

JUNE 26 - JULY 1, 2022
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

NCIA/MATC Sovereign Native Youth STEM Leadership Academy

Native Youth for the Seventh Generation



MID-AMERICA
TRANSPORTATION CENTER

NCIA





The Sovereign Native Youth STEM Leadership Academy is a summer program that provides Native American students with an extended learning opportunity in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) subjects and leadership opportunities.

Students explore a wide range of education and career options after high school through the mentorship of Native American faculty, university students, and professionals in the public and private sector.

This year's program theme reflects commitment to the Seventh Generation Principle. This is a forward looking principle held by

many Indigenous peoples that decisions today should benefit seven generations into the future. The activities throughout the week strengthen values that students can take forward into their own lives, and communities.

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

All times are in Central Time

12:30 - 1:00 PM

ARRIVAL AND CHECK-IN

University Suites - 1780 R St, Lincoln, NE 68508

1:00 - 2:00 PM

LUNCH

East Campus Union, Great Plains Room - 1705 Arbor Dr, Lincoln, NE 68503

Introductory remarks, Worlds of Connections ice breakers, and surveys

2:00 - 3:30 PM

TIE-DYE T-SHIRT ACTIVITY

East Campus Union Lawn

3:30 - 4:30 PM

NATIVE YOUTH FOR THE SEVENTH GENERATION PRESENTATION

East Campus Union, Great Plains Room - 1705 Arbor Dr, Lincoln, NE 68503

- 1. Cultural Appreciation and Preservation**
- 2. Environmental Stewardship**
- 3. Food Sovereignty, Health, and Wellness**

4:30 - 5:30 PM

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

UNL Dairy Store, East Campus - 114, Food Industry Complex, Lincoln, NE 68503

5:30 - 6:30 PM

TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES

Change for opening ceremony

6:30 - 8:15 PM

OPENING CEREMONY

Lied Commons - 301 N 12th St, Lincoln, NE 68508

Prayer and Blessing: **Ms. Phyllis R. Stone**, Sicangu Lakota Elder

Opening Remarks: **Ms. Judi gaiashkibos**, NCIA Executive Director & **Dr. Aemal Khattak**, MATC Director

Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Colette Yellow Robe**, UNL

8:15 - 8:20 PM

TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES

8:20 - 10:00 PM

SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS

University Suites

10:00 PM

HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW

MONDAY, JUNE 27

All times are in Central Time

8:00 AM

TRANSITION TO WILLA CATHER

8:00 - 8:45 AM

BREAKFAST

Willa Cather Dining Complex - 530 N
17th St, Lincoln, NE 68588

8:45 AM

GROUPS DISPERSE FOR ACTIVITIES

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

DAILY ACTIVITY 1

1. **Cultural Appreciation: Visual Arts** at Nebraska Innovation Campus
2. **Health and Wellness** at UNL Rec Center, The Bay
3. **Nature Stewardship** at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

12:00 - 1:00 PM

LUNCH

1. **Cultural Appreciation: Visual Arts** at Nebraska Innovation Campus
2. **Health and Wellness** at Willa Cather Dining Complex
3. **Nature Stewardship**, Picnic Lunch

1:00 - 4:00 PM

DAILY ACTIVITY 1 CONTINUED

1. **Cultural Appreciation: Visual Arts** at Nebraska Innovation Campus
2. **Health and Wellness** at UNL Rec Center, The Bay
3. **Nature Stewardship** at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

4:00 - 5:00 PM

TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES

Change for bowling

5:00 - 8:00 PM

BOWLING DINNER

UNL East Campus Union, Husker Bowling Center

8:00 PM

TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES

8:00 - 10:00 PM

SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS

University Suites

10:00 PM

HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW



TUESDAY, JUNE 28

All times are in Central Time

8:00 AM	TRANSITION TO WILLA CATHER
8:00 - 8:45 AM	BREAKFAST Willa Cather Dining Complex
9:00 - 10:00 AM	UNL CITY CAMPUS TOUR
10:00 - 11:00 AM	MEMORIAL STADIUM TOUR
11:00 - 11:15 AM	TRANSITION TO CENTENNIAL MALL Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Statue
11:15 - 11:45 AM	CENTENNIAL MALL & GROUP PHOTO Remarks: Larry Small , Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte Statue Donor
11:45 AM	TRANSITION TO WILLA CATHER
12:00 - 1:00 PM	LUNCH Willa Cather Dining Complex

1:00 - 4:00 PM	DAILY ACTIVITY 2 1. Cultural Appreciation: Visual Arts at Great Plains Art Museum with Sarah Rowe 2. Health and Wellness at UNL Indigenous Food Sovereignty Program, East Campus
4:00 - 5:00 PM	TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES & DINNER
5:00 - 6:30 PM	DINNER & PANEL Willa Cather Dining Complex Panel: Native American Professionals
6:30 - 10:00 PM	SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS University Suites
10:00 PM	HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

8:00 AM	TRANSITION TO WILLA CATHER
8:00 - 8:30 AM	BREAKFAST Willa Cather Dining Complex
8:30 - 9:30 AM	BOARD BUS & TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER (UNMC) Arrive at Michael F Sorrell Center For Health Science Education - S 42nd St & Emile St, Omaha, NE 68198
9:45 - 11:45 AM	GROUP TOURS Wigton Heritage Center & iEXCEL
11:45 AM	TRANSITION TO LUNCH
11:50 AM - 12:25 PM	LUNCH Sorrell Center Plaza
12:30 - 1:45 PM	DOCUMENTARY & DISCUSSION Greeting: Dr. Siobhan Wescott , UNMC Screening of <i>Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte</i> documentary film and discussion
1:45 PM	TRANSITION TO BEMIS CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS

2:00 - 3:30 PM	PARFLECHE MAKING ACTIVITY Dr. Annika Johnson , Associate Curator of Native American Art, Joslyn Art Museum Ms. Rachel Adams , Chief Curator and Director of Programs, Bemis Center for Contemporary Art Ms. Nicole Benegas , Executive Director, Bluebird Cultural Initiative
3:30 - 4:30 PM	BOARD BUS & TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES
4:30 - 5:00 PM	FREE TIME
5:00 - 6:00 PM	DINNER & PANEL Willa Cather Dining Complex Panel: College Student Experiences
6:00 - 10:00 PM	VIDEO GAME JAM & SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORM UNL Campus Rec Center & Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts
10:00 PM	HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

All times are in Central Time

8:00 AM	TRANSITION TO WILLA CATHER
8:00 - 8:45 AM	BREAKFAST Willa Cather Dining Complex
8:45 AM	GROUPS DISPERSE FOR ACTIVITIES
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	DAILY ACTIVITY 3 <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Visual Arts at Nebraska Innovation Campus2. Health and Wellness, Worlds of Connection Activity3. Nature Stewardship at Audubon Center
12:00 - 1:00 PM	LUNCH <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Visual Arts at the Mill2. Health and Wellness at Willa Cather Dining Complex3. Nature Stewardship, Picnic Lunch
1:00 - 4:00 PM	DAILY ACTIVITY 3 CONTINUED <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Visual Arts at Nebraska Innovation Campus2. Health and Wellness at UNL Rec Center, The Bay3. Nature Stewardship at Audubon Center

4:00 - 6:00 PM	TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES Change for formal dinner
6:00 - 8:00 PM	FORMAL DINNER Morrill Hall - 645 N 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68588 Welcome: Dr. Susan Weller , Director of University of Nebraska State Museum Keynote: Mr. Alexander Mallory , Judicial Law Clerk, U.S. District Court, District of Arizona Keynote: Ms. Diane Humetewa , Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Arizona Remarks about Worlds of Connections: Dr. Trish Wonch Hill , Co-Investigator and Director of Learning Research, Worlds of Connections
8:00 - 10:00 PM	SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS University Suites
10:00 PM	HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW

FRIDAY, JULY 1

8:00 AM	TRANSITION TO WILLA CATHER
8:00 - 8:45 AM	BREAKFAST Willa Cather Dining Complex
8:45 AM - 12:00 PM	FINAL PROJECT SHOWCASE PREPARATION Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts

12:00 - 2:00 PM	CLOSING CEREMONY Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts Student Project Showcase
2:00 - 2:30 PM	POST-ACADEMY SURVEYS Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts
2:35 PM	STUDENTS DEPART

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP



Ms. Judi gaiashkibos

*Executive Director
Nebraska Commission on Indian
Affairs*

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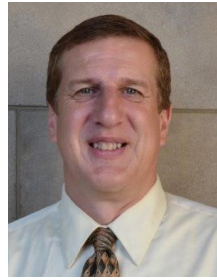
Ms. Judi gaiashkibos has been the executive director of NCIA since 1995. She has worked with the government and private sector to provide opportunities for Nebraska Indians, foster diversity and cultural sensitivity in the Nebraska State Legislature, promote state and federal legislation, and advance sovereignty issues.



She is an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and holds degrees in Human Relations and Leadership from Doane College. She was the 2012 recipient of the Humanities Nebraska Sower Award and has developed educational opportunities for native youth including the ongoing Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Camp and the Chief Standing Bear Scholarships.

Ms. gaiashkibos has served as Advisor and Adjunct Professor to the Native Daughters Projects One and Two at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Journalism and served countless non-profit and institutional boards including University of Nebraska President's Advisory Council, United Way, Doane University Board of Trustees and the Governor's Education and Workforce Roundtable.

Under her leadership the Bi-annual Chief Standing Bear Breakfast has grown to be a powerful, diverse convocation of people promoting awareness and understanding of the achievements of Native People throughout Nebraska and the United States.



Mr. Scott Shafer

*Administrative Programs Officer I
Nebraska Commission on Indian
Affairs*

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Mr. Scott Shafer began working for NCIA in October 2008. He previously worked for the Nebraska Department of Corrections and the American Legion Department of Nebraska. His background is in public relations and marketing. He is a graduate of the Lincoln School of Commerce and also attended the University of Nebraska.



Mr. Shafer helped develop NCIA's Sovereign Native Youth Leadership Program and assists in grant and program development for the Commission as well as serving as the publicity chair for the Chief Standing Bear Prize committee. He has played a key role in the development and return of the Ponca tribe's grey corn, and is currently program head for development of the Chief Standing Bear Historic Trail project. He is a graduate of the Seward County Leadership Development Program and a past recipient of the Lincoln YWCA's Mentorship Award. He is also on the MLK Planning Committee, works on the project team investigating Missing and Murdered Women and Children, and is most recently working to develop a research program to address educational disparities for Native students in Nebraska.





Dr. Aemal Khattak
Director
Mid-America Transportation Center
Interim Director
Nebraska Transportation Center

Phone: (402) 472-8126
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Dr. Aemal Khattak obtained his Ph.D. from the North Carolina State University and Masters from the Pennsylvania State University. He joined the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Civil Engineering in 2000. Dr. Khattak has conducted extensive research in



transportation safety, infrastructure planning and intelligent transportation systems. He teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses in transportation engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Dr. Gabriel Bruguier
Education & Outreach Coordinator
Mid-America Transportation Center

Phone: (402) 472-1927
 Email: gbruguier@unl.edu

Dr. Gabriel Bruguier is an enrolled member of the *Ihanktonwan Oyate* (Yankton Sioux Tribe). He is the Education and Outreach Coordinator at the Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC).



Dr. Bruguier received his Ph.D. and MA in Philosophy from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Minnesota, Morris, and a Licentiate in International Relations from the Universidad de las Americas Puebla, Mexico. His dissertation focused on the topic of meaning in life, and in his future research he will explore how education contributes to meaning in life.

Since the fall of 2017, he has coordinated the expansion of MATC's Roads, Rails, and Race Cars after-school program to reservation schools in Macy, Santee, and Winnebago. In 2022 he received a College Staff Award for Exemplary Service and Support from the College of Engineering. In 2022 he was made a Great Plains Fellow at the Center for Great Plains Studies. Since 2018 he has served as Commissioner for the City of Lincoln on the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs (NCIA). Last but not least, he is an avid cyclist and a mechanic and board member at the Lincoln Bike Kitchen.



Ms. Michele Blackbird
Director of Native American Education
Umo^Nho^N Nation Public School

Phone: (402) 837-5622
 Email: mbarcelona@unpsk-12.org

Ms. Michele Blackbird is an enrolled member of the Umo^Nho^N Nation and a direct descendant of Chief Blackbird.

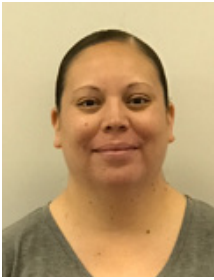


Ms. Blackbird currently teaches at the Umo^Nho^N Nation Public School, where she worked as a paraprofessional while in graduate school. She has since spent her fifteen-year teaching career working with secondary students. She has taught Alternative Education, Middle School

Science, Credit Recovery, Secondary Life Skills, Secondary Inclusion, and is currently transitioning into the role of Director of the Umo^Nho^N Language and Culture Center at UNPS. These diverse classrooms have allowed her to gain experience in teaching all subjects, including Umo^Nho^N Language. She also spent five years teaching algebra at Little Priest Tribal College as an adjunct professor in the evenings and summer.

Ms. Blackbird holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English/creative writing from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, a Master of Education in mild/moderate - special education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, A Master's of Science in Pre-K through 12 Administration, and a Master's of Science - Education in Curriculum and Instruction Leadership, as well as in Cross-Curricular Instruction from Wayne State College. She also holds teaching certifications in elementary education, ESL for K-12, special education 7-12, High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) endorsement for secondary language arts (7-12), and HOUSSE endorsement for secondary natural sciences (7-12), and Pre-K through 12 Administration.

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP



Ms. Ruth LaPlante

Parent Educator
Santee Community School

Phone: (402) 860-1925
Email: rlaplante@santeeschools.org



Ms. Ruth LaPlante is an enrolled member of the Santee Sioux Nation. Ms. LaPlante is presently the Parent Educator at the Santee Community School. This is her first year serving this role. She has been the 4th-6th grade Science and Social Studies teacher since 2014. She is also currently pursuing a Masters in Education and Pre-K through 12 endorsement in Educational Administration at the

University of Nebraska-Lincoln through the State of Nebraska.

In May 1999, Ms. LaPlante graduated from Andes Central High School top three of her class. In May 2012, she received an AA degree in human sciences from the Nebraska Indian Community College. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in education and human sciences from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in August 2014. Before returning to school to become an educator, Ms. LaPlante worked at the Tribal Alcohol Program for 12 years. She worked as a paraprofessional at Santee Community School while taking classes through the Indigenous Roots Teacher Education Program. Ms. LaPlante resides in Santee, Nebraska with her husband and four children.

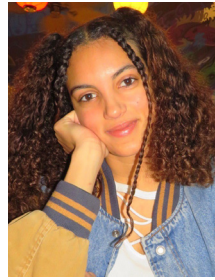


Mr. Waylon LaPlante

Email: waylon.laplante79@yahoo.com

Mr. Waylon LaPlante is his English name, but his Isanti Dakota name is Dowansa, which means the singer. He started singing with the Maza Kute singers in Santee, Nebraska at the age of five. Shortly after starting to sing, he

caught on to the songs so quickly he was named Dowansa at a young age. He is an enrolled member of the Isanti Sioux Nation in Santee, Nebraska and a member of the Santee district. He is also part of the Omaha tribe due to his mother's enrollment in that nation in Macy, Nebraska. He will be helping with the program this summer after witnessing how much educational fun his son and wife has had during past camps. He looks forward to meeting all the new students and staff while in Lincoln.



Ms. Bri Eilderts

Phone: (402) 616-8784
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Ms. Bri Eilderts is currently a student at UNO majoring in ASL Interpreting and minoring in Creative Writing. She is a CODA (Child Of Deaf Adults) and she has seen her parents go through many struggles not being able to communicate with others and feeling like a minority. They have motivated her to pursue an



ASL career. After she graduates, she plans on becoming a Sign Language Interpreter to enable the Deaf Community to communicate with others and serve as an ally for them. Other activities she enjoys doing outside of school is working out, writing, and painting. She also enjoys mentoring Freshman at UNO who also want to pursue ASL.



Ms. Shiloh King

Phone: (402) 215-6313
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Ms. Shiloh King is of Omaha and Cherokee descent and is enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She is currently double majoring in both Art History and Studio Art with a concentration in 2D.



In the fall, Ms. King will be taking part in a gallery show at University of Nebraska at Omaha dedicated to works done by indigenous students concerning social and cultural topics. She holds a firm belief in using art as a creative therapeutic outlet, as well as it being an educational platform. In her spare time, she loves curling up with a book and her cats or hanging out with her local raccoons and opossums.



Ms. Karen Rodriguez

Phone: (402) 517-2258
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Ms. Karen Rodriguez is currently pursuing degrees in Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. By pursuing a degree in sociology she will gain the theoretical tools to understand the reasons for the evident differentials in opportunities and outcomes that groups face, especially for immigrants like her parents. By majoring in philosophy, her hope is to become an innovative and curious intellectual that asks the right questions that promote change towards social justice.



These two fields of study intersect and provide her with numerous academic opportunities to live her mission of increasing inclusion and equality in the world.

When Ms. Rodriguez is not studying, she loves to express her creative energy through singing songs, dancing, drawing, and spending time with her loved ones. She also loves connecting with her mentees at the WoC NE STEM 4U Program and the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy (NCPA). The NE STEM 4U program has allowed her to be a STEM-promoting role model for youth in socio-economically disadvantaged schools. NCPA has produced numerous connections in her life and has given her the chance to influence incoming first-generation students like herself.



Ms. Mia Kennedy

Phone: (402) 686-3119
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Ms. Mia Kennedy is a third-year student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in biological sciences with two minors in humanities in medicine and women and gender studies.



Some extracurricular activities she participates in include the Nebraska College Preparatory Academy Inclusive Communities. At these programs, she is a mentor to youth.

Ms. Kennedy also does scientific research for UNL through UCARE. This program allows her to practice hands-on with biological specimens and express her love for biology.

After she obtains her degree, her goal is to go to medical school. Her dream is to be an obstetrician gynecologist. As a doctor, she wants to provide the best service for women of color and play a role in breaking the enduring cycle of discrimination against them in the medical realm.

During her free time, she enjoys playing video games, spending time with her dogs, and traveling the world.



Ms. Daelyn Zagurski

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Ms. Daelyn Zagurski is from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. She is also a member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Intertribal Exchange (UNITE), UNL's Native American student group. She is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in Wildlife and Fisheries with focuses in Conservation



Biology and Zoo Animal Care. In the future she hopes to become a conservation biologist or to work with animals in other ways.

Ms. Zagurski is currently interning with Nebraska Wildlife Rehab where she works with orphaned or injured animals to eventually release them where they came from. She also works with Audubon's Native Plants for Birds Project which encourages gardens made with Native Plants in order to help Nebraska bird populations. She also works for Reconciliation Rising, a project focused on Native American's getting their land back and reconciling with people as these processes are made.

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP



Mr. Jaylon LaPlante

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Mr. Jaylon LaPlante is an enrolled member of the Santee Sioux Nation. He currently is a CDL licensed bus driver and has been working with the Santee Sioux Nation Head Start Program for three years. He is the assistant coach for the Isanti High School Boys Basketball Team. He loves working with children and being able to assist tribal children any way he can.



Mr. Sam Farmer

Phone: (402) 525-6180
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Mr. Sam Farmer is from Winnebago, Nebraska and is currently studying Psychology at UNL. He plans to attend graduate school after he gets his degree and eventually, he wants to return to Winnebago to try and help create a better sense of community as a leader and try to move the reservation to a higher level of self sufficiency.



ACADEMY COLLABORATORS



Mr. Max Wheeler

*Training and Design Specialist
Nebraska Innovation Studio*

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Mr. Max Wheeler is a UNL graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He started his Masters of Engineering Management studies in the Summer of 2021. His professional career began with working on new product development of sheet metal and large diameter bent tube projects. Mr. Wheeler started his current role by working with a Nebraska Library Commission project to install mini, traveling makerspaces in rural libraries across the state of Nebraska.

An avid woodworker and 3D designer, Mr. Wheeler has a wide knowledge of traditional and modern woodworking practices.



NEBRASKA
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Mr. David Martin

*Director
Nebraska Innovation Studio*

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Mr. David Martin has been Director of Nebraska Innovation Studio (NIS) since September 2017. His goal is to create and expand collaborations within the university and in the greater community and to make sure makers have the tools and resources they need to achieve their vision. Before coming to work at NIS, he was an executive producer at CNN, a senior investigative producer at Al Jazeera America, and a newspaper correspondent for The Associated Press and other news outlets. In his spare time, he enjoys photography and screen printing.



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ACADEMY COLLABORATORS



Dr. Susan Weller
Director
University of Nebraska State Museum
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dr. Susan Weller earned her bachelor's degree in biology with honors from Grinnell College in 1982 and a doctorate in zoology from the University of Texas in 1989. Dr. Weller served as faculty member



and first female director of the J.F. Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota since 2008 and was appointed the director of the University of Nebraska State Museum of Natural History in 2015.

Dr. Weller has spent more than three decades as a researcher and was elected as an Entomological Society of America (ESA) Fellow in 2020. She also served as ESA president in 2017. She is internationally recognized for her research on the evolution of arctine moths and other Noctuoidea, as well as nationally recognized for her administrative leadership to promote entomology and science education.

Dr. Weller was born in Rochester, New York. She grew up in Saratoga Springs, where her early interest in nature was piqued by the large family garden, a nearby stream, and encouragement to be a tomboy as the oldest of four children.



Mr. Jerry Reif
Assistant Director
Nebraska Innovation Studio

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Mr. Jerry Reif has been with Nebraska Innovation Studio since March of 2016 and has been the driving force behind the development of the makerspace. Mr. Reif has spent many years developing his creative side before coming to NIS. He owns his own construction business and has spent a number of years in the metalworking, woodworking, and aviation industries. He has consulted on the development and build out of a number of makerspaces in the Midwest from rural



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libraries to Community Colleges and State Universities.



Dr. Colette Yellow Robe
Co-leader, Journey for Anti-Racism and Racial Equity
Native American Studies Affiliate Faculty
Retention Specialist TRIO Program
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dr. Colette Yellow Robe's scholarly and research interests are often devoted to, and not limited to Native American &

Indigenous education, epistemologies, Anti-racism Pedagogies and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) global movement. She advocates for the implementation of concrete changes, often in collaborative projects as a co-creator on research, teaching, and community projects.

The coveted time outside of her career activities, servant leadership duties, and additional endeavors revolve around her beloved sons, family members and relatives. Her hometown is the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Nebraska. Dr. Yellow Robe is an enrolled member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe in Montana and a direct descendant of Chief Dull Knife.



Ms. Sarah Rowe
Multimedia Artist

Ms. Sarah Rowe is a multimedia artist based in Omaha, Nebraska. Her work opens cross cultural dialogues by utilizing methods of painting, casting, fiber arts, performance, and Native American ceremony in unconventional ways. Ms. Rowe's work is participatory, a call to action, and re-imagines traditional Native American symbology to fit the narrative



of today's global landscape. Drawing from skewed imagery in historic texts, in conjunction with images from Lakota winter counts, Rowe projects her vision of contemporary Indigenous experience into the mix with an offbeat enchantment. Ms. Rowe's imagined landscapes are bold and vibrant, containing a shape-shifting bestiary of tales both familiar and strange. Ms. Rowe holds a BA in Studio Art from Webster University, studying in St. Louis, MO, and Vienna, Austria. Ms. Rowe is of Lakota and Ponca descent.

ACADEMY COLLABORATORS



Ms. Megan Elliott
Director
Johnny Carson Center for
Emerging Media Arts
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Ms. Megan Elliott is the founding director of the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts. She was previously the manager of leadership and community connections at the University of Technology Sydney in Australia and former director and CEO of digital media think-tank X Media Lab.

Ms. Elliott is currently serving as AR/VR coordinator for the Worlds of Connections project led by Dr. Julia McQuillan and funded by NIH SEPA (Science Education Partnership Award). Ms. Elliott also is a member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Office of Research and Economic Development's Research Advisory Board.

From 2015-2016, Ms. Elliott served as the manager of Leadership and Community Connections at the University of Technology Sydney in Sydney, where she led an international program for students to develop leadership and entrepreneurial skills, as well as instilling a commitment to innovation, social justice, community building and sustainability.

Ms. Elliott has deep ties to emerging media industries across Asia, Europe and the world. She served as co-founder and director of China Creative Industries Exchange in Beijing and Shanghai, China, from 2007-2015.

From 2005 to 2015, Ms. Elliott was the director/chief executive officer for X Media Lab (XML), an internationally acclaimed digital media think-tank and creative workshop for the creative industries that she co-founded with Brendan Harkin. Some of XML's partners include the Sydney Film Festival, Beijing Film Academy, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in India, the national broadcaster (NPO) in Amsterdam, and the American Film Institute.

Ms. Elliott and Mr. Harkin were recently chosen as two of five people to have their oral histories recorded for the National Film and Sound Archive in Australia, as two people pivotal to the development of the interactive media arts industries. She also served from 2002-2006 as the executive director of the Australian Writers' Guild.

Originally from Australia, Ms. Elliott received her bachelor's degree from the University of Canberra in Bruce, Australia. She began her career in theatre with the Splinters Theatre of Spectacle and has also served as a performer/artist in residence/assistant project manager for The Performance Space.



Dr. Siobhan Wescott
Associate Professor, Department of
Health Promotion
Dr. Susan and Susette La Flesche
Professor of American Indian Health
Director, American Indian Health
Program
College of Public Health
University of Nebraska Medical Center

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University of Nebraska
Medical Center

Dr. Siobhan Wescott is a Dr. Susan and Susette La Flesche Professor of American Indian Health at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, where she also serves as director of the American Indian Health Program. Her previous positions include serving as an Associate Scientist and Senior Consultant at Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota, as well as an Assistant Professor at both North Dakota State University and University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Science, the latter of which she also served as Co-Director of their Indians into Medicine Program.

Her research interests include American Indian/Alaska Native health and increasing the number of Native healthcare professionals, health education, reducing racial bias in biomedical publishing, public health for Tribes and Native communities, and Nutrition science, especially vitamin B12 and folate deficiencies. She is a member of the Association of American Indian Physicians and the American Medical Association.



Mr. Alexander Mallory
Judicial Law Clerk
U.S. District Court for the
District of Arizona

Email: alexander.mallory@hotmail.com



Mr. Alexander Mallory (Hakikóx Walu Piga—"makes his way") is from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and a Judicial Law Clerk at the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. He previously clerked for the U.S. Immigration Court through the Department of Justice Honors Program. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at

Arizona State University. He enjoys traveling and has studied and lived abroad in Turkey, Italy, and the Czech Republic. He served as a counselor in 2014 and 2015.



Ms. Annika Johnson, PhD

Associate Curator of Native American Art

Joslyn Art Museum

Email: ajohnson@joslyn.org

Ms. Annika Johnson, PhD is Associate Curator of Native American Art at the Joslyn Art Museum where she is developing installations, programming, and research initiatives in collaboration with Indigenous communities. Her research and curatorial



projects examine nineteenth-century Native American art and exchange with Euro-Americans, as well as contemporary artistic and cross-disciplinary engagements with the histories and ongoing processes of colonization.

Ms. Johnson received her doctorate in art history from the University of Pittsburgh in 2019. A descendent of settlers, Ms. Johnson grew up in Minnesota, Dakota homelands called Mni Sota Makoce. Her recent curatorial projects at Joslyn Art Museum include *Faces from the Interior: The North American Portraits of Karl Bodmer* and *The Indian Congress*, a site-specific installation by Wendy Red Star for Joslyn’s Contemporary Artists Project Gallery. Her writings can be found in *Archives of American Art Journal*, *RES: Anthropology and Aesthetics*, and *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*.



Mr. Jason St. Sauver

Senior Education Manager

Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

Phone: (402) 797-2301

Email: scp@audubon.org

Mr. Jason “the Birdnerd” St. Sauver

is the Senior Education Manager at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, an 800-acre tallgrass prairie preserve part of the National Audubon Society. Originally from South Dakota, Mr. St. Sauver has been working in the environmental education field for over 15 years (with Audubon



Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service), leading field trips, creating curriculum, and planning public events about birds, wildlife, conservation, and climate.

Along with his work in outdoor education, Mr. St. Sauver has been a leader and advocate with Audubon for their equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives – specifically working on programs, projects, and events with Nebraska’s indigenous communities focusing on the importance of indigenous plants for birds, wildlife, and people.



Ms. Nicole Benegas

Executive Director

Bluebird Cultural Initiative

Email:

nicole@bluebirdculturalinitiative.org

Ms. Nicole Benegas (Tamayo) is an enrolled member of the Sicangu Lakota. As Joslyn Art Museum’s Native American Art Program Coordinator, she focused on developing Native American art programming by engaging Native American community members and organizations.



Her non-profit experience began with Lakota Youth Development (formerly known as Native American Advocacy Program) in 2005 while residing on the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Reservation. In 2011 it continued with providing after-school cultural arts programming to Native youth within the Omaha Public School District. Ms. Benegas’s full time career in non-profit community work began in 2014 as the Youth Curriculum Coordinator for Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition (NUIHC). From 2015-2021, Ms. Benegas was the Youth and Family Program Director for NUIHC.

She transitioned to her current role as Executive Director for Bluebird Cultural Initiative in 2021. Ms. Benegas has extensive experience in project management and development of culturally relevant programming for Native communities. Ms. Benegas’s training includes an emphasis on reviving community connection through cultural arts, practices and education.



Ms. Phyllis R. Stone

Rosebud Sioux Elder

Ms. Phyllis R. Stone is an Elder of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate (Rosebud Sioux Tribe). Ms. Stone is a descendant of Chief Iron Shell, a Sun Dancer, and a peace chief of the Sicangu. Based in Lincoln, she is a vital member of the Native community,

serving as an educator, speaker, activist, and storyteller. She has served on the Nebraska Indian Commission, and was named Outstanding Indian Woman of Nebraska in 1985.

ACADEMY COLLABORATORS



Dr. Judy Diamond
Professor in University Libraries
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dr. Judy Diamond has been at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for 30 years as a professor and curator at the State Museum. Dr. Diamond also has courtesy appointments in Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education and in Agricultural Leadership, Education & Communication.



Dr. Diamond is a researcher, educator, and writer, who is committed to science outreach. She creates collaborative projects that bring experts from different fields together. Dr. Diamond's projects have been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and other granting agencies. She teaches a graduate course on creating children's literature, and she continues to engage in field research on the behavior of wild parrots.

In 2020, she did a one-year NSF-RAPID project concerned with COVID-19 outreach. Dr. Diamond collaborated with Elizabeth VanWormer (assistant professor, School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences), Julia McQuillan (professor, Sociology), Trish Wonch Hill (research assistant professor, Sociology), Judi gaiashkibos, and former Marvel artist Bob Hall to create a series of comics about the pandemic for middle-school youth. The topics covered in their series include the biology of pandemic viruses, bats and infectious disease, and the impact of the pandemic on Native communities. The project research team also studies how the comics impact kids' understanding of infectious disease and their attitudes about learning science. The comics are posted online at <http://worldofviruses.unl.edu/covid-19>. They are embedded in public library websites in Nebraska, including Lincoln City Libraries. The comics were released in spring 2021 as a book with essays published by the University of Nebraska Press.

On April 6, 2022, Dr. Diamond received the University of Nebraska President's Excellence Award in Innovation, Development and Engagement for extending her academic expertise beyond the boundaries of the University, enriching the broader community.



Mr. Ted Hibbeler
Tribal Extension Educator
Native American Coalition
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Mr. Theodore "Ted" Hibbeler is a member of the Iron Shell family (Maza Pon Kesh Ka Tiospaye) from the Rosebud Sioux Nation (Sicangu Lakota Oyate) in South Dakota.



He was raised in Hastings, Nebraska and graduated from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. He spent the next ten years teaching and coaching high school students at St. Francis Indian School in South Dakota. Mr. Hibbeler then earned a Master of Arts Teaching Degree in English from Hastings College, and he and his family moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he worked as the Director of the Native American Education Program for the Phoenix Union High School District (PUHSD) for twenty years. During his tenure at this position, he earned a Master of Education in Educational Administration and Supervision Degree from Arizona State University, and the PUHSD Native American Education Program became a best practices program for the Arizona Department of Education in the areas of student retention, academic excellence and graduation.

Their college-bridge program, The Hoop of Learning Program, received the Phoenix Mayor's Partnership Award for several years, and it is still active in many of the school districts in Phoenix and the Maricopa Community College District. Mr. Hibbeler and his family moved back to Nebraska to be closer to home, and he is currently the Tribal Extension Educator for the Extension Division at UNL.

He is working with the Nebraska Tribal communities and their Tribal colleges and K-12 schools in the areas of food sustainability, economic development, career development, conservation and leadership. He believes developing a reciprocal relationship between the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Tribal communities is a key component to his new position. Mr. Hibbeler also serves on the Board of the Nebraska Indian Education Association (NeIEA) and the Jobs for America's Graduates Nebraska (JAG).



Ms. Cayleen Green
Music Manager
The Bay

Ms. Cayleen Green is a DJ, teaching artist and facilitator of fun! She graduated from the University of Louisiana with a degree in Business Management, and her diverse music selection and Louisiana roots explode out of her every time she performs. She is dedicated to creating exciting and inclusive music environments around Nebraska.



“Music is so powerful and I want to continue to create memorable and meaningful experiences with the opportunities I have...and I just wanna dance!”



Dr. Julia McQuillan
Willa Cather Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Principal Investigator, Worlds of Connections

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Dr. Julia McQuillan is a Willa Cather Professor in Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research focuses on social inequality, with special emphasis on changing structures and



practices to increase equity and wellbeing. She was part of the team that created the National Survey of Fertility Barriers public use data set for studying fertility and infertility.

She leads a National Institutes of Health funded Science Education Partnership Award, Worlds of Connections, that engages youth with network science for health research for bio-behavioral and biomedical careers. She enjoys collaborations that bring sociological perspectives to a variety of questions and fields, focusing on social structures at individual, interactional, and institutional levels of analyses using quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.



Mr. Matthew Ratliff
Skate Manager
The Bay

Mr. Matthew Ratliff grew up in a small town in northern Indiana. He played sports as a kid and found skateboarding at a young age. He is Skate Manager at The Bay, has been skateboarding for 25 years and teaching kids how to skate for over 10 years!



“Skateboarding has always been a way of life more than a hobby and I’m always excited to share that passion with the youth culture.”



Dr. Trish Wonch Hill
Research Assistant Professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Co-Investigator and Director of Learning Research, Worlds of Connections

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Dr. Patricia “Trish” Wonch Hill is the research coordinator at the Methodology and Evaluation Research Core Facility (MERC) at the Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Center (SBSRC) and a Research Assistant Professor in Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Her research focuses on broadening participation in STEM in K-16 education and beyond. She is co-investigator and research director on an NIH Science Education Partnership Award called Worlds of Connections which researches how informal science experiences during middle school influence STEM pathways in High School. She is passionate about making scientific research accessible to rural and Urban communities in Nebraska.

HOSTING ORGANIZATIONS

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS



The Commission on Indian Affairs was established in 1971 and consists of 14 Indian commissioners appointed by the Governor. The commission's statutory mission is "to do all things which it may determine to enhance the cause of Indian rights and to develop solutions to problems common to all Nebraskan Indians."

It is the state liaison between the four headquarter tribes of the Omaha, Ponca, Santee Sioux, and Winnebago Tribes of Nebraska. It helps ensure the sovereignty of both tribal and state governments are recognized and acted upon in a true government-to-government relationship. The commission serves off-reservation Indian communities by helping assure they are afforded the right to equitable opportunities in the areas of housing, employment, education, health care, economic development and human/civil rights within Nebraska. All goals of the commission are accomplished through advocacy, education, and promotion of legislation.

JOHNNY CARSON CENTER FOR EMERGING MEDIA ARTS

Borne out of a groundbreaking \$57 million partnership between the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, the Johnny Carson Foundation, and numerous private industry partners, the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts will become a global destination for students and faculty who reside in the future and who share our ambitious ideas, plans and goals.

“

There comes a time or a moment when you know in which direction you're going to go. I know it happened to me when I was quite young.

—Johnny Carson, '49

In our vision of the future, the Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts has become the premier destination in the world for creative, young pioneers who use technology to innovate, to solve human-scale problems, to entertain audiences, and to tell breathtaking stories that stimulate, provoke and inspire.

The goal of the Johnny Carson Center is to produce transformative creative leaders by building the ultimate student-centered program where every graduate is able to realize their dream job or raise money to start their dream company, straight out of school.

UNL INDIGENOUS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY PROGRAM

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Native American Coalition through the Tribal Extension Office is sponsoring a UNL Indigenous Sovereignty Program. UNL East Campus has provided the program with a classroom, garden, and greenhouse space to host students. This program is a collaboration between Indigenous Community elders and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources faculty to work with Native American high school students to:

- Learn how to grow their own traditional, health food
- Re-learn their traditional relationship with the earth and plants
- Provide healthy food to their families and communities
- Learn about various careers at UNL

JOSLYN ART MUSEUM

Closed to the Public Until 2024 for Expansion



Joslyn Art Museum is the largest museum in the state of Nebraska and a cultural cornerstone of the city of Omaha for 90 years. Joslyn's collections comprise over 12,000 works of art and reflect over 3,000 years of human creativity. The Museum offers a wide range of programs for schools and

individuals of every age and ability, with a strong history of community partnerships. Joslyn's campus currently features its original 1931 building, the 1994 Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, and sculpture gardens added in 2009. Now, the Museum is growing again. On May 2, 2022, Joslyn Art Museum temporarily closed to the public for a period of two years as it undergoes a major transformation. Construction is underway on a new 42,000-square-foot addition—the Rhonda and Howard Hawks Pavilion—and significant renovations are also happening. The expansion and renovation will add galleries, classrooms, public spaces, a new entrance, and so much more! During closure, enjoy public programs at offsite locations. For more information about Joslyn Around Town, visit joslyn.org or follow us on social media @joslynartmuseum.

MID-AMERICA TRANSPORTATION CENTER



MID-AMERICA
TRANSPORTATION CENTER

Since 2006 the Mid-America Transportation Center has been designated as the United States Department of Transportation Region 7 University Transportation Center. Region 7 is composed of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. MATC is a consortium of nine universities within the region: the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the University of Nebraska Omaha, the Missouri University of Science and Technology, the University of Iowa, the University of Kansas, the University of Kansas Medical Center, the Nebraska Indian Community College, and Lincoln University. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln serves as the lead institution of the consortium and MATC has its headquarters on the UNL campus.



MATC's research priority area is Promoting Safety with an emphasis on reducing and mitigating the negative effects associated with extreme weather effects and multi-modal hazardous goods movements. MATC strives to engage student interest and involve underrepresented groups in the STEM field to create a more diverse future in transportation. This goal led to the development of MATC's educational programs including the Roads, Rails, and Race Cars After-School Program, the Scholars Program, and the Intern Program.

HOSTING ORGANIZATIONS

WORLDS OF CONNECTIONS



Worlds of Connections is a University of Nebraska-Lincoln led Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) that works to enhance the diversity of the bio-behavioral and biomedical workforce by engaging youth from underrepresented groups through lessons, activities, and augmented reality/virtual reality media.

The program is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and is used to promote public understanding of the benefits of NIH-funded research for public health with a focus on network science. Network science is an emerging field that provides a key analytical lens for understanding health processes using advanced relational approaches to health data.

SPRING CREEK PRAIRIE AUDUBON CENTER



Audubon

The mission of the National Audubon Society is to protect birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center focuses on conservation of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem and the birds that rely on it.

Land Acknowledgement - The treated and unceded land that Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center currently manages for birds and operates its visitor center upon has a rich history of native peoples living with the land. We recognize that we are not the first land stewards of the tallgrass prairie in southeastern Nebraska. As we continue this legacy of care for the prairie and all the wildlife, plants, water, and people who need it, we acknowledge the history, knowledge, and culture of those who have come before us on the land (Pawnee, Otoe, Kansa, Kiowa) and those that walk alongside us today (Ponca, Omaha, & Winnebago Tribes of Nebraska). As you enjoy this program or your visit to Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, please take a moment to acknowledge the people on whose sacred land you walk.

Audubon established Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center in 1998 on the site of the former O'Brien ranch approximately 20 minutes southwest of Lincoln, Nebraska. This 850-acre tallgrass prairie sanctuary offers over three miles of walking trails, native prairie grasslands, wetlands and ponds, wildflowers and grasses, and beautiful scenic vistas. In its midst more than 235 species of birds, 370 species of plants, and other wildlife dwell side-by-side with historic 19th-century wagon ruts from a cutoff to the Oregon Trail.

Family nature programs, school field trips, special events, and burgeoning attendance resulted in the construction of our visitor center, which opened in 2006. Through educating the public about the value of tallgrass prairie while introducing thousands to its beauty and diversity, we are helping preserve this singular — and very threatened — portion of the plains.

RABBLE MILL

Rabble Mill is a 501c3 nonprofit with a mission to work with Nebraska youth statewide toward achieving the belonging, purpose, and upward mobility necessary to grow, achieve, and reinvest in their community.

Through out-of-school-time, youth engagement in Omaha, Lincoln, and statewide, we create opportunities for K-12 youth to fall in love with skateboarding, music and digital creation — teaching social-emotional and technical (including STEAM) skills along the way.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA STATE MUSEUM - MORRILL HALL



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
STATE MUSEUM



Established in 1871, the University of Nebraska State Museum is the state's premier museum of natural history. The mission of the Museum is to discover and disseminate knowledge about the natural world through research and education. The Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a proud Smithsonian Affiliate. Visitors to Morrill Hall will find interactive exhibits featuring Nebraska's past and present biological diversity, and its cultural heritage with a dedicated First Peoples of the Plains gallery.

Morrill Hall is known for its paleontological collections, especially its iconic Elephant Hall, where visitors will see the world's largest articulated fossil Columbian mammoth alongside a unique collection of Nebraskan fossil elephants. Also featured are interactive paleontology exhibits including a Jurassic dinosaur gallery. The recently renovated fourth floor includes a Smithsonian-inspired Visible Lab, hands-on Science Exploration Zone, and Sustainable Earth gallery with a 5-foot diameter digital globe. The onsite Mueller Planetarium provides visitors with additional opportunities to explore our Universe and our place in it. In addition to the permanent galleries, the museum hosts temporary exhibits on diverse topics.

As an active University-based research museum, faculty curators, students and staff maintain over 13 million specimens, ethnographic and archeological objects. Research collections include: anthropology, botany, entomology, geology, invertebrate paleontology, parasitology, vertebrate paleontology, and zoology.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER



University of Nebraska
Medical Center™



The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) was founded in 1869 and chartered as the state's first medical college in 1881, and became part of the University of Nebraska in 1902. Now UNMC trains more health professionals than any other institution in the state. Their scientists and clinicians are at the leading edge of discovering new medical breakthroughs, transforming lives across the state and around the world.

UNMC has six colleges, two institutes and a graduate studies program, serving more than 4,000 students in more than 60 programs. There are campuses in Omaha, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, and Scottsbluff/Gering.

Nearly half of Nebraska's physicians, dental professionals, pharmacists, bachelor-prepared nurses and allied health professionals have graduated from UNMC and the percentage of graduates practicing direct patient care in rural areas is 5th in the nation.

MATC/NCIA

Sovereign Native Youth

STEM Leadership Academy

<https://matc.unl.edu/education/SNY-Leadership/index.php>

The Mid-America Transportation Center and the Nebraska Transportation Center greatly appreciate and acknowledge the generous support of:



Claire M. Hubbard Foundation



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