

In June 2010, the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) were awarded the PY2009 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Federal Incentive grant. The grant encouraged the development of a partnership between the two agencies in order to create innovative, comprehensive, and well-coordinated programs. This partnership allowed the agencies to focus on the goal of assisting the public in acquiring needed job skills, accessing and utilizing labor market information, preparing for the GED and learning English as a second language.



This grant accomplished five products, which utilize technology to serve Nebraskans.

- 1. I-pathways**, an interactive online GED® test preparation curriculum. Nebraska uses the blended method of delivery, where students study individually off site and also participate in traditional classroom instruction. I-pathways provides instructional options that are aligned with the essential skills and knowledge adults will need as they prepare to earn their GED® credentials and transition into higher education or the workforce.
- 2. H3**, a website that provides educators, economic developers, students and their parents, community leaders and career seekers with labor market information concerning Nebraska's high-skill, high-wage and high-demand occupations.
- 3. Career Readiness**, online learning modules developed to help individuals improve basic skills for job readiness. The career development process includes awareness, exploration, preparation, and application of those skills, culminating in life-long career management. This course provides information on seeking employment, workplace success, communication, presentations, conflict resolution, decision making, teamwork and leadership, workplace ethics, social and cultural awareness, and financial and personal well-being.
- 4. USA Learns** is an online instructional program for English as Second Language (ESL) students. It can be utilized both in and out of the classroom. It has three distinct courses: beginning, intermediate, and high level. The three main areas of learning are: survival skills, workplace skills, and the practice of reading and writing.
- 5. Professional Development** online learning modules that help teachers and workforce professionals focus on the teaching/training skills and knowledge vital for success as an educator in the classroom and other workplace settings. After completing this course, the professional will have explored effective classroom management, the learning environment, types of assessments, technology in the classroom, understanding adult learners, and utilizing the literacy and numeracy measures of the Workforce Investment Act.

