

LEADERSHIP NEBRASKA

The Mission of Leadership Nebraska is to identify, educate, communicate with, inspire and engage Nebraska's current and emerging leaders for the well being of the state of Nebraska.

November, 2009

Class III Session Updates

Class III attended Agriculture Sessions and Economic Development Sessions in August and September to end the program for this year. In and around O'Neill, the class heard from local officials on topics ranging from water conservation, federal farm bill legislation and implications for Nebraska, livestock issues, and wind energy issues. The Ag Session was organized and coordinated by LN Class I member Kirk Cisler and featured tours of a hydroponic tomato greenhouse, a dairy, a popcorn and dry bean operation, a feedlot, a potato farm and processing plant, and an ethanol plant.

While the general area around O'Neill has a plethora of agricultural activities, it was noted that Nebraska has many other facilities and aspects of agriculture from dry-land production, vast ranching enterprises, and seed and processing facilities. The class appreciated seeing subjects up close!



Agriculture session visit to NPPD Ainsworth Wind Farm

Economic development efforts across the state were the highlights of that session, which started in Kearney and went across the state to Scottsbluff/Gering. Class III members heard presentations on how large urban, mid-sized cities, rural communities, and regional partnerships work to promote and develop economic activity throughout the state. Alumni Paula Hazlewood (Class I) and Brian Vasa (Class II) headed planning and development of this session, which featured tours of the Wal-Mart Distribution facility, Union Pacific's Bailey Yards, Kelley Bean Company, Cabela's, and Monsanto's Learning Center.

Nebraska's location and natural resources help determine some of the types of economic activity; the class appreciated the fact that economic development efforts across the state, while using different strategies, rely on cooperation and excellent public/private partnerships. ■



Class I Alumna Paula Hazlewood goes over economic development efforts.

Class IV Applications

Leadership Nebraska is still looking for more candidates to apply for the fourth class. The deadline for applying has been extended to November 30, 2009. We continue developing a cross-section of local leaders who will use their talents and abilities to foster a new spirit of energy, enthusiasm and vitality throughout the state. Each year, a class of up to thirty Nebraska leaders – in their 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s – is selected to participate in the program. The selected participants will be from different regions of the state, with

varied backgrounds and diverse talents, but all must have one common characteristic: an abiding interest in Nebraska and its future. Sessions for the next class will begin in late February 2010. For more information, call Don Mihovk, executive director, at (402) 474-4422 or e-mail dmihovk@nechamber.com. To download the application form or for more information, click on <http://nebraskaleadership.nechamber.com/>. ■



Far Left:
Alumni Cindy Arbaugh,
Cid Besse, Jeff Scherer,
and Adrian Sanchez
among those who also
attended Commence-
ment

Left:
Class III members
Sarah Arnold of
Hastings and Bob
Hinson at Commence-
ment

Commencement Held At The Grand Manse

Class III members were honored with diplomas and commemorative plaques during a dinner and reception on October 23 in Lincoln's Grand Manse Great Room. Presenting their awards was Robert Hinson, Vice President & Deputy General Manager of Northrup Grumman. Hinson, a member of the State Chamber Board of Directors,

relayed some of his leadership experiences as a pilot and general in the U.S. Air Force and commended the class on their dedication and involvement. Scott Kudrna and Jill Slupe were chosen by the class to speak about the experience and showcase the year in a video slide show. ■

Ken Wortman Scholarship Fund

We understand that many potential candidates are hesitant to commit due to the costs, and the Ken Wortman Scholarship Fund was established to help allay those concerns and guarantee that all qualified candidates be able to participate. This is another effort to lay the foundation for a quality program that will benefit the state of Nebraska for years to come. A non-profit 501(c)(3) fund is utilized for the organization, and we have been successful in obtaining some grant funds. Endowing funds for the State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska will perpetuate this statewide network of Leadership Nebraska graduates to actively engage in finding solutions that will enhance Nebraska's future growth and prosperity. You may also wish to underwrite the tuition of some of your key employees or outstanding leaders in your community. However you choose, your support will help develop Nebraska's best and brightest to prepare to make their mark in our state's continued growth and development.

Ken's vision of mentoring and encouraging Nebraskans to reach out and help build a stronger state can be realized by this new scholarship fund. Please consider donating today to the Ken Wortman Leadership Nebraska Scholarship Fund to ensure future participation of bright new leaders of Nebraska. Contributions are fully tax-deductible. For more information, please call Executive Director Don Mihovk at the State Chamber office. ■

Alumni Meeting October 23

Some 34 members of all three classes met prior to the Class III Commencement on October 23 at the Red9 Lounge in Lincoln. Class II member Derrick Eels, a partner of the Red9, graciously offered the facilities to host alumni in a session to get better acquainted and to hear of plans for next year's National Special Olympics to be held in Lincoln in July. Alumni Chairman Cid Besse (Class II) organized the event and spearheaded efforts to have a Silent Auction at the Alumni Meeting and Commencement to help fund scholarships. Thanks to generous donations of golf packages, art, baskets, and books, the Silent Auction raised \$940 for the Scholarship Fund. ■

The 2010 Session Calendar:

Orientation: February 10-12, Lied Lodge, Nebraska City

Government & Public Policy: March 9-11, Lincoln

Education: April 28-30, Kearney

Health and Human Services: June 23-25, Omaha

Agriculture: August 4-6, O'Neill

**Economic Development: September 15-17, Bus Trip
Across Nebraska**

Commencement: October 22, Lincoln