



Central
Nebraska
Economic
Development
District



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FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

You're Invited!!

Join us on **March 15** to **celebrate the retirement of Judy Petersen!** She has led the District for many years, and has accomplished so much, we are honored to throw her this party as a thank you!

The **open house is from 1:30 – 3:30, at the Stuart Auditorium, located at 110 W 2nd St, Stuart, NE 68780.**

Be sure to join us in thanking, and celebrating, Judy for her many years of service. Learn more about her journey below and see you on March 15th!

Thank You, Judy!

Judy Petersen began in 2006, not directly for CNEDD, but actually for Central Nebraska Economic Development, Inc., the non-profit arm of the District. Her primary focus was to receive a 501C3 non-profit IRS designation. With that, she began the journey of housing rehabilitation, housing development (both for sale and for rent), and housing assistance for homebuyers. At that time, the non-profit, and the District operated independently of each other.

On December 20, 2013, Judy became the Executive Director of CNEDD, which then consolidated the District and the non-profit, with the District providing staffing for both entities. While the two entities are legally separate, they work in tandem throughout the 14-county region.

Judy has seen and accomplished much during her tenure with the District. Community Development has remained a constant need throughout the region, and the need to expand Broadband in our region is significant. One of the biggest challenges she has faced is having enough funds for adequate staffing. Now, there are more than just 2.5 persons working for the District, which has come from tremendous funding from the Nebraska Legislature, as well as the disaster funding received in the past. In addition, the District is now able to administer more CDBG infrastructure grants, which provides funding for staff. With the addition of new staff, there have been more opportunities for celebration around the District, leading to one of Judy's favorite parts, the ribbon cuttings, which "have given us the opportunity to celebrate the partnership between the grant funder, the community, and the District, as a unique partnership to success for the future."

From Judy - "**Economic Development is a complex activity, with lots of twists and turns along the way.** The District has made huge impacts throughout, from both small and large grants (anywhere from \$16,000 to over \$3 million). What an honor it has been to work with a tremendous Board of Directors and highly committed staff members, along with many community catalysts throughout our region. I've made some life-long friends through these partnerships. Truly, the relationships that we foster today make the greatest impact on the future for our children."

