

Northeast Nebraska Agriculture and Natural Resources Education Compact

Framework: Purpose, Goals and Strategies

October 29, 2019

Purpose: To collectively serve the education needs of our youth and lifelong learners in Northeast Nebraska and contribute to workforce and talent development to support economic growth strategies in agriculture and natural resources.

Goals:

In an effort to improve college and career readiness, educational attainment, community and economic vitality and growth, the compact will leverage the combined strengths of the partners to provide:

- Education platforms for the continuum of learners in resilient food, energy, water, and societal systems that align with career opportunities for an evolving workforce for our communities;
- Teacher preparation (including curriculum) and professional development programs for pre- and in-service educators that are responsive to the increased need for highly qualified K-12 agricultural science and STEM educators;
- Seamless career education pathways to prepare the next generation of professionals, problem-solvers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders in resilient food, energy, water, and societal systems; and
- Workforce development solutions for the agriculture and natural resources industries in the region.

Northeast Nebraska Agriculture and Natural Resources Education Compact :

- Little Priest Tribal College
- Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
- Nebraska Indian Community College
- Northeast Community College
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources
- Wayne Community Schools
- Wayne State College

Framework:

Goal 1: Education platforms for the continuum of learners in resilient food, energy, water, and societal systems that align with career opportunities for an evolving workforce for our communities.

Strategies:

- Develop an inventory of formal and non-formal agriculture and natural resources education programming across the continuum of learners
- Establish an open-access database of agriculture and natural resources curricula and other education resources for K-12 formal and non-formal educators
- Design education platforms for the continuum of learners that align with labor market demand for agriculture and natural resources
 - K – 6th grades: Build awareness
 - Map food, energy and water systems to K-6 state standards
 - Leverage partnerships and programming offered through Nebraska Extension, the Educational Service Units, Department of Education, Ag in the Classroom, Nebraska Ag Commodity Groups, etc.
 - 7th- 9th grades: Career exploration
 - Increase the number of students participating in career and college readiness agriculture and natural resources curricula and programming
 - Leverage partnerships and programming offered through Nebraska Extension ([Next Chapter](#)), the Educational Service Units, Department of Education, Ag in the Classroom, Nebraska Ag Commodity Groups, etc.
 - 10th – 12th grades: Career-focused programming
 - Create education pathway programs linked with high school career academies
 - Offer job-shadowing, internships, career fairs, and experiential learning to provide students with an opportunity to explore careers in agriculture and natural resources
 - Expand dual credit programming and accessibility
 - Leverage partnerships and programming offered through Nebraska Extension, the Educational Service Units, Department of Education, Ag in the Classroom, Nebraska Ag Commodity Groups, etc.
 - Post-secondary and Lifelong Learners
 - Develop stackable credentials that lead to certificates, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, dual degrees, and professional degrees in agriculture and natural resources

- Develop digital badges that align with professional development and are recognized/valued in the workforce
- Create seamless “on” and “off” education ramps for lifelong learners
- Leverage the rich and diverse living laboratories in Northeast Nebraska as engagement centers
 - Activate the Haskell Ag Laboratory as an engagement center
 - Engage the Northeast Community College Farm and Pohlman Agriculture Complex to host agricultural events.

Goal 2: Teacher preparation (including curriculum) and professional development programs for pre- and in-service educators that are responsive to the increased need for highly qualified K-12 agricultural science and STEM educators.

Strategies:

- Provide agriculture and natural resources professional development programs and workshops for in-service and non-formal educators
- Leverage partnerships and programming offered by industry collaborators, Nebraska Extension, Educational Service Units, Department of Education, Ag in the Classroom, and Nebraska Ag Commodity Groups
- Establish a Northeast Nebraska Teacher Network Program for STEM and Ag Educators
- Align STEM teacher preparation programs and curricula with agriculture and natural resources systems

Goal 3: Seamless career education pathways to prepare the next generation of professionals, problem-solvers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and leaders in resilient food, energy, water, and societal systems.

Strategies:

- Understand, explore, and identify partnership strategies to remove barriers for learners to seamlessly transfer between institutions and post-secondary institutions to share courses, curricula, and programs to minimize duplication
 - Revisit current articulation, reverse transfer and dual matriculation pathways
 - Identify new partnership pathways
 - Explore flexible articulation pathways
- Enhance collaboration among academic and career advisors through professional development programming

- Offer workshops and information sessions for high school administrators, educators, and counselors to:
 - Enhance partnership programming between secondary and post-secondary educators and administrators
 - Increase awareness of the Nebraska Transfer Initiative and use of the Transfer Nebraska web tool and Transferology
 - Ensure counselors understand and have the tools to effectively communicate the wide variety of career options in agriculture and natural resources
- Create career education pathways that are linked to agriculture and natural resources workforce needs in the area
 - Pilot up to four career education pathways that are aligned with labor market demand
 - Example: Feedlot Industry


Goal 4: Workforce development solutions for the agriculture and natural resources industries in the region.

Strategies:

- Conduct an external labor market demand analysis for the agriculture and natural resources industries in Northeast Nebraska
- Align the skills, programming, competencies, and credentials offered by the Compact Partners with demand in the agriculture and natural resources labor market
- Partner with ongoing workforce development efforts in Northeast Nebraska
 - Norfolk Chamber of Commerce (<https://www.norfolknebraskaed.com/workforce>)
 - Nebraska Economic Development (https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/dashboards/defaultana.aspx?menuid=MENU_START_PAGE_DASHBOARD_ANA)
 - Nebraska Department of Labor <https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/ONeillHiringTrainin g2019.pdf>
<https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/ONeillSkillsGap2019.pdf>
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics (<https://data.bls.gov/projections/occupationProj>)

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Steering Committee:


Michael Boehm, Vice President, University of Nebraska
and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

29 OCT 2019

Date


Mary Honke, Co-Interim President, Northeast Community College

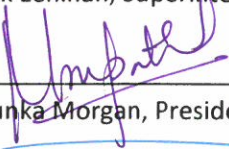
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10.29.2019

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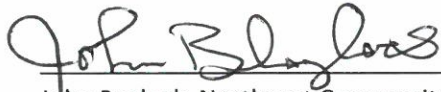
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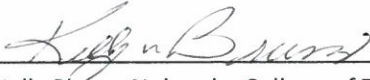
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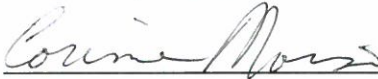
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