

JUNE 18 - JUNE 22, 2023
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

MID-AMERICA TRANSPORTATION CENTER **Sovereign Native Youth STEM Leadership Academy**



MID-AMERICA
TRANSPORTATION CENTER





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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

All times are in Central Time

5:00 - 5:45 PM **ARRIVAL AND CHECK-IN**
 University Suites - 1780 R St, Lincoln, NE
 68508

5:45 - 6:00 PM TRANSITION TO UNION

6:00 - 7:45 PM **OPENING CEREMONY**
 City Campus Union, Platte River Room
 South - 1400 R St, Lincoln, NE 68588
 Opening prayer, introductory remarks,
 rules and expectations

7:45 - 8:00 PM TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES

8:00 - 9:00 PM **SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS**
 University Suites

9:00 PM **HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW**

MONDAY, JUNE 19

All times are in Central Time

8:00 AM	TRANSITION TO WILLA CATHER	1:10 - 3:10 PM	LABORATORY ACTIVITIES
8:00 - 9:00 AM	BREAKFAST Willia Cather Dining Complex - 530 N 17th St, Lincoln, NE 68588		Group A: Shake Table Lab SEC C381
9:00 - 9:30 AM	PROGRAM OVERVIEW & BUREAU OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH		Group B: Materials Lab SEC C314
9:30 - 9:45 AM	TRANSITION TO LABS	3:10 - 3:20 PM	BREAK & TRANSITION TO LABS
9:45 - 11:45 AM	LABORATORY ACTIVITIES Group A: Materials Lab SEC C314 Group B: Environmental Lab Lab: SEC C382, Classroom: SEC C314 Group C: Shake Table Lab SEC C381	3:20 - 5:20 PM	LABORATORY ACTIVITIES Group A: Environmental Lab Lab: SEC C382, Classroom: SEC C314 Group B: Shake Table Lab SEC C381 Group C: Materials Lab SEC C314
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	TRANSITION TO OTHMER LOBBY	5:20 - 5:30 PM	TRANSITION TO UNION
12:00 - 1:00 PM	LUNCH Othmer Hall Lobby - 1600 Vine St, Lincoln, NE 68508 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lance C. Pérez, Dean of the College of Engineering, Omar H. Heins Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, UNL	5:30 - 6:30 PM	DINNER City Campus Union, Platte River Room South
1:00 - 1:10 PM	TRANSITION TO LABS	6:30 - 6:45 PM	TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES
		6:45 - 9:00 PM	SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS University Suites
		9:00 PM	HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW



TUESDAY, JUNE 20

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 - 9:00 AM

TRANSITION TO INNOVATION CAMPUS

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

INNOVATION CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Innovation Studio - 2021 Transformation Dr #1500, Lincoln, NE 68508

12:00 - 1:00 PM

LUNCH

The Mill - 2021 Transformation Dr #1350, Lincoln, NE 68508

1:00 - 1:30 PM

TRANSITION TO EAST CAMPUS

1:30 - 3:00 PM

PLANT SCIENCES ACTIVITY

East Campus Plant Sciences Hall, Room 280 - 1875 N 38th St, Lincoln, NE 68503

Mr. Ted Hibbeler, Tribal Extension Educator, Native American Coalition, UNL

3:00 - 4:00 PM

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

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

4:00 - 5:00 PM

SINGING WORKSHOP

East Campus Union, Arbor Suite (363) - 1705 Arbor Dr, Lincoln, NE 68503

Mr. Isaac Kolb, Society of Care Trauma Warriors Mentor

5:00 - 7:00 PM

DINNER & BOWLING

East Campus Union, Husker Bowling Center

7:00 - 7:15 PM

TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES

7:15 - 9:00 PM

SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS

University Suites

9:00 PM

HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW



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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

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 - 9:00 AM	TRANSITION TO LOVE LIBRARY
9:00 - 11:45 AM	STORY MAPS ACTIVITY Love Library, Room 221 - 1318 R St, Lincoln, NE 68588 Welcome Remarks: Dr. Liz Lorang , Interim Dean of the University Libraries, UNL Dr. Gabriel Bruguier , Assistant Professor, Research Specialist Librarian, Research Partnerships, UNL Libraries Dr. Wenjie Wang , Assistant Professor, Geospatial Data and Programs Librarian, UNL
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	TRANSITION TO UNION
12:00 - 1:00 PM	LUNCH UNL City Campus Union Food Court
1:00 - 2:15 PM	STORY MAPS ACTIVITY CONTINUED Love Library, Room 221 Dr. Gabriel Bruguier , Assistant Professor, Research Specialist Librarian, Research Partnerships, UNL Libraries Dr. Wenjie Wang , Assistant Professor, Geospatial Data and Programs Librarian, UNL

2:15 - 3:45 PM	SOCIETY OF CARE TRAUMA WARRIORS ACTIVITIES Outdoor Meier Commons Ms. Angel Geller , Lead Family Coordinator, Society of Care
3:45 - 4:00 PM	TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES
4:00 - 4:45 PM	PREPARE FOR FORMAL DINNER
4:45 - 5:00 PM	TRANSITION TO MORRILL HALL
5:00 - 6:45 PM	FORMAL DINNER & GROUP PHOTO Morrill Hall - 645 N 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68588 Keynote Speaker: Mr. Bill Johnson , Senior Vice President of Development, University of Nebraska Foundation
6:45 - 7:00 PM	TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES
7:00 - 9:00 PM	SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS University Suites
9:00 PM	HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

8:00 AM	TRANSITION TO WILLA CATHER
8:00 - 8:45 AM	BREAKFAST Willa Cather Dining Complex
8:45 - 9:00 AM	TRANSITION TO JOHNNY CARSON CENTER
9:00 - 11:00 AM	STORY MAP PROJECT PRESENTATIONS Johnny Carson Center or Emerging Media Arts - 1300 Q St, Lincoln, NE 68508

11:00 - 11:15 AM	BUREAU OF SOCIOLOGIC RESEARCH SURVEY
11:15 AM - 12:30 PM	LUNCH
12:30 - 1:00 PM	FAREWELL
1:00 PM	DEPARTURE

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP



Dr. Aemal Khattak
Director
Mid-America Transportation Center

Phone: (402) 472-8126
Email: khattak@unl.edu

Dr. Aemal Khattak is Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director of the Mid-America Transportation Center (MATC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He specializes in transportation safety, infrastructure planning, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and manages \$3.0 million per year in grant funding.



Dr. Khattak's career in civil engineering includes 23 years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is an accomplished author having published more than 100 publications on various transportation topics. He serves as the inaugural editorial board member of the Transportation Research Records and is the immediate past chair of the Transportation Research Board Standing Committee on Highway/Rail Grade Crossings (AR080). Dr. Khattak teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in highway engineering, urban transportation planning, transportation safety, and travel demand.



Ms. Genesis Saul-Hooper
Title VI-Education Specialist
Omaha Public Schools

Phone: (531) 299-6645
Email: genesis.saulhooper@ops.org

Ms. Genesis Saul-Hooper (Gen Saul) is an enrolled member of the Santee Sioux Nation (Isanti Dakota). She attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as a Buffet Scholar and graduated in 2022 with her Bachelor of Science in Child, Youth, and Family Studies with minors in Psychology



and Leadership. She was also a member of the UNL Women's Lacrosse Club and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Intertribal Exchange (UNITE).

In the fall of 2022, she accepted the position of Education Specialist for the Title-VI program, N.I.C.E., or Native Indigenous Centered Education. She advocates for three schools, Bryan, Buena Vista, and Northwest. Her career goal in working with N.I.C.E. is to help advocate for the education of Indigenous students and their families. She also aims to help prepare students for after high school through career and college readiness skills. During her free time, Ms. Saul loves to bead and read/listen to books written by Indigenous authors. It strengthens her love for her culture and allows her to learn more about other Indigenous cultures.



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

Phone: (402) 560-0329
Email: mblackbird@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 sixteen-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 teaching Umo^Nho^N Language and Culture and fulfilling her role as the Director of Native American Education (Title VI) 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 CrossCurricular 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).



Mrs. Ruth LaPlante

*Parent Educator
Santee Community School*

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



Mrs. Ruth LaPlante is an enrolled member of the Santee Sioux Nation. Mrs. LaPlante is presently the Parent Educator at the Santee Community School, and currently in her second year serving this role. She has been the 4th-6th grade Science and Social Studies teacher since 2014, and is also the K-5 STEM teacher. 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, Mrs. 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, and 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, Mrs. 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. Mrs. LaPlante resides in Santee, Nebraska with her husband and four children.



Mrs. Katie Kloefkorn

*Physical Education & Health Teacher
Native American Success Coach
Scott Middle School
Lincoln Public Schools*

Phone: (402) 202-4421
Email: kkloefk@lps.org



Mrs. Katie Kloefkorn has been working at Scott Middle School since 1997. She teaches Physical Education and Health,

and is the department liaison to the district as well as the Native American Success Coach. Prior to being hired at Scott, she taught Physical Education at Hill Elementary and lakeview Elementary schools. She received her Bachelor's degree in Physical Education K-12 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and her Master's in Counseling with a Guidance Endorsement, also from UNL. In addition to her teaching duties, at Scott she also organizes school wellness activities, develops field trips, dance presentations and Olympic days, facilitates the after-school chess club, and serves on the SCIP committee for at-risk students.



Mrs. Samantha Eberly

*High School Science Teacher
Winnebago Public School*

Phone: (712) 541-9623
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Mrs. Samantha Eberly grew up on her family's farm outside of LeMars, Iowa, with her two brothers, two sisters, and parents, Mark and Lori Loutsch. She attended Remsen Union from kindergarten until graduating Salutatorian in 2008, then attended South Dakota State University, majoring in Chemistry, minoring in Physics, and earning a teaching certificate

after student teaching at Brooking High School. She was active in The Pride of the Dakotas Marching Band at SDSU and helped start the school's National Science Teacher Association chapter. She was a Hach Chemistry and REMAST Scholar. Mrs. Eberly graduated from SDSU in May 2013 and began teaching high school science in Winnebago, Nebraska, that fall. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching: Teacher Leadership from Morningside College in 2020. Mrs. Eberly currently co-coaches Winnebago's speech team, advises Winnebago's National Honor Society and HOPE Squad, and serves as the Winnebago Education Association vice president.

Mrs. Eberly and her husband, Nick, live in Homer, Nebraska, with their one year old son, Noah, and their two cats, Dragon and Dexter. They enjoy camping, gardening, and spending time with family.



Mr. Christopher Marshall

*Paraprofessional
Native Indigenous Centered
Education (N.I.C.E.)
Omaha Public Schools*

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Mr. Christopher Marshall works closely with students at Omaha Public School's Native Indigenous Centered Education (N.I.C.E.) program. He attended college at Haskell Indian Nations University and

earned a degree in Media Communications. He is currently enrolled at Midland University and is working on his Special Education teaching degree. Mr. Marshall is a prolific filmmaker, youth group coordinator, and a loving father and husband.

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP



Ms. Shiloh King

Phone: (402) 215-6313
Email: soking@unomaha.edu

Ms. Shiloh King is of Omaha and Cherokee descent and is enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where she is currently double majoring in both Art History and Studio Art with a concentration in 2D. Soon, she hopes to change her studio art degree to a fine art degree so that she may take a more independent and specialized path of study involving oil painting.

Ms. King's work has been displayed in indigenous art exhibitions in both Nebraska and North Carolina, though most of her art pieces relating to Native American culture were created to help her learn about herself and her heritage rather than for display.



Besides being an art student at UNO, she is also the President of the Inter-Tribal Student Council (ITSC), which is the Native American-based student run organization on campus. Her current goal is to expand the size of the organization and increase the involvement with the community; but most importantly, she wants to provide a safe and welcoming environment for indigenous students, both in person and online.

When Ms. King is not busy with school or organization activities, she can be found in her studio working on various art projects or in her room taking a nap with one of her three cats.



Ms. Daelyn Zagurski

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Ms. Daelyn Zagurski is from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. She recently graduated from UNL in May of 2023 with a Bachelor's in Fisheries and Wildlife with focuses in Conservation Biology and Zoo Animal Care. During her time as a student, she was an active member—Vice President her junior year and President her senior year—of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Intertribal Exchange (UNITE), UNL's Native American student group. She was also an active student in the School of Natural Resources.



During her time at UNL, Ms. Zagurski worked for Reconciliation Rising, a project that focused on getting land back for Native Americans. She also did some work for the Genoa Indian School Project, which collected metadata for official school documents. She was also an intern for Nebraska Wildlife Rehab where she helped care for sick or injured wildlife. She also worked for Audubon and designed a Native plant garden to help bird populations as well as provide potential medicine for Native community members. She recently got a year-long position within her field at USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) to work with different tribes on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management plans in deer, elk, and moose. She plans on returning to UNL after this to continue graduate school.

During her time at UNL, Ms. Zagurski worked for Reconciliation Rising, a project that focused on getting land back for Native Americans. She also did some work for the Genoa Indian School Project, which collected metadata for official school documents. She was also an intern for Nebraska Wildlife Rehab where she helped care for sick or injured wildlife. She also worked for Audubon and designed a Native plant garden to help bird populations as well as provide potential medicine for Native community members. She recently got a year-long position within her field at USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) to work with different tribes on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) management plans in deer, elk, and moose. She plans on returning to UNL after this to continue graduate school.



Ms. Janana Khattak

Phone: (402) 580-8981
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Ms. Janana Khattak is a rising senior at the University of Nebraska Lincoln, where she studies Political Science with minors in Economics, Philosophy, Communications, and is also pursuing a Public Policy Analysis Certificate. She is on the Dean's List and hopes to attend law school. On campus, she partakes in



student government, and the National Champion-winning Speech and Debate program. She also works with the Bureau of Business Research on campus where students are taught research methods in economics, pursue research interests, and assist with ongoing research. In 2022, she also participated in UCARE research with the Digital Research Lab and the legal history of Habeas Corpus. She currently serves as an intern to State Senator Terrell McKinney of Omaha's eleventh district. She also volunteers with the Nebraska Library Commission, Reading is Leading, and the Everett Free Grocery Program. Outside of this, she enjoys running, arts and crafts, and listening to music and podcasts.



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.

ACADEMY COLLABORATORS



Dr. Gabriel Bruguier

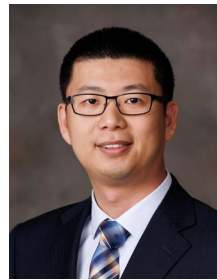
*Assistant Professor & Research Specialist Librarian
Research Partnerships, UNL Libraries
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Dr. Gabriel Bruguier is an Assistant Professor and Research Specialist Librarian at University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries in the Research Partnerships Department.

He is an enrolled member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe and grew up in Vermillion and Sisseton, South Dakota.

From 2017 to 2023, Dr. Bruguier was the Education and Outreach Coordinator at the Mid-America Transportation Center, where he oversaw three outreach programs that supported Native American students at all levels of their education. In January 2023 he joined the Research Partnerships faculty. Along with other members of the department, he will support evidence synthesis research, research metrics, and Indigenous Data Sovereignty. Dr. Bruguier has served as the City of Lincoln Representative on the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs since 2018. In 2021 he was elected to the Great Plains Fellows at UNL's Center for Great Plains Studies, and in 2023 was elected to the Board of Governors at the Center. In 2022 he was hired as a consultant for the Genoa Indian School Museum Foundation.



Dr. Wenjie Wang

*Assistant Professor & Geospatial Data and Programs Librarian
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Email: wwang37@unl.edu

Dr. Wenjie Wang is an Assistant Professor, Geospatial Data and Programs Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Previously, Dr. Wang was a GIS Specialist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Dr. Wang earned his Ph.D. degree in geography from the University of Connecticut and earned his Master's degree in civil and environmental engineering from Duke University. His research interests include land use land cover change and improving the accuracy of satellite image classification.

At UNL, He collaborates with researchers to integrate GIS into their research and teaching. Recognizing the value of interdisciplinary collaboration, Dr. Wang is dedicated to helping researchers, students, and the broader community harness the power of geospatial data, assisting them in identifying appropriate geospatial datasets, designing data workflows, and analyzing spatial patterns. He is actively engaged in promoting GIS resources and services to the university community. In addition to this, he conducts workshops and training sessions, empowering users to develop their GIS skills and make informed decisions based on spatial data. Beyond his professional endeavors, Dr. Wenjie enjoys exploring the great outdoors.



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 arctiine 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.



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.



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-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).



Dr. Christine E. Wittich
Assistant Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dr. Christine E. Wittich is an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, specializing in Structural Engineering, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Dr. Wittich received the B.S.



degree in Civil Engineering from Lafayette College in Easton, PA, followed by the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Structural Engineering from the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Wittich's research spans full-scale dynamic and shake table testing, advanced numerical modeling, and remote sensing of structural systems to enhance the resilience of civil infrastructure systems to natural hazards, including earthquakes, windstorms, and floods. Recent projects have focused on the dynamics of slide-rocking systems, earthquake mitigation for historic structures, seismic hazard estimation based on fragile geologic structures, remote sensing for post-disaster reconnaissance, and the resilience of agricultural structures and communities following windstorms. Dr. Wittich teaches courses at UNL in structural analysis, structural dynamics, steel design, and remote sensing. She serves as the advisor to UNL's chapters of the Society of Women Engineers and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute.



Dr. Jamilla Teixeira
Associate Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dr. Jamilla Teixeira is an Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).



She obtained her Bachelors of Science in Civil Engineering from the Federal University of Ceara, and her Masters and Doctorate degrees of the same discipline from UNL. Before coming to UNL to teach, she taught at the Federal University of Espirito Santo (USEF) in Brazil and was involved in projects sponsored by Brazilian funding agencies and industry sectors. At UNL she specializes in researching infrastructure materials and solutions, design of flexible pavement and materials, and microstructure modeling of composites.



Dr. Lance C. Pérez
Omar H. Heins Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Dean, College of Engineering
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dr. Lance C. Pérez was named dean of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering in May 2018, following two years as interim dean. An experienced academic and campus leader, Dr. Pérez was previously associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies at the university. He has been a faculty member in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering since 1996 and is currently the Heins Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

In his previous administrative positions, Dr. Pérez was responsible for faculty and leadership development, promotion and tenure, instruction technology and classroom facilities' improvements, and graduate education. He led the implementation of \$30 million in improvements to the academic facilities and played a pivotal role in the university's entrance into the Big Ten Committee on Institutional Cooperation.

As a faculty member, he has won numerous teaching awards and has been principal investigator or co-principal investigator on more than \$15 million in federally funded research. His research interests include signal and information processing, engineering education, and faculty leadership development. From 2008-10, Pérez was a program director in the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation.

He has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Virginia, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

ACADEMY COLLABORATORS



Mr. Bill Johnson
Senior Vice President of Development
University of Nebraska Foundation

Mr. Bill Johnson is the Senior Vice President of Development at the University of Nebraska Foundation, where he leads fundraising efforts for UNL. He is a native of Plainview, Nebraska and a member of the Santee Sioux Tribe.



Mr. Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in education administration/athletic administration from UNL while playing basketball under Coach Danny Nee. He then worked as an assistant basketball coach and director of basketball operations for the Huskers for four years.

Mr. Johnson has an extensive background in higher education fundraising leadership and works in partnership with the chancellor and other university leaders, Husker Athletics, the Nebraska Alumni Association, and the foundation's development team to advance UNL's fundraising goals.



Dr. Shannon Bartelt-Hunt
Department Chair
Donald R. Voelte, Jr. and Nancy A. Keegan Chair of Engineering and Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dr. Shannon Bartelt-Hunt is the Donald R. Voelte, Jr. and Nancy A. Keegan Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Her research and teaching interests are in the area of environmental engineering. She conducts research on how contaminants move in the environment and the effects that they have on the environment and human health. She teaches classes on solid waste management and environmental chemistry. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, riding her bike and spending time with her family, which includes her husband George, and two sons, Sam and Alden.



Dr. Liz Lorang
Interim Dean of University Libraries
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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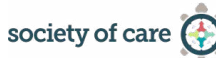


Dr. Liz Lorang is the Interim Dean of the University Libraries where she directs the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's libraries, learning commons, and the Library Depository Retrieval Facility. She joined the University as a research assistant professor and digital projects librarian in 2013, and became associate professor and humanities librarian in 2016. Dr. Lorang was appointed associate dean in 2018 before taking the role of interim dean in May 2023. She holds a Bachelor of Science in English from Towson University, a Master of Arts in information science and learning technology from the University of Missouri, and a doctorate in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Ms. Angel Geller
Lead Family Coordinator
Society of Care

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Ms. Angel Geller is the Lead Family Coordinator for Society of Care's outreach team, where she assists Indigenous families in accessing trustworthy, affordable and culturally sensitive behavioral healthcare, education, prevention services, and support. She is a certified Peer Support Specialist at Morningstar Counseling and a proud mentor/advocate for the Trauma Warriors Native American Youth Council of Lincoln. As a member of Umo^Nho^N Nation, Angel currently serves on the Commission on Women and Gender, is on the Education/Exhibition Committee for the Lux Center for the Arts, and is an Education New Zealand North America advisory board member, while also being an emerging Contemporary Indigenous Artist.

HOSTING ORGANIZATIONS

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.



HOSTING ORGANIZATIONS

SOCIETY OF CARE



Society of Care serves Native American youth, families, and communities throughout Nebraska regardless of tribal affiliation. They are dedicated to providing trustworthy, accessible, affordable, and culturally sensitive behavioral health care, education, prevention services, and support through in-person and telehealth services.

They offer trauma-trained, culturally aware care, community based and guided services, workforce development and education, and strive to change systems to improve lives and measurement. Specific interventions include evidence-based therapy, parenting strategies and psychoeducation and cultural support and re-education.

Society of Care has a physical presence in the reservation communities of Santee, Macy, Walthill, and Winnebago as well as in metropolitan Omaha and Lincoln and frontier communities in the Nebraska panhandle including Alliance, Chadron, Gordon, and Rushville.

NEBRASKA INNOVATION STUDIO



NEBRASKA
INNOVATION
STUDIO

Nebraska Innovation Studio (NIS) is a community-oriented makerspace that serves as a hub for innovators, artists, and entrepreneurs. NIS is one of the nation's top makerspaces, a 16,000-square-foot facility with a full metal shop, wood shop, rapid prototyping room, art studio, ceramics and textiles equipment, and more. NIS is open to anyone, and membership is month-to-month.

From software to saws — NIS has a little bit of everything. After taking part in necessary trainings, members can use our wide variety of high-tech and hands-on maker equipment.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA FOUNDATION



University of Nebraska
FOUNDATION

The University of Nebraska Foundation's mission is to grow relationships and resources that enable the University of Nebraska to change lives and save lives. Their vision is to be recognized as the trusted partner of those wishing to support the University of Nebraska.

Since the establishment of the University of Nebraska Foundation in 1936, encouraged by Chancellor Edgar A. Burnett, two things have remained constant - the value Nebraskans place on higher education and their commitment and loyalty to supporting their university. The tremendous growth in private gifts from individuals and organizations illustrates this tradition of support.

From the seeds sown in 1936, the University of Nebraska Foundation has grown to become one of the largest foundations in the country serving public universities. It remains committed to the ideals of its early founders: to provide support for the University of Nebraska beyond what the state alone can provide and through these investments in higher education provide for the greater commonwealth.

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.

SOVEREIGN NATIVE YOUTH STEM LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PLANNING COMMITTEE



Dr. Aemal Khattak



Ms. Janet Renoe



Ms. Larissa Sazama



Ms. Madison
Schmidt



Ms. Leah Urbank

MID-AMERICA TRANSPORTATION CENTER

Sovereign Native Youth

STEM Leadership Academy

<https://matc.unl.edu/about-sovereign-native-youth-stem-leadership-academy>

The Mid-America Transportation Center greatly appreciates and acknowledges the generous support of:



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