



## UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 18, 2024

Mr. Brandon Metzler  
Clerk of the Legislature  
State Capitol Room 2018  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Mr. Metzler:

Nebraska Revised Statute 85-119 requires the Board of Regents to report to the Legislature information regarding ten measurements of progress for Nebraska Innovation Campus by December 1 annually. The report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (402) 472-8636.

Respectfully,

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.  
President

JPG/ekc

Enclosure

**University of Nebraska Board of Regents**  
**Report to the Legislature as Required by LB 1093**  
**Measurements Regarding Nebraska Innovation Campus**  
**Reporting Year 2024**

(Submitted by December 1 of each year)

**Nebraska Innovation Campus Description**

Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC) is connecting the talents of experts, companies and the university to create a unique culture of innovation. NIC facilitates new and in-depth partnerships between the University of Nebraska and private sector businesses. NIC is adjacent to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and strategically provides access to research faculty, facilities and students. For more information about campus facilities, leasing opportunities, events and programs, please visit [INNOVATE.UNL.EDU](http://INNOVATE.UNL.EDU).

**Responses**

**1. *Percentage of investments by the state and university compared to private sector investments***

As of June 30, 2024, \$281 million has been invested at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

Private Sector	155,931
State & University	<u>125,280</u>
	281,211

**2. *The number of square feet of construction***

As of June 30, 2024, NIC had 569,698 square feet of constructed space. Details regarding the available square feet are noted below. Vacant space is warm core and shell and not finished. Of the total space, 20,432 square feet is available to lease as a sub-lease through the University.

(See Summary on Next Page)

Rentable Building Name	Total Square Feet	University	Conference Center	Private	Available UNL Sublease	UNL Sub Leases	Vacant UNL Sub Lease	Vacant Private
Innovation Commons*	147,784	37,125	44,954	65,705				
Food Innovation Center**	178,000	145,818			32,182	11,750	20,432	
Rise Building	75,300	-		75,300				37,702
Scarlet Hotel	115,000	9,821		105,179				
Greenhouse Innovation Center**	44,950	44,950						
Total	561,034	237,714	44,954	246,184	32,182	11,750	20,432	37,702

Non-Rentable Building Name

Nucorp Owned CRES Power Plant 8,664

Total 569,698

Note:

\* Conference Center is owned by the University

\*\* Both buildings are master leased by the university with noted sublease space available to private companies

**3. The number of private sector companies located on Nebraska Innovation Campus**

Calendar Year 2022 - 68 companies

Calendar Year 2023 - 72 companies

**4. The number of private sector and university jobs located on Nebraska Innovation Campus**

In response to LB 1093, NICDC engaged the UNL Bureau of Business Research to conduct a survey of university and private sector activities on Nebraska Innovation Campus ("Tenant Survey"). The goal of the Tenant Survey was to provide more robust and independently verified data for this response without compromising the proprietary information of NIC's private sector partners. This was the ninth year of the survey. Reported employment from the Tenant Survey is below.

Sector	Employment			Total
	Permanent	Student Interns	Other Temporary	
Private Sector	362	45	15	422
UNL	256	84	18	358
Total	618	129	33	780

**5. The amount of private sector research funding to the university attributable to Nebraska Innovation Campus**

For the years ending June 30, 2023, and 2024, the University reports the following sponsored research funding attributable to NIC and its sources.

YTD	
6/30/2023	6/30/2024
202,792	536,920
7,071,483	7,554,487
655,129	637,331
-	-
2,253,317	1,057,402
269,001	167,081
130,874	3,106
10,582,596	9,956,327
5,091,397	4,513,340
15,673,993	14,469,667

*Note: An important component of UNL's research mission is its research services to the private sector provided by The Food Processing Center and the Food Allergy Research and Resource Program; this activity is included above.*

**6. The number of internships or other employment opportunities provided by private sector companies at Nebraska Innovation Campus to University Students**

As reported from the Tenant Survey,

Sector	Internships
Private Sector	45
UNL	84
Total	129

**7. The percentage of facilities leased by private sector companies**

Type of Lease	Leased Space
Private Leases	246,184
UNL Sub Leases	<u>11,750</u>
Total	257,934
Total Leased Space Available	516,080
Percent Leased	50.0%

**8. The number of new businesses started or supported at Nebraska Innovation Campus**

During Calendar Year 2023, 11 new businesses have been started or supported at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

**9. *The number of conferences and participants at Nebraska Innovation Campus***

From July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, UNL reported 147 conference days were held at Nebraska Innovation Campus with a total of 25,909 participants.

## **NICDC Board Members as of June 30, 2024**

### ***Private-sector Members***

- Dana Bradford; Chairman & CEO, C<sup>3</sup> Brands
- Tom Henning; Corporate Board Member, Entrepreneur, Business Consultant, Investor and Executive Coach, Tom Henning LLC
- Larry Miller; COO, Phibro Animal Health
- Tonn Ostergard; CEO & Chairman, Crete Carrier Corporation
- Matt Williams; Chairman, Flatwater Bank

### ***University Representatives***

- Rodney Bennett; Chancellor, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- Michael Boehm; Harlan Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln; and Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska
- Sherri Jones; Interim Vice Chancellor of Research & Innovation, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

### ***Officers***

- Michael Zeleny; NICDC Treasurer
- Kate Engel; NICDC Secretary
- Stacia Palser; NICDC Legal Counsel



## Dana Bradford

### Current Business Involvements

Dana serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of C<sup>3</sup> Brands, a brand platform committed to building brands that offer a clear and compelling value proposition that can be consistently delivered to the market. The consumer brands include Battle, Bobby Jones, Rule, Sunice and Viking.

In addition, Dana serves on the boards of Meritage Homes (NYSE: MTH), one of America's largest homebuilders, Southwest Value Partners, a San Diego-based real estate company, and Customer Service Profiles, an Omaha-based provider of customer satisfaction data and analytics.

### Past Business Involvements

McCarthy Group: Dana served as a director on the board from 2005 to 2012, and served as President and Managing Partner of the private equity firm during the same period. Prior to 2005, he worked for the McCarthy organization in various positions starting in 1999.

### Community

#### 2014/15 Community Involvement

- Chairman: Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority
- Co-chair: Heartland 2050 – Regional Vision
- Chairman: 2015 capital campaign for the United Way of the Midlands
- Director: Omaha Chamber of Commerce (and member of executive committee)
- Director: Nebraska Innovation Campus
- Director: Seventy Five North
- Governor: Knights of Aksarben Foundation
- Advisor: Steven M. Gootter Foundation
- Advisor: Aksarben Future Trust
- Advisor: Robert Daugherty Foundation
- Director: Children's Hospital & Medical Center
- Member: Omaha Public School Strategic Planning Committee

### Past Boards

Dana served as chairman of the boards of SAFE Boats International, a Seattle based manufacturer of defense and emergency response boats and Vornado Air, a Wichita based consumer Brands Company.

Dana served on the board of Ballantyne (AMEX: BTN), a movie projector manufacturer, Guild Mortgage, a San Diego based full-service mortgage company, NRG Media, a Cedar Rapids-based broadcast network of radio stations, and Gold Circle Films, a Los Angeles-based movie production company.

### Education

BSBA University of Arizona  
MBA Creighton University



# Tom Henning

## **Current Business Involvement**

Corporate Board Member, Entrepreneur, Business Consultant, Investor and Executive Coach.

## **Past Business Involvement**

Tom is the recently retired Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Assurity Group Inc. and its subsidiaries. Tom holds the Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, and the Chartered Financial Analyst designations.

Tom is a former banker, and in the 1980s was president and CEO of the Overland National Bank in Grand Island and president and COO of the National Bank of Commerce in Lincoln.

## **Community Involvement**

Tom's been active in many civic organizations including past chair of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the University of Nebraska Foundation. Tom continues to serve on the Foundation's investment committee and its donor advisory board. He is chair of the Lincoln Chamber Economic Development Corporation, co-chair of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development and on the steering committee of Lincoln's Vision group. Tom also serves on the University of Nebraska's Innovation Campus Governing Board. Tom was honored in 2015 to receive the Lincoln Chamber's Burnham Yates Citizenship Award. In 2016 Tom was inducted into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame.

Tom is a member of the board of directors of Nelnet, the advisory board of Lincoln Industries, the board of directors of Great Western Bancorp, Inc. and the Board of Managers of Resourcing Edge, Inc. in Rockwall, TX.

Tom and his wife Candy also operate Henning Farms which is devoted to developing wildlife habitat.

## **Past Community Involvement**

Tom is active in a variety of industry groups including recent service as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI). He also served a two-year term as chair of the ACLI Political Action Committee board. He currently serves on the board of the ACLI Forum 500 and recently received their Distinguished Service Award. He is a two-time past president of the Nebraska Insurance Federation.

## **Education**

Tom is a graduate of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, as well as the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University.





## Larry Miller

### Current Business Involvement

Chief Operating Officer, Phibro Animal Health Corporation

Mr. Miller has a successful record of over 30 years in the animal health industry and has served as COO at Phibro Animal Health Corporation since July 2016.

### Past Business Involvement

Joining as President, Phibro Animal Health in May 2008, Mr. Miller has built a strong, diversified global business. At Phibro, Mr. Miller leads the business through transformational growth comprised of organic development (product and geographic expansion) and acquisitions. He was a key part of the management team that launched the Phibro I.P.O. in March 2014 (NASDAQ PAHC). Prior to joining Phibro in 2008, Mr. Miller spent 17 years with Schering-Plough Animal Health (SPAH) where he was most recently Vice President of the Intervet/Schering-Plough Global Ruminant business. Before this, Mr. Miller held numerous positions with SPAH including V.P. of the US Cattle Business, General Manager of their Australia and New Zealand operations, and he also led the product development and launch of Nuflor® florfenicol in the U.S. Before SPAH, Mr. Miller held various positions in sales and marketing management with American Cyanamid's Animal Health & Nutrition Business.

### Community Involvement

- Honorary Board of Directors, Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey, 1993-1997
- Board of Trustees, University of Nebraska Foundation
- Audit Committee, University of Nebraska Foundation

Mr. Miller was raised on a diversified family farming operation near North Bend, NE. Larry and his wife, Nancy, live in Warren, NJ.

### Education

BS in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska

Executive M.B.A from the City University of New York, Baruch College



## Tonn Ostergard

### **Current Business Involvement**

Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Crete Carrier Corporation, a privately owned Lincoln, Nebraska-based transportation and logistics company. Crete Carrier, along with temperature-controlled division Shaffer Trucking, and flat-bed subsidiary Hunt Transportation, employs over 6,000 associates with 19 terminal

locations across the United States operating 5,000 power units and 13,000 trailers.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Prior to joining Crete Carrier he spent five years in Public Accounting working for the firm of KPMG. He also held the position of Chairman for the Nebraska Trucking Association for 1995-1996, and currently serves as a Member and Director of the American Trucking Associations and Truckload Carriers Association.

### **Community Involvement**

In addition to his industry-related positions, Ostergard currently serves on the Board of Directors of Union Bank and Trust Company in Lincoln, Nebraska, and on the Board of Directors of Ameritas Mutual Holding Company and NEBCO, Inc. He serves on the Revenue Forecasting Board for the State of Nebraska, appointed by the Nebraska Legislature.

### **Past Community Involvement**

His civic responsibilities include Past Chair of The University of Nebraska Foundation; Chair of University of Nebraska Business College Capital Campaign; Board member and Vice Chair of Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation; Past Chairman and Board Member of St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center; Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; a Past Director and Past President of the University of Nebraska College of Business Administration Alumni Association; Alumnus of Leadership Lincoln. Ostergard was honored in 1991 with the College of Business Administration's Alumni Leadership Award, and in 1994 was honored with the University of Nebraska Young Alumnus Award. He is also a member and past officer of the Young President's Organization.

### **Education**

Ostergard received his secondary education at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln and graduated from Harvard Business School's Owner/President Management Program.



## Matthew Williams

### **Current Business Involvement**

Chairman of Flatwater Bank, a \$145 million community bank located in Gothenburg, Nebraska. Matt is a fourth-generation banker and has been with the family-owned bank since 1973.

Matt became a State Senator representing Legislative District 36 in 2015. He is vice chairman of the Banking Commerce and Insurance Committee and also serves on the Judiciary Committee. He completed the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD) in 2015.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Matt was Chairman of the American Bankers Association in 2012-2013 and also served on the ABA Board. Matt has been a member of the ABA Government Relations Council and has served as the ABA State Grassroots Coordinator for the State of Nebraska. He was selected as one of 14 bankers from across our country to serve on the FDIC Advisory Committee on Community Banking. Matt was chairman of the Nebraska Bankers Association in 2003-2004 and has served on many NBA committees.

### **Community Involvement**

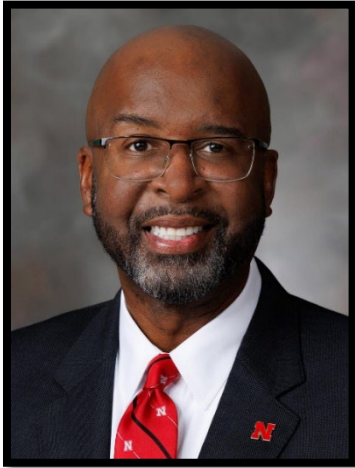
Matt also serves as a Trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation, UNL Ag Builders, the University of Nebraska President's Advisory Council, the University of Nebraska Finance Department Advisory Board, and is a past Director of the State Chamber of Commerce. He was appointed by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to the Board of Directors of Innovation Campus.

### **Past Community Involvement**

Matt has been very involved with economic development in Gothenburg and Dawson County, formerly serving as Chairman of the Gothenburg Improvement Company and President of the Gothenburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Matt also has served as a State Director for the Tom and Nancy Osborne TeamMates mentoring program. Matt received the Alumni Achievement Award from UNL in 2013, and the ABA Ag Banker of the Year Award in 2014.

### **Education**

Matt received his undergraduate and Law degrees from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.



## Rodney Bennett

### Current Business Involvement

Dr. Rodney D. Bennett began his work as the 21st chancellor of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Nebraska’s flagship, Big Ten research institution on July 1, 2023. He is a 30-year veteran of higher education with a track record of growing research, increasing student success and building impactful partnerships.

In his first year as Chancellor, the University experienced rising retention and graduation rates, demonstrated positive signs related to enrollment, and expanded its research and creative activity efforts.

### Past Business Involvement

Chancellor Bennett came to Nebraska after nine years of successful leadership at the University of Southern Mississippi. During his tenure as president, USM was reclassified from a Carnegie R2 to an R1 university, signaling growth in research prestige and funding. Dr. Bennett also invested in programs to support student recruitment, retention and outcomes, including for the 30 percent of USM students who were first-generation. His efforts led to an improvement in the university’s six-year graduation rate.

Prior to his role at the University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Bennett served at the University of Georgia for more than a decade. He was the senior administrator for student programs and services for Georgia’s 34,000-plus students; oversaw \$150 million in capital projects; and made key staff and programmatic investments in extracurriculars, mental health programs and other areas to better support students.

Dr. Bennett has also been the dean of students at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and associate dean of student life at Middle Tennessee State University.

### Community Involvement

Chancellor Bennett values community leadership and service. He has served on numerous boards, including the Mississippi Aquarium, Northeast Georgia Girl Scouts of America, Catholic Health East (Philadelphia), and St. Mary’s Health Care System in Athens, Georgia. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and Past Sire Archon for Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, The Boulé.

### Education

Dr. Bennett earned a bachelor’s degree in mass communication, a master’s degree in educational administration, and an education specialist degree from Middle Tennessee State. He earned his Doctor of Education degree from Tennessee State University.



## Michael Boehm

### Current Business Involvement

University of Nebraska in the dual role of Harlan Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and vice president for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska system. Mike joined the university on January 1, 2017.

### Past Business Involvement

Before serving in this role, Boehm was professor of plant pathology and vice provost for academic and strategic planning at The Ohio State University. He was responsible for strategic planning for Ohio State's 15 colleges and six campuses; K-12 and community college partnerships; the University Libraries System, College of Public Affairs and Office of Institutional Research and Planning; dean reappointment and academic unit reviews; integrated capital planning; and classroom readiness. He oversaw Ohio State's Discovery Themes initiative, a 10-year program to produce solutions to the challenges of the 21st century, and served as co-lead for the Humanities and the Arts Discovery Theme.

In research, Boehm is a recognized authority on the integrated management of turfgrass diseases with an emphasis on *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*, the causal agent of dollar spot, and integrated management of Fusarium head blight of wheat and barley. Publications include 32 peer-reviewed articles, six edited book chapters, six US patents (two of which have been licensed and moving towards commercialization), and nearly 100 abstracts, reviews, and proceedings papers. Secured ~\$1.5 million in extramural funding (industry and federal grants); advised 15 MS and PhD students and postdoctoral researchers.

Mike was also a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve for 10 years, serving as a microbiologist and served 10 years as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve.

### Past Community Involvement

In 2013, Boehm was president of the American Phytopathological Society.

### Education

BS from Heidelberg College

MS from Ohio State University

PhD from Ohio State University



## Sherri Jones

### **Current Business Involvement**

Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation

### **Past Business Involvement**

Sherri Jones has served as dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences since July 1, 2019.

Prior to serving as dean, Sherri Jones was a professor in and chair of the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders. During her time in that role, Jones developed a collaborative culture that enhanced research, improved grant productivity, increased partnerships with the campus and community, expanded clinical services, and bolstered opportunities for study abroad.

She was also director of the Barkley Memorial Center, which houses three training programs, two clinics, nine research laboratories, three partner service agencies, and the Nebraska Hearing Aid Banks. She was recognized in 2005 with the college's New Achiever Award and, in 2008, with the Dean's Award for Outstanding Research from East Carolina University.

Before she became director of the Barkley Memorial Center, Jones spent nine years at the University of Missouri where she held research and assistant professor positions in the medical school's surgery department, otolaryngology division and was doctoral faculty for its interdisciplinary neuroscience program. She also served eight years as professor of communication sciences and disorders at East Carolina University.

### **Education**

Jones earned her Bachelor of Science in speech pathology and audiology, Master of Science in audiology, and doctorate in psychological and cultural studies with an audiology and hearing science emphasis. All degrees were awarded from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.



## **Michael Zeleny**

NICDC Treasurer

### **Current Business Involvement**

Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, responsible for accounting, budget, bursar's office, financial services, procurement services, environmental health and safety, facilities management planning and construction, facilities maintenance and operations, utilities, human resources, payroll, risk management, university police, inventory, parking and transit services, print, copy, mail and distribution services, student accounts, sustainability, transportation service, and auxiliary business services associated with UNL's programs.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Zeleny served as Chief of Staff and Associate to the Chancellor from 2018 through 2022, reporting on a wide variety of strategic and executive duties, including both internal and external relations.

Zeleny previously served as associate vice chancellor for research and economic development. He worked more than 20 years in the Office of Research and Economic Development, assisting with the university's research growth and building its economic development mission. He is active in several community organizations and has served as director of the university's Emergency Operations Command and chair of its Sesquicentennial Steering Committee.

### **Education**

Zeleny, who is originally from Exeter, Nebraska, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the university in 1993 and a Master of Business Administration in 1996.





## **Kate Engel**

### **NICDC Secretary**

#### **Current Business Involvement**

Executive Director for Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation

Kate A. Engel is the executive director of the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation, the 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation owned by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. Kate's primary responsibility is to supervise NICDC staff, direct business operations and work to grow the roster of partners, including private businesses and university entities, at NIC. She also leads infrastructure planning and development, client services, and marketing and public relations, as well as manages relationships with commercial developers and other entities that may build or operate facilities at NIC.

#### **Past Business Involvement**

Kate joined the NICDC team in 2011 to assist with establishing operations and marketing for the public/private research campus before its 2012 groundbreaking. Most recently, Kate was director of strategic partnerships and communications. In that role, she assisted the past executive director with recruitment and retention, additional marketing and public relations efforts, space build-outs, workforce development, and resources and programs for NIC's private- and public-sector partners.

#### **Community Involvement**

Lied Center for Performing Arts Statewide Advisory Board  
Lincoln Rotary Club 14 Board  
Nebraska Wesleyan University Alumni Executive Council President  
Leadership Lincoln Fellows XXXII Class  
City of Lincoln, NE Telecommunications/Cable Television Advisory Board  
University Association of Administrative Development (UAAD)

#### **Education**

BFA from Nebraska Wesleyan University  
MA in Management from Doane University  
MS in Leadership Education from the University of Nebraska  
Graduate Certificate in Public Relations and Social Media from University of Nebraska—Lincoln





## **Stacia Palser**

### **NICDC Legal Counsel**

#### **Current Business Involvement**

Stacia Palser serves as the University of Nebraska's Vice President and General Counsel.

Over the past 9+ years, Palser has provided critical counsel and leadership to some of the University's highest profile and complex projects. These projects include the Nebraska Innovation Campus development, University Village at Kearney development, revisions to administrative authority to execute contracts, and the University's emerging partnership with U.S. Strategic Command on the Research, Engineering, and Architecture Collaboration Hub, among countless others.

#### **Past Business Involvement**

Prior to her current appointment as Vice President and General Counsel, Palser served as Deputy General Counsel. In addition to her role as Deputy General Counsel, she served in interim roles as Interim General Counsel in 2018 and Interim Corporation Secretary in 2020-2021.

Before joining the University of Nebraska in 2012, she worked in private practice, focusing on real estate and environmental matters.

#### **Education**

Palser earned her bachelor's degree in biological systems engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her law degree from the University of Colorado School of Law.

She and her husband have two children.