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2007

## Nebraska Bankers scholarship Recognition Dinner

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Thank You! - Ne Banker Assoc / Thank you Ag Econ Prof 50  
consolidating to our Ag Finance & Banking Studies  
Private/Public Partnership

Kelly ??  
CASNR - Excellent ??  
11.7% + 114 students

Nebraska Bankers Scholarship Recognition Dinner  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
6 p.m. Thursday, October 25, 2007  
John Owens, NU Vice President and IANR Harlan Vice Chancellor

Good evening. It is indeed a pleasure to be "part" of this very first Nebraska-Bankers-Scholarship Recognition-Dinner. My heartiest "congratulations" to each of our 20 student recipients of the 2007-2008 Nebraska-Bankers Scholarship-Program. I know I speak for everyone in this room when I say we look forward with great enthusiasm to the great work you will do, after your graduation, and to the important contributions you will make in your chosen field and the communities you will serve over your careers.

It's "exciting" to us in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources that more than 30 students now are enrolled in our Agricultural Finance and Banking program in the Department of Agricultural Economics. It's "exciting", also, to know these students will have wonderful opportunities to gain a wide variety of knowledge, ranging from agricultural lending to teller operations, to spreadsheet analysis, to customer bank marketing strategies

strategies, and much more through internships with agricultural banks throughout Nebraska.

In our College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, students experience leadership and community service as part of the curriculum. I know those lessons will be multiplied as CASNR students have opportunities to work with members of the Nebraska Bankers Association, which provides both mentors and internships to increase learning opportunities and to demonstrate community leadership. It's so important that banking professionals give of their precious time to promote and to participate in activities designed to keep our communities strong. We expect CASNR students to enter the work world with that type of knowledge, to learn from these mentors who can teach them so many different ways community leadership is practiced, and to develop their own leadership skills while at the University and in the years ahead.

Tonight I want to thank the Nebraska Bankers Association for recognizing the need for more agricultural lenders in Nebraska, and for coming to us in the Institute of Agriculture and



Natural Resources suggesting we could develop a program to meet that need. Thank you for that! It's partnerships such as this that help assure Nebraska's success today and in the future.

We in the Institute often say we are partners with Nebraska, and we take our partnerships seriously. We thank you for working with us to bring this new agricultural finance and banking

program into existence. We thank you for the tremendous support you show the program and our students by providing ten \$1,000 scholarships for first year students and ten \$1,500 scholarships for upperclass students, and those scholarships are in addition to the valuable experiences you provide our students.

Through internships and mentors assigned by individual banks, CASNR's ag banking students can better understand the needs of your business and your customers, and they can develop leadership abilities that will benefit not only individual banks and communities, but, indeed, the extensive <sup>Nebraska</sup> banking industry, and our state as a whole. Thank you, also, for modeling the importance of being a community leader, and for helping our students plant their feet firmly on the path to becoming highly

contributing members of society. I think you're making a tremendous investment and it's one that will provide excellent returns.

I'm pleased to say we have a proud heritage of providing excellent returns in the Institute. A recent independent study of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources found we're an economic engine for Nebraska, providing a conservative 15-to-one return on each state tax dollar invested with us. That's money in Nebraskans' pockets, and that's certainly good for Nebraska.

Again, on behalf of the entire Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, my congratulations to our scholarship recipients, and my great thanks and deep appreciation to the Nebraska Bankers Association for your support of this wonderful new program in agricultural finance and banking.

Thank you.

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