



December 2008

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FEATURE: 2008 Awards Presented at 45th Annual NCIP Banquet

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2008 Awards Presented During 45th Annual NCIP Banquet (November 14, 2008)

KEARNEY, NEB.
More than 200 community volunteers and leaders celebrated their efforts at successfully promoting and encouraging economic and community development as part of the 45th Annual Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) awards banquet in Kearney. The event capped the inaugural Governor's Conference on Rural Development.

According to judges, Farnam was a model community for NCIP as it worked from the planning process to implementation to project evaluation. Other projects in Farnam included downtown improvement, and the Youth Community Improvement Program (YCIP) that encourages greater youth involvement and activity. Farnam and the neighboring community of Eustis also were awarded with the Good Neighbor Award for their partnership efforts.

Dawson County received two awards for the past years efforts for Workforce Development and the creation of www.dawsoncountycareers.com and also for Technology, Infrastructure & Planning and the Dawson Area Housing Study.



<http://www.neded.org/content/view/33/160/>

NCIP awards reflect outstanding community and economic development projects. A program of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, NCIP is sponsored by Northern Natural Gas, Glenwood Telephone, Inc., SourceGas, Northwestern Public Service, and Black Hills Corporation, which help support the program year-round and provided plaques and cash prizes for the following 2008 award winners:

- Workforce Development
Class II: Kimball – Kimball Hospital Foundation Scholarship
Class III: South Sioux City – 21st Century Learning
Class IV: Dawson County – www.dawsoncountycareers.com
- Technology, Infrastructure & Planning
Class I: Petersburg – Improvement of Water, Sewer & Streets
Class II: Wisner – Downtown Improvement District
Class IV: Dawson County – Dawson Area Housing Market Study 

The Otto Hoiberg Award for top overall community development went to Farnam. People of all ages are involved in Farnam and the community works hard to make newcomers feel welcome at the annual Welcome to Farnam Banquet.



Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy is pictured above with Farnam representatives accepting the Otto Hoiberg award.



Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy is pictured above with Dawson County representatives accepting awards for Workforce Development as well as Planning projects.



www.neded.org

Dayton Phoenix Group Coming to Gothenburg

BUSINESS MOVING TO FORMER HIPPI BUILDING
by Elizabeth Barrett - November 29, 2008
Gothenburg Times

A remanufacturing business will open in the former Hipp Wholesale Foods, Inc. building at 1020 Fourth St. The announcement was made Nov. 19 at the annual meeting of the Gothenburg Improvement Company that Dayton Phoenix Group will lease the building.



Del Abnet

Del Abnet, project manager, said the company rebuilds rotating fans, radiator grids and other equipment for the railroad industry. Abnet was in town lining up contractors to renovate the building. "We hope to be operational in March," he said. In one to two years,




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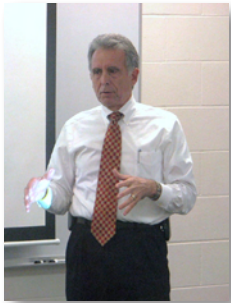
he hopes the company will employ 15 to 20 people with electrical and mechanical repair expertise. Most of the employees will be hired locally with a few coming from the Dayton, OH, plant. [click here to finish story.](#)

DAD Leadership Class December: Education

DECEMBER DAD LEADERSHIP CLASS LEARNS ABOUT EDUCATION

Education.....from the area's local school district administrators to local workforce opportunities, students heard a lot of information. Included in that circle of education was Central Community College, the Extension Service of UNL, and the University of Nebraska's educational opportunities.

The class met at the Cozad Public Schools for a day of education in an educational setting. Lunch was eaten in the school cafeteria along with the students. School announcements were heard on the loudspeakers. It was a great way to experience educational opportunities that exist at the local, regional and state level. 




Peter Kotsiopoulos
V.P. for University Affairs
presents to the class.

Downtown Revitalization Plans are Complete

Cozad and Gothenburg have completed the steps in the Planning Phase of the Downtown Revitalization Grants awarded to both communities by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Plans were prepared for both communities by JEO Consulting Group, Inc. of Lincoln, NE.

In the plan preparation, Cozad and Gothenburg held community focus group meetings with various residents. Focus groups included the city councils, the local high school students, the downtown merchants, and the local development governing boards. An online survey was completed to solicit opinions of the downtown business and building owners.

Phase II of this Community Development Block Grant will be the implementation of each community's plan. Grant funds will be used in conjunction with local funds to revitalize the downtown areas in several different ways. Each community will take the plan and its strategies and use them locally to improve the economic health of the downtown areas. 

Governor Announces Grants Supporting Development in Rural Areas Dawson County and SEM are BECA Grant Recipients

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (condensed version)
November 19, 2008

Contact:
Jen Rae Hein, Governor's Office 402 429 4701
Ashley Cradduck, Governor's Office 402 471 1970
Patty Wood, DED 402 471 1559

LINCOLN NEB. Gov. Dave Heineman announced nearly \$320,000 in grants funding for 13 partnerships through the Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act (BECA), which supports regional economic and community development partnerships in rural areas of the state.

"BECA is a successful tool for rural development in part because it brings city and counties together with local partners to promote a stronger regional economy," Gov. Heineman said.

Part of the Nebraska Advantage incentive package, the program is administered by the Nebraska Rural Development Commission.

**NEBRASKA
Advantage**



<http://www.neded.org/content/view/373/552/>

Eighteen partnerships applied for funding. Projects receiving grants include:

- 1. Comprehensive Marketing Strategy for Red Cloud and Guide Rock** to encourage economic growth and promoting regional businesses.
- 2. The Dawes County Investors & Entrepreneurs** which includes Chadron and Crawford to assist with planning for retention of residents and students interested in business transfer or entrepreneurship.
- 3. Grow Garden County** will develop entrepreneurship skills among students and residents as well as green industry and eco-tourism opportunities.
- 4. Grow Keith County** will create a recruiting website to encourage former residents to return to the area.
- 5. The Norfolk Area Recruiters Initiative** will implement direct mail and website development aimed at former Northeast Nebraska residents.

6. DAWSON:

Demonstrating Aggressive Ways to Sell Our Nebraska, a partnership between Dawson County and the city of Cozad, receives \$39,600 to create marketing materials to help attract and retain residents. Projects include:

1. Advertising on KRVN and KRVN.com.
2. Design of a Relocation Package.
3. Funded returns to the area for alumni.
4. Newspaper website marketing.
5. Print advertising in NE college alumni materials.
6. Direct mail of Relocation package to alumni.
7. Entrepreneurship training in construction trades.

Contact John Bell, 308-784-3902



7. Phelps County Marketing Campaign will create a marketing campaign to recruit alumni and others with local connections to the area.


8. Promoting Basset/Rock County as "A Place to Be" will market city and county assets via radio and web to attract both visitors and those who would like to relocate.

9. Southeast Nebraska Partners for Progress will create a recruitment web site with components encouraging development of local entrepreneurs.

10. Southwest Nebraska Regional Business Innovation Network will provide training and support programs to strengthen economic development capacity and recruit workers to a five county area.

11. Web site Development & Design for Orleans & Beaver City will construct a recruiting website marketing rural living attracting potential residents.

12. Workforce Scholarship Program in Schyler and Columbus will train workers for high demand jobs in the area.

13. Working Together, Growing Stronger in SEM will provide business owners and entrepreneurs with tools to spark innovation and boost the area economy. 

Dawson County Joins the Nebraska Dream It Do It Campaign to Spread the Word About Great Careers in Manufacturing Available to the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs and Creative Thinkers

About This Campaign

"Nebraska, The Good Life" is more than just a slogan. It's a way of life most Nebraskans come to expect. For many Nebraskans, a great life can be a way of life with a career in the manufacturing industry. There are more than 100,000 people in Nebraska working in the more than 2,000 manufacturing businesses, with salaries that average nearly \$4,500 more than the annual wages for the rest of the population.

And there is a wide variety when it comes to the type of manufacturing companies and products from which to choose. Nebraska has a strong presence in the manufacturing of food products, chemicals, machinery, computers and electronics, fabricated metal, and motor and vehicle parts. And don't get hung up on the old notion about the kind of manufacturing jobs that existed 50 years ago. There is a great need for every kind of job that supports manufacturing, including engineering, drafting, marketing, sales, welding, robotics operators, CNC operators, and more. And the great thing is that the more creative you are, the more you are needed.

That's where the Dream It. Do It campaign comes in. We'll help you identify the kind of career that best fits you. If you can tell us what interests you have, and something that you are passionate about, we have the tools and resources to guide you to a career in manufacturing that best suits you. In an effort to get you where you want to go, we are working with high schools, the community college system, the Nebraska Department of Labor, and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. So what are you waiting for? Tell us what it is that interests you, and we'll get you started on finding your career today!

Dream It Do It

If you are already a manufacturing employee or business owner and want to become involved in the commitment to increase the awareness of manufacturing careers in your area, please contact: John Bell - Dawson County Area Director
jbdad@cozadtel.net or 308 784 3902

Dream It Do It would like to welcome our newest Area Director in the Nebraska Dream It Do It campaign, John Bell. The existing ABLE program and its mission of exposing youth to available careers matches up perfectly with the goals of the Dream It Do It campaign and the large amount of manufacturing employers and careers in Dawson County.

NAMC
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Dwayne Probyn
Executive Director

John Vyhldal
Omaha

Linda Lichtenberg
Lincoln

Jeff Scherer
NE Nebraska

Angie Ramaekers
Columbus

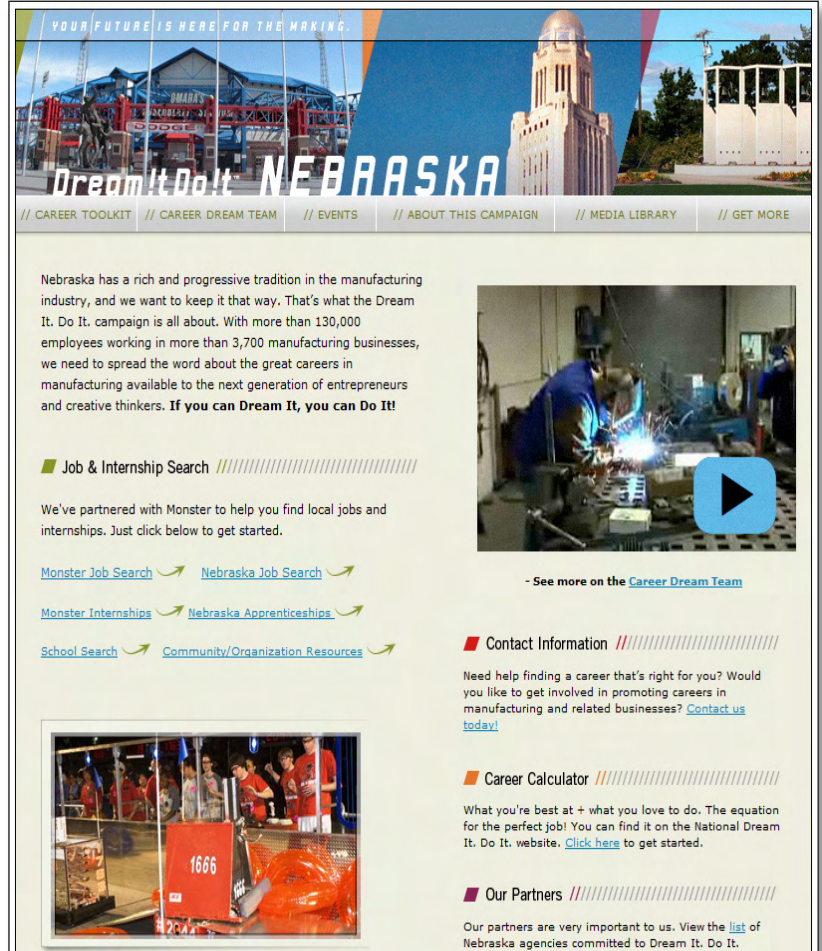
Kelly Christensen
G.I. & Hastings

Roger Allmand
Holdrege

Dan Koch
Western NE

John Bell
Dawson County
contact:
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308 784 3902

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The screenshot shows the website header with the slogan "YOUR FUTURE IS HERE FOR THE MAKING." and "Dream It Do It NEBRASKA". Navigation links include CAREER TOOLKIT, CAREER DREAM TEAM, EVENTS, ABOUT THIS CAMPAIGN, MEDIA LIBRARY, and GET MORE. The main content area features a text block about the campaign's goal to spread the word about manufacturing careers, a "Job & Internship Search" section with links to Monster Job Search, Nebraska Job Search, Monster Internships, Nebraska Apprenticeships, School Search, and Community/Organization Resources. There is also a "Contact Information" section with a "Contact us today!" link, a "Career Calculator" section with a "Click here" link, and an "Our Partners" section with a "View the list" link. A video player is visible on the right side of the page.

click on the above webpage to visit the Dream It Do It site: www.dreamit-doit.com/Nebraska

click on the ad below to see all
manufacturing job listings on
www.dawsoncountycareers.com



The advertisement features the website URL www.dawsoncountycareers.com and the text "DAWSON COUNTY CAREERS" in large, bold letters. Below this, it says ".com" and "click here!" in a stylized font. The background is a gradient of yellow and orange.

NIFA Outreach Partnership Program

On November 18, 2008 NIFA representatives were at the Dawson Area Development Board Meeting to conduct a final board training as required through the NIFA Housing Outreach Partnership Agreement between NIFA and DAD. When training was complete, Ted Simpson, NIFA Director of Community Development announced that NIFA will grant DAD another two years of Outreach Partnership funding. The funding is \$25,000 per year.

Just as a parent guides their teenager through school to graduate and become a contributing member to society, NIFA's Outreach Partnership Program provides technical and capacity building assistance to "teenage" community development organizations to become affordable housing development "graduates". The Outreach Partnership Program works with organizations across the state to inspire the generation and rehabilitation of affordable housing stock. To accomplish this goal, NIFA assists the partner organization by providing technical assistance and financial support to increase the long-term capacity of the partner to meet the affordable housing needs of their community. Through this partnership, housing advocates also become knowledgeable of NIFA programs that are available to their communities. Through supporting and promoting partnerships and providing technical and financial support, the Outreach Partnership Program inspires, expands, and intensifies the dedication to affordable housing development across the state.

NIFA considers the efforts of DAD a success story for their organization. In a press release NIFA states: *DAD a current NIFA Outreach Partner, was able to team up with three cities in their coverage area to apply for and receive funding to build 5 CROWN (rent-to-own) homes and one spec home in each of the three towns. A variety of sources, including NIFA, Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, and Nebraska Department of Economic Development joined together to provide financial support for this project. Separately, these towns would not likely have received funding for housing development. The goal of affordable housing production in each community was finally achieved by the collaborative efforts of these towns and their NIFA Outreach Partner.*



Dayton Phoenix Group Coming to Gothenburg CONT.

Dayton Phoenix started as a \$10 million-a-year business, he said, and has grown into a \$100 million-a-year industry. Abnet said Dayton Phoenix opened up in Dayton two years ago when railroads were accumulating expensive motors that needed repairs.

Dayton Phoenix officials decided to branch out from Dayton when they realized many of those motors came from the biggest rail yard in the world—North Platte. "We wanted the new facility to be close to North Platte," he said, noting that they hope to contract with railroad officials from all over the country to rebuild equipment. The company had planned to first open a new remanufacturing facility in Sacramento, CA, but were impressed by what Gothenburg had to offer. "We thought we could get on board faster here," Abnet said. "The incentives offered by the city, county and state were influential as were Mike Bacon and Jen Wolf."

Bacon is president of GIC and Jen Wolf directs Dawson Area Development. Abnet said Dayton Phoenix still plans to open a facility in Sacramento and north of Delhi, India. He is project manager of those facilities as well. Abnet will get the business started in Gothenburg which includes hiring a manager. "We're excited to be here," he said. "And we've gotten great support."

He noted that Dayton Phoenix Group was once part of General Motor Corporation before it was sold. Bacon told GIC members that Dayton officials found the Hipp building advertised on the DAD web site and contacted the DAD office when company officials first began looking for a site in the area.

Nebraska Public Power District officials assisted recruiters with background information on the company, he said, and allowed use of their corporate jet to fly Abnet and another representative from Omaha to Gothenburg and back in a day. While in Gothenburg, Bacon joked they were "kept captive for hours and fed pie." Dave Fairbanks of the Council for Economic Development in Lexington and Paul German of Cozad's economic development group attended presentations to show the county is unified in economic development, he said.

On Thursday, Bacon said the recruitment of Dayton Phoenix, means the filling of an empty building by a company that pays its employees well in terms of salary and benefits.

"We got Hipp but then the business world changed," he explained. "That's a reminder that nothing stays the same and you have to keep moving forward with the next development project." Bacon described Dayton Phoenix as a solid business model that provides services to the railroad industry which isn't likely to go away for a long time. He noted that it's difficult for Gothenburg to recruit a 500-employee business but that smaller businesses with 10 to 20 employees help diversify the economy. "They will treat people good," Bacon said.

The Hipp Wholesale building has been vacant since the spring of 2007 when Hipp officials announced they were closing their doors. City sales tax dollars and tax increment financing helped open the 45,000-square-foot facility in the city's industrial tract in 1998.



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