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### Area Directors

Omaha—John Fonda 402.457.3801  
 Lincoln—Diane Timme 402.202.0056  
 Columbus—Kara Asmus 402.564.2769  
 Northeast Region—Jeff Scherer/  
 Danielle Ortmeier 402.568.2224 ext. 2923  
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 Western Region—Dan Koch 308.762.2975  
 Fremont—Barb Pierce 402.753.8126  
 Sioux City — Dr. Cyndi Hanson  
 402.241.6405  
 North Platte—Gail Knott 308.535.3605  
 Dr. Jody Tomanek 308.535.3724  
 Grand Island—Michale Soundy  
 308.382.9210  
 Custer County—Jenny Fox 308.870.0685  
 Wayne—Brandon Geary 402.375.8113  
 Kearney—Elizabeth Roetman  
 308.237.9346  
 Dawson County—Andrea McClintic  
 308.217.0004

Contact: Juli Thelen  
 (402) 563-7268  
 juli.thelen@behlenmfg.com



the **BUZZ**  
 DIDI NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

STEM CAREERS

## AREA DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS



The NAMC is always  
 looking to expand our  
 Area Directors

Welcome

**Dawson County**  
 Area Director—Andrea McClintic



### Andrea McClintic New Area Director Dawson County

Andrea McClintic started as the Executive Director for Dawson Area Development (DAD) in October of 2017. Although new to DAD, she is familiar with the area having grown up in Furnas county.

Andrea has almost fifteen years of community and economic development experience ranging from building

community capacity through the Kearney Area Community Foundation to assisting with business start-ups and expansions with the State of Nebraska's Department of Economic Development to connecting young talent with employers at the UNL.

Andrea is excited to join the Dream It. Do It. team to build on one of DAD's priorities of helping to develop Dawson County area youth and connect them to local industry.

**WELCOME ANDREA!**

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

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### 2018 - DREAM IT. DO IT. SCORECARD

STUDENTS (tours/presentations, etc.)	2475
CAREER FAIRS	289
EDUCATORS/BUSINESS/ COMMUNITY/ETC. (tours/presentations/mtgs.)	1403
DIDI Meetings	390

## AREA DIRECTOR HIGHLIGHTS

# Lincoln

Area Director—Diane Timme

The Molex Automation Engineering Team escorted the students on the tour and educated them on all aspects of engineering and manufacturing at Molex.

The students and their teacher, Mr. Don McKee went back to school in awe of what they saw. They had a new sense of excitement on careers in manufacturing. Mr. McKee took several pages of notes and will use this experience to help his students understand that careers in manufacturing and related business are a viable career choice!



**DIDI AMBASSADOR, Clifton Benes** of Molex hosted 18 Pius X students from the Advanced Mechanical Design Class at Molex in Lincoln, NE.

### HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

#### ENGINEERING / TECHNICAL CAREERS IN MANUFACTURING:

- ◇ Advanced Develop. Engineers
- ◇ Product Design Engineers
- ◇ Automation and Process Development Engineers
- ◇ Quality Engineers

#### ENGINEERING MODELS AND DRAWINGS:

- ◇ Product, Equipment, Tooling
- INCLUDED IN THE DRAWINGS ARE:**
- ◇ Dimensions, Tolerance, BOM
  - ◇ Engineering Notes, ETC.

#### SAFETY:

- ◇ Importance of Safety at Molex
- ◇ Watched a Safety Video

#### TOUR:

- ◇ Molding, Stamping, Plating, Assembly

# Auburn

—Shawn Carfield

## ARIENS AUBURN & ESAB PARTNER SUPPORT FFA STATE QUALIFIERS

Three Auburn Public Schools — High School FFA students received **new customized welding hoods, flame resistant jackets, gloves and safety glasses** for the April 2nd FFA State welding competition courtesy of Ariens and ESAB.

Ariens welding manufacturing leader, Andy Carman, donated time to assist with the teaching of technique to the students in preparation for the state event, as well as



*Pic. l to r:* Tristan Davis — Arc Welding | Grant Heywood — MIG welding | John Kinnaman — Oxy-Acetylene welding | Andy Carman—Manufacturing Leader — Ariens Company | Ashton Bohling — FFA Sponsor for Auburn High School

helping Auburn Public Schools create their welding curriculum so they could offering welding classes. **CONGRATS TO AUBURN FOR WINNING THE STATE COMPETITION IN WELDING!**

# Kearney

Area Director—Elizabeth Roetman

## Tour of BluePrint Engines: Grades 6-8

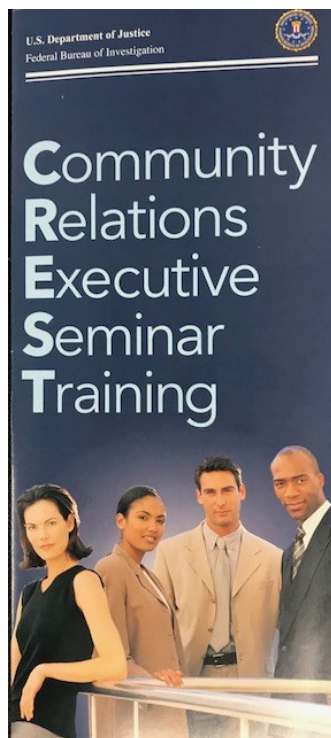


Over 20 students from Sunrise Middle School toured the new BluePrint facility on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**BluePrint Engines** designs, produces, tests and markets performance engines and employs over 100 Kearney area residents. In 2016, BluePrint partnered with Kearney High School and began an internship program for seniors. It is a successful program and produced full-time employment for a couple of those that interned. **This is a great way to introduce middle school students to opportunities in their future and make them aware of the businesses in their community.**

## F.B.I brings C.R.E.S.T program to the University of Nebraska at Kearney

**FBI Special Agent, Phil Lenz** gave a presentation on the Community Relations Executive Seminar Training to over 100 UNK students and community members. Also, known as the CREST program, it is a shorter, more focused version



of the FBI Citizens Academy program. The program is designed to build trust and strengthen relationships between the FBI and the communities they serve. Nathan Hines, part of the Cyber Task Force in Omaha, gave the crowd a glimpse into what his department does to fight cyber attacks. This was organized by the Buffalo County Economic Development Council to promote the **cyber security program beginning at UNK in the Fall of 2018.**

## Summer Academic Science Camps offered at the University of Nebraska at Kearney



Over 200 students have a great opportunity to learn all about science this summer! The Summer Academic Camps give students a glimpse of the university life, learning and working alongside UNK faculty, in a fun and hands-on environment.

**Camps and dates:** Click on the link to review class descriptions and register:

<http://www.unk.edu/academics/nss/society-and-science-camps/index.php>

**ENROLL  
NOW!**



# Grand Island

Area Director—Michala Soundy



On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Manufacturing students from the Career Pathways Institute in Grand Island had the opportunity to tour the Diamond Plastics Corporation plant. Diamond Plastics Corporation manufactures the largest PVC pipe in the world at 60" wide. They have the ability to go up to 72", to date there hasn't been a demand. Diamond Plastics started in 1982, with their Corporate Headquarters in Grand Island. In the photo, you will see the students standing in front of a 55' pipe that had been manufactured the previous day.



**2018 Nebraska SkillsUSA**

**Leadership and Skills Conference**

**140+**

Hands-on skill and  
leadership contests

**1,700+**

High school, college, tech-  
nical students and advisors

**2,300+**

Attended the conference



SkillsUSA Nebraska, a Nebraska Department of Education career student organization, recently recognized award winners and elected new state officers during its **2018 State Leadership & Skills Conference in Grand Island at the Heartland Events Center and Fonner Park.**

The contests were run with the help of industry, trade associations and labor organizations, and test competencies set by national industry standards.

**First place winners of the National Competitions qualify for the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Championships Conference, June 19 - 23, in Louisville, Kentucky**

# Norfolk - Northeast Community College

## English / Humanities classes are important to Career & Technical Education



Students going into Career and Technical Education fields will be better prepared for those **"ESSENTIAL SKILLS"** that are needed in the workforce after two instructors revise three humanities courses at Northeast Community College.

Carole Tharnish and Jon Barnes teach English/Humanities type courses that are typically taken by their Career and Technical Education (CTE) students. They wanted to make sure that the courses they teach are relevant to students and the business community.

**"We wanted to be able to answer questions when students would walk in and say 'Why do I need to take an English class?' We wanted to be prepared to answer that question," Tharnish said. "And so, we looked to revise the curriculum so that it was applicable in their studies."**

Tharnish and Barnes talked to and toured 13 businesses in the Norfolk region and sent out surveys to many others— They heard over and over again that what they teach does impact the company's bottom line. This includes proper documentation (of work orders), communication, teamwork, customer service, etc.

After the tours and gathering of data, they spent a day of review, discussion and planning, the group came up with a strategy to revise and rewrite the three courses, which include changes in course objectives, learning outcomes, prerequisite changes, and even a modification to a course name.

The three revised courses will be taught beginning in the 2018-19 academic year.

**"We think students will be well prepared for internships and use some of the soft skills '(essential skills)' they learn in human relations. After the second year, they are going to be able to put out a top notch resume, be prepared for really being a great interviewee, demonstrate their writing and speaking skills and find that job they want to find."**

**-- Carole Tharnish & Jon Barnes**

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- ♦ BE HONEST
- ♦ BE ON TIME EVERY DAY
- ♦ READY FOR WORK
- ♦ COMMUNICATION
- ♦ TEAMWORK
- ♦ CONTINUE TO LEARN
- ♦ DRUG FREE



**SKILLS PAY** the bills

With numerous opportunities in manufacturing and related businesses, you can find a career doing what you enjoy!

# Omaha

Area Director—John Fonda

## M3E Trailer—Beveridge Middle School

**ONE HUNDRED** Omaha Beveridge Middle School students explored the Mobile Manufacturing Expo (M3E). **The M3E unit engages students through hands-on exploration of an industrial career path.**



Robotic Arm inside the M3E trailer

### The M3E Trailer includes:

- A welding simulator
- FANUC robot (robotic arm)
- 3D printer
- Virtual reality glasses

The M3E trailer was manned by members of the Greater Omaha Dream It. Do It. team and teachers from Beveridge Middle School. Students learned that the manufacturing industry is a high-tech, computerized industry and produces materials used for everything from automobiles to iPods. **These students are the wave of the future to fill the skills gap and produce American goods.**

## OMAHA STEM ECOSYSTEM

## “Pathways to Emerging Technology: Virtual Reality in the Workplace, Today and Tomorrow” was a success!

The Omaha STEM Ecosystem’s event, held at the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium on March 27<sup>th</sup>, began with a panel discussion with leading virtual reality industry experts focused on current virtual reality practices in the workplace, as well as predictions for how the field will evolve in the future. **WITH OVER 125 ATTENDEES, THIS WAS THE LARGEST STEM ECOSYSTEM EVENT TO DATE.**

One key comment from a panelist resonated with the group:

*“Virtual Reality in the workplace originated in the gaming industry.”*

This lead to a call to action – **how do we utilize the gaming culture as a tool to develop the necessary skills students need for careers in the future?**

Moving forward, the **STEM Ecosystem** will capture that excitement through facilitating smaller venues and discussions around developing pathways for students in the virtual reality technology.

The panel participants included (l to r in picture): **Sean Johnson** – Senior Director, Business Workforce at Omaha Chamber



**Doug Derrick** – Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director of the Applied Innovation Lab at the Peter Kiewit Institute and UNO  
**Julie Sigmon** –Director of Omaha STEM Ecosystem  
**Kerry Kelley** – Senior Executive Service, Chief Information Officer and Director, Joint Cyber Center at USSTRATCOM  
**Mukul Mukherjee** – Ph.D., Assistant Professor at University of Nebraska at Omaha Biomechanics Research Building  
**Pamela Boyers** – Ph.D. , Associate Vice Chancellor at University of NE Medical Center/IXCEL  
**Ed Vidlak** –Vice President and Principal, Director of Education for Greater Omaha Area at HDR