

# Consider a Career with the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE)



Meet Matt Hastings,  
a member of the Curriculum,  
Instruction & Innovation Team

## **Q. What attracted you to NDE?**

A. My interest stemmed from my background as a Nebraska Career Education student. While in high school, I thoroughly enjoyed career education courses and my involvement with Nebraska career student organizations. My current position with NDE exists as part of the Curriculum, Instruction, and Innovation Team. This group provides statewide leadership for curriculum, career education, and career student organizations, as well as technology. Further, I was familiar with the goals and initiatives of Nebraska Career Education and had always been impressed with their contribution to Nebraska's students and education community; I hoped to be part of that effort.

## **Q. In a nutshell, how would you describe your job?**

A. In general, I provide two distinct services for NDE. First, I provide data analysis and original research to guide program planning, resource allocations, and to satisfy federal accountability requirements for the Nebraska Career and Technical Education program. Also, I provide monitoring and technical assistance services for Nebraska's community colleges relative to funding received via the Carl D. Perkins Act. In addition, given the pioneering nature of our team, I assume a variety of additional tasks in an effort to support outstanding Career and Technical Education in Nebraska.

## **Q. What keeps you at NDE?**

A. Two things: first and foremost, my supervisors and coworkers, all of whom are extraordinarily dedicated to the mission of the Nebraska Department of Education; second, the opportunity to provide a meaningful contribution to Career and Technical Education in Nebraska and to enhance student success in our state.

## **Q. What aspect of your job do you find most fulfilling?**

A. A strong feeling of efficacy; I believe my efforts really matter, both to my coworkers and, ultimately, for the success of Nebraska students.

## **Q. What do you value most about working at NDE?**

A. I most value the collaborative nature of my job. Sharing ideas, strategies, and solutions to challenges is not just encouraged, it is a necessary element for our work. Also, I value the willingness of Nebraska Career Education leadership to embrace innovation. From my perspective, it is very refreshing to see both of these elements, collaboration and innovation, as integral elements at work in Nebraska state government – for this Nebraskans should be proud.

## Learn More About Nebraska Career Education

The Curriculum, Instruction and Innovation Team is one of the largest at NDE. The team provides services to all areas of Career Education, School Counseling, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, Coordinated School Health, HIV/AIDS Prevention, High Ability Learners and Educational Technology. Click here to learn more about [Nebraska Career Education](#).