Assistant. He graduated from Northeast Community College and has had a long history working in the medical field. Currently, John works for Sunny Meadow Medical Clinic in Norfolk, NE, as a Physician's Assistant.

John is the Board Chair for the Northeast Community College Board of Governors, Association of Community College Trustees State Coordinator and a member of the Nebraska Medical Board for Physician Assistants. John is married to Diane, who is a CPA and partner in Morrow Davies and Toelle PC. They have 3 children; Matthew, Jessica & Paul. ■

#### *Loren Zimmer*

Master Sergeant Loren Zimmer, a graduate of Northeast Community College, began his career with the U.S. Air Force as a live sound engineer with the Concert Band and Singing Sergeants. During his time in the studio, he has had the opportunity to work

with artists during the band's Veteran's Day television specials. It was due to his work on these shows that he recently received a regional Emmy Award.

Loren is married to Lisa and they spend their spare time assisting their church. Loren serves as a trainer, advisor and lead front house mixer. ■

#### *Tom Rudloff*

Tom Rudloff graduated from Northeast Community College prior to receiving a Master's of Business Administration. Tom started his electrical career working for Creighton Electric Inc., then transitioned to North Central Public Power District in Creighton, where he began as a Lineman and worked his way up to the Operations Manager over 19 years. He then transferred to Elkhorn Rural Public Power District in Battle Creek, where he presently serves as General Manager.

Tom is involved with the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, Battle Creek Booster Club, Knights of Columbus, and the Nebraska Rural Electrical Association, just to name a few. Tom is married to Be and they have two sons, Josh & Aaron. ■

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

#### *Nicole Sedlacek*

Nicole Sedlacek, a graduate of Northeast Community College, is currently employed as the Executive Director at Holt County Economic Development in O'Neill. She is also very active with Northeast Community College, as she is an adjunct instructor for the west region of the service area and served as a Co-Chair for the O'Neill Extended Campus Campaign.

Nicole is very involved in the community and state. She is President of the Nebraska Economic Developers Association, serves as Secretary/Treasurer for Holt County TeamMates, and Treasurer for O'Neill Community Foundation Fund. Nicole is married to Brian, also a graduate of Northeast, and they have two daughters, Ally & Emma. ■



*Tom Rudloff*



*Nicole Sedlacek*

To be considered for feature in the next *Alumni Spotlight*, submit your information to the Northeast Alumni Office by emailing [alumni@northeast.edu](mailto:alumni@northeast.edu).

To update your contact information, please visit our website, [www.northeast.edu/alumni](http://www.northeast.edu/alumni) and submit the alumni update form.

# What's New At Northeast



## Groundbreaking for new residence hall/cafeteria

A ceremony was held in October to break ground for a new residence hall on the Norfolk campus. The 63,000 square foot residence hall will accommodate approximately 200 students. In addition, a new 30,000 square foot dining facility will be constructed adjacent to the new residence hall to accommodate existing on-campus residents' dining needs. ■

## New Applied Technology building receives \$30,000 gift



The building construction program at Northeast Community College is the recipient of a large gift from the Norfolk Area Home Builders (NAHB) Association. As a long-standing backer of the program, NAHB has committed \$30,000 to equipping the building construction program's lab area in the College's new Applied Technology building, currently under construction on the Norfolk campus. ■

## Workforce training grant dollars awarded to Northeast Community College

Northeast Community College is one of 17 community colleges across the nation to receive funding to support manufacturing workforce training opportunities in Northeast Nebraska. The American Association of Community Colleges has

announced a \$4.19 million, three-year grant from Walmart Foundation to support the Job Ready, Willing and Able (JRWA) initiative, including \$2.67 million directly supporting the 17 community colleges. The JRWA initiative will allow Northeast and others to provide middle-skill training, industry recognized credentials, and access to employment across varying industry sectors in each of the 17 community college service areas.



The Northeast Community College Foundation has been awarded a \$25,000 Joint Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS) Program grant that will assist in its on-going efforts in developing its Manufacturing Boot Camp, which is currently being piloted in Cuming County and the surrounding area. The Federal Home Loan Bank, of which Citizens State Bank of Wisner and West Point is a member, awarded the grant. Northeast's Center for Enterprise has partnered with area high schools, economic development officials, and businesses in order to create the Manufacturing Boot Camp to help address a middle-skilled workforce gap. ■

## Top 10 instructor in the nation

Paul Bailey, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) instructor, has been named to HVACclasses.org's "Ten Top Air Conditioning/

Refrigeration Instructors" in the United States. According to Barry Franklin, editor-in-chief of HVACclasses.org, its list of ten top AC and refrigeration instructors looks at HVACR specialists who have first-hand experience in the field, either through employment with a specific company, through contract work or a combination of both. ■



## Northeast houses tornado victims and volunteers

Northeast Community College opened a portion of its residence halls and student apartments on its Norfolk campus to residents of Stanton County, who were displaced by tornadoes that ravaged the



area in June. American Red Cross and AmeriCorps volunteers also stayed on campus. Dr. Michael Chipps, Northeast president, said "the College wanted to do everything it could to assist victims who either lost their homes or suffered extensive damage." ■

# Northeast Foundation Donors

## Scholarships are Essential for Student Success

Scholarship dollars are essential for Northeast Community College students' success. If you would like to help a Northeast Community College student in his or her pursuit of a college education, there are many ways to do so. Gifts can be made to an existing scholarship, to the Foundation's General Scholarship Fund, or you may establish your own named annual or endowed scholarship.

If you would like to establish your own named scholarship fund, you can choose from two types: an endowed scholarship or an annual scholarship. An endowed scholarship will provide awards to deserving students for generations to come. A minimum of \$25,000 is required to establish a new endowed scholarship.

For more information on establishing an annual or endowed scholarship, contact the Foundation Office at (402) 844-7056.

## Newly Established Foundation Scholarships

Dorothy Knouse Koepke Memorial Scholarship  
Louise Kienow Memorial Scholarship  
Northeast Broadcasters Association Scholarship  
Northeast Nebraska Public Power District Scholarship  
Clarence Schmitt Memorial Scholarship



*J. Paul McIntosh visits with several Northeast Community College scholarship recipients following a recent luncheon to honor the students and their scholarship sponsors. For 2013-2014 academic year at Northeast, 324 scholarship awards were made in the amount of \$214,807.*

Adamson Distributing Co. Inc.  
Stacy Ann Frank  
Agricultural Services, Inc.  
Anthony & Gloria Akainda  
Dr. James & Dr. Renee Albin  
Terry & Stacey Aldag  
Kat Alder  
Alpha Galvanizing  
Chris & Mary Alt  
Christopher & Angela Amundson Family  
Steve & Peggy Anderson  
Dan & Kris Anderson  
Scott & Donna Andrew  
Mike & Sharlene Anson  
Anson Insurance Services. Inc. - Steve & Pat Anson  
Dorothy M. Arent  
Michael B. Auten  
Avera St. Anthony's Hospital  
John Christian & Amanda Jo Avidano  
BCDM Architects, Inc.  
Paul & Helen Bailey  
Donald R. & Suzanne Baker  
Maureen & Tracey Baker  
BankFirst of O'Neill  
Brian & Debra Barelmann  
Colleen S. Barnes  
Bill Barnes  
Sara Barritt  
Gary Bathurst  
James Batt

Sarah Bauermeister  
Steven & Kathleen Baumert  
Anthony Beardslee  
David Beaudette  
Geraldine L. Benton  
Roxanne Bergman  
R.J. & Lynne Bichlmeier  
Steve & Peggy Bierhaus  
Derek & Danessa Bierman  
Biglin's Mortuary  
Bill Nielsen Landscaping, Inc.  
Paul Campbell & Cathie Bishop  
Sharon & Larry Blaser  
Dilworth A. & Leola J. Blatchford  
John & Diana Blaylock  
David Bliss  
Kacie Borchers  
Ellen Boshart  
Dr. Linda Boullion  
Judy Bowman  
Loretta Brabec  
Michaela & James Brauer  
Timothy & Michaela Braun  
Tina Bredehoeft  
Joe Brehmer-Brehmer Mfg, Inc.  
Jim Brennan  
Kip & Coleen Bressler  
Dr. Jerry Brockman & Therese Sullivan  
Tom & Betsy Broekemeier  
Steven Brosz

Stephanie Brundieck  
Mary Burival  
Doyle & Jane Busskohl Family/Arrow Stage Lines/  
Allied Tour & Travel  
Butte State Bank  
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Cargill  
Troy & Kristal Carlson  
Roger & Karen Casselman  
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Beverly Cleveland



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Ronald J. & Victoria L. Cork  
Cornhusker Tool Company  
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Doug Cromwell  
Crumly Land & Cattle Co. - Ron and Jeanne Crumly  
Cuming County  
James Patrick & Julie Ellen Curry  
D.T. Farms - Dave and Sharyn Troester  
Lynn Renae Daberkow  
Gregg & Pamala Dahlheim  
Dakota County Commissioners  
Danko Emergency Equipment  
Alan & Fay Darnall  
John W. & Diane D. Davies  
Blanca De La Torre  
Chad & Becky Dean  
Julie Kathleen Defor  
Doug Dekker  
Joseph Alan & Mandy Renee Delancey  
Matt & Tracy Dennis  
Steve Dennis  
Stacy Dieckman  
Dinkel Implement Co.  
The Louis and Abby Faye Dinklage Foundation  
Jason & Jami Doele  
Dover Family  
Brad & Tammy Ducker  
Emily Kay Duncan  
John & Katherine Dydyn  
EJ Computers  
Bill & Jessica Eby  
Dian K. Edwards  
Jan L. Einspahr  
Elkhorn Valley Bank & Trust  
Elms Motel  
Curt & Alexa Emme Family  
Wayne & Joyce Erickson  
Keith Erickson  
Rich Erickson  
Paula Evans  
The Evergreen Assisted Living Residence  
F&M Bank  
Annette M. Fante  
Farmers Ranchers Cooperative  
Anthony Faust  
Tim & Ann Fenton  
Debra K. Ferris  
Marcia Field  
First Community Bank  
Fischer Tree Central, Inc.  
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Fitch  
Steve & Cindy Flaherty  
Mike & Mandi Flood  
Dawn Marie Fosdick  
Mary Louise Foster  
Gordon W. Fox  
Guy & Teresa Frank

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Troy & Kim Frank  
Pat & Rusty Fritz  
Virgil & Betty Jane Froehlich  
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Green Acres-Wayne & Linda Green  
Heather Gregory  
Rodney & Jennifer Greve  
Grosch Irrigation  
Jim & Terri Gross  
Monte & Kathy Grossnicklaus  
Shanelle L. Grudzinski  
Gutshall Eye Care  
Sonia Haberer  
Amanda Hafer  
Robert & Nadine Hagedorn  
Donald & Diana Hahlbeck  
Carolyn Hall  
Monte & Diane Hanel  
Corinna Hansen  
Ronda & Harland Hanson  
Mark & Jennifer Happold  
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Ryan Donald Hobza  
George and Karen Holm  
Kenneth & Karen Hoefler  
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Anthony & Karen Hoffman  
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Doug & Doris Holmquist  
Eric & Jackie Holste  
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Holt County Tire-Bill & Stacie Alden  
Holt County Visitors Committee  
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Matt & Tiffany Hopper  
Gary Hostert  
Steve & Pam Huber  
Randy & Brenda Hupp  
Interstates Foundation  
Martin David & Susan M. Islascox  
Megan Jansen  
Ron & Sue Jensen  
Dale & Jamie Johanson  
Larry & Coni Johnson  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Eric & Michelle Johnson  
Matt & Tanis Johnson  
James Bartee & Bonnie Johnson-Bartee  
Denise R. Jones  
Jennifer Judt  
KBRX - Gil & Scott Poese  
Dan & Amy Kaiser  
Jeffrey & Tere Karella  
Tim & Lynda Kassmeier  
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Louise Kienow Estate  
Faye Kilday  
Jeanette Klitz  
John Knapp  
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Kevin & Amy Koehler  
Maurice D. & Anita R. Koenig  
Herman O. & Dorothy I. Koepke Estate  
Rachel Kohlman  
Patrick Charles & Joan Marie Kollars  
Carissa Kollath  
Glen & Lynne Koski  
Janet L. Krotter Chvala  
Dr. Tracy Kruse  
John & Donna Kruse  
Renee Krusemark  
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Howard G. Leshovsky  
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Becky Lynn Lindgren  
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Northeast Nebraska Master Gardeners  
Northeast Nebraska Public Power District  
Northeast Auto Body Department  
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O'Neill Rotary Club  
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Renee A. Peters  
Dirk & Janice Petersen  
Gerald Petersen  
Lloyd & Linda Petersen  
Donald & Shirley Petsche  
Mark & Beth Pfeil  
Paula Pflueger  
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