Nebraska Board of Education

YRTCs/Program School Update
December 2022

Our Schools

YRTC Hastings

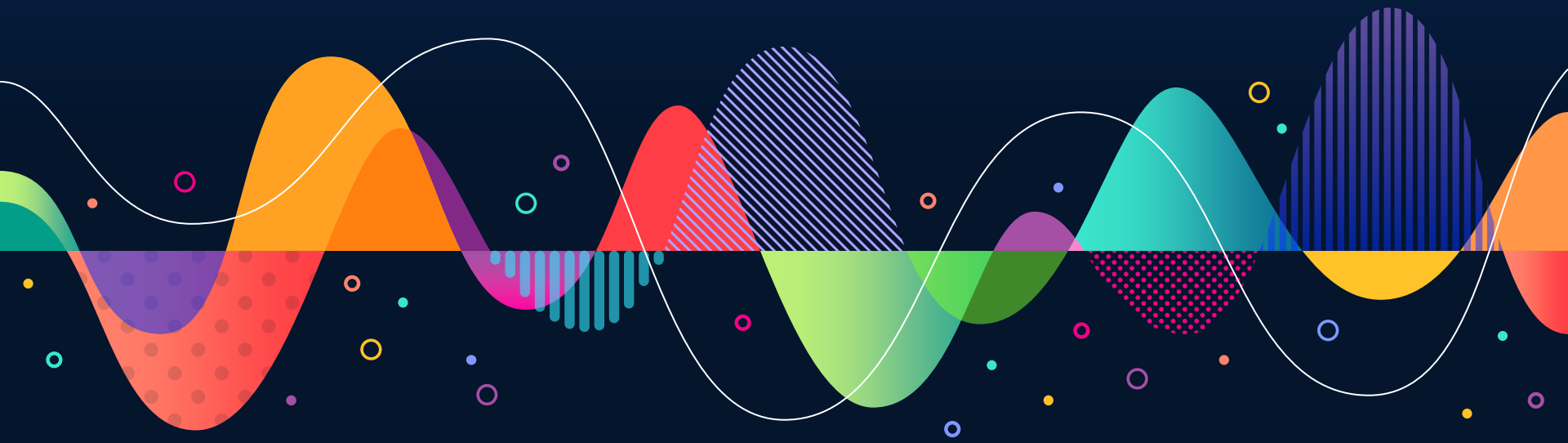
YRTC Kearney

Rule 18 Morton
Rule 18 Nebraska
Youth Academy

YRTC Lincoln

Our Students

Rule 10 Traditional School
Rule 18 Program School
The students we serve
Average length of service to our students
Prior educational backgrounds of our students



Our Teachers

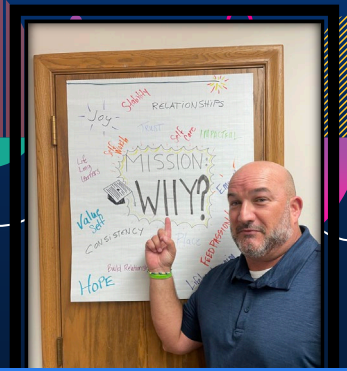
Lincoln Youth Academy

YRTC Kearney

Morton Program School

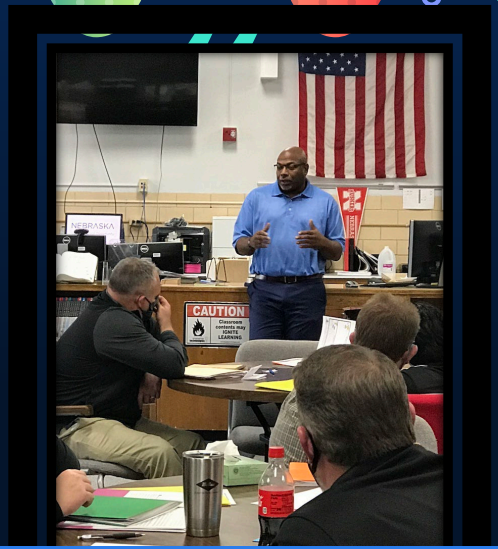
YRTC Hastings

Our Leadership Team



Seth Lutz, Principal
Nebraska Youth Academy
and Morton Program School

Greg Welch, Principal
YRTC Kearney



Scott English,
Superintendent of DHHS
Youth Facility Schools

Debra Turner, Principal
YRTC Hastings

Our NDE Partners

Dr. Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education
Dr. Deborah Frison, Deputy Commissioner
Dr. Ryan Foor, State Board Relations, Rules and Regulations Officer
Brad Dirksen, Administrator
Micki Charf, Accreditation Officer
Amy Rhone, SPED Director
Dr. Shirley Vargas, School Transformation Officer
Dr. Katie Graham, CTE Director
Sydney Kobza, Assistant CTE Director
Jacqui Garrison, Career Field Specialist
Dr. Kathy Kennedy, KLK Educational Services

Our DHHS Partners

Dannette Smith, DHHS Chief Executive Officer
Larry Kahl, DHHS Chief Operating Officer
Mark LaBouchardiere, Office of Juvenile Services Administrator
Paul Gordon, YRTC Kearney Facility Administrator
Camella Jacobe, YRTC Hastings Facility Administrator
Sarah Brownell, YRTC Lincoln Facility Administrator
Mitch Popple, Facility Administrator
Sara Thomas, YRTC Clinical Program Director
Rita Uldrich, Business Manager
Jennifer Daake, Accountant
Cindy Krolikowski, Interim Facility Administrator
Joni Suhr, Nurse Supervisor
Tracy Carpenter and Nancy Krueger

Where We Were…..Where We Are

Past	Present
System of Schools	School System
No guiding principles to shape our why	Vision, mission, core values, meeting norms
No School Improvement Team and no continuous improvement plan	Teacher and student voice in the continuous improvement process and Strategic Priorities
Different school calendars	YRTCs have same calendars- start and end dates; holidays, workdays, etc.
No grading philosophy, no assessment system or data analysis to inform instruction	Team of teachers created grading practices and an assessment system with a data monitoring data
No intervention of students and limited special education protocols	Implemented READ 180 and Math 180; IEP goals followed; focus on IEP compliance
Little to no meaningful professional development focused on teaching and learning	Continuous professional development, coaching by administrators, and weekly follow up conversations; weekly leadership team sessions

Where We Were…..Where We Are

Past	Present
No common instructional language and minimal lesson planning	Teacher identified evidence-based instructional strategies; Lesson Plan Template and use of Nebraska Standards to plan learning
Course credit as the focus	Learning as the focus
Some classes were held in the student living area at the Lincoln Facility; YRTC Nebraska Youth Academy and Morton shared spaces	With the work between facility administrators and education, learning spaces are now conducive to teaching and learning
Limited teacher and principal evaluation process	Created teacher evaluation timeline and use of Nebraska Teacher/Principal Performance Standards
Limited process to recruit, hire, develop and retain teachers/administrators	Attend job fairs to recruit teachers; provide professional development and coaching as well as input into decision making to support teacher retention rates

Where We are Going

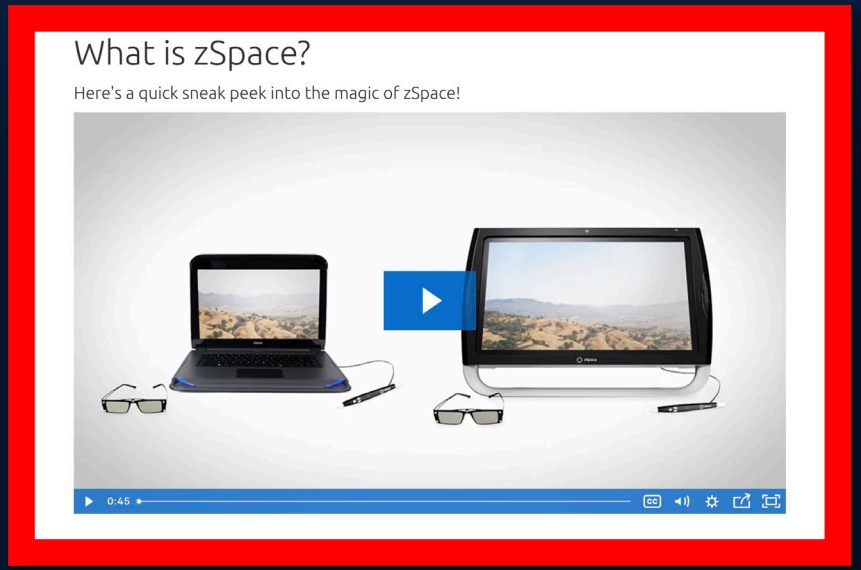
Continue working with NDE CTE Director, Katie Graham and her team to develop a focus on Career Technical Education clusters in order to provide students with workforce skills and potential certifications, endorsements and credentials (such Microsoft Suite certification; OSHA certification, food service, SNAP ON, etc.)

GED testing site and opportunity to acquire GED for our students

Seek opportunities for students to acquire dual credit at the local community colleges

Where We are Going

Expand our technology enhanced programing for students such as coding, robotics, Z-space, etc.



Our Why! Student Voices….

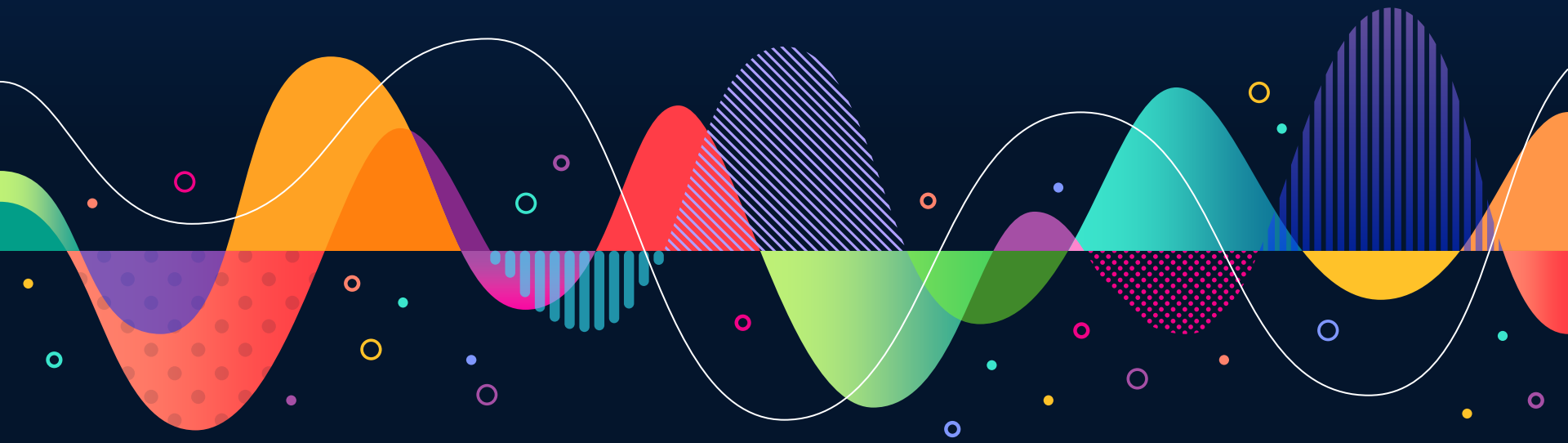
A student is officially enrolled in college and is taking a college course, starting tomorrow. It is fully paid for with his financial aid he was awarded through his FAFSA (which we filled out here) and he will also be enrolling at the Nebraska Maintenance Academy once he leaves our facility.

A student has been accepted by three colleges (including his top choice) and has been offered a guaranteed scholarship to Wayne State College here in Nebraska.

A student who will graduate next week has been accepted to Mid-Plains CC in North Platte and will start classes in January. He has also been offered a job which will pay for his ENTIRE college degree in Diesel Tech.

The Voice of a Student
"Speaking from Experience…"

"Things I like about School:

1. **You get a lot of individual help.**
2. **We have teachers that can actually help us with the stuff we need help with.**
3. **Our teacher lets us do cool things that some other facilities might not."**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS SUPPORT OF OUR STUDENTS, STAFF AND INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM!