



Excellence in

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Opportunity.

Leadership

Teammate Recognition Month | November 15, 2021

Welcome!

Since 1985, the State of Nebraska has sponsored a statewide recognition program which has been coordinated by the Administrative Services State Personnel Division on behalf of the Governor's Office. The goal of this program is to show appreciation to state teammates for their loyalty and professional excellence. The program focuses both on exceptional performance and career tenure. Exceptional performers are recognized with an Excellence in Leadership award, while career teammates are honored with an Excellence in State Service award.

The Excellence in Leadership program recognizes teammates whose job performance has exceeded the highest standards and contributed to the overall effectiveness of the agency. These teammates are then honored at the Excellence in Leadership award ceremony, which is held in the State Capitol Rotunda. To date, 3,168 state teammates have received this honor. Today, 93 new recipients shall be added to this list of honorees.

We are pleased to honor these very fine Nebraska State Teammates.



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2021 Excellence in Leadership

Administrative Services

Christy Osentowski



As Total Rewards Director, Christy has facilitated teamwork and collaboration not only with her teams, but with State Personnel and with customer agencies. The Classification Consolidation project is an example of this kind of collaboration in managing a huge project to successful implementation. Christy serves her team because she values her team and people. She is an example of a leader who delivers on commitments, sets clear expectations, and is accountable. She cares about her teammates and makes sure she is providing a listening ear and support both personally as well as professionally. Christy has shown exceptional adaptability and resilience by taking on leadership of the Compensation and Classification Team, earning the respect of her team and becoming well-versed in the complexities of this area. She effectively delegates and enlists the expertise of her team and others to align available resources, creating efficiencies and effectiveness toward goals and projects. She has established meaningful and measurable customer-focused metrics that have resulted in superior customer-service improvements for both Wellness and Benefits, in 1-day resolution for 99% of customer contacts, and Compensation and Classification, in reducing the queue of agency request by about 40% in the last 9 months. Christy has high-integrity and is straightforward about doing the right thing for the right reasons for her customers. She has gone to bat for people, ensuring teammates receive the benefits they are entitled to. Christy has the ability to communicate effectively by being concise and clear. She can take a large amount of information and distill it down to easily understood communications. As mentioned above, she cares about her team members and engages individually with each one to listen, support, mentor, coach and develop. Christy tackles everything she is tasked with, committed to producing excellent results while meeting aggressive timelines.

Administrative Services

Mary Van Dyke

Mary has been a DAS teammate since 2019. She has a high level of contact with state agencies, courts, law firms, and teammates. Customer service is one of Mary's strengths, and we are lucky to call her a teammate. The pandemic brought to light several risks regarding time-sensitive garnishments. Someone had to be in the office to maintain the paper process. Additionally, the filing cabinets full of records were always at risk of fire or water damage. Mary was instrumental in mitigating those risks by digitizing the process and ensuring continuity in a work-from home or disaster scenario.



Administrative Services

Lois Hanson

Lois started as a full-time teammate with OCIO in October 1997, starting in HHS Applications for Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMIS). After 20 years, she transferred to the OCIO. Lois has been instrumental in working with all areas of OCIO to help move the organization forward. Projects such as Microsoft Teams, SharePoint, DynaTrace, and Applications Portfolio Management (APM) are progressing because of her efforts. While working the APM project she developed good relationships in nearly all State Agencies, often at the Director or Deputy Director level. She received many compliments from the agencies regarding that work, which included elimination of unused applications, as well as enhancements in resiliency of critical applications. The Teams and DynaTrace projects are moving OCIO and the State Agencies forward with state-of-the-art products. These productivity tools have been integrated into our current environment and have produced increased efficiencies by identifying coding issues, resulting in improved performance of applications. This is a breakthrough for the State of Nebraska, as the State has never utilized applications performance management. Lois is helping new staff members to become productive teammates on the SharePoint project.



Administrative Services

Joe Homan

Joe is the Manager of the OCIO Site Support team that was formed during the I.T. Infrastructure consolidation in 2018. Under his leadership, the State gained eight geographically diverse Site Support Regions which his team works to support through the OCIO's Desktop/Laptop Leasing Program and Site Support service. Many times, the only interaction an Agency might have with the OCIO is through the Site Support Team. Joe has worked hard to create standard processes and standardize hardware, making response times more efficient and more effective. Joe remained in the office throughout the COVID pandemic in 2020 setting the standard for his team, which also needed to be on-site. Joe has a passion for providing good customer service. He is always willing to meet with any customer at any level to resolve any issue. Under his leadership his team continues to demonstrate growth, taking on additional responsibility each year as shown in his incident resolution. In Fiscal Year 2020, the Site Support team closed an average of 697 Incident Resolutions (IR) and 552 Service Requests (SR) per month. In Fiscal Year 2021, the same team closed an average of 826 IRs and 1,064 SRs per month.



Department of Agriculture

Jon Holliday, DVM



Dr. Holliday was selected for this award because of his commitment to his role as a veterinary field officer for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. His work to help protect the livestock industry in Nebraska assists Nebraska in growing agriculture. As a team player committed to good relationships with our constituents, Dr. Holliday makes NDA a better, more effective department. Dr. Holliday's dedication contributes to finding more effective ways to do things. He uses his knowledge to think outside the box, contributing to making the department more efficient. His quiet demeanor makes him very effective during stressful interactions with constituents, occurring often when regulating Nebraska producers. Dr. Holliday grew up on a farm in Southeast NE. He received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree in 2000 from Kansas State University. Following graduation, Dr. Holliday worked in mixed animal private practice for 14 years before joining the Nebraska Department of Ag. Dr. Holliday and his wife live in Kearney, NE with their two 2 children.

Department of Agriculture

Elizabeth R. Smith



Elizabeth "Libby" began with the State of NE on April 1, 2013, in the Plant Pest Program as an Entomology/Plant Ag Inspector I - elevating to an Ag Inspector II within a year. In this program, she performed inspection work for plant nurseries, plant sales, phytosanitary exports, holiday trees, firewood, potato fields and performed plant pest surveillance work for pests of concern. Additionally, Libby executed education and outreach activities with the industry and the public. Libby was well received by the constituency and worked harmoniously with co-workers. Libby started a new position on November 18, 2019, as the Certification Specialist for the Nebraska Pesticide Program. This position was a new challenge for her, specifically having to learn new information and working with a different set of regulations and accompanying constituency. Libby mastered the program and quickly began developing more efficient processes and components. By updating the use of technology within the program, she implemented an electronic card system for licensing and enhanced the data collection capabilities. When pandemic issues surfaced, she executed alternate solutions to keep licensed applicators in business with different options for certifications, which required considerable organization and tracking. Libby's service-oriented attitude quickly built a good rapport with constituents in this program and she earned professional respect from co-workers within NDA. Libby has accepted each request with a smile, and the result is always positive. Her progressive thinking, lack of technology fear and positive attitude make Libby a valuable team member.

Attorney General

Nancy A. Gillett



Nancy is the quintessential Legal Assistant, and the Consumer Protection (CP) Division couldn't function without her. She's punctual, she's willing to help wherever needed, she's cheerful, and she's realistic. She has vast knowledge of the Division and is very adept at keeping all Division staff on task. She adapts to challenges very well. In fact, the challenge of going from one Division Chief to another seems to have had very little effect on her as she's done the very best to keep the transition seamless. She's gone above and beyond in this transition period in helping to educate the new Chief about the norms of the Division, and in giving her Chief much needed assistance in every area of the job. Additionally, she has helped the Tobacco unit's transition between legal assistants and helped the new Consumer Affairs Response Team get off the ground in their transition from the CP Division to the Communications Division of the AG's Office. Helping in those two areas really went above and beyond Nancy's duties, but she did them cheerfully and without complaint. Nancy personifies the State's Core Values with everything she does in the office.

Attorney General

Jeffery T. Schroeder

Jeff has been a dedicated public servant for the Nebraska Department of Transportation for 35 years. Jeff's professional legal approach is greatly appreciated by all of those who work with his office. Serving as Chief of the NDOT legal team, Jeff oversees numerous important projects having a long-term impact on Nebraska's transportation system. Jeff consistently manages a cohesive team of lawyers and staff. This cohesiveness is demonstrated by the longevity of lawyers and staff who continue to serve under his leadership. It's an honor to work with Jeff in the Nebraska Department of Justice. He is very deserving of this honor and recognition.



Auditor of Public Accounts

Deann Haeffner

Deann's public service involvement with political subdivisions across Nebraska is outstanding. Her years of service, helpful education, and speaking engagements to those entities is undeniable. Ms. Haeffner is a 1986 University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate. She started with the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts in April 1987 and became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in 1997. She is currently the Assistant Deputy Auditor. She has been a member of the Nebraska Society of CPA's and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for several years. Also, as a member of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASACT), Deann assists with conducting Peer Reviews of other State Audit offices across the U.S. Deann's leadership roles within the office make her stand out. The staff often refer to her knowledge and understanding of political subdivisions. She audits and works with Counties, Cities, Villages, Fire Districts, Cemetery Districts, Schools, and all other political subdivisions across Nebraska to answer questions and assist with budgets and audits on a daily basis. Deann works with NACO and League of Municipality to educate political entities regarding budgets and audits by speaking regularly at conferences and meetings they hold. Her historical knowledge is very valuable to the office.



Auditor of Public Accounts

Terence Heiser

Terence is a 2015 Concordia University, Nebraska graduate. He became a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in 2017. Currently, he is a Senior Auditor-In-Charge. Mr. Heiser provides Innovation and Forward Thinking to the office by proposing better or alternative ways to accomplish our testing objectives and suggesting, when needed, whether our current process is working or if changes and improvements could be made. Terence has a great teamwork approach of keeping team members updated on the work process as well as providing guidance to team members. Terence does an excellent job of multi-tasking and does not need to be reminded of getting things done. He always has his work completed or will make sure the tasks are getting done. He sets a great example for other teammates in the office. Terence takes pride in his work and takes his responsibilities very seriously. He is very good at researching things and addressing questions from staff under his supervision. Terence communicates well with managers and auditees. He is very professional, his work is accurate, he has a good attitude, and he puts in the extra hours needed to get the job done.





Department of Banking and Finance

Angela S. Kratzer

Angela, Securities Administrative Specialist, consistently demonstrates Nebraska's core values of innovation, teamwork, leadership, effective communication, coaching and developing team members. She is focused on improving our processes, having obtained her White Belt and Yellow Belt, and becoming a Certified Lean Leader. Angela was critical in testing and identifying last minute issues in closing out the e-filing uploads of securities from the BlueExpress system into the Department data base. Most recently, Angela assumed the project lead in the Department's goal of digitalizing and counting all mail. She worked with teammates to gather information, address concerns, and improve Department processes by utilizing in-person and remote meetings, writing instruction manuals, and offering in person and video recorded training. She is an effective communicator focused on coaching and developing her team members. In addition to her positive attitude, Angela developed and created a series of how-to and troubleshooting videos to assist others. Angela continues to demonstrate leadership and provides innovative and thoughtful solutions to our customers and teammates.



Department of Banking and Finance

Kathy Sparks

Kathy, Administrative Programs Officer I, embodies a number of core Nebraska values, not the least of which is serving by example of process improvement and customer service. Kathy wears many hats as the primary administrative support to the Financial Institutions Deputy, 4 review examiners, and 32 field examiners. Kathy is the first person turned to when one of the team doesn't know where something is, how a process should be done, or who within the Department to contact. Yet Kathy is more than a help desk. Kathy leads with meetings and goals, seeking teams to write and research information for her to assemble the annual report, annual meetings, or in testing and collecting processes sufficient to leverage digital signatures into NDBF daily processes. Kathy is always very prompt with a productive response, enabling work to continue. It's not unusual for her response to include additional assistance such as visual guides, or to circle in another Department team-member who may have more to add on the topic.



Department of Correctional Services

Sarah Balcom

Sarah has led the agency wide Staff Empowerment & Resiliency/Victim Education & Support (SERVES) team during her three years with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS). Members of the SERVES team act as points-of-contact in the facilities, providing emotional support and resources to fellow team members. As the staff advocacy and victim services coordinator, Sarah has frequent contact with members of the public, crime victims and teammates –treating all with integrity and respect. She keeps people safe and transforms lives by responding immediately whenever someone is in crisis and provides accurate and compassionate guidance to assist them. Sarah has developed the standards and training to allow SERVES team members to grow in their individual roles and elevate to the next level.

Department of Correctional Services

Linda J. Bos

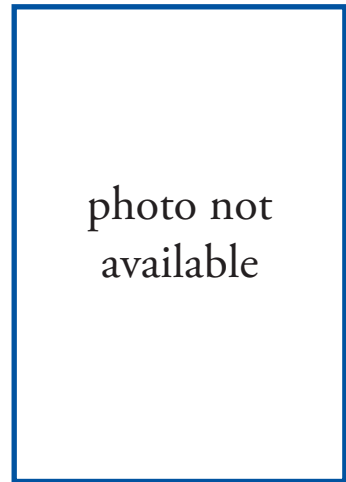
As a human resources manager for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS), Linda has impacted the hiring and promotion of most new and existing team members in the agency over the past 20 years. She oversees the advertising of the agency's career opportunities and the selection of candidates to ensure quality hires. She supervises a recruiting team which has grown over the years as a result of her innovative ideas. Linda is known as a fair and consistent supervisor, who treats individuals with compassion and respect. She is the agency's recognition coordinator, ensuring teammates are appropriately acknowledged for their years of service and their countless accomplishments. The past year presented challenges in organizing award ceremonies, but Linda accepted the challenge and delivered a quality virtual product that met the new requirements of the pandemic response.



Department of Correctional Services

James A. Donahue Jr.

James has distinguished himself as an effective team leader at the Omaha Correctional Center (OCC). As a supervisory sergeant, he coordinates searches of the facility, covers caseworker duties as needed, and is an active participant in OCC's Employee Positive Impact Council (EPIC). James also serves as a certified CPR instructor. During the pandemic and facility quarantine, James took immediate and necessary action to relocate individuals to the appropriate areas – ensuring the health and safety of all. He is known to be self-motivated and someone who provides workable solutions to situations as they arise. He is often praised by his peers, supervisors and subordinates alike for his steady and positive demeanor.



Department of Correctional Services

Lorna Ellinger

As a unit caseworker at the Community Corrections Center - Lincoln (CCC-L), Lorna works tirelessly to serve as a role model, not only to members of the incarcerated population, but to team members as well. She has been with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) for 33 years – 27 of which have been at CCC-L. She has trained nearly all the unit staff at the facility. Quite naturally, her peers often seek her guidance. Lorna has been a member of CCC-L's Employee Activity Committee (EAC) for 10 years and in the past year, she participated in two process improvement projects. As someone who consistently puts staff members first, Lorna clearly demonstrates that leadership comes straight from the heart.

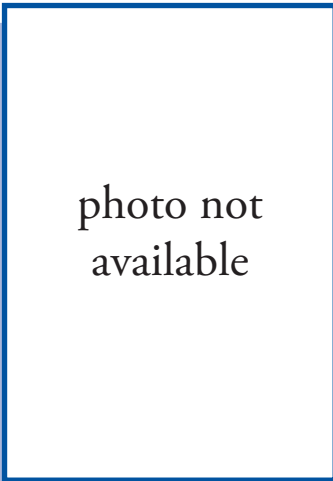




Department of Correctional Services

Steve Fannon

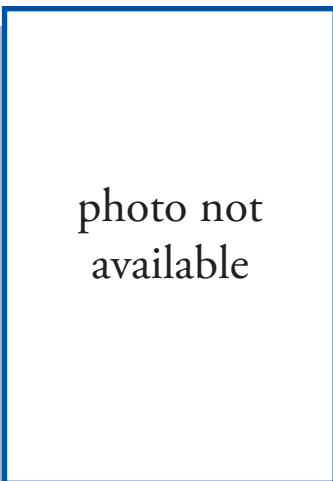
Steve has demonstrated an incredible commitment to leadership excellence throughout his 14 years of service to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS). As programs administrator, he places a high value on service, innovation, diversity and data, continuously encouraging and motivating his teams to perform at their highest levels. He is never satisfied with the status quo and is consistently looking for areas of improvement. Steve thinks laterally, rather than hierarchically. He knows that influence is not about forcing people to a pre-determined outcome but about learning from others and negotiating compromises. His leadership and collaborative approach have enabled NDCS to transform its approach to unit management, case planning, cognitive programming, education and reentry.



Department of Correctional Services

Phillip McClymont

With 15 years of service to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS), Phillip's career has included unit management and custody positions in multiple facilities. Currently a captain at the Omaha Correctional Center (OCC), Phillip's dedication to staff and the incarcerated population is second to none. Teammate engagement is a priority for Phillip. He ensures team members have the resources necessary to be successful, encourages their development and creates a standard for producing quality work. Overseeing the intelligence gathering operation for OCC, Phillip plays a critical role in maintaining the security of the facility. He is very mindful of matters that directly impact the safety of staff members, incarcerated individuals and the public.



Department of Correctional Services

Crystal Toth

During 2020, Unit Case Manager Crystal stepped up in significant ways for the Community Corrections Center - Omaha (CCC-O). She was instrumental in establishing the daily activity and transportation schedules for the inmate population during the COVID-19 pandemic. Crystal ensured that team members were trained and understood their duty assignments. She was commended by staff on each shift for her outstanding communication, while keeping both incarcerated individuals and team members informed of the frequent changes brought on by the pandemic. Crystal's ability to manage her caseload and a multitude of other responsibilities helped relieve the stress and challenges for many CCC-O teammates.

Department of Correctional Services

Tanita Troester BSN, RN

As director of nursing at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women (NCCW), Tanita has demonstrated exemplary leadership of the facility's medical department. She is passionate about her work and is committed to her team and providing excellent care to the incarcerated population. She ensures that her staff members are thoroughly informed of policies and procedures and inspires them to be open to newer, more efficient processes. To this end, Tanita and her team have willingly taken on pilot projects for the department. During the pandemic, she worked on any shift, wherever needed. She made rounds on the isolation units and helped with medication passes and testing for COVID. Tanita is optimistic and maintains a positive attitude. She has built relationships with those in other areas of NCCW and always takes the time to appreciate and recognize others for their work.



Department of Correctional Services

Loretta D. Wells

Loretta accepted the promotion to warden of the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility (NCYF) in December 2019. While acclimating to a new position, a new team, and management of a youthful offender population, Loretta had the added challenge of leading the facility through the ever-evolving, ever-changing COVID pandemic. She never wavered in her leadership to keep staff and inmates as healthy as possible. Loretta has always been a strong role model and mentor. She is highly respected by the many staff members who have known and worked with her during her 25-year tenure with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS). In a very short time, she has built a great rapport with many of the youthful offenders at NCYF. She has communicated her vision for the facility with staff members and always encourages her team members to share suggestions for achieving those goals.



Department of Correctional Services

Kevin Wilken

As the public information officer for the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution (TSCI), Kevin is responsive to the needs of both internal and external customers. His professionalism in dealing with family members and others has been praised by those who interact with him. During COVID, Kevin oversaw the visitation process, which underwent necessary modifications to maintain the health and wellness of the facility. He was key to resolving issues in scheduling and compliance with current processes. As part of his other duties, Kevin has regular interaction with the courts, probation and law enforcement agencies, as well as external agencies, which require timely and accurate responses. He regularly puts the success of the facility and fellow team members above himself. His willingness to volunteer—covering posts in the front lobby, master control and any other necessary locations—is invaluable to TSCI.





Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice **Gene Boner**

Gene has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Bellevue University. He has also graduated from the 104th Class at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC) and the 201st Session of the FBI National Academy. In 1989, Gene joined the Hastings Police Department, where he served for 28 years before retiring as a captain. After retirement, Gene joined NLETC in late 2018 as an instructor. Gene is a dedicated professional, focused on advancing his agency and tackling any problems that come his way. On his own initiative, Gene sought to improve management of the vehicle fleet used for student instruction by analyzing costs with a focus on functional vehicle life and safety. Based on his previous experience in fleet management, Gene developed a database that tracks vehicle costs, identifying when a vehicle is no longer worth the cost of repair so that money can be saved, and the vehicle retired. These vehicles are critically important given that students use them to learn how to maintain control of a police vehicle while executing maneuvers at various speeds on several different surfaces. Gene's leadership on this issue allows NLETC to provide high-level service in an efficient and cost-effective manner.



Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice **Amy Hoffman**

Amy attended the University of Nebraska, earning both a bachelor's degree and law degree. After admission to the bar, Amy was in private and local government practice before joining the Commission in 2013. Currently, Amy serves as the Director of Juvenile Diversion and Community-based Aid in the Juvenile Programs and Interventions Division. This division links juvenile diversion, juvenile services, and community-based aid to provide for improved services in support of juvenile justice. Amy has been fundamental to this endeavor, expanding her role in juvenile diversion and learning two new programs. She has engaged outside experts, customers, and other partners to synergize operations to make the best use of available resources. The division now offers a cohesive suite of efforts aimed at advancing juvenile justice. In all that she has done in creating the new division, Amy has used customer focus and servant leadership as drivers for decisions and improvements. Further, Amy is building a reputation as a subject-matter expert and has been an invited speaker at juvenile justice meetings and conferences. Amy took a vision for a cohesive division and through hard work and leadership made it a real force for serving Nebraska's youth.



Department of Economic Development **Dave Dearmont**

DED is the host agency for LB1107. LB 1107 adopts the ImagiNE Nebraska Act, the Key Employer and Jobs Retention Act, the Renewable Chemicals Production Tax Credit Act, the Customized Job Training Act, the Nebraska Transformational Projects Act, and the Nebraska Property Tax Incentive Act.

Right away, it became apparent that DED would need to set up a tax incentives division. Here is where Dave Dearmont led the way with his several years of experience as an economist working with tax policy. Dave volunteered to set up the new tax incentives division, worked with HR to hire staff, helped draft applications, rules, and guidelines. This monumental effort would not likely have succeeded without Dave's leadership.

Dave has a son serving in the US Military and enjoys playing the mandolin.

Department of Economic Development

Holly L. Hartman

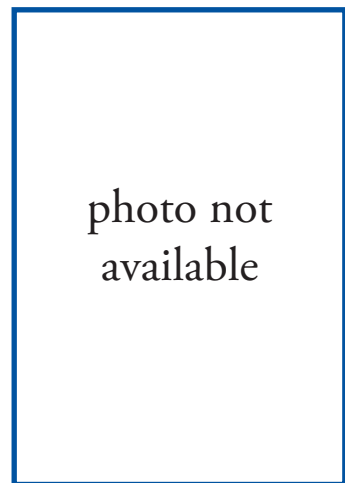
When DED's Budget Officer left unexpectedly a few years ago, none of us worried. We knew that we had a capable teammate that might enjoy the challenge. That teammate is Holly Hartmann. Holly has grown into the role with remarkable alacrity and skill. When DED became the host agency for many new programs, we naturally needed to set up new financial programs and controls. Holly fearlessly addressed the new requirements. DED also rolled out a new grants management software that required close cooperation with the finance team and integration into legacy systems. Holly has patiently worked through the "bugs" with our staff and it is now running smoothly. Holly is kind, patient, and she strives for the best for herself and others. She is always willing to help someone who has questions..



Department of Education

Jason Gomez

Jason makes things happen. This past year brought many challenges and opportunities for the office space at the Nebraska Department of Education and Jason was ready to serve. When the NDE learned it would be moving out of the Nebraska State Office Building, Jason was a key teammate in the process. He organized moving processes and took on accelerated roles with inventory and surplus processes. Jason is keen to follow the rules and strives to complete tasks with integrity. Since the move to the new facility, Jason continues to help implement the day-to-day operations of the building as we wait for our new office spaces to be constructed. Jason has taken on these responsibilities related to the office move in addition to his regular duties ensuring the agency's mail and shipping/receiving processes run smoothly, as well as learning new skills to work with central accounting processes. Jason Gomez is a valued teammate who makes things happen in the background, allowing others to be able to complete their jobs effectively.



Department of Education

Drew Worster

Drew Worster has served as the Multimedia Specialist in the Office of Public Information & Communications at the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) for five years. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Broadcasting from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is passionate about photography and videography and capturing moments to convey a message. Mr. Worster designs, manages, and maintains conference, event, broadcast, and collaboration technologies and manages multimedia services to support the NDE. Drew is responsible in his actions and provides great customer service, positively impacting the agency. For two years he has managed and produced virtual events for the good of the state. All educators across Nebraska, as well as the NDE staff, rely on Drew's expertise and professionalism every month to deliver high-quality content on education policy. Drew lives out our mission to lead and support all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living through his work. Mr. Worster works independently, with a high degree of decision-making, problem-solving, and composure. Drew believes in equity of access for all Nebraskans and is able to deliver NDE opportunities and information to more education stakeholders through virtual means with his expertise and experience.



Department of Environment and Energy

Shani Mach



Shani is Department of Environment and Energy's (DEE) Excellence in Leadership honoree for many reasons. LB 148 was signed by the Governor on March 31, 2021 which merged the DHHS Drinking Water, Environmental Safety, and Water Well Standards programs into DEE on July 1st. With the merger, Water Well Professional, Public Water Operator and Swimming Pool Operator credentialing program data, previously managed by Regulation and Licensure, had to be migrated into DEE's IIS data system by July 1st. The three-month time frame of designing the IIS to accept the credentialing data was put solely on Shani's shoulders. Shani coached the DEE, OCIO, and DataBank teams regarding the existing IIS credentialing framework so everyone understood how the portal solution would need to interface. She was instrumental in helping the OCIO and DataBank teams resolve a vital project communication protocol programming challenge that prevented progress. Shani coordinated with HHS Licensure to migrate tens of thousands of data records from Licensure's format into DEE's IIS data format. Since Licensure planned to turn off their data system July 1, it was imperative she design the IIS quickly to be ready to accept and store the data by the deadline. Shani worked countless hours outside of work, including weekends, and often until midnight building the IIS framework for DEE's credentialing solution. She remained positive and energetic about this challenging project along the way.

Department of Environment and Energy

Ryan L. Phillips



Ryan has gone way above his normal job responsibilities in multiple ways. He was a big part in helping the Agency move into our new building. Ryan stepped up and volunteered his time in multiple instances as he knew it would increase moral and team unity. Some of these include hanging name plates on cubicles, conference room signs, and Egan Boards in offices. Ordering, assembling, and arranging the Hearing Room Furniture. This all helped staff get back to their daily work in an efficient manner. He coordinated and ordered the new Employee Recognition Parking Spot Sign as he believes strongly in recognizing and lifting staff for their accomplishments. Lastly, he took it upon himself to remove the old and apply the new NDEE stickers on the Agency Pool Vehicles and clean them out since they were incredibly filthy. He knows the importance of representing NDEE with a professional appearance to the public. Ryan did all this while still ensuring his fiscal management duties were completed. Ryan represents teamwork and serves by example. He truly values NDEE staff and does whatever he can to help staff achieve the agencies mission and vision. We can't thank Ryan enough.

Equal Opportunity Commission

Kathleen Bogenreif



Kathy serves as the Business Manager for the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission. Kathy began her work with the agency over forty-six years ago. She has served numerous Directors, helped guide countless investigators and support staff, and witnessed the agency and the State undergo changes in size, scope and systems. Kathy assists other smaller agencies with their HR and payroll functions and has volunteered many hours to test new technology and systems for the State.

Equal Opportunity Commission

Ben Noodell

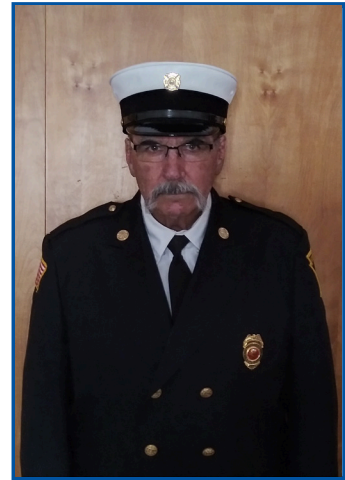
Ben has served as an Investigator for the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission for three years and for the Department of Health and Human Services for several years prior to that. Ben brought degrees in the areas of Psychology, Sociology, and Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska Lincoln to the State of Nebraska. Ben is a fantastic investigator, is willing to assist his co-workers with their work, and provides excellent customer service.



State Fire Marshal

Ralph Moul

Ralph began his training career to the state in 1986 as a part time instructor for the Nebraska Department of Education, the original host for firefighter training. He taught his first fire class in 1987. In 1989, he had the opportunity to become a full time Training Specialist assigned to the south-central region of the state and has served there his entire time with the state. In 1993, he transitioned to the State Fire Marshal when firefighter training was moved under its current agency. In addition to his wildland qualifications, Ralph has completed certification for several other fire service certifications under the National Fire Protection Association standards. Over his 32 years of service Ralph has taught hundreds of firefighters in his region and at the annual fire school held yearly under the direction of the Nebraska State Volunteer Fire Association (NSVFA). Whether teaching, training or supporting a local agency as a technical advisor Ralph has demonstrated and conducted himself at the highest levels of professionalism and integrity. He is well respected and driven by a desire to train, protect and care for the fire service.



Department of Health & Human Services

Jesse Bjerrum

Jesse started with DHHS in 2005 at the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC) as a Home Manager. In 2019, Jesse became the Program Administrator over clinical service for the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) and has had incredible success in systems reviews of work-flow processes, including Clinical Reviews, which has reduced the review (turn-around) time for clinic assessment. Jesse has led the team to improve reports to the courts Justice System. By reducing redundancy and superfluous information, Jesse has streamlined information systems in internal and external documentation procedures. These efficiencies not only produce a monetary value to the state, but also provide efficient and customer driven support to the people we serve.

Jesse has also been instrumental in ensuring cross-divisional support by working effectively with Behavioral Health and with Child and Family Services to better serve the individuals in critical need of services in Nebraska. Jesse works effectively with both internal and external stakeholders and provide clear guidance and support whenever needed. Jesse has been instrumental in solidifying the provider base for individuals with developmental disabilities and assuring a quality matrix for those serving high risk individuals.



photo not available

Department of Health & Human Services

Angel D. Casillas

Angel has been the lead of a recent lean six sigma workgroup that I am sponsoring. Angel has been innovative in his ideas, his style of communication, and in getting the rest of the group to buy into the mission of the group. Angel has taken initiative as the lead to convene groups, gather feedback, put together presentations. Angel is a team player, valuing the input of others and the efficiency of the work process.

In addition to this workgroup lead, Angel performs above average in his daily role as a CFS Supervisor. His teammates report he is a visionary leader, who listens, provides clear direction, and supports the overall DHHS mission and values. Angel is a high-quality communicator and demonstrates a high level of EQ in his daily interactions with staff and peers across the state.



Department of Health & Human Services

Connie Cohen-Nelson

Connie is a Developmental Disabilities Service Coordinator in the South Sioux City office. For years, Connie has been the teammate we likely ask most often to participate in work groups, committees, and stakeholder engagement. Not only because she is knowledgeable about the work our division completes, but she is innovative and forward thinks to make process improvements. Connie is always willing to assist her coworkers no matter what they need. She assists with covering assignments/meetings, answers questions, and lends her time to talk through difficult situations. Connie is inquisitive and quickly adapts to change. She recognizes the importance of welcoming change as it directly improves services for the people we support. She regularly looks for ways to overcome barriers and simplify processes. Connie effectively communicates with her colleagues, develops a trusting, professional working relationship with the participants, families, and professional partners. She demonstrates daily a positive attitude and shows sound and good judgment in all her decisions. Connie's commitment to assist people with an intellectual or developmental disability is consistent and unwavering. She is dedicated to "helping people live better lives".



Department of Health & Human Services

Matthew A. Donahue, MD

Matthew Donahue, MD. Started as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer assigned to Nebraska through the CDC and is now the State Epidemiologist at DHHS. Dr. Donahue led the case investigation for the 3rd COVID-19 case in the US and supported Nebraska local health departments in their COVID-19 investigations. He helped lead testing studies and expanding testing initiatives and investigations across Nebraska, and developed variant of concern, reinfection, and vaccine breakthrough surveillance systems. Dr. Matt Donahue is an outstanding individual who has been at the front line and continues to lead our Public Health Epidemiology Department at the State Health Dept. Dr. Donahue was on the front lines when COVID started in Nebraska. He was Innovative with his work due to COVID and brings a wealth of knowledge.

Department of Health & Human Services

Michelle Eby

Michelle has been an integral part of the implementation of Heritage Health Adult as well as many of the Medicaid eligibility changes related to the state's COVID response over the past year. She has shown a focus on forward thinking and customer service by helping to prioritize system and process changes that would allow staff to continue to provide high levels of customer service despite the changes in policy - some of which happened very quickly. In working through and planning for the implementation of those changes she has shown a great willingness to collaborate with other teams to find solutions that meet everyone's needs. Michelle is able to quickly identify gaps in planning strategies. She readily provides suggested solutions to problems and often identifies potential problems before they become issues. She has also demonstrated how much she values her team and the people she serves by providing thoughtful feedback and keeping staff needs and customer service a part of all the planning. Michelle is a great role model for her team and those that she works with. She maintains and exudes professionalism. This motivates others to step up their game and to perform at their optimum level.



Department of Health & Human Services

Connor Griess

Since Connor began with DHHS in March 2020, he has become invaluable to the Agency handling large scale renovations, responding to emergencies, regardless of the time or day, as well as being a tremendous team leader for the Central Office of Material Services. Connor consistently works to meet the needs of the Agency and his team, while coordinating with State partners and managing both vendor performance and timelines. Connor came to DHHS with a wealth of knowledge from his prior employment with an architect firm in Lincoln, as well as having a Master of Architecture degree and Bachelor of Science in Design.



Department of Health & Human Services

Jillion Lieske

Jillion has worked for the Division of Developmental Disabilities since October of 2002. Since 2018, serving as the Service Coordination Operations Administrator II, Jillion has demonstrated high standards of practice in serving the individuals in all the waivers supported by the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Having more than 200 individual service coordinators, supervisors and district administrators, Jillion has been able to create a culture of customer service intended to support the individual, families, providers and stakeholders. Jillion is committed to moving the service coordinators in a clear path to increase customer service above what is expected and to excel at building relationships that foster customer service best practices. Jillion has also provided exceptional leadership during one of the most difficult times by coordinating information and ensuring that service coordinators, providers and families were updated and supported through this difficult time. Jillion was able to move mobile service coordination to a very high standard and surpassed the goal of reaching 100% of individuals served, earlier than the expected date. This speaks highly to the trust her staff have in her, and the support for her vision in serving individuals in Nebraska.





Department of Health & Human Services

LaDene Madson

LaDene leads the Talent Acquisition Associate Team and when it comes to efficiency and effectiveness, LaDene is ahead of the game. She is constantly leading her team to come up with better and smoother processes to enhance the Onboarding process. As a result, she has implemented countless improvements to the onboarding process, making it smoother and easier for New Hires and hiring Supervisors. Her knowledge allows her to routinely provide great ideas, guidance, and thoughtfulness to the team. LaDene is the example of teamwork, servant leadership, and living the DHHS Mission. LaDene is the first one to volunteer to be at any job fair or other recruitment activity to find candidates. She is our expert on Drug Screening and Background Check processes and continually works with vendors to get the best service and price. LaDene manages to do all of this while also being a top-notch recruiter supporting YRTCK and other DHHS departments. No wonder she so she easily earns trust and respect in her everyday actions.



Department of Health & Human Services

Amy Nygaard, MSW, BCBA

Amy exemplifies all the qualities you want in a great leader. As a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) with the Clinical Support Team (CST), Amy provides quality, individualized services to participants receiving DDD services and their community providers. She provides the participant, family and provider strategies based upon their individualized behavioral needs to reduce behaviors that limit their access to the community, their preferred work, activities in which they are interested, persons who are important to them and assists participants to build pride in themselves and their accomplishments. She has provided education to Direct Support Professionals, other provider staff and those in Service Coordination regarding behaviors, interventions and reinforcement which leads to well-rounded support for the participant and ultimately their success. Staff know that they can count on Amy for assistance, as well as answers and support regarding the participant's behavioral needs.



Department of Health & Human Services

Maggie Schachta

Maggie was invaluable not only as a DHHS Public Health Administrative Assistant during the past year and half of the COVID pandemic but also as the point person for other leadership team members of the division of Public Health and the DHHS Incident Command Team. When anyone needed anything done, Maggie was there to help/assist and was always pleasant and professional in accomplishing these tasks that went way beyond her normal duties. Maggie was a key teammate in helping DHHS and the State of Nebraska navigate our response to the pandemic.

Department of Health & Human Services

Diane Schumacher

Diane has been a valued team member at the Norfolk Regional Center (NRC) for 25 years. She demonstrates great leadership and portrays the vision of NRC and the DHHS system in all she does. Diane trains new APRN's and continually mentors new RN's, as well as onboard new medical/psychiatric providers to ensure efficient processes and procedures. She has always worked diligently to find ways to be more efficient and effective by helping with Avatar issues, clarifying orders, and by coordinating care with all the regional medical providers. She has a wealth of knowledge that she willingly shares to ensure policies and procedures are followed and great patient care is provided. She sets the example and the expectation of service for all those individuals who came in contact with her.

Diane was the only medical provider located at the Norfolk Regional Center for the majority of 2020 and singled handedly held down the NRC medical clinic for all patients, 24/7 for months on end. Additionally, she is the key contact working with public entities such as the public health department, testing sites, etc. to ensure compliance with the latest guidelines for testing/quarantine/COVID procedures, etc.



Department of Health & Human Services

Joni Suhr RN

As the nursing supervisor for the YRTC's, Joni has put her own health at risk many times during the COVID-19 pandemic. When the pandemic first started, she would not let any of her other nurses interact with COVID quarantined youth to reduce the risk of exposure to others. Joni personally ensured that the youth were safe and comfortable during a time that was scary and unnerving for them. She continuously showed great compassion for the staff and the youth. The quarantine plan would not have gone so well if it wasn't for her knowledge, expertise, and dedication to the task at hand. Joni also served as the liaison with the Two Rivers Health District. Joni continues to set the bar higher each and every day. She leads by example and takes on different challenges willingly, and with an open mind. Joni is also willing to do activities and things with the youth outside of her medical duties (such as taking youth outside to do work projects or organizing cook outs). Joni also took on supervising nursing duties, on call nursing duties, and med aid training at the Geneva, Hastings and Lincoln YRTC facilities.



Department of Health & Human Services

Julisa J. Thomas

Since her start two years ago as a Youth Security Supervisor at PRTF Whitehall, Julisa has become the "go to" supervisor when a youth is having a hard time or displaying behaviors. She takes the time to get to know each youth as an individual, and by doing so, shows that she isn't just here to make a paycheck. She comes to work with a positive attitude and consistently provides excellent customer service to the youth and their families. Julisa is a positive role model who is always willing to go above and beyond to help the Whitehall team and the youth we serve. She recently volunteered to take charge of inventory and was able to change the process so that Whitehall always has what it needs. She serves as a Chapter Champion for our Joint Commission team that ensures compliance with standards. Julisa consistently leads by example by how she presents herself. Staff and the youth know that when they see Julisa, they will see an associate that knows the rules and regulations of campus and holds herself to them, even when no one is around.





Department of Health & Human Services

Matt Thomsen

Matt is the Program Manager II of the Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), the Nebraska Homeless Assistance Program (NHAP), the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) program and the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). He is the programmatic lead in responding to individual's energy needs, community actions agencies, and homelessness assistance agency needs. He put in countless hours collaborating, providing technical assistance, and advocating for agency's needs. Matt proposed and implemented CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act funding for the LIHEAP program, which provides additional utility assistance to individuals during the pandemic. He is the also the programmatic lead on the new program Low-Income Water Assistance program that will assist individuals with emergency water needs. Additionally, he administered and provided technical assistance with CARES Act funding to both the NHAP and CSBG agencies. He is diligent, a team player and always dedicated to meeting the needs of Nebraska's low-income population. Matt exemplifies excellence in leadership each day.



Department of Health & Human Services

Nicole Vint

Nicole Vint is the Administrator of the Child Care Development Fund for Nebraska. She is the lead in responding to childcare provider concerns for the Department. She collaborates with leading community partners on the needs and concerns of childcare providers. She proposed and implemented state waivers that supported providers at a time when 16% of childcare providers closed statewide due to the pandemic. Nicole was the statewide contact for pop-up childcare providers that were authorized by a Governor's executive order. Additionally, she has proposed and is implementing the use of hundreds of millions of dollars in federal relief funding to provide stabilization, incentives to reopen for childcare providers and build the state's childcare systems back better than ever before.

Nicole is driven in her career and passionate about the population we serve. She strives for perfection in her work and is very well respected and appreciated by her peers and leadership. Nicole exemplifies excellence in leadership each day and especially so during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Department of Health & Human Services

Barbara Vogel

Barbara is the Director of Quality Assurance and Process Improvement. She has done an exceptional job providing the administrative leadership with both her Quality Assurance and Process Improvement staff and the overall leadership team at the Lincoln Regional Center. Through her leadership there have been numerous projects and efforts, initiatives to improve quality care and safety while decreasing medication errors. Some of the areas for improvement have included decreased staff and patient injuries, reduction of seclusion and restraints, fall reduction, and improved patient satisfaction. She also oversees the safety and compliance teams and related projects and efforts. Her leadership with these departments has also pursued numerous positive changes and initiatives including standardizing safety practices, improved regulatory compliance and improved emergency response systems and practices.

Department of Health & Human Services

Susan Walker

Susan has been a Social Service Worker for Medicaid and Long-Term Care at the Lexington Customer Service Center since 7/23/2017. Susan promotes excellent customer service and demonstrates great integrity. Susan does a great job in organizing information. She has built an ACCESS database that is utilized daily by supervisors in statewide MLTC Eligibility Operations. This database has streamlined the reporting that supervisors had been doing and helps to provide consistency when measuring the work and the goals that staff have. The database not only saves a tremendous amount of time, but it also provides for consistency when measuring goals and better communication due to the alignment of expectations. Susan not only created the databases, but she assists with trouble shooting issues and training others how to use the database. Susan is also a great team member. She does not hesitate to help where there is a need and helps with activities at the Lexington Customer Service Center that build morale.



Department of Health & Human Services

Erika Wolff

Erika has been a member of the Lincoln Facility since the opening. She started in a Behavior Technician position in December of 2019. Due to her experience with court involved youth, Erika quickly became a great candidate for the Behavior Technician Program Coordinator position at the facility. Erika is a committed team member and brings both internal and external professionals, as well as families, together to enhance the treatment and care of each youth served. Erika strives to set an example with professionalism and dependability. She continuously demonstrates a drive to serve each youth and their families on an individual basis considering strengths, needs, goals, and preferences. Professionals who have worked with Erika have emphasized her organizational skills, prompt responses, and overall helpful nature. She is a valued and dependable team member and is a positive support for her co-workers and the youth we serve.



History Nebraska

Kelli Bacon

Kelli has a master's degree in both Anthropology and Museum Studies from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. She began working at History Nebraska in 2000 as a student intern and temporary teammate. She worked in Archeology full time doing both archival work and occasional field work starting in 2004. Around 2010, she transferred to Historic Preservation, where she has worked on the digitization of our files, acting as our records manager, and most recently as our Certified Local Government Program Coordinator and our Outreach Coordinator. Always willing to chip in where needed, Kelli generously agreed to take on Section 106 reviews for standing structures, persisting in the role when the role went on longer than planned, and became more intensive in the number of reviews. Kelli can always be relied upon to chip in to do what needs doing. Because of this, she has a wide variety of experience that our office has been able to utilize. We are grateful to have her.





History Nebraska

Lindsey Hillgartner

Lindsey earned her master's of Library and Information Studies degree from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Prior to joining History Nebraska, she was the Digital Initiatives Production Coordinator at Iowa State University. Lindsey was hired in 2019 as History Nebraska's first ever Digital Archivist. She has led the digitization initiative, an agency-wide strategic priority, by taking an inventory of our digital assets and developing policies and procedures that create the framework for the digitization, storage, and sharing of all our collections. In 2021, she graciously accepted responsibility for History Nebraska's reference and research requests, including managing teammates in that department. Lindsey is ambitious, thoughtful, and not at all intimidated by tackling what could be considered a daunting task. She has embraced improving processes and the value of "doing it better every time."



Department of Insurance

Laura L. Arp

For the past decade, Laura has excelled at every position she has held at the Department. Her expertise all things insurance has translated not only into leadership roles within the Department, but national recognition as well via her work with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners where she serves as chair or vice chair on several committees. She has been nominated as well for national and local awards. She was twice a finalist for the InSpire award for women in government service. Within the Department, she has created a customer focused division where, under her leadership, efficiencies were created that significantly decreased timeframes for product review. She is also lead counsel in several cases in the Department. More importantly, she has mentored several teammates within the Department as well as her students where she is an adjunct professor of law. Laura is the ideal candidate for this honor.



Department of Insurance

Lindsay Crawford

Lindsay has been with the Nebraska Department of Insurance for over 13 years. In that time Lindsay has quickly shown her talents and passion, which has enabled her to rise up through the Examination Division ranks to her current role as Deputy Chief Examiner. Lindsay has shown her technical ability to be an expert in several areas, including reinsurance and premium taxes to name just a few, as well as her leadership ability to develop Teammates and create efficiencies where possible. The Examination Division has continued to grow and maintain its presence as a national leader in financial and solvency regulation under her direction. Lindsay continues to impress with her ability to work collaboratively and find solutions that are in line with regulations and the needs of the insurance market. Lindsay is well respected. Numerous domestic insurers and other state regulators rely upon her expertise in innovative matters. Lindsay is a hard worker that shows others the value that the Department of Insurance can bring to consumers, highlighting the personal growth and satisfaction that can come with it. Lindsay focuses on developing and elevating others around her and is more than happy to let others be recognized for the accomplishments the Department.

Department of Labor

Zitlalkuahutli Ramirez-Cuan Sage

Lali has excelled as a teammate during the 2020-2021 year. She has served multiple roles within the Nebraska Department of Labor and is currently a labor law investigator. Because of her previous agency experience with the Unemployment division, when the pandemic began, she was quickly assigned to assist with unemployment claims. Lali served a particularly vital role with the agency because she was able to assist Spanish-speaking customers. Her sense of teamwork and collaboration led her in efforts to utilize her bilingual skills to serve not only the agency but the State of Nebraska. She presented on behalf of NDOL at Governor Ricketts' Spanish press conference, town halls with U.S. Congressman Don Bacon, and outreach events for Telemundo Nebraska, Goodlife Community Development, and local online sources. Utilizing her bilingual skills and high level of professionalism, Lali created numerous unemployment videos for customers in both English and Spanish and represented the agency in media interviews. Her ability to jump into new assignments outside of her assigned role was invaluable to the agency during its COVID-19 response.



Department of Labor

Justin Schroeder

As the head of the Labor Standards division within the Nebraska Department of Labor, Justin has excelled in leadership during the 2020-2021 year. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Justin led his team as they completely switched focus to assist with the unprecedented unemployment workload and whatever additional need arose. They took on new roles from adjudicating unemployment claims to issuing orders in appeals. Justin seamlessly interacted with supervisors throughout the agency to move his team between assignments. Despite the significant change in duties and increase in hours, the Labor Standards team remained a cohesive unit. Because of Justin's leadership, he retained team members, and together they stepped up to the challenges faced.

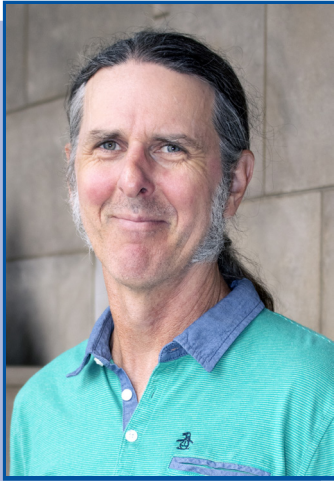


Nebraska Library Commission

Holly Atterbury

Holly is a Nebraska Library Commission Talking Book and Braille Service Reader Services Advisor. She excels in service to the Talking Book and Braille Service clientele of over 2600 individuals. Holly is truly patron focused – consistently upbeat, friendly, and most importantly patient. Holly performs in a highly effective, customer focused, and considerate manner. Holly is helpful and is glad to repeatedly assist patrons with technological challenges. Holly has exceptional communication skills, skills that are critical to successful relationships with the Talking Book and Braille Service's statewide clientele. Holly is innovative and willing to go above and beyond her basic position roles and responsibilities. She has volunteered her time as a bug tester for the Talking Book and Braille Service's WebREADS integrated library system and has spearheaded involvement in the smart device pilot test. This was no small feat as Holly had to recruit volunteers, learn how the device worked and how to troubleshoot, and gather survey responses from the patrons.

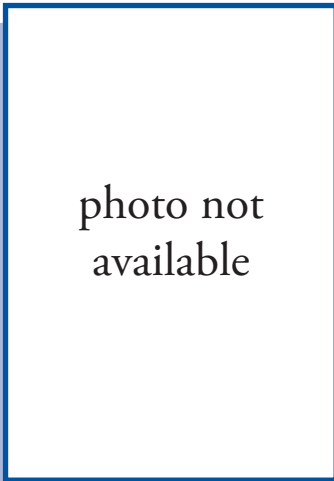




Nebraska Library Commission

Sam Shaw

Sam is the Nebraska Library Commission's Planning and Data Services Coordinator. Sam also serves as the Commission's Library Services and Technology Act Coordinator. Sam works effectively with public librarians and regional library system directors in collecting and using public library statistics. Sam is knowledgeable and respectful in answering questions and providing information. Sam's customer service skills can be described as respectful and responsive. Sam is skilled in designing creative infographics from data collected from libraries and other sources. Of note is Return-on-Investment information that is used to illustrate the value of public libraries and services to their boards, cities/villages, and residents. In his role as LSTA Coordinator, Sam is knowledgeable and skilled in following federal requirements and in collecting information for federal program reporting.



Nebraska Military Department

Nathan Christopher Martinez

Nathan has brought an enthusiastic vision of incorporating new technologies into the agency. He implemented a digital display signage board system that will help direct visitors to their proper room or event. The displays can also show the current weather radar and news feeds into inform staff members and visitors of real time information. During COVID-19, it was necessary to have meetings over the web. Nathan was involved in setting up new equipment with web conferencing cameras that were connected to the video wall system with a control tablet. Nathan also researched and incorporated a new computer driven podium, which has a built-in computer which enable the user to view and run their presentation. Conference and training rooms were also equipped with a 360-degree web camera for web conferencing. Nathan stepped up by assigning and working with all our sections on setting up computer equipment to allow teammates to work from home. He was continually troubleshooting hardware and software problems during all hours, including weekends for our staff. He developed new methods to improve remote access to computers by leveraging current technology supported by the state Office of the Chief Information Officers. He has diligently worked on several digital document forms that would improve efficiency in preparing, reviewing, signing, disseminating, and tracking software package documents, going towards a pure paperless environment. He created an onboarding form to inform the IT/Commo staff of new teammate hires, giving our staff ample time to prepare computer and communications equipment for new personnel.



Nebraska Military Department

Captain John E. Williams IV

John has been with the Fire Department with the Military Department since December of 2014. He is currently a Fire Captain. John produced a rookie training academy for our new hire fire fighters. The COVID-19 pandemic produced many obstacles that made successful accomplishment of the training academy unlikely. With five vacant positions and no qualified applicants, it was decided we would remove the minimum requirements and run a rookie class ourselves. Normal certifications are through Goodfellow Air Force Base, TX. New hires need to be fully certified through IFSAC (International Fire Service Accreditation Congress) to meet Air Force AFCEC and FAA requirements. John researched all the training requirements and produced a week training scheduled and procured all necessary training courses and materials and practical hands-on exercises. Completion of the course required extensive scheduling with multiple departments within the Air National Guard, Lincoln Airport Authority, Duncan Aviation, Iowa Air National Guard and Offutt Air Force Base. Many offices had very limited access due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rookie class accomplished live structural, aircraft and car fires. John built several training simulators, to include a shingled roof. His actions have direct impact on the mission readiness of the Air National Guard as all the rookies completed their courses and have their certifications.

Department of Motor Vehicles

Cathy Beedle

Cathy has served the members of the motor carrier industry for over 40 years. She has consistently implemented strategies to make it easier for commercial drivers to complete their business with the state. Most recently she has been instrumental in establishing the business plan for the modernization of the computer software system to register and collect and distribute taxes and fees. Her expertise has also been utilized on the national level in defining the business processes for ensuring the accountability and integrity of the clearing house system reconstruction. She is passionate about ensuring her division is providing top notch customer service. Her knowledge, experience, leadership, and innovative thinking has earned her respect across all facets of the motor carrier industry.

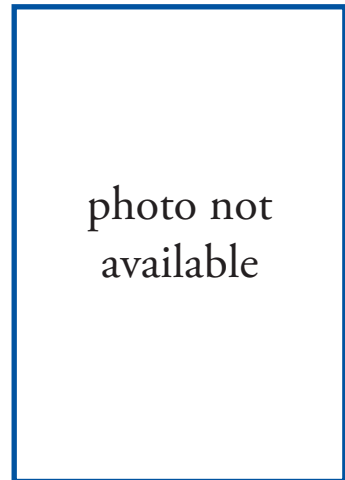


Department of Motor Vehicles

John Brophy

John has been a key contributor to multiple projects and initiatives the DMV has undertaken during his time at the DMV. This past year the number of projects and initiatives he has led and contributed to was significantly increased. Many of the initiatives may be contributed to his forward thinking and drive for continuous improvement. Examples of some small initiatives that have provided DMV staff with tools to help increase productivity include: expanded use of email groups, replacement/addition of hardware (laptops, monitors, printers), early adoption of WebEx messenger, addition of WebEx accounts for ease of communication, addition of VPN accounts, adding room resources to Outlook, adding ShareFile accounts, etc. The larger projects where his involvement and leadership has been invaluable include the CATS Project and the project to move all servers off of the DMV domain. John strives to work with everyone and be an excellent team member, this is evident by the leadership role he has taken managing the technology needs for multiple projects. Other members of the project teams can safely rely on John to ensure all options are reviewed prior to making important technology decisions and all technology needs are met.

John provides excellent and timely updates, clearly communicates changes to DMV staff, and has built relationships with invaluable resources at other state agencies and with vendors.



Department of Natural Resources

Tim Gokie

Tim has worked for the Nebraska Dam Safety Program with the Department of Natural Resource for the past 14 years and has served as the Chief Engineer for the Dam Safety Section since 2013. Tim is a great team leader and player. He values his team members and respects dam owners and people he works with. He works well with dam owners and their consultants in keeping their dams safe by reviewing plans for dam constructions, inspecting dams for assessing their conditions, preparing emergency action plans, and working with dam owners for addressing dam deficiencies. He is a good coach for new team members and is always looks for ways for improving efficiencies. He prioritizes tasks and aligns resources with our agency mission and for protecting people and property in our state.



photo not available

Department of Natural Resources

Shane Stanton

Shane Stanton has been with the Department of Natural Resources since 2001 and has been the supervisor of the Cambridge Field Office since 2009. Shane has served the Department of Natural Resources in leading by example to lend his considerable expertise whenever needed. He's assisted other offices streamgange installations. Shane is always looking for a better way to solve functional problems at his streamgaging locations and is known to fabricate specialized equipment to arrive at better outcomes. He has also consistently been a great resource to our IT staff when implementing and testing new technological applications in the field. Shane led a successful office move at a difficult time when there were many restrictions due to the pandemic. Shane is responsible for continuously creating efficiencies that have reduced staffing requirements (1 full-time staff position has now become ½ time SOS position). Throughout his career as the Cambridge Field Office Supervisor, Shane has led the water administration efforts in the Republican River basin. Through his leadership, Shane and his team have consistently achieved and exceeded defined metrics relating to dam inspections, pump checks, and streamgaging records reviews.



Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Kathy J. Carroll

Kathy is the Deputy Director of Finance at our agency. She has worked hard to streamline our business office processes within NCBVI. Her knowledge of Finance and detail-oriented nature has been an asset to our agency. She completes our Federal Financial Reports, has verified their accuracy, and worked within the State of Nebraska mandates to ensure our agency is following all regulations. She has dedicated her time to ensure we are following the regulations and interpreting them correctly. She has streamlined our business process within the state accounting system to make paying bills easier and worked hard with vendors and our staff to pay bills timely. Her dedication to not only the accounting side of our agency but the services side has helped us become more efficient, accurate and timely. She also incorporates our agency philosophy into her job and the job of those who work with her in the Business Office. Her staff are friendly, approachable and all work together to keep communication lines open and she is the one to verify that is happening and continues to do so. Thank you, Kat, for all of your hard work!



Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Michael G. Rains

Mike is the wood shop/home maintenance teacher in our Nebraska Center for the Blind. He teaches the students in our Center non-visual techniques to complete basic home maintenance and helps them complete a project using woodworking tools. Not only is this information useful, but it also helps build confidence in the blind to become independent. Mike is always willing to step in and help outside of his classroom when the need arises. He has managed the Center if the supervisor is out, on leave, etc. and many other duties not in his job description. During the pandemic, he was instrumental in keeping the Center running as best as possible when the students had to quarantine at the apartments. His willingness to think of ideas outside of the box during this time and follow through until the job is done is exemplary. If he has an idea for a program our agency runs, he is always double checking that the project is feasible and how to best teach it using non-visual techniques. Mike is dependable, friendly, hard-working, and a great team player. If something needs to be done, he is one that will step in and get the job done. He is always behind the scenes making sure everything is going smoothly without fanfare. Our staff always appreciate Mike and his work but he deserves to be recognized for his commitment to our agency and our agency's philosophy of believing in the Blind. Thank you, Mike!

Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Jessica Larrison

Jessica first went to college to become an ASL interpreter for the Deaf and interpreted for several years before deciding to pursue as an advocate. Jessica Larrison is currently the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf's statewide Educational Advocate. Her roles involve helping Deaf and Hard of Hearing children and their families get advocacy for Deaf/HoH children's needs and accommodations to succeed in their school. Jessica has traveled to various schools around Nebraska helping families in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 meetings and informing parents their rights in those meetings. Jessica coordinates the LEAD-K Advisory Committee, focusing on Language Equality and Acquisition for Deaf Kids as signed into law LB 965 "LEAD-K bill" by Governor Ricketts in 2020. Jessica is also a certified master IEP coach. Jessica continues to go beyond her duties to helping families and school districts in advocating for what is best for the child's education and truly improving the future of our young Deaf and Hard of hearing children to make their mark after us.



Nebraska Board of Parole

Mikki Kirkpatrick

Mikki is a Parole Supervisor with the Nebraska Board of Parole (NBOP) with nearly 27 years of state service. She began her career with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) and has held multiple positions of increased responsibilities during his tenure. In 2020, Kirkpatrick was promoted from Specialized Parole Officer to the Lincoln Regional Office Parole Supervisor within NBOP. Supervisor Kirkpatrick lead team members through a challenging period of time when the COVID-19 started emerging in Nebraska. She provided support, guidance, and a compassionate approach for teammates who had childcare issues, adjustments working remotely, and developed a flexible teammate work schedule to accommodate these challenges, while at the same time hiring and training new teammates to fill vacancies during this moment. Her actions were instrumental in allowing the agency to fulfil its mission: Maintain Public Safety; and regarding COVID-19 in particular – keeping people healthy.



Nebraska Board of Parole

Ken J. Quinn

Ken has served the state for years and is a role model and leader to us all. He has worked in many capacities within state government and has always brought his leadership skills to each and every position. Many of the positions Ken has held require the utmost integrity and leadership. Ken serves by example and has mentored staff and seeks to ensure the agency is held to the highest standards. Working within prisons and in community supervision with the formally incarcerated provides challenges that Ken has always risen to. His optimistic view of the world and that everyone is a valued individual provides inspiration to all of us.





Power Review Board

Sara Birkett

Sara has been the Power Review Board's paralegal for 15 years. In addition to her administrative and legal-related duties, Sara was responsible for finding a way to accommodate the needs of the agency, the regulated entities and the public to hold meetings and hearings while observing health and social distancing restrictions. Sara came up with a plan to use Webex, ordered the necessary equipment and subscriptions, learned how to operate the system, and acts as host for the meetings. This has been a way for both the agency and the regulated entities to observe health restrictions, save time and money, and reduce travel time. The new system worked so well and was so well-received that the agency has decided to stream its meetings and hearings using Webex on a permanent basis.



Public Service Commission

Deborah Bertram

Deborah Bertram joined the Public Service Commission through the State's SOS program as a temporary receptionist in 2019. From her first day, she showed a talent for assisting internal customers and quickly received an offer of a permanent position.

Deborah contributed significantly to the success of the Commission during the early stages of the global COVID-19 pandemic, primarily in helping to develop and implement paperless processes on the fly. Throughout 2020 and 2021, she performed a tremendous amount of work in the office so that others in the agency could work effectively at home.

Deborah also demonstrates remarkable efficiency and an impeccable work ethic. Special projects always seem to find her, as she freely offers her time, skill, and patience to learning new tasks. Deborah provides relief to others who have sometimes sorely needed it.

It is most impressive that she has done all of the above with aplomb, always maintaining a positive, friendly, and helpful attitude. Her good work has helped every single person in the office in some way or another. In every way, Deborah has firmly established herself as an essential teammate and a great asset.



Public Employees Retirement System

Tami Meyer

Tami has been with NPERS for over 2 1/2 years as a Retirement Specialist I. She works in NPERS' Member Services (Call Center) area. Tami's favorite part of her job is helping others. For example, Tami traded office visits to help a co-worker. Tami was in the middle of that on-site office visit when the next day's virtual visit called wondering why their meeting had not started. (The member had the wrong day.) Tami finished the in-person office visit and went right into the virtual visit. This helped the virtual member since they had teachers covering their class. She completed two office visits back-to-back, almost on the fly. She could easily have been frustrated, but she put others first and handled the situation with grace and a positive attitude. Tami is currently the most experienced Retirement Specialist I in NPERS' Call Center. Management can count on her to train new teammates, build teamwork, and assist others. Her positive attitude and willingness to serve on committees and participate in agency activities promotes teammate engagement. She has the success of the agency in mind, even in tough situations. At times, this can be remarkable! Tami is a great representative of NPERS!

Public Employees Retirement System

Dan Smith

Dan has worked for NPERS as a Retirement Specialist I in the Benefits area for over 7 years. Dan's work ethic is exemplary. He volunteers to work extra hours and works tirelessly to calculate accurate retirement benefits for the School retirement plan. He strives to be the best in what he does, while helping retirement plan members (external customers) feel valued and satisfied as he gathers the information needed during the processing of School retirement applications. He never lets the member feel like they are a number. For each benefit he calculates, he is invested in that individual receiving the very best service NPERS can provide. Dan goes above and beyond assisting co-workers with questions or processing concerns, a "true team player." Even though his team is swamped, he takes the time to speak to co-workers and/or contacts members directly, to explain what is needed. He shows he cares about his peers with a positive attitude, "jokes and cokes." Dan's desire to be the top performer motivates him to be innovative, forward thinking, and to continue working on improvements on many levels. He is management's "go to" person to calculate quickly and accurately in a pinch. Dan is great a representative of NPERS!



Department of Revenue

Alyssa McAndrew

Alyssa has been a supervisor at Revenue since February 2020. Since that time, she has continuously prioritized her team and the Department before herself. She strives to achieve excellent results and puts her team in position to achieve success. The Property Tax Credit program (PTC) challenged us as a Department, but overall, it showed the desire of Revenue teammates to serve the Nebraska taxpayers as best we can. Alyssa showed true leadership in her ability to train and empower all teammates involved in the project to have the knowledge and ability to address various issues with the PTC accounts. Her grace, communication, positivity, and endless patience should not go unrecognized. The project didn't have a set process in place providing previous experience or knowledge. Alyssa's ability to take a team of individuals from throughout the Department and exceed the goal of working with accounts is beyond commendable. Her organization and trust in her team to continue her efforts in her absence shows proactive management and servant leadership.



Department of Revenue

Amber Morse

Amber has consistently been a high performer within Revenue and was an "Honorable Mention" for the 2016 New Employee of the Year. In March of 2020, Amber found herself in a difficult situation by accepting numerous increased responsibilities and new job duties while also having to perform the majority of her prior job functions. Many of these are daily functions that must be completed by specific times throughout the day to meet the State Treasurer's Office or State Accounting requirements. Amber continued to perform the work of two positions for more than four months until a new Finance teammate came on board. Amber also assumed the responsibility as the primary trainer of a new teammate, a task that was made more challenging due to "social distancing" requirements and telecommuting. Amber serves as a great example of the type of dedication and commitment to excellence that makes Revenue so successful.



Nebraska State Patrol

Jamieson Brown



Trp. Jamieson Brown has been with the Nebraska State patrol since 2016. He is assigned to the Nebraska City duty station, in the Headquarters Troop area. Trp. Brown exercises sound judgment while conducting his patrol operations. He leads, mentors, and guides both new probationary troopers and senior troopers, alike. Trp. Brown has built a solid working relationship with allied agencies, he mentors and guides troopers he works with while keeping a great working relationship with the county attorneys and services the general public from domestic disturbances to roadside assistance. Trp. Brown is very active in felony arrests. In 2020, he made 24 felony arrests consisting of violations of the Sex Offender Registry Act, Drugs and Weapons violations, and DUIs. Through July of 2021, Trp. Brown has already accounted for 23 felony arrests on gun and drug violations as well as violations to the Sex Offender Registry Act. An additional eight arrests were made for misdemeanor weapon violations. The 23 felony arrests make up more than 20% of the Patrol Division's total felony arrests. Trp. Brown represents the agency to its highest standards and embodies the characteristics of a trooper in the Nebraska State Patrol.

Nebraska State Patrol

Michael D. Grummert



Lt. Grummert has served as a DUI/DRE instructor, and teaches these courses to each new patrol camp, as well as each new DRE school. His teaching style is well received by everyone from recruits to veteran Troopers. Additionally, Lt. Grummert has been placed in the role of Mobile Field Force commander, which has become an increasingly taxing responsibility. Lt. Grummert has done a fantastic job of procuring equipment, facilitating training, selecting new personnel, and many other things that have brought the MFF into the forefront of auxiliary teams in the agency. During the spring of 2021, Lt. Grummert was asked to get up to speed on the Carrier Enforcement Division and was utilized in coming up with a plan for restructuring and the future of the division. Lt. Grummert worked with Capt. Doggett and was able to learn all of the ins and outs of the new technology in the scale houses, as well as the federal funding sources that currently fund the division. Lt. Grummert has also shown that he has tremendous charisma and tact when handling personnel matters, and always works toward the development of his people, as well as the Troop Area personnel as a whole.

Nebraska State Patrol

DeAnna Lafferty



Deanna Lafferty is a Forensic Technician in Troop D and is responsible for the preservation of evidence once it is recovered. Deanna's ability to organize and store evidence is a model that has been embraced in other Troop Areas. Her efficiency has allowed her to assist other Troop Areas when they were absent a technician. The storage of evidence is only a part of her duties. Cases that have worked their ways through the Justice System do not always have the associated evidence destroyed. Some pieces require long term storage due to the nature of the case. The ongoing attention to evidence and the addition of new pieces calls for skills that are highly organized and accurate. Deanna is focused on minimizing the time spent by Troopers and Investigators who submit their evidence. She maintains open lines of communication to include proper handling, disposition, and destruction. She coordinates with County Attorney Offices on the retention of evidence, so Troopers have more time to actively patrol. Deanna's efficiency allows Troopers to return to their duties quickly.

Nebraska State Patrol

Tina Little

Tina, Human Resources Director for Nebraska State Patrol, has provided outstanding leadership, innovation, and teammate development throughout her tenure. During 2020 she facilitated a rapid work from home process to accommodate teammates during the pandemic. Her people-focused approach resulted in reduced exposure, very few cases of workplace COVID, and no noticeable loss in productivity. She also maintained and even increased recruitment of new troopers during the pandemic. Tina also worked collaboratively to create new policies and procedures to create a collaborative workplace in the new consolidated State Headquarters Building. Furthermore, she researched and helped implement an entirely new pay structure for the State Patrol Crime Lab to help improve recruiting and reduce turnover. Tina is always conscious of culture and creating the best environment for state teammates to thrive in.



Department of Transportation

Mo Assadi

Mo is a manager that excels at developing his team through his strong leadership as a Highway Project Manager. He lays out his expectations by using effective communication with his team. He pushes the success of his team members by coaching and leading by example as well as by having his team working with and learning from each other. Mo ensures that the members of his team receive the proper training and experience to do their job and continue learning. He also gives team members challenging assignments so that they can learn effectively. Mo is always making sure that his team remains safe while on projects, as well as ensuring the safety of the crews working and the traveling public. His team enjoys the opportunity to work for a manager as skilled as Mo. They feel that his leadership will aid them in succeeding in NDOT and in advancing their careers.



Department of Transportation

Kimberly Baker

Kimberly is an Environmental Project Manager and has excelled in both customer service and effective communication with not only her team in the environmental section, but also with several divisions, districts, consultants, and contractors. Her enthusiastic and optimistic attitude is contagious and serves to motivate and energize her team. She has successfully managed the environmental documentation for several high-profile projects, including the Lincoln South Beltway, Highway 275 Expressway and Niobrara East and West. Her project management skills have allowed her to demonstrate her ability to quickly sift through multiple data requests and provide information and decisions in a timely manner. Through her project management, Kimberly keeps all members of her team well informed of the progress through every phase. She possesses excellent communication skills. Kimberly has demonstrated an uncanny ability to foresee potential issues. She is able to address them quickly, and prevents unexpected hurdles and delays to allow the projects she manages to remain on schedule. Kimberly has received several notes of positive feedback on how she has managed her projects through effective communication and is always looking out for not only her team, but how the decisions she makes affect the end user.





Department of Transportation

Alison Bennett

Alison is a vital asset in the Right of Way division. She is a true leader and excels in being positive with her attitude and actions. She is very forward-thinking and encourages her team to bring out the best in their work and their personal lives. Alison is a key contributor to our success and is an excellent leader. She continuously strives to improve the resources needed for a ROW agent to succeed by creating teammate spreadsheets to follow the different stages and timelines in a project. Alison encourages teammates to get IRWA certified for the knowledge in the ROW fields and for advancement opportunities within the department. She has done an amazing job putting together pre-negotiation meetings before we proceed with acquisitions of ROW property. Alison has aligned resources to eliminate delays in the process, as well as discussing any areas of concern. She is a proactive manager who is always looking for ways to improve our processes. She has established a lunch and learn group that gathers once a month to brainstorm ideas on how we can improve as a team.



Department of Transportation

Jennifer Faling

Jennifer embraces innovative ideas and is always up for a challenge. She communicates and builds trusting relationships with team members, vendors, and law enforcement. She collaborates with the supervisor in Lyons daily as well as frequently working with the supervisors in Wayne and Laurel. She also works with the Winnebago Tribe who provide operators for snow removal. She is a strong communicator which results in improving safety and efficiency. Jennifer also collaborates with HR and Staff Assistants to complete forms and paperwork required for new hires, training, and accident reports. She actively seeks and participates in training. Jennifer is a coach and mentor for her crew and her peers. She leads her team with a kindness and eagerness to resolve problems and assist in any way. She is at work before anyone else on her crew and is the last to leave at night making sure all have returned safely. Jennifer has a special talent to get the most out of her team.



Department of Transportation

Michael A. Helms

Mike is very knowledgeable in his job and is always researching and learning what to use to get a job done in a timely manner and with the best materials available. He is always thinking and planning ahead for the next job, knowing what materials are needed and being prepared. Mike's crew is always trying to improve on their workmanship and efficiency. He sets an excellent example by sitting on the hiring panel, training new teammates, leading his crew, and is the first to offer to help in other areas. He has the initiative to build the best team possible, so they know what is always expected of them. Mike communicates and works well with supervisors, other crews, and vendors on jobs. The health and safety of the crew and others that he is working with is one of his top priorities. Being an EMT, he knows what signs to watch for when the weather is hot and makes sure they do not fall ill by dehydration or other health issues. Mike has been a great asset to coworkers, supervisors, and the department overall. He is greatly appreciated for all that he brings to his job.

Department of Transportation

Gerry Neeman

Gerry's experience and unmatched work ethic make a huge difference to NDOT. Before each cash flow meeting, she updates the information and presents it in an organized, understandable manner. Gerry breaks the process down into pieces, making it easy for people unfamiliar with it to follow. She is fantastic at developing her teammates. She offers assistance and knowledge of Project Finance and NDOT. Gerry works with the Transit Section of the Local Assistance Division answering questions, problem-solving, and setting up projects. She collaborates with Program Management, pinpointing issues in federal obligations and alerting their team of their funding status. Gerry assists fellow team members on questions regarding federal funding and obligations. The Controller Division publishes a monthly financial report that is posted for the public on NDOT's website. Gerry is proactive in producing many of the report pages and has them ready well before the deadlines. She prepares and presents a cash flow synopsis meeting for the CFO monthly, readily answering questions and performing cash flow scenarios as needed. Her focus on customer service produces valuable information that is then passed on from the CFO to NDOT's Director and Deputies and aids in project selection.



Department of Transportation

John W. Saxton

John is hard-working and dedicated in his position at NDOT. He is willing to share his knowledge and experience with new members of the crew to help them become efficient and safe teammates. He is willing to lend a hand, from the least to the most important duties. John is willing to be available for work if there is a need to get called back after hours. He has done an excellent job in plowing a variety of different snow routes. He takes pride in doing a good job and making it safe for the traveling public. When called on the radio to ask his road conditions, there is great trust in what he reports. John is a member of the local volunteer fire department. He's been the leader of some of the safety meetings dealing with fire and severe weather preparedness. John presents the meetings in a professional and informative manner. Over the past few years, he has been asked to step up and take a leadership role, which he has always done very well. John has helped train many of our new teammates not only in their regular duties but also to receive their commercial driver's licenses.



Department of Transportation

Kendall Stege

Kendall is responsible for the preparation of NDOT construction projects for letting. He is continuously looking to improve the contract development process for contractors in their prequalification and bidding as well as the acceleration of the award process. NDOT was previously taking 20 days to accomplish the bid review and award the project. Today the award process is done virtually, and the majority of the projects are awarded within 7 days. Kendall has improved the prequalification process, even recommending statutory changes to do so. Kendall's focus on customer service is second to none. Even if a project is delivered late to Contracts for preparation, he always produces the project for letting. Kendall shows great collaboration skills by consistently being in communication with the project delivery divisions, FHWA, and districts to make sure the projects are ready. He is excellent in developing and training team members in their duties and in understanding the NDOT mission. Kendall stands up for his teammates and he does things the right way even when it is the hard way. He doesn't cut corners and he always accomplishes his assignments.





Department of Transportation

Michelle Weigel

Michelle surpasses expectations in every area for NDOT. She is a leader who does an excellent job of hiring and training her staff to be outstanding teammates. Michelle is patient with teammates but is willing to make the difficult decisions and have the hard conversations. She has improved many procedures to make her work more efficient. Michelle has implemented technological innovations that have benefited our customers. She learns other teams' processes so she can evaluate her own team's procedures to seek opportunity for improvement. Michelle is great at developing relationships which has led to excellent results. She is empathetic and de-escalates situations with challenging customers. Michelle continually seeks more responsibility and is not afraid to dive into areas outside of her normal job duties. She takes on the challenge of project delivery and collaborates with many different divisions to ensure projects are delivered successfully. Michelle is the go-to person for many people inside and outside of NDOT because she is knowledgeable and a problem solver. She finds ways to get things accomplished. Michelle excels in all areas and is a tremendous asset for NDOT.



Department of Transportation

Shane A. Wieseler

Shane goes above and beyond in his duties, providing great leadership in the middle of an unexpected situation. There were two locations without a Supervisor or Crew Chief to lead the teams on their assignments. Shane was notified of the issue and willingly stepped into a leadership role and performed admirably. He rallied the crew to get all the trucks equipped and supplies in place for a coming winter storm. He notified the upper chain of command of all updates. Under his leadership, the crew stepped up to the challenge and completed their tasks efficiently. Shane made sure everyone knew how to operate the equipment and had all the brine tanks and satellite load areas filled. He was also engaged with developing his team by helping construction teammates in taking the time to allow them to get in a truck, get familiar with it and drive it so they were ready to take the CDL test and pass it. He is proactive in thinking ahead of what needs to happen next to keep things moving efficiently. Shane does a great job of leading the crew and managing situations.



State Treasurer

Rachel R. Biar

Rachel takes pride in the programs that she manages and her attention to detail make the programs function flawlessly. Her knowledge and confidence are apparent when speaking with peers and participants. Even when the workload seems unbearable to others, she shows passion for the program and becomes more determined for it to succeed. Her knowledge of the College Savings Program is obvious to all as she currently serves as the Vice-Chair for the College Savings Plan Network (CSPN), as well as leading panels on various conference calls and conference sessions.

State Treasurer

Charles W. Luginbill

Charles has been with the Treasurer's office for 17 years and has continued to keep our technical resources secure and operational. Charles and his team had a huge impact on keeping everything operational during the past year. Charles goes the extra mile to keep up to date on the latest computer security issues. He is always willing to be a resource for all staff and serves as a mentor for those in his department.



Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs

Lacey Moeller

Lacey, Nursing Director at Norfolk Veterans' Home, exemplifies the true meaning of a Leader. Over the past three years, Lacey has tapped the strengths of her nursing leadership team and help build upon their weaknesses to improve member care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Lacey not only lead Norfolk Veterans Home Nursing Department but also provided leadership & guidance for the entire facility. Lacey wore many hats from Nurse, to Educator to Infection Control and much more. Lacey was the go to person during the pandemic. Lacey established COVID Zones to ensure the safety of our members and teammates and assure regulatory compliance was maintained. She stepped up to lead required COVID testing of teammates and members. Lacey helped successfully guide our facility through a pandemic all while successfully completing her duties and role as Nursing Director. She always displays a positive attitude and is willing to step in wherever needed.



STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS,

The dedicated teammates of the State of Nebraska work hard every day to preserve the efficient and effective form of state government to which our citizens have grown accustomed; and

WHEREAS,

These same teammates are devoted, providing vital services to the citizens of our great state by carrying out their duties and responsibilities in an exemplary manner; and

WHEREAS,

Nebraska's competent and productive teammates consistently display their commitment to excellence, and it is important to recognize these workers for their professionalism and integrity.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the month of October, 2021


NEBRASKA STATE TEAMMATE RECOGNITION MONTH

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the observance.

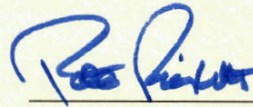
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this First day of September, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-one.



Attest:



Secretary of State



Governor

NEBRASKA



DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

A Publication of Administrative Services
State Personnel Division
November 2021