The mission of the Center for Rural Research and Development focuses on empowering the region’s residents to seek avenues of rural economic development by building entrepreneurial and professional capacity, and by encouraging creative thinking about the economic growth of our region. The center espouses the "grow-your-own" philosophy of economic development, known as economic gardening, as well as other approaches to economic and business development.

Director’s Report: Winter & Spring Activity Update

❖ Conferences, Workshops, & Educational Venues
  o Women Entrepreneurship Clinic/CFRA/SBA – G.I. (50+participants)
  o Junior Achievement/Kearney Chamber– Kenwood Elementary
    ▪ Approximately 800 kids in program and 40 volunteer teachers
  o Open for Business Magazine Collaboration
    ▪ Two Articles Written
    ▪ Business Contest Partnership
  o Annual University Legislative Dinner
    ▪ 45+ NE Senators networked and shared university impacts
  o Nebraska NETForce Entrepreneurship-Milford CC (50+)
  o Nebraska Development Networks – Central Region (10)
  o UNL Extension Community Vitality Initiative Training
    ▪ Community Roadmap to Success (14)
      ▪ Partnered with Center for Rural Entrepreneurship
  o Main St. Kearney Outreach Event: April 30th @ Cunningham’s

❖ Entrepreneurial & Market Research Assistance
  o Currently working with several smaller clients (continued growth)
  o Entrepreneur-in-Residence funding repurposed
    ▪ Working on maker space equipment proposal

❖ Primary (fee-for-service) Research Assistance
  o Submitted 2 Business Feasibility Study quotes & 2 other referrals
  o Community Needs Assessments

❖ Market Strategy & Funding
  o Co-Principal Investor at UNL
    ▪ Led USDA AFRI 3D Kickstarter Entrepreneurship Proposal
  o Rural Futures Institute
    ▪ Closeout for Rural Sourcing Project– Lessons Learned
    ▪ Rural Community and Scholars Proposal – Not Accepted

❖ Enactus (Formerly SIFE)
  o Top 48/182 at National Competition (See Annual Report)
  o Enactus Entrepreneurship Day
    ▪ Gallup EP10: H.S. Students with Entrepreneurial Potential
  o Financial Literacy: Jubilee Center
  o UNK Sustainability: Waste Audit
  o Brewed Awakening Updates
    ▪ NET TV story airs September

❖ Upcoming Activity
  o NEDA Conference: June 10th-12th (Gering, NE)
  o Biz Kidz Camp (Middle School) Aug 3-7 (24 last summer)
  o New Venture Adventure: Thursday, October 15th 8:30AM-3:30PM
  o Business Idea Contest: Wednesday, November 18th 7PM

The CRRD Advisory Council may evaluate the existing meeting schedule and meeting agenda at any time.