

2007

## LEAD Luncheon Remarks

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LEAD Luncheon Remarks  
Friday, Sept. 17, 2007  
John C. Owens, NU Vice President  
And Harlan Vice Chancellor, IANR

KEN RAITJES - KRUX  
KSU Alumnus.  
ONLY PERSON WHO  
KNOWS THE  
DESTRUCTION IN  
YEAR 2nd Year!

Folks, we're just delighted to have you on campus with us, and I greatly appreciate this opportunity to speak with you.

I've been asked to provide you "an update" on the Institute, and that's a true pleasure. Talking about the vital, exciting work we do for Nebraska is one of my favorite things to do. I can talk about the Institute for hours – although before you all get that “deer in the headlights” look that comes from thinking I actually might do that, let me assure you I'll stay within my time allotted today!

I'm happy to begin my Institute update with LEAD's new director, who I know is of great interest to you. We are so happy to have Terry Hejny in this role, following Allen Blezek's retirement. We in the Institute have great expectations of Terry, and we look forward to all he, working with you and others, will accomplish to help grow "Nebraska leadership". What a valuable and fulfilling job!

A LEAD alumnus himself, Terry brings great understanding of the "value" of the LEAD program to his new position. He has a real passion for "what" the program can do for you each individually, and for Nebraska. Terry

has wide-ranging experience both as an extension educator and an agricultural education instructor in the public schools, and he's a member of the Nebraska Ag Relations Council and Nebraska Cattlemen, among others. Terry holds his bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a Master's from Doane College. Currently he's working on his doctoral program in human studies here at the university, with a specialization in leadership studies. He's looking forward to graduating in May 2010.

We are so pleased to welcome Terry into this new position, so new he hasn't held it a month yet. I am thoroughly convinced you all greatly will enjoy learning and working with Terry, and he with you.

I also want to update you today on an independent study done for the Institute that I certainly hope you've already heard about. That independent study found the Institute provides a 15-to-one return on every state tax dollar invested with us. That's 15-to-one, conservatively, and don't we all wish we could get that return on our own investments?! Information about the study is contained in the handout I brought with me today for you all.

Battelle, of Columbus, Ohio, which is a nonprofit research and development organization specializing in global science and technology, did the At Work for Nebraska study. Battelle currently operates five national laboratories, including Oak Ridge National Laboratory. We chose Battelle

to do the study because we wanted a highly-credible organization with significant “expertise” in science and technology, “plus” knowledge of extension and experiment station programs at land-grant universities. We asked them to provide us impartial information we can use in our strategic planning, which is “ongoing” here at the Institute, and we gained so much more.

There are many excellent quotes in the At Work for Nebraska study, which you can find on the Web at [atworkfornebraska.unl.edu](http://atworkfornebraska.unl.edu) – the address is on your handout. One quote I find particularly hopeful for Nebraska is this:

*“Much of what is required for 21<sup>st</sup> century success (innovation, technology transfer, human capital enhancement, productivity improvement, networking, and quality of environment and place) is directly addressed through the mission and operations of IANR.”*

I encourage you to browse our At Work for Nebraska Web site often. Right now we’re adding new video weekly, video we call IANR Conversations. In it members of the Institute talk about the myriad ways we are at work for Nebraska through teaching, research, and extension education. There are some fascinating topics and real enthusiasm for the work we do to benefit our state. I hope you’ll check it out.

Also as part of my update I *MUST* note that for the first time ever, we have students studying for a doctor of veterinary medicine degree on this campus. Our new, accredited Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine offered by Iowa State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln began this fall with 25 Nebraska students. These students will spend their first two years studying here and will move to the ISU campus in fall 2009 for their last two years of study. They'll get their doctor of veterinary medicine degrees from ISU.

We have some "great" new and innovative *undergraduate* degree programs on campus, too -- food technology for companion animals and forensic science are two of them. There's also our new plant biology major approved last year that allows students to explore plant biology at any "developmental level," from the molecular to the ecological. It's offered through two colleges, our College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources or the College of Arts and Sciences. Other new degree programs and options also have been added in response to developing needs.

A recent news story told about the new tool developed by our researchers "to assess" greenhouse gas mitigation and energy efficiency of corn-based ethanol plants. This is an exciting new development. Measuring

the environmental performance of individual biofuel plants is increasingly important for this fast-growing industry.

The computer modeling software developed here analyzes energy yield and efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, and resource requirements for individual biofuel production systems. It quantifies lifecycle carbon savings and environmental impact of individual biofuel systems, factoring in energy use and greenhouse gases from crop production, ethanol conversion, byproduct use, waste disposal, and transportation.

Accurately quantifying the environmental impact of individual biofuel systems is increasingly important for environmental, public policy, and economic reasons.

Our Sandhills Biocomplexity Project, a \$1.8 million National Science Foundation-funded project begun three years ago, is providing some fascinating information about the Sandhills, including that Sandhills dunes may be more stable than originally thought. Fifteen co-researchers from several scientific disciplines at UNL have studied such issues as drought, dune movement, groundwater recharge, and climate change as part of this study.

In May, the international weekly journal *Science* magazine published an article in which our scientists outlined discoveries on the molecular,

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cellular and biochemical processes involved in creating dicamba-resistant crops. Even as an industry partner is working to bring such crops to market, our plant scientists continue to explore new, expanded uses for the technology they discovered in finding a gene used to create broadleaf crops that tolerate spraying with the popular herbicide dicamba.

Last month you may have seen a story about how one of the members of our Biological Systems Engineering department is working with colleagues at the University of Southern California and Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital here in Lincoln to improve early detection of tendon degeneration due to age, overuse or a systemic disease known as tendinosis. This could lead to welcome improved treatment for those who suffer from this pain.

While you're here on campus you might want to check out the new testing track for our Tractor Test Laboratory, the only tractor test laboratory in the Western Hemisphere.

As part of my update I also want to tell you about exciting developments at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis, where entrepreneurship is a growing part of students' education. There is Dr. George Garlick, a Washington resident and Curtis native, who invented and patented the concept of holographic ultrasound and is using it in medical

imaging, has established a partnership with NCTA. He brought Frontier Technologies LLC to Curtis as a way to advance area growth ~~and~~ development. Profits from the business will be used to support programs at NCTA. Frontier Technologies develops and manufactures scientifically-advanced holographic ultrasound technology for use as a diagnostic tool in veterinary medicine, and to detect foreign bodies in food products. Weldon Sleight, the dean at NCTA, is a passionate supporter of bringing new life to our small rural communities, as are we here in the Institute.

These examples are just a few of many illustrating the breadth and diversity of research, teaching, and extension education done in the Institute, where we are at work for Nebraska. As your land-grant university, we take the university's resources to Nebraskans. We see ourselves as partners with our state, and we take our partnerships very seriously. We look forward to working with you, now as LEAD fellows, and now and in the years ahead as Nebraska's leaders, as we all work for the betterment of Nebraska.

As I end my remarks today, I'd like to leave you with president John Quincy Adams's definition of a leader. He said, and I quote, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader."

Geth Reside



Dream more, learn more, do more, become more – I hope you will challenge yourselves and each other to do that during your time in LEAD, and I hope in future you will inspire others to it, as well. The LEAD program offers you tremendous opportunities, and I hope you wring every last drop from these opportunities to build and grow your knowledge and skills. Agriculture and Nebraska need thoughtful, disciplined, persuasive leaders to move us forward. We in the Institute look forward to seeing you put what you learn to good effect for our state.

Thank you. If I can answer any questions now, or at any time in the future, I will be happy to do so. Thank you.

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