

June 13, 2011

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Dr. Roger D. Breed
Commissioner of Education
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

Dear Commissioner,

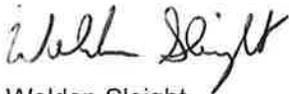
As per your request at the Nebraska Cattlemen conference I am enclosing a copy of our concurrent enrollment course Rural Community Career Development. This course can be extremely effective in helping small struggling communities bring their youth home after college if they are instructed as to how to do it. This process must include community leaders, the high school administration and teachers, rural economic development agencies and the University.

We are convinced that one of the major reasons for huge rural exodus is that rural economic development activities have been focused on bringing industry into communities and working with the current population. We believe the most important and brightest of all rural populations are our youth that we are encouraging to leave. The Rural Community Career Development course encourages the community and the students to investigate what careers are available in the community and then formulate a plan to help each senior develop a return plan before they go away to college. Just one example, most of our rural communities are now without physicians. We believe that there are some very bright students, that if mentored would come back home to practice if their home community would encourage them to do so. We recognize that they will make far less money in a rural community but we think they will be happy with it because they are home with family, friends and the culture they love.

By the way, I drove through Axtell yesterday and thought about your experiences there. I must say that your rural experiences gave you great validity with the Cattlemen. You said the right things and build some confidence when many are really hurting because they are losing their rural schools and communities.

I would very much like to give you and your board a presentation that shows the plight of our small rural communities and how this course could help us preserve rural Nebraska.

Sincerely,



Weldon Sleight
Dean

Enclosure