



## UNL'S PROGRESS ON N|2025 AIM TO BROADEN NEBRASKA'S ENGAGEMENT



*The **collaboration** between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, state, national, global) for the **mutually beneficial** creation and exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.*

CARNEGIE FOUNDATION DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



“The University of Nebraska-Lincoln works each day to engage with Nebraskans—from our largest cities, our smallest towns, and the farms and ranches in between. We do this to fulfill our land-grant mission, but our mission of engagement goes beyond extending the knowledge of the university to the residents of the state. We engage with Nebraskans to create and exchange knowledge in a way that supports the education of our students, strengthens the impact of our research, and promotes the success of Nebraska and Nebraskans. UNL has an amazing foundation of engagement, and in Nebraska Extension, we have a powerful engine to drive our efforts even further. This work embodies the spirit of Nebraskans. We are tight-knit and highly connected. We are creative and tenacious. We have a culture of neighbors helping neighbors. Together, we are poised to co-create a university system that fulfills the land-grant mission in a way that is truly unique to who—and where—we are.”

— Mike Boehm, Harlan Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

### ENGAGEMENT CONTINUUM



#### PROGRESS TO DATE

- **Co-Creator Group** worked campus-wide to submit Carnegie Engagement Designation Application; UNL was awarded the designation **January 2024** (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 1)
- **Engagement Collaborative** representing all colleges as well as other statewide units is serving as the liaison with faculty and engagement work (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 7)
- **UNL Engagement Map** highlights statewide engagement in teaching, research, and extension (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectations 6 and 7)
- **Funding** to support engagement has been awarded to the Nebraska College of Law, the Center for Children, Families, and the Law, and the College of Education and Human Sciences. More funds will be awarded every quarter (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 8)
- **Showcasing our Successes:** [engage.unl.edu](https://engage.unl.edu) launched spring 2024 (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectations 6 and 7)
- UNL is now a member of the **Engagement Scholarship Consortium** (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 7)
- **Community-UNL Opportunity Virtual Open Houses** happen twice a year for community members to connect to faculty who are looking for partners for student service learning and research projects (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectations 5, 6 and 7)
- Community-Engaged Faculty and Staff Lunches happen monthly on City and East campuses to build faculty and staff networks (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 7)

#### NEXT STEPS

- Developing metrics for reporting and evaluation of engagement work and awards for those doing exceptional community engagement work. (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 7)

**SUCCESS STORIES**



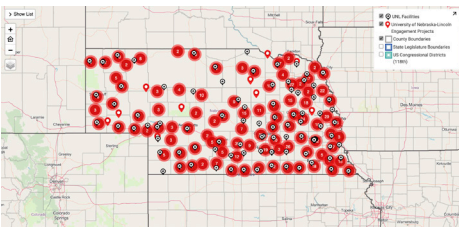
Fine and performing arts students, as part of the Street Art II: Mural Masters class led by Sandra Williams, spent more than a week painting a mural at Premier Chevrolet Buick GMC in Beatrice. Williams said the project offers students valuable experience while connecting them to Nebraska communities. It also offers students a creative experience that cannot be replicated in a classroom. Local Beatrice students also were able to help paint the mural. The mural also contributes to Beatrice's Certified Creative District by the Nebraska Arts Council. (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 5 and 8)

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Law College Immigration Clinic is providing accessibility to legal education for unaccompanied minors in Schuyler, NE. Immigrants in rural communities face challenges, often because of a lack of information or services in the area and in Schuyler, only one other organization is able to provide resources. The law students are attending school activities and putting on events where students could bring their legal documents to understand their status and eligibility for citizenship. Plans also include training the local bar association to take on this work once the project has finished. (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 5 and 8)



The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and the University of Nebraska's Center on Children, Families and the Law are partnering to provide culturally informed training to Child and Family Services specialists service Native American children and families. The Bridging the Gap for Native American Children project will proactively address this need by partnering with Nebraska tribes to provide educational resources on how best to serve tribal families who are navigating the child welfare system. Child welfare research shows that culture plays a powerful part in the protective factors that strengthen families and support prevention. (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectation 5 and 8)

The Nebraska On-Farm Research program, a program of Nebraska Extension, consists of producers partnering with UNL faculty to test how a product or practice would directly affect their farming operation. On-farm research involves using the producer's land, equipment, practices, and the products they apply to learn how a product or practice would directly affect their farming operation. It means that the research being done by the producer on their farm is directly applicable to their operation. (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectations 5 and 8)



In 2024 the [Engagement and Outreach map](#) was launched by the Engagement Collaborative. This map is an interactive system designed to illustrate the powerful stories of UNL's current and on-going projects and activities centered around outreach, service, and engagement efforts along with the University Facilities that show our 500-mile campus. (N|2025 Aim 4; Expectations 6 and 7)

**ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS\***

**1,471**

ENGAGEMENT SITES

**413**

ENGAGED RESEARCH PROJECTS

**112**

OFF-CAMPUS FACILITIES

*\*Numbers reflect number of engaged projects from 2018–2023 and are most likely an undercount*

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