



International Education Initiative

One of the urgent challenges we face in Nebraska and as a nation is to improve the international knowledge and skills of our young people. To address the challenges of preparing students to be citizens, workers and leaders in the interconnected world of the twenty-first century, we propose to create the Nebraska Council of International Education. The Council will include experts representing the Nebraska Department of Education, K-16 educational institutions, teacher and higher education, government officials, the Department of Economic Development, the private sector, foundations, non-profits and philanthropists. This is a first step in the Nebraska Department of Education initiative to promote integrating international education into the current curriculum of Nebraska schools, not an "add-on" but as an integral and complementary part of the effort to strengthen global education in Nebraska.

The **Nebraska Council of International Education** was established in June 2008. Council members include:

- Bev Austin, The Malaika Foundation
- Rose Barta, Millard Public Schools
- Tom Carman, Westside Community Schools
- Doug Christensen, Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Education
- Kent Day, Omaha Public Schools
- Andy Fiedler, Millard Public Schools
- Stephanie Iwan Flamme, Logan View Public Schools
- Jerry Fox, University of Nebraska-Kearney
- Tom Gouttierre, University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Shelley Harrold, Secretary of State's Office
- Joe Higgins, State Board of Education
- Marjorie Kostelnik, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- David Kline, Bridge Worldwide, Inc.
- Volker Langeheine, Millard Public Schools
- John LeFeber, National Council of Economic Education
- Marty Mahler, Nebraska P-16
- Ann Masters, Nebraska Department of Education
- Deb Mullen, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Harris Payne, Omaha Public Schools
- Dave Perkins, ESU #7
- Donlynn Rice, Nebraska Department of Education
- Susan Rouch, Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Patricia Schweer, Omaha Public Schools
- Vickie Scow, Nebraska Department of Education
- Bonnie Sibert, Nebraska Department of Education
- Genie Solt, The Malaika Foundation
- Larry Starr, Nebraska Department of Education
- Susan Toohey, Omaha Public Schools
- Marie Trayer, Nebraska Wesleyan University
- Randy Vlasin, FutureForce Nebraska
- John Whatley, Offutt Air Force Base Language Center
- Kevin Witte, Kearney Public Schools
- Susan Wunder, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

The Council completed supporting documents in January 2009, including the following definition, mission, and goals for Nebraska.

Definition:

International education empowers people to interact in the global community. International education develops:

- knowledge and understanding of world regions, cultures, and global issues
- attitudes of respect and concern for people and their cultures
- skills to communicate and participate in diverse world cultures

Mission:

The state of Nebraska is dedicated to ensuring that its students are capable of successfully participating and interacting in a culturally diverse and interdependent world.

Goals:

- 1) Develop a definition of international education to be adopted by stakeholders
- 2) Create and implement integrated instruction in PreK-16 international education
- 3) Develop and offer professional development opportunities in international education
- 4) Identify and provide resources to support international education
- 5) Build partnerships with stakeholders