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Nebraska Network 21 (NN21)

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 interested in information to help youth prepare for careers?

A wealth of information on exploring careers is available from the Nebraska Career Information System, 421 Nebraska Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0459 (phone 472-2570). An excellent publication entitled, “Exploring Careers A Handbook for Middle School and Junior High Educators” is available at no charge. Contents focus on: • life skills for success • self knowledge and career planning • data, people and things • skills-transferable/functional • why people work • work and lifestyle • gender roles and career choices

IQ not the only predictor of success

IQ alone is not the only predictor of success on the job. Researchers are learning that a broader measure of intelligence, one that takes into account personality factors, is a better predictor of success. Known as “emotional intelligence” studies are concluding that those with congeniality are better networked in the work setting and better positioned to contribute to organizational success.

Key traits that help workers excel are rapport, empathy, cooperation, persuasion and the ability to build consensus among people.

While a high IQ should not be discounted and is crucial for certain occupations, i.e., scientist, EQ is still very important. Within the skill set, EQ is a competitive edge. (GB)

Nebraska Network 21

What will Nebraska’s communities, educational institutions, and programs look like in the year 2020? What is the ideal vision of foods systems and food systems education in Nebraska for the 21st century?

With support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and with leadership from the University of Nebraska, a process is in place to discover and create the vision.

Nebraska Network 21 is relatively new, questions about the project are the usual case. Here are some of the most frequently asked questions.

What is Nebraska Network 21?

Nebraska Network 21 (NN21) is a group of people working together to creatively meet the learning needs of Nebraskans in the 21st century. We recognize that change is constant in our lives, and we want to provide Nebraskans with learning skills and knowledge to thrive in the midst of it. Our focus is on keeping education dynamic, in tune with the times, and available to Nebraskans.

Why change?

Education is vital in all our lives. NN21 is working to help education in Nebraska thrive in the changes the years ahead will bring. We want to provide leadership in managing and directing change, rather than passively reacting to change. Change is the norm today, and we identify to outdated priorities and practices often falter in times of dynamic change. So where do you go when they disappear. Those that learn, modify, and adapt are more likely to survive.

NN21 wants to help education in Nebraska not only survive, but thrive in the years to come.

How did NN21 come into being?

In 1994 the W.K. Kellogg Foundation offered grants to stimulate long-term planning, innovative thinking, and new partnerships among higher education, business, and communities.

Nebraska is one of 13 land-grant initiatives Kellogg funded across the country, with the original intent of improving food systems education. Since then, partnerships to provide our children and grandchildren a better life have been a work we do now. Participants are: From education • University of Nebraska • State colleges • Community colleges • K-12 schools • Private universities and schools From communities • Business and industry • Organizations • Agencies • Foundations • Government From projects • School-to-work • School-to-career • Career Clusters • “Building a system” of relating school activities to the world of work, work experience, life goals, secondary education, and community.

What is the vision for 2020?

NN21 builds its vision on discussions that took place across Nebraska in 1994-95. More than 800 Nebraskans talked about their vision for their future, and this vision is what drives NN21 action teams now.

In the year 2020 Nebraskans see themselves as lifelong learners who are part of a network of communities of learning. These learners will have access to affordable and educational opportunities no matter where they live.

How will NN21 bring about change?

NN21 has formed action teams and demonstration projects to bring about change by creating opportunities for dialogue, experimentation, and action. For example, life skills programs are implementing a biotechnology program with the help of UNL. Organizations are creating show science education for students. Other school districts are watching for NN21 action teams toward replicating this program.

How can I get involved?

We are looking forward to linking individuals who are not afraid of change. For more information, or to participate, contact Ellen Russell, NN21 director (402) 472-2758; e-mail erussell@unlinfo.unl.edu. (GB)