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UNL'S PROGRESS ON N|2025 AIM TO BROADEN NEBRASKA'S ENGAGEMENT



*The **collaboration** between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, state, national, global) for the **mutually beneficial** creation and exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.*

CARNEGIE FOUNDATION DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We are Nebraska. Engagement — the co-creation, co-discovery and co-development of solutions — is key to the land grant mission of the University of Nebraska. Engagement brings Nebraska to the world, and the world to Nebraska through a university where students, faculty, staff and alumni are actively engaged across Nebraska and beyond. It is imperative that the university embrace a culture of engagement and partnership that generates genuine mutual benefit both in Nebraska and across the world, while creating extraordinary opportunities for students, alumni, industry, community partners, faculty, and staff to contribute to the public good.

ENGAGEMENT CONTINUUM



PROGRESS TO DATE

- **Engagement Collaborative** launched the **Community Resources Database** a repository of all community resources from UNL (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectations 6, 7, and 8)
- **UNL Engagement and Outreach Map** highlights over 4,500 statewide engagement projects in teaching, research, and Extension (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectations 3, 6 and 7)
- Launch of the Engagement Newsletter, highlighting engagement **events**, **projects**, and **resources** for faculty and staff (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectations 6, 7, and 8)
- Monthly webinar series, **Engaging Communities, Expanding Impact** (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 7)

- **Community-UNL Virtual Open Houses** happen twice a year for community members to connect to faculty who are looking for partners for student service learning and research projects (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectations 6, 5, and 7)
- **Community-Engaged Faculty and Staff Lunches** happen monthly on City and East campuses to build faculty and staff networks (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 7)

NEXT STEPS

- **Developing Metrics** for reporting and evaluation of engagement work and awards for doing exceptional community engagement work. (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 7)

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SUCCESS STORIES



Twelve rural Nebraska attorneys completed The University of Nebraska College of Law's Children's Justice Attorney Education program directed by Michelle Paxton. Over the course of eight months, the program provides participants with extensive education on state and federal child welfare and juvenile laws, along with insight into the subjects necessary to become strong advocates. Paxton says the program has trained attorneys in 69 of Nebraska's 93 counties within its first three years.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln architecture students are helping the village of Axtell to attract more businesses and amenities to the community. The students began by meeting with leaders and residents to find out what makes Axtell unique. Architecture majors, landscape architects and interior designers are working together to develop ideas and recommendations they will present back to the community during a public meeting in November. Nate Bicak, an instructor for the student group, said this experience is a valuable opportunity for students to practice their soft skills in a real-world setting.



Rural Prosperity Nebraska's Small Business Program helped to open the doors of its 1,000th business — Yera Transportation. Like many other businesses in the program, Yera Transportation was created because Sandra Barrera helped an entrepreneur realize their passions. Barrera walks entrepreneurs through the entire business development process, connecting them individuals and resources they need to start out; she's also there to assist them with expansion as their business grows. After starting in 2015, Barrera has created a supportive network of entrepreneurs across the state, and she doesn't plan to slow down.

The Center for Great Plains Studies and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma hosted the fourth annual Otoe-Missouria Day in Lincoln and the surrounding area. The event featured tribal art and history exhibitions as well as games, dancing, dinner and reading of the City of Lincoln's Otoe-Missouria Day proclamation. The goal was to promote healing and reconciliation by reconnecting the tribe to their homelands and engaging non-Native people with the history and ongoing presence of Indigenous peoples in the region.



The University of Nebraska's College of Engineering paired 19 civil engineering majors in their senior design capstone course with the city planners of Sidney, Nebraska; the goal of the project was to renovate Hickory Street Square and rejuvenate the economy of the downtown area. But the project became much more than a final assignment: Energetic young engineers had the chance to gain experience working with a real client. Sidney gained a launch point for future growth. And the University of Nebraska-Lincoln was able to stretch its impact to one of the furthest corners of the state.

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ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS*

2810

ENGAGEMENT SITES

8516

ENGAGED RESEARCH PROJECTS

112

OFF-CAMPUS FACILITIES

21,494

NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLED
IN COMMUNITY-ENGAGED
COURSEWORK

134

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED
COURSEWORK

660

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED
FACULTY AND STAFF

**Numbers reflect number of engaged projects from 2019-2025 and are most likely an undercount*

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