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# NEBRASKA NORTHWEST DEVELOPMENT

## from the Director's Desk

### NNDC Certification application

NNDC is still preparing an application to be submitted to the Department of Economic Development's Diplomats organization. This application is to qualify Chadron as a Certified Economic Development Community. Some might wonder why it is important to participate in Economic Development Certified Community (EDCC).



First of all, the process to prepare the application is lengthy and demanding. This process assures we have things in place that serious developers and site locators are looking for. Fulfilling the requirements means that Chadron is prepared to handle a serious inquiry about locating a business or industry here. The application requirements point out areas that we might not have thought of. It

helps us do a better job of marketing our community (and region). The program is designed on a community basis, but the principals apply for our county-wide effort.

The second reason to participate in the program is that the designation allows us to apply for some programs, grant funding, grant application bonus points and recognition for which non-certified communities are not eligible. This will allow up to be placed in the same 'playing field' as our neighboring communities who already have the designation (such as Alliance, Sidney, Scottsbluff, Gering, Ogallala and approximately 20 others). It is something that elevates our chances of being seen and considered above those who are not certified.

The cost for the program is the time and effort put into the application and the willingness of local leaders to be available to host prospects when they come to town or are invited to take a look **(Continued on Page 2)**

## DELTA Members Graduate from 2011 Program

Members of the Dawes County Entrepreneur and Leadership Training Academy (DELTA) graduated from the 2011 program on May 18, 2011. Participants attended day-long seminars once a month from October through April, and attended a 2 day legislative trip to Lincoln. The Lincoln trip was in conjunction with Leadership Scottsbluff during the legislative session.

Course work included education, regional cooperation, community development, government, regionalism, and personal

the celebration and presented the participants with certificates of completion. "It is my honor to be here and recognize young people who want the best for Chadron, like I do", said Chizek.

The program, sponsored by Nebraska Northwest Development Corporation (NNDC) will be held again this fall. Applications are available at the NNDC office or by calling Deb Cottier at 432-4023.

Members of the 2010-11 DELTA Class are: Colette Fernandez, Annie Loutzenhiser, Amy Halverson, John Morford, Brenda Morford, Karen Hald, Lynn Mathis, Todd Rickenbach, Justin Hagg, Lori Frederick and CJ McCabe.

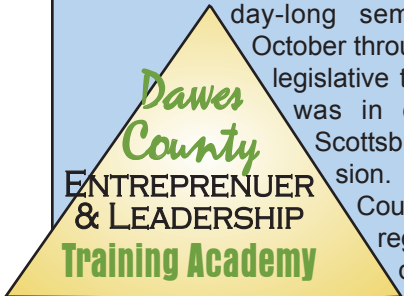
assessment workshops. A wide variety of speakers presented in person and via internet connection.

The class also was responsible for a final group project. The group is working on a packet to be made available to assist and retain newcomers to the area.

Employers and family members joined the group for a picnic in their honor Wednesday night May 18. Mayor John Chizek was on hand for



Members of DELTA are pictured above who recently graduated from the 2011 course. (Not pictured: Lori Frederick and CJ McCabe)



# Ports to Plains Fly-In Held in Washington, DC

Eighteen representatives of the Ports to Plains Alliance visited with more than 25 Representatives and Senators in Washington, DC on May 3-5, 2011 regarding continuing efforts to finish upgrading the 3 federally designated high priority corridors.

Those expressways include Ports to Plains Expressway, Heartland Expressway and Theodore Roosevelt Expressway. Collectively, we refer to them as the Ports to Plains Corridor, reaching from Mexico to Canada, through western Nebraska. While we all realize money is in even shorter supply than ever before in Washington, DC, we shared the message with our elected officials to no overlook rural America when they begin crafting the 2011 Transportation bill.

This corridor is important for moving agricultural products, energy products, tourists and the goods and equipment that serve those industries. We are fighting to assure this critical north-south



corridor, which has already been recognized by Congress as a high priority corridor, is included in plans to modernize our surface transportation infrastructure.

## ***NNDC Certification application--***

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at our community.

Many of the things required are already in place. We need to have the team who determines the readiness come to Chadron and visit, as if they were an actual prospect. After that happens, we will be able to submit the application. EDCC, simply put, shows the state agency folks and utility developers that we are serious about being in the running for any potential projects that fit our current areas of interest, capabilities and priorities. It is a goal I have expressed since taking this position 18 months ago. I hope to have it accomplished by the end of the summer.

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## **NPPD Fact Book Update**

The newly updated 2011 Fact Book for Chadron is now online. NNDC works with the electric provider to keep up-to-date information about our area available in a format which site locators and other developers are accustomed to seeing. The location where you can view the information is <http://sites.nppd.com/aedc/FactsBook/Chadron.pdf> .

We've updated tax rates, photos of the community, employment numbers, school offerings, industry categories, available buildings and land and other items of interest to outsiders looking at our community.

The websites for our community, county, NNDC, NPPD fact book and other related sites are critical to our image. Their accurate availability is certainly the first 'image' people have when the search the Internet for information about Chadron and Dawes County. Crawford's Fact book was updated this spring too and is available at <http://sites.nppd.com/aedc/FactsBook/Crawford.pdf> .

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## **Nebraska Asset**

### **Modernization Initiative**

Nebraska Investment Finance Authority has developed a two-prong program designed to accelerate small business investment in modernization. The incentives are available for investments made by existing small businesses that will, within three months, modernize their production assets, expand their production lines to increase market share and/or target international markets with new products.

The NIFA proposes offering "modernization" resources to Nebraska manufacturers and ag-processors. The programs attempt to stimulate modern asset investment by Nebraska small businesses (from 5 to 100 employees, net depreciable Nebraska-based business assets less than \$5 million). The resources will be available as either a grant ("MAG") or loan loss reserve deposit ("CAP").

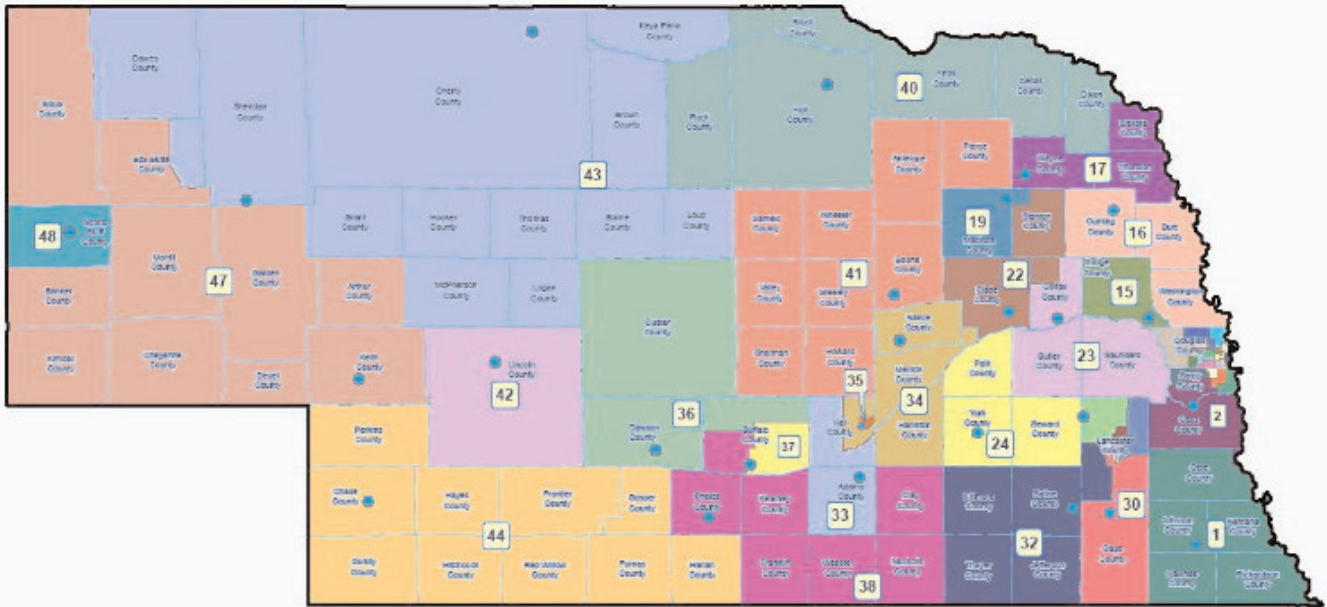
The programs are expected to stimulate the accelerated small business investment in modernized assets, on average, in amounts between \$10 and \$30 million each year.

**Applications may be submitted on-line or mailed beginning June 1, 2011.**

\$1 million of funds are available from June 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 - current funds balance is \$1 million.



## LEG 2-43002-D



5-4-2011

# Senators' Resdistricting Battle Fails

**S**enator Harms and Senator Louden's efforts to change the legislature's Redistricting Committee map (by amendment) has failed. The Nebraska Legislature voted on an amendment that would have retained the 49th district in Western Nebraska. That vote failed with only 12 votes in the affirmative. The only small victory was an amendment that places all of Alliance in the 43rd District, but still splits Box Butte County into 2 different districts. While there is another vote on LB703, the degree to which the Harms amendment failed indicates there will be no other changes. Please take a minute to thank your Senator for a good effort.

We need to be proactive now in encouraging candidates for the 43rd District for 2012. That district now goes from Ft. Robinson on the west to the eastern edge of Keya Paha County, spanning 2 time zones and more than 200 miles along US Highway 20 and Nebraska Highway 12, as well as NE Highways 2 and 91 east nearly to Calamus Reservoir! This includes all or parts of 13 counties.

It will be a challenge to see that Northwest Nebraska is adequately represented in the Unicameral after 2012.

### NNDC Board of Directors 2011

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 Matt Reeves .....Secretary  
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 Rob Wahlstrom .....Director  
 Donny Grantham .....Director  
 Rick Koza .....Director  
 Ed Kuhnel .....Director

Sandy Powell .....Ex-Officio,  
 City Manager

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