



# NORTHWEST NEBRASKA

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
CHADRON AND CRAWFORD

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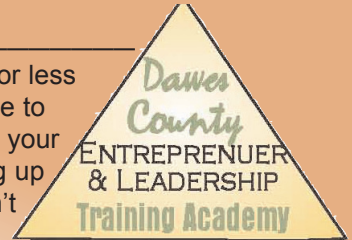


## from the Director's Desk

**D**id we even have a summer this year? It sure doesn't feel like it to me. As fall rolls around, and we begin to think about football, it's also time to think about the Leadership Development program we host here at NNDC called DELTA. That stands for the Dawes County Entrepreneur and Leadership Training Academy. It's an incredible opportunity if you (or any employee) have the desire to learn more about how various factors affect our economy, our public life, our government and our community. We have room for a dozen or so in the course which is held one day a month from October to May. Except for February when we take a 2 day trip to Lincoln to visit the Legislature, Governor's residence



and tour the capital. All this for less than it would cost you to drive to Lincoln & spend the night on your own! Please consider signing up for DELTA this year, you won't be disappointed. A separate invitation letter and application is included with the newsletter this month or call me for more details. I hope everyone had a chance to see the eclipse. What an incredible sight. Kudos to all those who planned ahead for this event, not knowing what to expect for visitor numbers. Nebraska was well rewarded with thousands upon thousands of visitors statewide. A great chance to share our hospitality with others and invite them back in the future. Well done, Nebraska.



(See Pages 4-7 for DELTA application)

## Hunting Turkeys Brings Opportunities to Region

We are seriously into the planning phase for the 2017 Pine Ridge Wild Turkey Hunt. This two-day event brings government leaders, elected officials and business people from outside our region to Chadron Oct. 11-12 for recreation and easy arm twisting about why Chadron should be at the top of the list when considering expansion or relocation.

For more than 20 years now we have been inviting folks to the hunt, hoping to build relationships, further expose them to our region and in general show them a good time. Why do businesses support this effort? Because this is the kind of setting that leads to good things in the future. It is a trust-building exercise that has already paid huge dividends in our standing with important decision making folks we now call friends.

One of the most over-looked benefits is the chance for our generous land owners to share their struggle to make a living off the ranchland they call home. It is not as easy as logistics, inventory supply chains or customer interface. Agriculture is a people to people business, dependent on mother nature and global markets. It is important for our government leaders and elected officials to see that first hand. And this project helps do that. It is also important to see our leaders in a setting where they are on our turf, so to speak. It's a lot easier to talk to them. And we are pleased to offer our sponsoring busi-



Turkeys greeted the hunters on the grounds at Chadron State Park as they gathered for the Pine Ridge Wild Turkey Hunt banquet last year.

nesses that opportunity. And we have fun. Ultimately that is the thing we hear over and over again, how fun this event is. It is probably not said enough, but we have an incredible, dedicated committee that pulls this together each year including Carl and Fawn Larsen, Gregg Galbreath, Larry Teahon, Philip Jensen, Kristie Dexter, Don Blausey and Kelly Hepper. Thank you. Together with about twenty local landowners who give their time and resources and our sponsors, we are able to put on this first-class event each year.



**Floor poured: Progress continues on the Domino's project across from Quality Tire on West Sixth St. Their goal is to be open before Christmas.**



**Dollar General is building a new facility on the east side of Chadron, next to the State's HHS offices, across the highway from the New Leaf.**

## Businesses Keep Coming to Chadron!



There is more building and construction taking place in Chadron this late summer, early fall. The Domino's Pizza project, Dollar General and new NE DOT office & yard are all taking shape nicely. We have residential paving projects and a beautifully finished Highway 20 project that is a pleasure to see each time you come into town.

And there is more on the horizon. The City is pleased to be making an application to renew our Economic Development Certified Community status. In order to do that we are required to tally up the numbers of jobs, business start-ups, expansion and failures in the past five years. If you include the massive investment on Chadron State College campus, the Aquatic Center, the storm water project, the Highway 20 project, the airport runway rebuild and the many, many commercial projects, we estimate more than \$70 million has been invested in the past 5 years!

That's an average of almost \$15 million a year.

And we know there is more to come, projects that are in the wings and new projects that will be spurred on by the recent activity. And the jobs created and/or saved by these projects number over 150. To be sure, we have seen a few businesses close, but the gains far exceed the losses. We work hard every day to assist businesses to stay in business, transfer to new ownership, diversify product lines and identify new customers. Chadron is a community that is always looking to the future, and planning for the next identified opportunity. This sort of growth does not happen on its own. Luck is often disguised as hard work.

And the improvements are visible in Crawford as well with the new fire hall, new businesses, remodeled businesses and community improvement planning happening there as well. Crawford is working toward a level of planning that will help them be even more successful.

## Heartland Expressway is closer to its goal

We held the Heartland Expressway Association's annual meeting last week in Alliance. US Senator Deb Fischer was out keynote speaker. She praised the group for the years (decades, really) we (the Nebraska/Wyoming portion of the route) have been after the goal of a 4 lane divided highway from the NE-CO border south of Kimball to the NE-SD border north of Chadron.

We were able to present the Senator with one of the official Heartland highway signs that will soon identify the route at the entrance to each town along the route. We held a ceremonial sign unveiling on the actual new roadway being built south of Alliance. With new dedicated funding from the NE Legislature in the Transportation

(Continued on Page 3)

**US Senator Deb Fischer an State Director Dusty Vaghn received a Heartland Expressway sign for her office at the HEA annual meeting.**







Members of the Heartland Expressway Association and elected officials gathered with US Senator Deb Fischer for an official unveiling of

Heartland Expressway sign that will be placed along the route in Nebraska.

## ***Heartland Expressway --***

(Continued from Page 2)

Innovation Act and the previously enacted Build Nebraska Act, it seems likely we will reach the goal of 4 lane divided highway between Kimball and Alliance by 2030.

The designation of the route from Alliance to Chadron as a super 2 highway will lend additional investment to that stretch, making it safer to travel and more likely to have 2 lanes added to it when traffic warrants. The other good news was heard from Joe Kiely, Operations Manager for the multi-state Alliance called Ports to Plains. Joe reported the state of Colorado is now planning for a study of the economic impact (and cost) of improving CO Highway 71 north of Limon to the CO-NE border.

One expressed purpose of the study is to determine how much traffic they can divert off of the over-travelled I-25 corridor. If that sounds familiar, it's because it has always been one of the goals of the Heartland Expressway (which is a federally designated corridor from Denver, CO to Rapid City, SD via western Nebraska) to connect with and coordinate with CDOT to make the route more efficient for north-south traffic from Mexico all the way to Canada. That study will be in the rfp stage next year.

### ***“Like Us” on Facebook!***



**Address is:**

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!pages/Nebraska-Northwest-Development-Corporation/168528639830938>

**Or Visit Our Website at:**

[www.nndc.chadron-nebraska.com](http://www.nndc.chadron-nebraska.com)

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### **STAFF**

Deb Cottier, Executive Director Northwest Nebraska Development Corp.

706 West 3rd Street  
Chadron, NE 69337  
432-4023 (work)

*NNDC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



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dcottier@gpcom.net  
www.nndc-chadron.com

August 25, 2017

Dear Chadron Business Owner/Professional:

Have you ever wanted to get more involved in local activities, boards or elected office but don't know where to start? Do you have new employees that you would like to expose to a positive, skill building program specifically related to doing business in Dawes County? Ever long for a good way to network with other professionals while learning more about your community? NNDC has just the program for you and/or your employees. Dawes (County) Entrepreneur and Leadership Training Academy or DELTA is a leadership training program that will teach community building skills, expose participants to great role models & networking opportunities and teach them about leadership traits that can turn them into great community leaders!

The program is scheduled to begin in October and will feature a day-long session each month for 7 months. The course will feature a variety of topics. In February the session will include a 2-day trip to Lincoln during the legislative session, a visit and tour of the capital, meetings with state Senators and the Governor and networking opportunities with other leadership classes.

General subject matter will include leadership styles, community and regional collaboration, legislative and government functions, entrepreneurship and education.

Similar leadership programs cost anywhere from \$1000 to \$3000 in tuition. We are fortunate to be able to offer the program for \$400. The fee includes transportation and lodging in Lincoln. The rest of the course work will be held in Chadron. Participants must be willing to give 1 week-day a month from October through April (and 2 days in February) to attend. More responsibilities will be outlined at the orientation session. Some work will be accomplished outside of classroom hours. NNDC is excited to offer this program in Chadron. Only 12 participants will be accepted, so send your completed application form today.

**The deadline to apply is September 18, 2017**

Sincerely,

Deb Cottier  
Executive Director



**DELTA**  
**Dawes (County) Entrepreneur and Leadership Training Academy**  
**Application 2017-2018**

All applications must be completed in full, legible and signed by the applicant for consideration.

1. Personal Data

\_\_\_\_\_  
Full Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Name (for printed materials)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Years in Chadron area

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

2. Employment Information

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicants Job Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State & Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Fax

3. Employment History

\_\_\_\_\_  
Previous employer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of Employment

4. Professional

Please include current resume/vitae with this application form.

5. Professional Recommendation

Please include a letter of recommendation from your current/sponsoring employer(s) with this application form.

6. Short Essay on Leadership

Please type a brief essay on leadership with an emphasis on your own definition of success (personally & professionally), characteristics of good leaders; and include your current volunteerism activities or future endeavors.

7. Program Commitment

Selected candidates are expected to fully engage in all DELTA sessions. Monthly sessions are held from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each month, October through May.

Day Session Schedule and Topics:

- October - Introduction. Getting to know yourself and your class.
- November- Entrepreneurship
- December - Government
- January -Healthcare
- February - Legislative/State Government
- March - Regionalism
- April - Education
- May - Graduation

In addition to monthly sessions, you will participate in a class service project of the group's choosing, which addresses a community need.

If selected in this program, do you foresee any reason why you would be unable to complete the program?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ If yes please state why

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8. Tuition: \$400 due upon acceptance in the program. This fee covers meals, materials and travel to Lincoln.

9. Applicants Signature: I understand the purpose of the DELTA program and, if I become a participant, I will devote the time and energy necessary to make it a successful experience. I also understand that my submission of this application does not guarantee my acceptance into the program.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Signature (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: NNDC  
706 W Third St  
Chadron, NE 69337