

**NET*Force* Meeting**

**Friday, September 13, 2019**

**Informal Networking – 9:30-10:00 a.m. (CST)**

**Meeting – 10:00-2:30 p.m. (CST)**

**Cornhusker Bank**

**Lincoln, NE**

Participants: Jim Reiff, Doris Lux, Gene Knapp, Nancy Eberle, Craig Eberle, Lisa Tschauner, Aliese Hoffman, Kathy Eitzman, Steve Bors, Gregg Christensen

Online: no participants online for this meeting

The meeting convened at 10:00 a.m. Steve Bors called the meeting to order. John Dittman, Chairman and CEO of Cornhusker Bank welcomed us to the facility and provided some history of the bank and the construction of the new facility in 2016. In 2019 alone, they’ve utilized the conference room for over 300 separate groups/meetings.

**New Business**

**Best Practices Summit**

The group discussed the upcoming Best Practices Summit to be held on October 29, 2019. Nancy provided additional background information on the morning keynote, Andrew McCrea. Gregg reached out to Dan Curran, the interim director at DED about financial support and had not heard anything back. It was confirmed that $500 from the York County Visitor’s would help in paying for snack and hors d’oeuvres. Dell Gines with the KC Federal Reserve cannot be listed as a sponsor as it is too late in the fiscal year; January – December is their fiscal year. Gregg will reach back out in November or December for next year’s conference.

**Rebranding of NETForce and Entrepreneurship Summit**

Lisa and Aliese provided logo options to the group designed by Sammie Harper of Beaver Creek Communications in Grand Island. The group voted on final designs with a few additional modifications they would like to see made. Lisa and Aliese will advise Sammie on the changes and a survey will be sent out for a final design decision.

**Online Presence for NETForce and Document Depository**

Discussion ensued regarding the best way to store all NETForce materials. Nancy reminded everyone that there is a Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn page for NETForce, although there is minimal traffic on them. The option of utilizing Weebly was discussed. No action was taken.

**Community College Entrepreneurship Course Review**

Linda Hartman discussed the entrepreneurship curriculum and inquired who was in charge of development now. Doris suggested contacting Roxann Holliday and Michelle at CCC. Linda said they hope to plan a meeting in October or early November to discuss options.

**Old Business**

**Desired Outcomes, agenda items for next meeting(s)**

The group discussed a priority for what meetings should include and the importance of trying to engage individuals in all meetings. The possibility of recording the meeting was also discussed.

**Dates and locations for Winter and Spring Meetings**

* Winter meeting Kearney – 01/31/20
* Spring meeting TBD – 04/17/20 (first option)

TBD – 05/29/20 (second option)

Nancy will work to secure a location for the meeting.

**Partner Updates**

**Doris Lux**

* Doris reminded all Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities that will be held in Columbus on April 22nd and 23rd
* This past summer there was Verizon stem camp for three weeks in which 75 girls attended
* Taking 10 businesses to Colorado to learn more about becoming destination businesses.
* Doing table talks with SCORE and the Columbus Chamber
* Hosting a QuickBooks workshop for 5 weeks
* Moved to a new location called Opportunity Central

**Jim Reiff**

* NEF is celebrating its 25th Anniversary with 4 events across the state, including the main event in Omaha
* Startup to Success will be in Omaha on October 18th and will include panels of business owners in different stages of business
* QuickBooks trainings were held in Ord and scheduled for Omaha
* Annual legal forum will be held on November 8th at the Gallup Institute
* Looking at expansion opportunities for the organization

**Gene Knapp**

* SCORE was up about 8% this year in Nebraska
* Goal is to help entrepreneurs, micro lenders, colleges, chambers, etc.
* Always looking to recruit more mentors

**Nancy Eberle**

* Recently took a group to No More Empty Pots
* YEBO is rebuilding due to reorganization

**Craig Eberle**

* REAP has hired a new women’s business center director. Anna Pratt graduated in ag education and started in June.
* Small business needs assessment survey was sent out. Please encourage all to participate
* REAP has implemented to lending software

**Lisa Tschauner**

* Lisa is teaching Entrepreneurship for the 2nd year at UNK
* The Center for Entrepreneurship at UNK has taken a more active role in the Tri City Economic Forum and will be welcoming Ron Drake as keynote speaker on October 11th
* Central NE Startup Week is November 4th – 8th with Big Idea Hastings happening on November 5th and Big Idea Kearney on November 6th
* Part of an EDA grant that is connecting faculty with private entities
* Continuing to do research and developing surveys to communities to allow them to give input and develop plans

**Aliese Hoffman**

* Aliese discussed the success of the summer youth programs in both Kearney and on the road in Red Cloud
* She is advising the student organization that has transitioned out of Enactus to Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO); they will be attending a global conference in Tampa
* New Venture Adventure is held every fall at UNK and already have 80 high school students signed up
* New Venture Adventure is looking to go on the road again and is considering Ravenna as a location
* Aliese was promoted to Assistant Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and Rural Development at UNK

**Steve Bors**

* SCC just transitioned to semesters and moved to a different LMS which is now canvas; enrollment is up, and the calendar is starting to sync with the 4-year colleges
* Focus Suites are full with a waiting list
* SCC Entrepreneurship Center is on YouTube and has several coffee speeches

**Gregg Christensen**

* Discussed the value of the What If Series on NET
* Is a Strengths Finder Coach
* Now retired

Meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

April Myers, Secretary