



NORTHWEST NEBRASKA

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
CHADRON AND CRAWFORD

September
2023



Newsletter Published
Quarterly -90123

from the Director's Desk

Last month I enjoyed attending the Open House at the new Fuller Construction headquarters on the west edge of Chadron (literally) on property the company purchased from NNDC. It was the 'business park' property that NNDC had been trying to market for new investment in our community. The land sat vacant for more than 20 years after NNDC acquired it due to lack of infrastructure within reasonable distance. When Fuller Construction was looking for a place to expand their growing staff and office operations, they were one of the few inquiries that had the capacity to make the property useable. In an agreement with the city, they helped extend utilities, paved (or built) the road to their front door and in the process have opened the adjacent land to annexation and future building to the west. There is also greater ability for Fuller to develop the land to the south



of their offices.

At NNDC, we are proud to assist local businesses in their expansion needs as well as look to locate new businesses in the community. If you are looking for space to grow or start your dream business give us a call.

On a personal note, I met several of the latest generation of Fullers – the twins who just graduated from high school, and their cousin from Rapid City. That makes 4 generations I have had the pleasure to know. When I moved to Chadron Athel Fuller was in charge and always took the time to speak, visit and share whatever knowledge was asked of him. When I was first hired at NNDC, Eric Fuller (Athel's grandson) was the President of the Board and I learned that Dana Fuller (his dad) was planning to retire!! The history of the company is on display at their new 'International HQ' in pictures and newspaper clippings. And guess what, they are almost out of space already! Congrats and we hope you continue to grow where you are!

Participants Needed for 10th Leadership Chadron Class

We are looking for participants to share their experience, knowledge and thirst for learning with the 10th class of Leadership Chadron convening this fall. Since the late 1990s Chadron has graduated nine groups of individuals from the curriculum that has been created to provide community involvement, civic preparedness and skills to create well rounded citizens and volunteers. More than 75 individuals have been through the course which meets one day per month from October through May and includes a trip to Lincoln and the State Legislature when they are in session. An invitation letter and application form are included with this month's newsletter and we hope you will consider attending or sending a member of your staff. The deadline to apply is Sept. 15. Another level of leadership is also being addressed



LEADERSHIP CHADRON

through the Leadership Transfer initiative started in June. With assistance from the Heartland Leadership Center and the Rural Prosperity project. This effort is an attempt to identify ways to include young people, new people, retired people and anyone else interested in seeing our community thrive. We will be bringing that group of more than 60 workshop participants back together now that summer has wound down to devise a strategy to mentor youth, engage and involve the long-time participants and figure out how to sustain that important segment of our community – the volunteer. Watch your email for an invitation.



Lauren Garduno (left), CEO of the Ports to Plains Alliance joined the Heartland Expressway Association members for their annual meeting in Gering August 15

Heartland Expressway Moves Toward Next Building Phase

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) provided an update on their current and future plans for the Heartland Expressway at the Aug. 15 Annual meeting of the Association held in Gering. NDOT District Director Doug Hoevet provided comments regarding the next phase which will be the addition of 2 more lanes of traffic along US Highway 26 and L62A from Minatare, NE to the US Highway 385 junction 18 miles to the east. When completed, this will make the existing 4-lane divided highway from I-80 south of Kimball to Alliance, NE a 110 mile stretch. The NDOT is currently planning the exact route, determining where additional right of way will need to be purchased and finishing any environmental investigation needed. Senator Deb Fischer has submitted a Congressionally Designated Request for funding in the amount of \$12.865 million for this phase.

Why is this so important to the northern half of the Heartland Expressway? Because it will funnel traffic north from Alliance, which will increase the need for additional work to be done on the segment from Alliance to the SD border. As has been stated many times, the 4-lane divided highway north and south through Western

Nebraska is a critical trade corridor. Connecting further to the 4-lane expressways on either side, as well as Interstate highways is the goal to provide the best, safest route from Mexico to Canada. Commerce follows the most efficient transportation routes, and that brings revenue, support business, visitors and economic development. Building roads is a long-term process and we are keeping NDOT accountable to their promise of building the Heartland Expressway through the entire state.

The Ports to Plains Alliance (umbrella organization) CEO Lauren Garduno spoke and provided stats of why this route (all the way from Mexico, through Texas, Colorado, the Dakotas and into Canada) is dependent on each state to provide the most efficient flow of traffic, in order to attract the business of moving the food, fuel and fiber that serves the US. Nebraska is right in the middle of the route and stands to gain as much business from this effort as any of the 'heartland' states.

If you want to learn more, check out the Heartland Expressway Association annual report with is available on the website at: www.heartland-expressway.com.



Nebraska Business Development Center Offers Help

From start-up to sunset, business owners and potential business owners can find assistance at the Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) located on Chadron State College campus. NBDC is an educational service designed to help business owners, especially small and medium sized businesses. NBDC's staff is committed to helping make the world of business management and growth a little easier to understand.



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Any business, at any stage of development in Nebraska may apply for assistance from NBDC. Assistance is provided by NBDC's staff of trained consultants, through consultants employed by it, and through faculty at its participating colleges and universities. NBDC works with individuals who wish to start a company, firms that are planning to expand or pursue new business opportunities, firms that are experiencing operational or financial difficulties and firms looking to transition ownership (retire).

NBDC offers a host of services through its many programs. Services are for new and existing businesses. Basic consulting is FREE. They can assist with market analysis, cash flow and projections, innovative operations, help with government contracting, online learning, in-person workshops, or even a discussion about your hopes & dreams.

The Nebraska Business Development Center is a cooperative program of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO).

For more information about what we do, visit the website at Nebraska Business Development Center | Chadron State College (csc.edu)

Visit the Chadron Office at:
Burkhiser Technology Complex, Room 120

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NNDC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.