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Nebraska Network 21 (NN21)

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What do employers expect of me as an employee?

They expect me to:
• Come to work every day...on time.
• Make smart decisions.
• Follow directions.
• Communicate my work and care about the quality of my work.
• Read, write and calculate well.
• Recognize problems and find solutions.
• Finish a job when I’m supposed to without sacrificing quality.
• Be honest and dependable.
• Take the initiative and work hard.
• Communicate well and get along with other people...especially customers.
• Dress properly and practice good grooming.
• Be cooperative.
• Have a positive attitude.

Ventures in Partnerships and School to Work as cooperative initiatives of Lincoln Public Schools, the City of Lincoln, Lincoln Education Association and the Lincoln business community has created a poster titled, “What Do Employers Expect of Me?” The posters have also been translated into Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Vietnamese. The poster commu- nicates an important message for the future job success of students and overall well being and productivity of our community.

NN21 focuses on building partnerships to provide our children and grandchildren a better life because of work we do now. Participants are:
From education
• University of Nebraska
• State colleges
• Community colleges
• K-12 schools
• Private universities and organizations
From communities
• Business and industry
• Organizations
• Agencies
• Foundations
• Government

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, 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, new programs are implementing a biotechnology program with the help of UNL faculty in order to improve science education for students. Other school districts are watching as county leaders work to expand toward replicating this project.

How can I get involved?
We are looking for forward-thinking 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)

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 necessary to better predict success. Known as “emotional intelligence” studies are concluding that those with congeniality are better networked in the work setting and best positioned to contribute to organizational success.

Key traits that help workers excel are rapport, empathy, co- operation, 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 a pool of high-IQ people, those with high emotional intelligence will have a competitive edge. (GB)

Bryan students win Governor’s Service Award

Science students at Bryan Learning Center earned the Governor’s Service Award for Outstanding Service-Learning Program for their efforts in the 4-H SERIES program, “Discovering Strengths: Teens as Community Resources”. The program trains Bryans in scientific process, basic scientific concepts regarding horticulture and chemistry, and teaching strategies so that they can teach hands-on science experiments to elementary-age youth. Last year alone, the Bryan students worked with over 1,400 kids in 38 classrooms, hosted a session at the earth wellness festival, and hosted activity booths at the Lancaster County Fair and Nebraska State Fair. They have also spoken at the governor’s mansion about their project, presented at the Nebraska Leam & Serve Conference, and most recently, presented at the 1998 National Service-Learning Conference in Minneapolis, MN. The program is a collaborative effort of Bryan Learning Center and University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, and is funded by a Lean & Serve grant through Southeast Research and Extension Center from the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. (GB)

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, Univer- sity of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68508-0852 (phone 472-2570). An excellent publication entitled, “Exploring Careers A Handbook for Middle School and Junior High Educators” is available at no charge. Content focuses 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 (GB)

Did you know that ……
The emergency 911 number

In 1994 the W.K. Kellogg Foundation established a network of NN21 in similar initiatives funded by Kellogg across the United States.

What is Nebraska Network 21? (NN21)

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, innovative teaching and directing change, rather than passively reacting to change. NN21 is also looking at the more obvious and concealed to outsiders practices and tradi- tions often fall in times of change. As these disappear, those that learn, modify, and adapt are more likely to survive.

NN21 wants to help educa- tion in Nebraska not only survive, but thrive in the years ahead.

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 commu- nities.

Karrie Hindel, who until November 1992 taught the class “Career Cluster”, “building a system” of relating school activities to the world of work, is working with Nebraska. (GB)