

LEADERSHIP NEBRASKA



February 14-16 was the first meeting of State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska Inaugural class and the beginning of the year-long program. The 27 members formally met each other and participated in an Orientation Session at Mahoney State Park. Gov. Dave Heineman was on hand to welcome the first class, who later dined with other State Chamber Leadership Nebraska Council members before hearing a presentation on Nebraska history by Robert Manley.

The next day the class heard from Gallup about the demands of leadership, heard from current business, student and philanthropic leaders, and gained insight to the "high impact leader." Among themselves, the class got to know each other better and began looking at issues facing Nebraska and some ways to address them. Futurist Ed Barlow presented his program about "Leading Nebraska Through a Continuum of Change" via a speakerphone as he was suffering the effects of the flu. Frigid weather kept the class inside despite the Orientation Committee's plans for walks each morning of the session.

The rest of the sessions include a session on Public Service in Lincoln on March 6-8; an Agriculture session tour to Scottsbluff May 2-4; the Economic Development session in Omaha June 27-29; the Education session in Kearney on July 31-Aug. 2; and the Health/Healthcare/ Human Services session in Norfolk on September 12-14. A commencement ceremony will be held in Lincoln on November 2.

The Class I members come from across Nebraska and range from volunteers, business leaders, philanthropic workers, educators, and agricultural entrepreneurs. This year's class includes: Linda Aerni, Community Internet Systems, Inc., Columbus; Cynthia Allen, Allen Farms, Ogallala; Amy Bones, Creighton University, Omaha; Curt Carlson, University of Nebraska-Kearney, Kearney; Kirk K. Cisler, Great Western Bank, O'Neill; Stan Clouse, NPPD, Kearney; Blaine Dinwiddie, OPPD, Omaha; Paul Dongilli, Jr., Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln; Rolando Flores, UNL-Food Processing Center, Lincoln; Kara Habrock, L.G. Roloff Construction Co., Springfield; Matt Harris, Arbor Day Foundation, Lincoln; Paula Hazlewood, Gateway Development Corp., Omaha; Kiersten Hill, Idea Bank Marketing, Seward; Eric Hixon, Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation Dist., Holdrege; Lonnie Janecek, MarketSphere Consulting, Omaha; Tom Kell, Aurora Cooperative, Aurora; Daniel Kennelly, Mutual of Omaha, Omaha; Richard Kiolbasa, Dial Companies/RWK P.C., Omaha; Anita Lewandowski, Principal Financial Group, Grand Island; Debra McWilliams, Nebraska Historical Society, Syracuse; Kandace Miller, AIM Institute, Omaha; Matthew Nyberg, Lincoln Plating Co., Lincoln; Megan O'Dea, Scorr Marketing, Kearney; Carla Patterson, Peru State College, Peru; Sarah Pillen, Rembolt Ludtke, LLC, Lincoln; Adrian Sanchez, Columbus Daily Telegram, Columbus; and Jeff Scherer, Smeal Fire Apparatus, Snyder.

We encourage State Chamber members to consider being a mentor to members of the Inaugural class. Nomination Forms for the 2008 class may be submitted beginning July, 2007. The Leadership Nebraska Council is beginning its planning process now. For any aspect of the State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska program, please contact Executive Director Don Mihovk at the State Chamber or log on to www.statechamberleadershipnebraska.com.