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## NebraskaSCIENCE

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# Abstract for DBER Group Discussion on 2012-02-14

**Presenters, Department(s):**

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**Title:**

NebraskaSCIENCE

**Abstract:**

The goal of the NebraskaSCIENCE initiative is the development of a nationally visible academic program focused on strengthening the preparation of future PreK-20 educators. This initiative represents a partnership among three of the Colleges of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), Arts and Sciences (CAS), and Education and Human Sciences (CEHS). This initiative will lead to:

- increased numbers of high quality students to UNL studying science and science teaching.
- an increased quality of the educational science experience for science majors and future science teachers through the development and implementation of freshman recruitment courses, pedagogical courses, and inquiry experiences.
- a significant increase in the number of science teacher education graduates from UNL, which will address a growing need for Nebraska and the nation.
- the addition of added scholarly capacity related to PK-20 science education through cluster hires will make UNL, including existing UNL faculty, more competitive for external funding in an area of national priority.
- UNL being recognized nationally as a center of excellence for the PK-20 science education.

Our session will provide an overview of NebraskaScience, discuss outcomes achieved so far, and seek input from the group on how we can expand our community of science educator scholars (including faculty, staff, K-12 educators and administrators in Nebraska) and our capacity in research.