

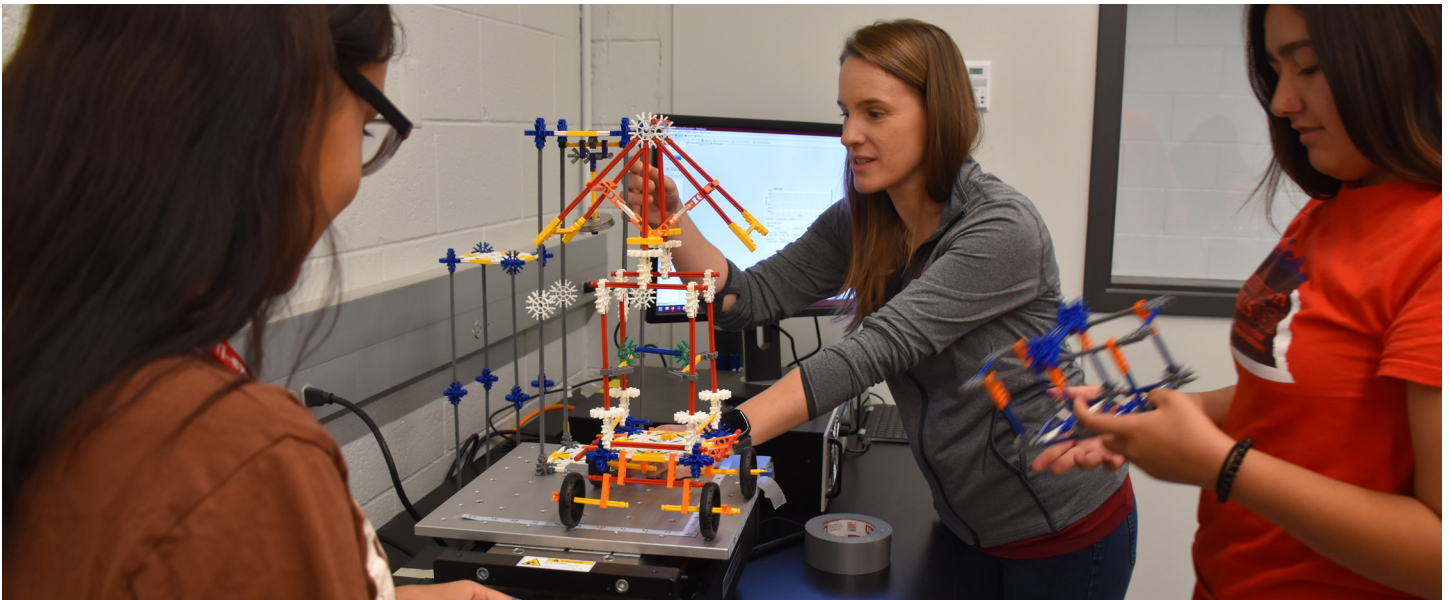
JUNE 23 - JUNE 27, 2024
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

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 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 23

All times are in Central Time

- 4:30 PM** **ARRIVAL AND CHECK-IN**
University Suites - 1780 R St, Lincoln, NE 68508
- 5:15 - 5:30 PM** **TRANSITION TO UNION**
- 5:30 - 6:30 PM** **ICEBREAKER ACTIVITIES**
City Campus Union, Regency Suite A - 1400 R St, Lincoln, NE 68588
Ms. Angel Geller, Lead Family Coordinator, Society of Care
Mr. Steven Tamayo, Culture Bearer, Bluebird Cultural Initiative

- 6:30 - 8:00 PM** **OPENING CEREMONY**
City Campus Union, Regency Suite B
Ms. Phyllis Stone, Rosebud Sioux Elder
Dr. Gabriel Bruguier, Assistant Professor, Research Specialist Librarian, Research Partnerships, UNL Libraries
- 8:00 - 8:15 PM** **TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES**
- 8:15 - 9:00 PM** **SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS**
University Suites
- 9:00 PM** **HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW**

MONDAY, JUNE 24

All times are in Central Time

8:00 - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST

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

9:00 - 9:20 AM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & BUREAU OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH

University Suites, Multipurpose Room

9:20 - 9:30 AM

TRANSITION TO LABS

9:30 - 11:15 AM

LABORATORY ACTIVITIES

Group A: Materials Lab
ERC D127B

Group B: Environmental Lab
Lab: SEC C382, Classroom: SEC C314

Group C: Shake Table Lab
SEC C381

11:15 - 11:30 AM

TRANSITION TO OTHMER LOBBY

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

LUNCH

Othmer Hall Lobby - 1600 Vine St,
Lincoln, NE 68508

12:30 - 2:15 PM

LABORATORY ACTIVITIES

Group A: Shake Table Lab
SEC C381

Group B: Materials Lab
ERC D127B

Group C: Environmental Lab
Lab: SEC C382, Classroom: SEC C314

2:15 - 2:30 PM

BREAK & TRANSITION TO LABS

2:30 - 4:15 PM

LABORATORY ACTIVITIES

Group A: Environmental Lab
Lab: SEC C382, Classroom: SEC C314

Group B: Shake Table Lab
SEC C381

Group C: Materials Lab
ERC D127B

4:15 - 4:30 PM

TRANSITION TO UNION

4:30 - 6:30 PM

STARPOWER GAME

Union, Regency Suite A

6:30 - 7:30 PM

DINNER

City Campus Union, Regency Suite B

7:30 - 7:45 PM

TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES

7:45 - 9:00 PM

SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS

University Suites

9:00 PM

HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW



TUESDAY, JUNE 25

All times are in Central Time

8:00 - 8:45 AM

BREAKFAST

Willa Cather Dining Complex

8:45 - 9:00 AM

TRANSITION TO WHITTIER

9:00 - 10:00 AM

CRASH TEST PRESENTATION

Prem S. Paul Research Center at Whittier School, Room 136 - 2200 Vine St, Lincoln, NE 68583

Dr. Ron Faller, Willa Cather Research Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Director of the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility, UNL

10:00 - 10:15 AM

TRANSITION TO EAST CAMPUS

10:15 - 11:45 AM

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

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM

TRANSITION TO THE MILL

12:00 - 1:00 PM

LUNCH

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

1:00 - 1:15 PM

TRANSITION TO NIC

1:15 - 3:00 PM

NEBRASKA INNOVATION CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

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

3:00 - 3:15 PM

BREAK

3:15 - 5:00 PM

NEBRASKA INNOVATION CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

5:00 - 5:15 PM

TRANSITION TO EAST CAMPUS UNION

5:15 - 7:00 PM

DINNER & BOWLING

East Campus Union, Husker Bowling Center

7:00 - 7:15 PM

TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES

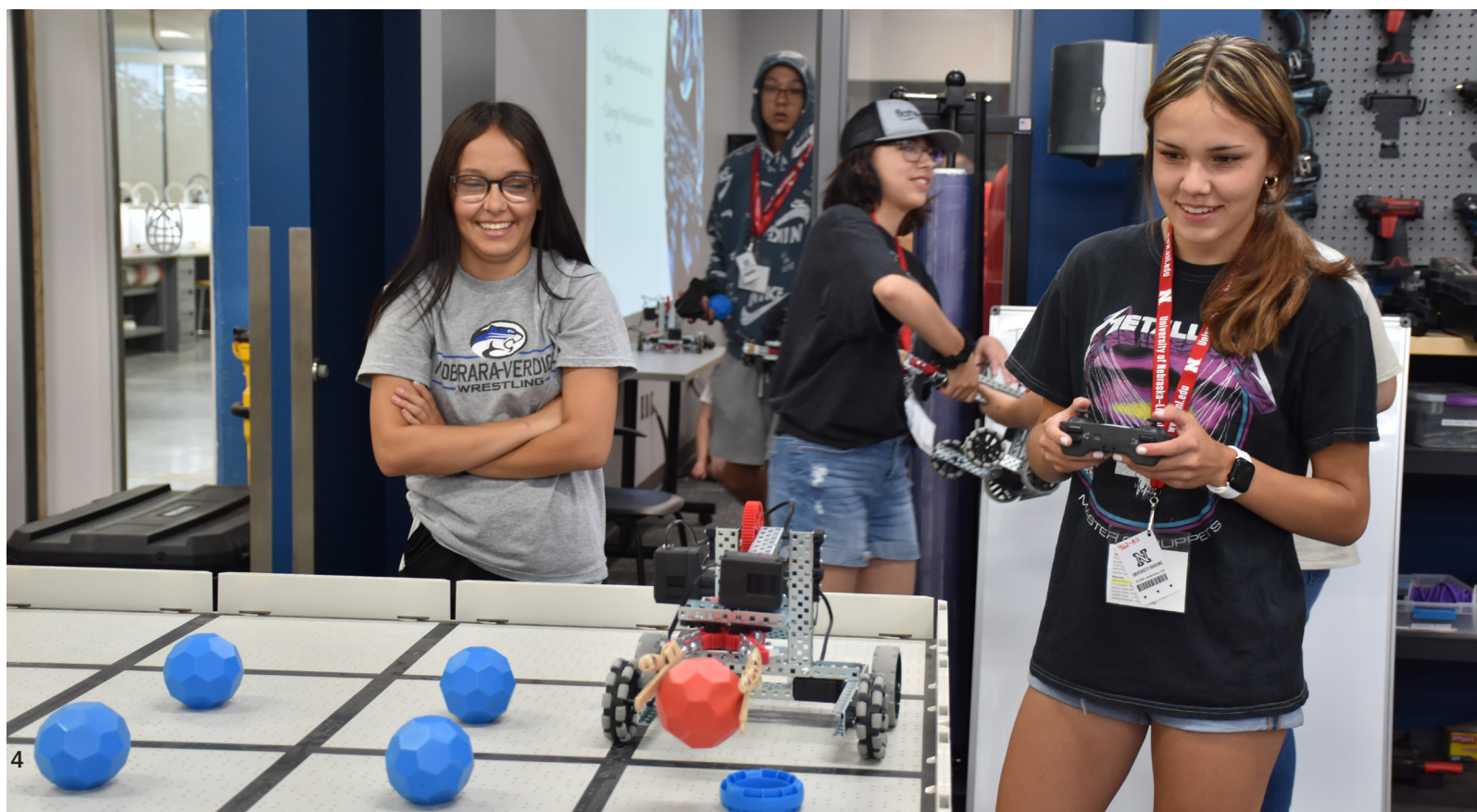
7:15 - 9:00 PM

SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AT DORMS

University Suites

9:00 PM

HEADCOUNT AND CURFEW



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

All times are in Central Time

8:00 - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST

Willa Cather Dining Complex

9:00 - 9:15 AM

TRANSITION TO LOVE LIBRARY

9:15 - 10:45 AM

PUBLIC SPEAKING & COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY

Love Library, Adele Coryell Hall Learning Commons - 1318 R St, Lincoln, NE 68588

Mr. Ezzat Haider, MATC Education & Outreach Program Manager

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

SURVEY 123 ACTIVITY

Love Library, Adele Coryell Hall Learning Commons

Dr. Gabriel Bruguier, Assistant Professor, Research Specialist Librarian, Research Partnerships, UNL Libraries

Dr. Wenjie Wang, Assistant Professor, Geospatial Data and Programs Librarian, UNL

12:00 - 12:15 PM

TRANSITION TO UNION

12:15 - 1:15 PM

LUNCH

UNL City Campus Union Food Court

1:15 - 4:00 PM

SURVEY 123 ACTIVITY CONTINUED

Love Library, Adele Coryell Hall Learning Commons

4:00 - 4:15 PM

TRANSITION TO UNIVERSITY SUITES

4:15 - 5:45 PM

PREPARE FOR FORMAL DINNER

5:45 - 6:00 PM

TRANSITION TO MORRILL HALL

6:00 - 7:00 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

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

8:00 - 9:00 AM

BREAKFAST

Willa Cather Dining Complex

9:00 - 10:00 AM

FINAL PRESENTATIONS

University Suites, Multipurpose Room

10:00 - 10:30 AM

MENTOR PANEL

University Suites, Multipurpose Room

10:30 - 11:00 AM

BUREAU OF SOCIOLOGIC RESEARCH SURVEY

University Suites, Multipurpose Room

11:00 - 11:30 AM

CHECKOUT

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

LUNCH

12:30 PM

DEPARTURE

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP



Mr. Ezzat Khider Haider Shalal

*Education and Outreach Manager
Mid-America Transportation Center*

Phone: (402) 472-9194
Email: ehaider2@unl.edu

Mr. Ezzat Haider was born and grew up in Iraq. His previous work and initiatives have qualified him to be a community organizer. Ezzat Haider has a master's in communication studies from the North Dakota State University (NDSU). He attended Minnesota State University

Moorhead (MSUM) with a double major in communication and international studies, graduated with two bachelor's degrees, and minored in leadership. Ezzat earned a bachelor's degree to teach English as a second language from the University of Duhok-Iraq. From August 2019 to May 2022, Ezzat worked as a part-time instructor for North Dakota State University.

Ezzat held Arabic and Kurdish interpreter positions while completing his education, and again in 2017 at Family Health Care. He was a community coordinator at Metro Interpreter in Fargo, North Dakota in 2015 and at the New American Consortium for community education classes and initiatives. Mr. Haider founded a nonprofit called Chira Global Development Organization. Ezzat volunteered with the City of Moorhead on their housing and planning committee for over a year where he would advocate for immigrants to express concerns and questions. He also participated in orientations and workshops that supported the idea of diversity, equity, inclusion, and opportunity in the F-M community. Because of this community work and efforts, Ezzat was honored to receive the City of Moorhead/Human Rights Commission human rights award for 2018.

In July 2022, Ezzat moved to Lincoln, Nebraska and worked as the business services and outreach coordinator with Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska. He also worked as an adjunct instructor teaching at Southeast Community College. Today, he is the Education and Outreach Manager at Mid-America Transportation Center.



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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.



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Mr. Brent Wojcik

*Social Studies Teacher
Umo^Nho^N Nation Public School*

Email: bwojcik@unpsk-12.org

Mr. Brent Wojcik is a social studies teacher at the Omaha Nation High School in Macy, Nebraska. He grew up in South Sioux City, Nebraska, and attended Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa. He played football at Morningside University and played many sports in high school.

Mr. Wojcik has been at the Omaha Nation High School for seven years. He previously worked at the Sioux City Lewis and Clark

Interpretive Center in Sioux City, Iowa for seven years, then went to Wayne State College for a teaching certificate in Secondary Social Studies. He is now working on his master's of History through the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He's also coached football and basketball, worked at the Boys and Girls Home, presently coaches Quiz Bowl and used to be the Lego league coach for the school.





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 Umóⁿhoⁿ Nation and a direct descendant of Chief Blackbird. Ms. Blackbird currently teaches at the Umóⁿhoⁿ Nation Public School, where she worked as a paraprofessional while in graduate school. She has since spent her seventeen-year teaching career working with secondary students. She has taught Alternative Education, Middle School Science, Credit Recovery, Secondary Life Skills, and Secondary Inclusion. She is teaching Umóⁿhoⁿ Language and Culture and fulfilling her role as the Director of Native American Education (Title VI) at UNPS. She also spent five years teaching algebra at Little Priest Tribal College as an adjunct professor in the evenings and summer. This fall she will return to Little Priest Tribal College as a part-time adjunct professor of Teaching and Learning Teacher Education while continuing her career at Umóⁿhoⁿ Nation Public Schools.

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 of Science in Pre-K through 12 Administration, and a Master of Science – Education in Curriculum and Instruction Leadership, as well as 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).



Ms. Yesenia DeAnda

Phone: (620) 290-9726
 Email: deandayyesenia73@gmail.com

Ms. Yesenia DeAnda is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Nation. She just finished her first year of undergrad at the University of Nebraska Omaha, and is working toward a degree in pharmaceutical sciences with hopes of becoming a pharmacist or pursuing another career in the healthcare field. She also minors in Business. She

enjoys many activities such as exploring wildlife, watching movies, running, and hanging out with friends and family.



Mrs. Samantha Eberly
High School Science Teacher
Winnebago Public School

Phone: (712) 541-9623
 Email: sEberly@winnebagok12.org



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 as 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 two year old son, Noah, and their cat, Dusty. They are awaiting the arrival of another little boy in August. They enjoy camping, gardening, and spending time with family.



Mrs. Katie Kloefkorn

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

Phone: (402) 202-4421
 Email: kklloefk@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.

ACADEMY LEADERSHIP



Ms. Mary Herrington

Science Teacher
Culler Middle School
Lincoln Public Schools

Phone: (402) 770-2066
Email: mherrin@lps.org



Ms. Mary Herrington is a Science Teacher at Culler Middle School. She has been with Lincoln Public Schools as an educator for 33 years. She continues to work on her PhD at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), earned her Master of Education in 1996 at UNL while also being elected to leadership positions in several campus organizations, and her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from UNL in 1984.

After attending MATC's Professional Development Science and Math Summer Institutes in 2007 - 2012, sponsored in part by Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education and the U.S. Department of Transportation, Ms. Herrington proposed a transportation-themed after-school club to help the school's sixth, seventh and eighth graders engage in STEM topics and think about possible careers. RRRC Club was started at Culler Middle School in 2010 and is currently in 3 Middle Schools in Lincoln, NE.

"In our competitive society it is important for students to not only receive a solid education, but to work with someone who builds hope for their future. That is why collaboration with the UNL and MATC staff, as well as community members, is exciting, meaningful, and rewarding. Being a part of the RRRC Program has been the best part of my day for the past 14 years."

Ms. Herrington looks forward to her next adventure, meeting new people, and working together to build hope for a brighter future.



Ms. Genesis Saul

Phone: (531) 232-4325
Email: gensaul3220@gmail.com

Ms. Genesis Saul graduated from UNL in 2022. This fall she plans to return to UNL to obtain her master's degree in Education administration in Student Affairs. She plans to learn how to bring more advocacy for Native students within higher education.



Her ultimate career goal is to help advocate for the education of Indigenous students and their families. During her free time, Ms. Saul loves to read and listen to books, particularly those written by Indigenous authors. It strengthens her love for her culture and allows her to learn more about other Indigenous cultures.



Ms. Janana Khattak

Phone: (402) 580-8981
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Ms. Janana Khattak is a recent graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she majored in Political Science with minors in Economics, Philosophy, Communications, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, and Public Policy Analysis. On campus, she partook in student government, research

through UCARE and the Bureau of Business Research, various RSOs, and UNL's only nationally recognized senior honor society Mortar Board. She was a member of the Speech team where she was an All-American, multi-year National finalist, and finished as runner-up in Communication Analysis in 2024. She will soon undergo a year of service in Kansas City through AmeriCorps before attending law school. She also volunteers with the Nebraska Library Commission, and Reading is Leading. Outside of this, she enjoys doing arts and crafts, and listening to music and podcasts.



Mr. Delges Al Hayder

Phone: (218) 790-6872
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Mr. Delges Al Hayder is a student at Southeast Community College (SCC), pursuing his major in computer science. He will complete his final semester this summer before transferring to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) this fall to continue his education. His time at

SCC has truly been life changing. It's not just about the classes he has taken, it's the people who have made so much difference in him since he arrived at SCC. He's had the opportunity to work at two different places and volunteer for numerous organizations and clubs. Whether it was through his jobs or volunteer work, he's been fortunate to have amazing experiences with his coworkers and the companies he's been a part of.

Mr. Al Hayder thrives in collaborative environments, where teamwork and working together towards a common goal are valued the most. He currently works toward making a foundation for his community to help those in need in numerous ways, such as teaching kids coding basics, their first language, and many other things that are involved with his culture. Finally, when he is not busy with his education or work, his free time is spent playing soccer and going out with his family to enjoy some time off in the sunshine.

ACADEMY COLLABORATORS



Ms. Ronahi Al Hayder

Phone: (402) 417-0721
Email: ralhayder@unl.edu

Ms. Ronahi Dakheel Al Hayder is from Kurdistan Iraq and moved to the United States of America in 2016. She attended middle school and high school in Moorhead Minnesota, then moved to Lincoln, Nebraska where she finished her senior year at North Star high school. She was the first generation to receive a



high-school diploma. Currently, she is a junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and studying radiation science in pre-health and will go on to earn her Bachelor's in Pre-Science from Bryan College of Health Sciences. She was part of Delta Xi Nu Multicultural Sorority, Inc. at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, which hosted many events and volunteer opportunities.

Ms. Al Hayder is also part of the Trio Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. It is a program that offers academic, social, cultural, and financial support for first-generation and underserved scholars. At Trio, Ronahi is part of the 4SAB Executive Board and is responsible for hosting Trio events to welcome students back from breaks and before final exams. Husker Dialogues is a program Ronahi participated in where current UNL students talk about their stories for incoming freshman to see the many places where they can build their community.



Mx. Alex Clinger

Phone: (719) 339-3006
Email: aclinger2@huskers.unl.edu

Mx. Alex Clinger is of Winnebago descent and currently an Environmental Studies major at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. They are also working on a minor in German and a minor in Indigenous Studies. They hope to use these skills to become an environmental scientist or work with wildlife rehabilitation facilities on reservations. Mx. Clinger's interest in the environment came from growing up in Colorado Springs and often going into the mountains and forests. They moved to Nebraska to be closer to their tribe and have new ecosystems to study.



They are an active member of UNL's intertribal exchange club UNITE. During their time at UNL, they hope to help the school's intertribal group expand and reach their goal of planting an Indigenous medicine garden on the city campus.

When they aren't studying, Mx. Clinger is an artist, avid reader, and interested in video games. Outside of school hours they run a small digital art business.



Ms. Charlene Maxey-Harris

Associate Dean, Tenure Associate Professor & Inerim Chairperson University Libraries

Phone: (402) 472-8700
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Ms. Charlene Maxey-Harris is Professor and Associate Dean for Collections and Resource Management at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Libraries. Formerly as the Diversity Librarian, she has developed and managed diversity initiatives over the last 15 years at the University of Nebraska improving the work climate to be more welcoming and inclusive to all individuals, but especially to underrepresented groups, and increasing the diversity of our faculty. Ms. Maxey-Harris chairs the Libraries Diversity & Inclusion Committee and was the inaugural chair of the Nebraska Library Association Diversity Committee. Her research focuses on diversity and multicultural issues in academic libraries and library instruction for first generation college students. In 2017 and 2010, Maxey-Harris compiled a study of diversity plans and programs in academic libraries published by the Association of Research Libraries. In addition, she is a graduate of the ARL Leadership and Career Development Program 2012.



Ms. Toni Anaya

Associate Director, Public & Information Services Professor, University Libraries

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Ms. Toni Anaya is a Professor and Associate Director of Information Services & Learning Spaces (ISLeS) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She oversees seven library locations, eleven service points, the

Libraries' learning spaces, instructional technology, usability and user studies, outreach and graphic design. She also works with the Institute of Ethnic Studies, Modern Languages & Literature, and various pre-college and first-year groups on campus. Her current area of research is exploring the recruitment and retention of people of color in the library profession, information literacy skill development for first-generation, non-traditional and international students and the impact of mis- and disinformation on democracy.

ACADEMY COLLABORATORS



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 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. Scout Calvert
Associate Professor and Chair, Research Partnerships
University Libraries
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dr. Scout Calvert earned an M.A. in Information Resources and Library Science from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in History of Consciousness from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research areas are in sociology of science and technology and critical library science. She has research projects in interdisciplinary animal studies, investigating human-bovine co-domestication, as well as in information science, studying information infrastructures and data-intensive research practices.



Ms. Sarah Glover
Archives Specialist, University Libraries
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Email: sglover2@unl.edu

Ms. Sarah Glover (she/her) is one of the Archives Specialists at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She currently serves on the UNL Libraries Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Prior to her role at UNL, Sarah held processing archivist positions at the University of California-Irvine, Pepperdine University, and the Getty Research Institute. She received her Master of Archives and Records Management from the University of Liverpool, as well as a BA in History from the University of Nottingham.



Dr. Gabriel Bruguier
Assistant Professor & Research Specialist Librarian
Research Partnerships, UNL Libraries
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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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 at UNL Libraries. Along with other members of the department, he supports evidence synthesis research, research metrics, reparative research practices, 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. He is currently one of the faculty advisors to the University of Nebraska Inter Tribal Exchange (UNITE), a recognized student organization for Native American students at UNL.



Ms. Angel Geller
Lead Family Coordinator
Society of Care

Email: ageller@societyofcare.org



Ms. Angel Geller (Umóꞩhoꞩ Tribe of Nebraska) holds a BFA in Studio Art with a Peace and Justice Studies minor from Nebraska Wesleyan University. During her undergrad, she also spent a semester abroad at the University of Waikato, New Zealand, focusing on Decolonization Methodologies and Indigenous Studies.

Ms. Geller is currently the Lead Family Coordinator for the Santee Sioux Nation's Society of Care, an affordable and culturally aware behavioral health resource for Native peoples in Nebraska. She also is an Advisor/Mentor for the Trauma Warriors Native American Youth Council, an intertribal urban Native youth council for Lincoln. Ms. Geller brings her protective auntie energy, optimism, and collaborative spirit which makes her easy to work with on projects for the community.



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

Mr. Bill Johnson has spent the last 30 years in higher education working at a variety of institutions, including a state university, a community college, two Ivy League institutions and private universities. While his work has taken him to universities in every time zone in the continental United States, Mr. Johnson



was recently appointed as Senior Vice President for Development at the University of Nebraska Foundation in early June 2023.

Prior to joining the University of Nebraska Foundation, Mr. Johnson served as Vice President for Advancement at the University of Nevada, Reno, Executive Director of UNR’s Foundation and was interim Director of Athletics. Before Nevada, Mr. Johnson was Vice President of Advancement at California State University, East Bay, and President of their Foundation. He has also spent time at the University of the Pacific, University of San Francisco as well as Georgetown University.

As Senior Vice President for the University of Nebraska Foundation, Mr. Johnson oversees all Development functions on the flagship campus and is helping lead a systemwide \$3 billion comprehensive campaign goal. He is returning home to his alma mater, having received his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Nebraska while a student-athlete. He and his wife, Casey, now reside in Omaha with their children Grace, Jack, and Adam. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Santee Sioux tribe.



Mr. David Martin
Director
Nebraska Innovation Studio

Phone: (402) 472-5514
 Email: dmartin18@unl.edu

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.



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

Phone: (402) 584-3838
 Email: ted.hibbeler@unl.edu

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).

ACADEMY COLLABORATORS



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 been consulted on the development and build out of a number of

makerspaces in the Midwest from rural libraries to Community Colleges and State Universities.



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.



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

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Dr. Jamilla Teixeira is an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She obtained her bachelor's degree at the Federal

University of Ceara-Brazil (2004), and her master's (2007) and Ph.D. (2011) degree at UNL. Her research focuses on infrastructure materials characterization including rheological, chemical, physical, and mechanical laboratory experimentation, as well as computational modeling of infrastructure materials and pavement systems based on microstructure multi-scale models, viscoelasticity, and fracture mechanics.



Mr. Steven Tamayo
Culture Bearer
Bluebird Cultural Initiative

Mr. Steve Tamayo is a traditional Sicangu Lakota artist whose family originates from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. After graduating from High School in 1984, Tamayo enlisted in the US Army, serving in the Rosebud Reservation, where he augmented his understanding of Northern Plains art; he earned his BFA from Sínte Gleska University in 2011 where he developed and taught the traditional arts program.



Tamayo currently leads study groups on his Reservation and travels to schools and museums throughout the country to study and teach historic methods of artifact construction and preservation. He is a regular consultant to the curatorial and conservation staff at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian; his most recent work there is the current exhibition, "As We Grow," focused on traditional native games and toys. He has been an artist-in-residence and cultural specialist with Omaha Public Schools and teaches Native American Art History at Metropolitan Community College.

Tamayo's honors include the 2014 NAC Governor's Heritage Art Award for excellence in cultural artistic expression. In 2015, he and Paul High Horse won the Omaha Entertainment and Arts Award for best two-person exhibition, and were again nominated in 2016. Tamayo has exhibited at The National Museum of the American Indian, in Washington, DC, The Kaneko in Omaha, The Great Plains Museum in Lincoln, the John G. Neihardt Center, and RNG Gallery in Council Bluffs, IA. Some of his most recent work includes buffalo robes for Willie Nelson and Neil Young and a tipi offered to President Obama from Bold Nebraska. He was recently honored in 2019 by US Representative, Congressman Don Bacon, on the floor of the House for his contributions to Native American Heritage preservation in the state of Nebraska.





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

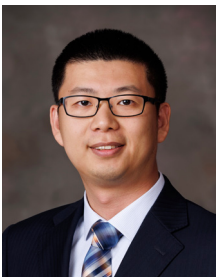
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Dr. Susan Weller earned her bachelor's degree in biology with honors from Grinnell College in 1982 and a doctorate in zoology from the University of Texas in 1989. Dr. Weller served as faculty member



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. 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. Valuing 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. He also 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.



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. Ronald Faller
Willa Cather Research Professor
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Director of the Midwest Roadside
Safety Facility
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Dr. Ronald Faller serves as Director and Research Professor for MwRSF at UNL. For nearly 38 years, he developed, crash-tested, and evaluated roadside safety features to meet current safety standards, such as longitudinal barriers, impact attenuators, breakaway supports, and WZTCs. He co-developed the Midwest Guardrail System and AASHTO's MASH evaluation criteria. He received the 2020 Kenneth A. Stonex Roadside Safety Award and became a 2022 National Academy of Inventors Fellow. Dr. Faller received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Civil/Structural Engineering.

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.

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.

BLUEBIRD CULTURAL INITIATIVE



The mission of the Bluebird Cultural Initiative is to provide meaningful programming to the community that enriches their understanding of the history and cultural traditions of Native American peoples of the Great Plains. We strive to revitalize the past through the arts and culture in order to energize the future for our youth.

Bluebird Cultural Initiative is the non-profit venture of Steve Tamayo. After more than 30 years of study and practice as an artist and educator, he began consulting educational institutions and other organizations on the history, culture and traditions of the Plains Indians.

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.

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 LIBRARIES



The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Libraries advances the mission of the University by teaching students to become critical information-users and knowledge creators; through the creation, delivery, curation, and preservation of information resources; through collaborative partnerships in research and creative activities; by advocating for equitable access to information; and by creating diverse and inclusive learning environments.

LIBRARIES

The University Libraries currently holds more than three million volumes in its collection and maintains six library locations including Love Library, the Adele Hall Learning Commons, the Dinsdale Family Learning Commons, and subject libraries in Architecture, Geology, and Mathematics. The Music Library is currently closed while the Music Department's building is under construction. The Libraries maintain a Libraries Depository Retrieval Facility on East Campus where a great deal of the collections are stored. The website, libraries.unl.edu, provides students, faculty, and staff access to a multitude of databases, electronic journals, electronic books, services, and experts. The University Libraries are open to the public and visiting researchers.

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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