



## Setting Two-Year Goals with Action Items and Partners

At the NET-Force meeting on January 22, 2016 at Central Community College in Grand Island, members worked in four small groups to discuss impacts NET-Force has made, emerging opportunities and potential partners to engage in pursuing these opportunities. Listed below is the color-coded feedback generated by the small groups.

In reviewing the items generated from the January 22<sup>nd</sup> small group dialog, five key themes emerged for consideration in setting goals and action steps for the next two years:

- a. Best practice sharing including Entrepreneurship Summit with NEAT.
- b. Expand participation including economic developers and policymakers.
- c. Support development of entrepreneurship initiatives across Nebraska.
- d. Recognize champions of entrepreneurship across Nebraska.
- e. Inform policymakers of education and economic development impacts.

Attached are five theme worksheets to use at the May 20<sup>th</sup> NET-Force meeting to determine specific goals and action items for moving forward with each theme. It may be desirable to again break into small groups to address each of the themes or to prioritize the themes and work through goal setting as a full group. Due to time constraints, it may be necessary to hold several themes for a future membership meeting or for a working group session to report out at the next NET-Force meeting.

Please keep in mind that NET-Force currently has no staff or program budget, so our goals and action steps need to reflect this reality or recommendations are needed on how to provide the needed capacity, perhaps through partnership engagement.

### January 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Small Group Feedback:

#### Small Group 1

##### Impacts

- State-wide curriculum (Common course titles and syllabi for six entrepreneurship courses taught by Nebraska's community colleges and articulated to the secondary level)
- Resource providers-sharing, awareness and collaboration.
- Networking like EntrepreneurShip Investigation (ESI) and Blueprint curricula
- Totality of it is a source of pride-new perspectives, curricula development
- Attendees can cross-pollinate their offerings; co-brand
- Best practices of teaching

- Better link – Rural/Urban
- Promotion of National Entrepreneurship Week
- We are “mentors” of each other
- Innovation connections within old “silos”
- K-12 curriculum development is huge – Able to share resources
- Constant connecting point for all things “Entrepreneurship”
- Gallup’s Entrepreneurial Profile 10 (EP10) – Insights for development came from interaction with our members
- Statewide series development for Entrepreneurship Week (week-long broadcast) highlighting entrepreneurship programs and activities in Nebraska
- Entrepreneurship Best Practices Summit
- Connecting with rural communities – “getting out of our bubble”
- Entre-Ed (National Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education) is working on a school certification for “entrepreneurship schools” – Every Child-Every Year
- Entrepreneurship included on the Nebraska Career Education Model
- Social media contact by members (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

How do we impact economic development?

- Social media
- Judy Amoo working with Box Butte Development Corporation; her information from NETForce allows her to help include entrepreneurship
- Moving meetings around the state allows us to meet with economic developers locally
- Valley County entrepreneurship offerings
- Cody-Kilgore, Beatrice and Seward
- Have had success getting funding
- Outreach = SCORE, REAP, interaction with schools by NETForce members
- Now participating with NEDA
- Website/Facebook page/Twitter

## Small Group 2

### 2-5 year Opportunities

- On radar now – Lots of opportunities
- Marketing: \$ and time consuming
- Community colleges – join message; impact on enrollment
- Model? – NETForce can use
- Extension partnerships to deliver classes
- Hormel Biz Plan Competition - \$
- Incentives help with non-credit
- “Real E’s” – commitment to stay with it
- Need to help economic developers make entrepreneurship a higher priority
- Fit with other courses like web marketing (Adults focus) “In vs. on”
- Policy makers and leaders – how to make higher priority; economic developers can be gatekeepers
- E-Culture – Southeast Nebraska 6 cos.
- (SET) Action plans for e-opportunities
- E-Ship Nebraska website (Ben Dutton and team to support network across the state; NETForce resource?!

- EP 10 assessment is opportunity to get people to think about areas to focus & partner
- Aging business owners-business succession planning
- Highlighting Nebraska success stories (example – Nik Ingersoll – Scottsbluff High School graduate just recognized on Forbes 30 under 30)
- Huge grant opportunity – Library Commission/Maker Spaces
- Youth E-Ship Issues Team (4H, Elementary, Middle School, High School) (ESI Connection)
- CVI Broadband (Charlotte Narjes)
- Need local partners
- Tinker boxes for youth
- Industry/Workforce/Education Maker Space Connector
- Arts/Tourism

#### Other Partners

- Libraries & Nebraska Library Commission
- Secondary Education/Teachers
- Economic Developers and NEDA (conference or videoconference)
- State Colleges (Peru State, Wayne State, Chadron State)
- Local officials
- State senators

### **Small Group 3**

#### Significant Opportunities

- Best Practices Sharing (Entrepreneurship Best Practices Summit)
- Broadened participation (reach out more to economic developers)
- Training activities
  - Cooperative efforts when presenting/training/offering services
  - Business transition training (education, valuation of business)
  - Business financial training (nuts & bolts)
  - Minority business outreach & training
- Celebrating entrepreneurship as a career choice to young people
- Refocus energies from just startups to growing existing businesses
- Informing young people of internships, mentoring, job shadowing opportunities with entrepreneurs
- Network Kansas-style funded database of entrepreneurs
- Career Academies in the high schools (example: Career Pathway Institute)
- Earlier introduction of entrepreneurship education (continuum of programs/curricula)
- Teaching/valuing entrepreneurship/innovation/creativity

#### Key Stakeholders/Partners

- Entrepreneurs
- Current members
- Educators (K-16, Adult, Extension)
- Governing bodies (elected officials)
- Economic developers
- School leadership K-12 and postsecondary (Boards, administrators)

## Small Group 4

### Significant Opportunities

- Best Practices Summit
- Still more need for collaboration
  - Working together-revisit common goals – clearly written
- NEDA is an organization we need to be a part of (Jim Reiff will “get us in” – Nicole Sedlacek is current President)
- Political connections – we need to work with the governor’s office, DED, etc/Deb Fischer’s aide/Jeff Fortenberry/Legislature
- Grants like SBA Prime, NEFS \$\$, RFI Grants, could do more

### Who Should be Involved

- SCORE group – curriculum Gene Knapp
- Need more education about each other and what we do
- Everyone
- Might need to decide what our focus is
- Greater Omaha Chamber “Reach”
- NEAT & Extension Issue Team
- Bring back updates to meetings
- More economic development people, especially rural or chamber/Fdn underserved & underprivileged
- Hispanic representation (Columbus has Hispanic Chamber)
- Help East & West (the rest) of Nebraska realize that issues are the same; what’s good for rural is good for urban
- Main Street organization
- Nebraska Community Foundation
- Nebraska Business Development Centers
- Administration representation (we need to report to them after each meeting)