



Organization Aims to “Accelerate Nebraska” by Maximizing Potential of State’s Workforce

August 7, 2017

Nebraska truly does offer “The Good Life”. We may not have mountains, oceans or large metropolitan areas to draw the attention of outsiders, but our people – our greatest resource – possess the character traits that form the foundation for success both individually and collectively. Nebraskans are honest, dependable, responsible people who believe in hard work, integrity, and honoring their commitments to others. In fact, the case could be made that the landscape of Nebraska – authentic, productive and purposeful – subtly offers a better reflection of what our state has to offer as opposed to what it doesn’t.

Though it may overlook the character present in Nebraska, considering the outside perspective is valuable in that it provides a clear reminder of the challenges that exist in recruiting people and businesses to our state. It is difficult for any state (even the ones with great weather) to convince people and businesses to pull up stakes for a place that is unfamiliar. As a result, our ability to remain successful depends heavily on developing and retaining the people who are already here. The importance of this is amplified by our small population. For Nebraska to continue to be successful, we must strive to maximize the potential of each and every person that calls Nebraska home. At its core, this is what **Accelerate Nebraska’s** effort is all about.

For Nebraska to maximize its human capital, we must identify and foster educational practices that prepare students for careers in Nebraska, as well as grow the job opportunities available in our state. **Accelerate Nebraska** is working to accomplish these objectives by identifying factors that contribute to misalignment between education and workforce needs, and once identified, to stimulate collaboration among educational, community, and business stakeholders across the state to address such factors.

To date, **Accelerate Nebraska** has initiated two research efforts to determine where the state stands with regard to educational performance and labor market alignment. The first of these efforts, completed by FSG of Seattle, yielded a statewide and six regional reports that provide data metrics to assess the performance of the education-to-career pipeline in the respective area. The second effort, recently completed by Dr. Hank Robinson and Ms. Lindsey Badow of the University of Nebraska Omaha and entitled “Nebraska Now”, examines the alignment between Nebraska’s workforce and its labor market. All reports are available on **Accelerate Nebraska’s** website at www.acceleratene.org.

Nebraska truly offers the opportunity for “The Good Life.” But there’s more that can be done to maximize the productivity and potential of the people in our state. **Accelerate Nebraska** and its board of directors, listed below, are committed to helping achieve this objective. The success of our citizens, and ultimately, our state, depend on it.

Accelerate Nebraska Board of Directors

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- Mr. Thomas Warren, Omaha, President/CEO of the Urban League of Nebraska and former Chief of Police of the Omaha Police Department

For more information on **Accelerate Nebraska**, please visit our website at www.acceleratene.org, or contact Kris Valentin, Executive Director, at 402.991.5532 or kris.valentin@acceleratene.org.