

NET-Force Planning Meeting Discussion Framework

January 22, 2016

Background:

The stated mission of NET-Force is to, “identify and leverage educational resources to educate, engage and empower current and potential entrepreneurs.” Since its inception, there have been many changes in the landscape of entrepreneurship and the partnerships involved in supporting this work across Nebraska. In addition, NET-Force working collaboratively with NEAT completed the Entrepreneurship Summit late in 2015, which provided additional information regarding the needs and opportunities for entrepreneur-focused education, economic development and public policy in Nebraska.

At the January 22, 2016 NET-Force meeting we will address the most impactful work of NET-Force to date, the stated mission and goals (see attachment) in light of emerging opportunities for growing our entrepreneurial economy, and the most effective role NET-Force can and should play in supporting this work in partnership with other organizations, institutions and agencies.

Discussion Framework:

The following questions will be used to support our discussion at the January 22, 2016 NET-Force meeting. **Please consider your responses to questions 1 through 3 before the meeting.**

1. What have been the most impactful results of NET-Force to date?
2. What made these efforts so impactful and how should they inform our work going forward?
3. What are the 5 most significant opportunities for entrepreneurship-focused education and economic development in Nebraska over next 2 to 5 years?
4. Who are the key players and stakeholders who can and should assist in addressing these opportunities?
5. In light of the most significant results of NET-Force to date, emerging opportunities, and key partners, what, if any, changes are needed to the stated mission and goals of NET-Force?
6. What organizational framework will be most effective for NET-Force to accomplish its mission and goals over the next 5 years? Who else should be invited to be a member of NET-Force? How should NET-Force engage partners who are involved in parallel work?
7. What are the next steps for moving the opportunities identified today forward and who will lead this work?

The following information is gleaned from the NET-Force web site:

About NET-Force

The Nebraska Entrepreneurship Task Force (NET Force) 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

Mission

NET Force identifies and leverages educational resources to educate, engage and empower current and potential entrepreneurs.

Goals

- Increasing access to and utilizing entrepreneurship curriculum
- Expanding education and training opportunities
- Identifying, coordinating and leveraging resources for ongoing support of Nebraska entrepreneurs
- Locating and securing funding to further the mission
- Increasing the marketing and outreach of entrepreneurial programs and services in the state

Importance

Why choose an entrepreneurship career path?

- 60 percent of Nebraskans ages 18-29 are interested in starting businesses
- Among the 300,000+ Nebraskans ages 18-29, there are about 84,000 with genuine interest in starting a business.
- 91 percent of adult Nebraskans with children believe entrepreneurship is a positive career choice.
- 85 percent of Nebraskans feel it is important or very important for colleges to teach entrepreneurship.
- Most new jobs created in the United States come from the creative efforts of entrepreneurs engaged in endeavors ranging from micro-businesses to large-scale ventures.

(Educate) Curriculum/Programs

Nebraska Syllabi for Entrepreneurship Courses

A set of six course syllabi was developed by the Curriculum Committee of the Nebraska Entrepreneurship Task Force and approved by the Chief Instructional Officers of all six Nebraska Communities. These course titles and syllabi provide a common foundation for entrepreneurship instruction in the community college system. By building instruction around these syllabi, instructors are able to provide a more consistent curriculum for students enrolled anywhere in our state.

These syllabi are also being used by secondary and four-year postsecondary institutions. The syllabi are a powerful tool in articulating courses from secondary to postsecondary institutions.

- [ENTR1050 Intro to E-Ship](#)
- [ENTR2040 – Entrepreneurship Feasibility Analysis](#)
- [ENTR2050 – Marketing for the Ent](#)
- [ENTR2060 – E-ship Legal Issues](#)
- [ENTR2070 – E-Ship Financial Topics](#)
- [ENTR2090 – E-ship Business Plan](#)

- **ESI**

<http://4h.unl.edu/esi/>

EntrepreneurShip Investigation (ESI) is an exciting, interactive, and comprehensive curriculum project designed for youth, ages 10-19. ESI was developed by Nebraska 4-H in collaboration with a number of organizations with statewide outreach. It was written with four target audiences in mind:

- 4-H Clubs
- Middle and high schools
- Youth organizations
- Community organizations

The curriculum is ESI uses a variety of tools to help participants develop their entrepreneurial skills and find their business niche. Through exciting activities, case studies and current technology, participants are transformed into budding entrepreneurs!

- **Community Connections**

<http://www.extension.unl.edu/communityconnections>

Community Connections is a web resource guide to help communities discover and nurture entrepreneurs. Community Connections provides tools to help communities leverage the talent and creativity of young people and to make them an active part of economic growth and vitality. Community Connections provides free resources and a template to help communities engage youth and adults in creating a new entrepreneurial mindset and community vitality.

- **National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education**

http://www.entre-ed.org/Standards_Toolkit/

The National Content Standards for Entrepreneurship Education were developed through an extensive literature review and series of focus groups with entrepreneurs. They describe what an entrepreneur should know and be able to do in order to be successful. The Standards are designed to describe the entire field of entrepreneurship as a lifelong learning process.

The Standards and their supporting Performance Indicators are a framework for teachers to use in building appropriate objectives, learning activities, and assessments for their target audience.

Using this framework, students will have: progressively more challenging educational activities; experiences that will enable them to develop the insight needed to discover and create entrepreneurial opportunities; and the expertise to successfully start and manage their own businesses to take advantage of these opportunities.

- **NebraskaEDGE**

<http://nebraskaedge.unl.edu/>

EDGE is a source for high quality, entrepreneurial training. Since 1993, EDGE has worked with Nebraska communities to provide education to over 2,500 individuals seeking growth options for their small businesses. Through the nationally acclaimed, NxLevel™ Education Foundation curricula, EDGE instructors help course participants test their business concepts and prepare for the business start. The EDGE course walks participants through a business plan to fine-tune management processes, key-in on successful marketing strategies, bolster financial statements and prepare for business growth and succession.

Member Organizations (Engage)

- [Center for Rural Affairs – REAP](#)
- [Central Community College-Columbus](#)
- [Central Community College-Grand Island](#)
- [Central Community College-Hastings](#)
- [Community Connections \(University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension\)](#)
- [Dawson Area Development](#)
- [Elkhorn Valley Economic Development Council](#)
- [EntrepreneurShip Investigation \(Nebraska 4-H\)](#)
- [Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City-Omaha Branch](#)
- [GROW Nebraska](#)
- [Hometown Competitiveness](#)
- [McCook Economic Development Organization](#)
- [Metro Community College](#)
- [Mid-Plains Community College Center for Enterprise](#)
- [Nebraska Center for Entrepreneurship \(University of Nebraska\)](#)
- [Nebraska Council on Economic Education](#)
- [Nebraska Department of Education](#)
- [Nebraska Distance Education Council](#)
- [Nebraska Enterprise Fund](#)
- [Northeast Community College](#)
- [Omaha Public Schools-Career Education](#)
- [Partnerships for Innovation](#)
- [Southeast Community College-Entrepreneurship Center](#)
- [University of Nebraska College of Ag Science and Natural Resources](#)
- [Western Community College](#)

National Entrepreneurship Week (Educate and/or Empower)

- Overview
- This annual celebration is designed to honor the enormous contributions that entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship educators make to the economic vitality of the United States. It is a celebration of American entrepreneurs and the lifelong learning educational opportunities that prepare the NEW business leaders of the future. The Week is in response to the U S House of Representatives Resolution #699, supporting an annual National Entrepreneurship Week and encouraging the celebration of it annually at the local, state, and national levels.
- Link to National Entrepreneurship Week home page: <http://www.entre-week.org/>