



## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Judy Petersen (402) 340-0106

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### Education and Skilled Workforce Development

#### Vital to Central Nebraska Businesses and Communities

Education and Skilled Workforce Development were two topics addressed at the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the North Central Nebraska Development Network and the Northeast Development Network, held at Northeast Community College in O'Neill. Both topics are vital to the future of our small rural Nebraska businesses and communities. There were 21 people at the meeting from locations ranging from Cody to Wayne, and down to Holdrege and Lincoln.

Boone Central High School representatives, Lynn Webster and Sarah Bird, shared details of their involvement in the reVISION education program. School districts in our region who have participated in the Initial Grant or Action Grant processes include: Broken Bow, Burwell, Greeley-Wolbach, O'Neill, Ord, Valentine, West Boyd, and Wheeler Central.

The reVISION process provides Nebraska schools with the opportunity to analyze and transform their current career education systems in order to improve their ability to educate a qualified workforce that meets industry needs with an ever-changing economy. Working in collaboration with postsecondary education and regional workforce/economic development leaders, the reVISION process links career educators, school administrators, school counselors, and industry professionals.

Other speakers on the subject of Education and Skilled Workforce Development included: Linda Black from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to address Targeted Industries, and Jim McCarville from Northeast Community College to address their Center for Enterprise.

The last session of the meeting included roundtable discussion on questions that included, but were not limited to: How can your youth help with economic development in their communities? Who are the educational partners in your community and when is the key age for facilitating school-to-career initiatives? How can we start job skills as early as middle school? What can we do to increase entrepreneurship?

The North Central Development Network's next meeting is scheduled for May 2017. If you are interested in participating in these scheduled development network meetings, contact Chelsea Luthy at 402-394-1026 or [chelsea.luthy@cnedd.org](mailto:chelsea.luthy@cnedd.org). The Central Nebraska Economic Development District serves the following Nebraska counties: Blaine, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, Sherman, Valley and Wheeler. For more information about CNEDD, visit our website at [www.cnedd.org](http://www.cnedd.org).

