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## Nebraska Network 21 (NN21)

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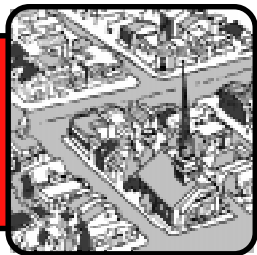


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## Community Focus

### 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 68588-0552 (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)

### 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, 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 a pool of high-IQ people, those with high emotional intelligence will have a competitive edge. (GB)

#### Did you know that .....

The emergency 911 number originated in Lincoln, Nebraska! (GB)

### 1998 fair books available

1998 Fair books for 4-H, FFA and open class entries are available at the Lancaster County Extension office during business hours. A limited supply of fair books are available at various locations for added convenience call the office to find a location near you.

The Lancaster County Fair "Celebrating Our Heritage" will be held July 29 to August 2, 1998. Any resident of Lancaster County may exhibit in open class. The due date for open class entries is Monday, July 13th. (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 Bryan students 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, visited 28 classrooms, hosted a session at **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 Learn & 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 Learn & Serve grant through Southeast Research and Extension Center from the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. (TB)

## What do employers expect of me as an employee?

They expect me to:

- Come to work everyday...on time.
- Make smart decisions.
- Follow directions.
- Concentrate on 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 lead 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 the 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 communicates an important message for the future job success of students and overall well being and productivity of our community.

Ventures in Partnerships was created by Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the Lincoln Education Association. Its mission is to work together to enhance education and build a stronger community. VIP has been very successful and beneficial to Lincoln. For example, the 1996-1997 school year brought in more than 30,000 volunteer hours. Volunteers dedicate their time through a business or community

organization. Over two million dollars worth of human resources, in-kind resources and financial resources were contributed as well. Barbara Hopkins, Ph.D., has been the partnership director of Ventures in Partnerships since its inception in 1987. Gary C. Bergman, extension educator unit leader, is a member of the VIP steering committee with numerous other business, school and organization representatives.

School-to-Work of Lincoln is a state grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The dollars originated from the federal government. The purpose is to develop experiential learning for all students. Key words are "Career Cluster", "building a system" of relating school activities to the world of work, "infusion" into the curriculum, "character education" and "non-traditional workers". (GB)

## Nebraska Network 21 (NN21)

What will Nebraska's communities, educational institutions, and programs of study look like in the year 2020? What is the ideal vision of food 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.

Since 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.

Organizations that cling to outmoded priorities and practices often falter in times of dynamic change. Sometimes 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 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 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 because of work we do now. Participants are:

#### From education

- University of Nebraska
- State colleges • Community colleges • K-12 schools
- Private universities and colleges

#### 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 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, Mead Public Schools are implementing a biotechnology program with the help of UNL faculty in order to improve science education for students. Other school districts are watching these efforts with an eye toward replicating this program.

#### How can I get involved?

We need forward-looking 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](mailto:erussell@unlinfo.unl.edu). (GB)



### Nebraska Network 21

Kellogg envisions further-reaching change in the nation's land-grant universities.

#### Is the Kellogg Commission connected to NN21?

Yes. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation established a commission of 25 land-grant university presidents and chief executive officers. This commission supports the change efforts and recommendations being made in NN21 and in similar initiatives funded by Kellogg across the United States.

#### What is NN21's purpose?

NN21's purpose is to bring together education and communities to find creative ways to meet the learning needs of Nebraskans in the year 2020.

#### Where do you obtain your funding?

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has funded the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Phase II with \$1.5 million until March 2001.

#### Who's involved in NN21?

NN21 focuses on building