



NEWS RELEASE

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VALLEY COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND RECEIVES NEBRASKA ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERVICE AWARD

Valley County Community Foundation Fund (VCCFF) recently received the 2015 Nebraska Entrepreneurship Outstanding Service Award at the annual MarkeTECH Conference in Kearney.



The Nebraska Enterprise Fund and the Nebraska Entrepreneurship Task Force-NETForce cosponsored the award.

The following individuals accepted the award on behalf of VCCFF: Dahn Hagge, coordinator of the Valley County Community Foundation Fund; Kristina Foth, assistant director of Valley County Economic Development; and, Kayla Hinrichs, extension educator of Valley County Extension, Central IV.

Individuals or organizations that have demonstrated sustained and outstanding state and/or national leadership and advocacy for entrepreneurship education and/or business development services are eligible to receive the award. Nominees have made noteworthy contributions in advancing the mission to educate, engage and empower entrepreneurs of all ages across Nebraska.

VCCFF was honored for its comprehensive approach to entrepreneurship development including igniting the entrepreneurial spirit in youth and adults while advancing community growth. *Nebraska Loves Public Schools* featured Valley County's efforts in its recent film, *Valley County-It Takes a Community*, <http://nelovesps.org/story/ord/>.

VCCFF's community support and involvement with entrepreneurship education programming included the following:

- Cosponsored and hosted an annual Valley County Youth Entrepreneurship Investigation (ESI) Camp since 2011
- Cosponsored the rechartering of the Ord FBLA Chapter
- Cosponsored and organized an annual Business Discovery Day for high school youth in Sherman, Greeley and Valley counties and surrounding communities in collaboration with Central Community College, Ord High School/Ord FBLA, Valley County Economic Development and the Ord Area Chamber of Commerce. The event featured leadership development, entrepreneurship development, local business tours, a business plan competition and networking opportunities with business leaders.
- Partnered with Valley County Economic Development and the Ord Chamber of Commerce to connect local youth, graduating seniors, alumni and college graduates to promote career and living opportunities in the Valley County area.

The Nebraska Enterprise Fund (<http://www.nebbiz.org/>) is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), certified by the U.S. Department of Treasury, CDFI Fund. NEF provides direct loans to start-up and existing micro/small businesses across Nebraska. NEF works collaboratively with lending organizations and banks to assist in filling financial gaps for businesses.

The Nebraska Entrepreneurship Task Force-NETForce is an actively engaged group of collaborating partners focused on the high income, high skill and high demand entrepreneurial career opportunities available to Nebraska's youth and adults. Collaborating partners include the Nebraska Community College System, Nebraska Department of Education, nonprofit service providers and economic development organizations, private colleges and universities, and the University of Nebraska system. Information about NETForce and other statewide entrepreneurship education activities can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/entreped/>.