WE ARE HERE TO HELP

The NENEDD staff and its Board of Directors along with the Board of Directors of NED, Inc. exist to bring about community and economic development.
The 2021–2022 fiscal year was another successful year for the Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD), our non-profit Northeast Economic Development, Inc. (NED, Inc.), and our 80-plus member communities and counties. The NENEDD staff and its Board of Directors along with the Board of Directors of NED, Inc. exist to bring about community and economic development.

This past year alone, there were over $9.1 million in grants and loans awarded to member communities and businesses of the District, directly impacting 29 communities, 24 businesses and 86 families were assisted with this past years’ grants and loans.

29 communities, 24 businesses and 86 families were assisted with this past years’ grants and loans.

“I have had the privilege of working with NENEDD for the past eight years – first as a board member on the NENEDD board and now finishing my second year on the NED Inc. board, this year as President. The professionalism Tom, Tina, and the staff bring to their jobs is truly exceptional. They have always answered any question I might have and go out of their way to help me understand the answer. I look forward to many more years of association with NENEDD and NED, Inc., serving in any capacity they wish.”

Jim McCarville
President of NED, Inc.,
Board of Directors

“This past year has seen many changes; coming from a time when we had hope that the pandemic was over to a period where it resurfaced, to the last several months where maybe, just maybe, this pandemic has diminished. Staff are beginning to do what they do best – hitting the road and helping to fulfill the pent-up demand that is out there. I am proud to be associated with them.”

Loren Kucera
Chairman of NENEDD,
Board of Directors

Planning grant to continue to provide community and economic assistance to its members and also received $103,615 from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) to provide community and economic development assistance to its member communities.

“All of the success that we have experienced could not have been possible without the support and partnerships of our members, local economic development affiliates, and state and federal agencies that we work with on a daily basis. I have a very dedicated staff and board of directors that take pride in the work and mission of the District, and I look forward to the upcoming year.” – Thomas L. Higginbotham Jr., Executive Director

“Even in the wake of a global pandemic, the communities and counties in Northeast Nebraska persevered as evidenced by the number of projects awarded, business and direct homebuyer assistance loans disbursed, and houses rehabilitated. I am proud of the NENEDD staff who continued to provide the quality service to our membership and partners during this unprecedented time.” – Tina M. Engelbart, Deputy Director
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
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**Grand Totals**

| | $9,183,515 | 164 | 86 |


*"Jobs" refers to the number of jobs created or retained.*
AWARDS

Outstanding Housing Partnership Award
NENEDD honors Art Sehi, owner of Gutter Crew, Inc., as the recipient of the Outstanding Housing Partnership Award.

Art Sehi has lived in the Elgin/Oakdale area his entire life and is an Elgin Pope John High School class of 1971 graduate.

Art started the business with a partner in 1995 and became the sole owner in 2017, incorporating that same year. Gutter Crew, Inc. serves Northeast Nebraska and a portion of southeast South Dakota, providing quality gutter installation at a competitive price.

He and his late wife, Sheri, were married in 1977. Sheri passed away in 2010. They were blessed with two daughters, Kris and Jill, and six grandchildren. Art is also the owner of Mr. S’s Gas & Groceries in Oakdale.
Outstanding Service Award
NENEDD honors Mary Plettner of Nebraska Public Power District with the Outstanding Service Award.

How does one say goodbye to a 34-year long career?

I often say that Nebraska Public Power District took a chance on me when they hired me in the Contracts department, especially when I moved into the Economic Development department, a place I have called home since 1993.

I began my career in economic development as a research analyst, studying communities and helping them determine what industries would be the right fit. Working alongside community leaders in many late-night meetings, I couldn’t help but feel like I was home.

During my career, I’ve written hundreds of strategic plans, met with countless site consultants, worked long hours at trade shows, and done too many project development plans to count. But this work was never done alone! Customers and partners have been with me every step of the way. So many kind and smart people welcomed me into their communities but – more importantly – into their lives. I feel it was an honor to sit at the table with so many people successfully providing better lives for their children and grandchildren. I often say it was magical because it genuinely was.

Thank you for the humbling and heartwarming opportunity to serve you and your community as NPPD’s Economic Development Manager. My wish for you is to continue the legacy you started and be proud of all the contributions you make to your community. I also want to take this opportunity to welcome Nicole Sedlacek as the new Economic Development Manager effective June 1, 2021. Nicole is a certified economic development professional with many years of experience in Holt County and northeast Nebraska.

So, how does one say goodbye to a 34-year long career? With never-ending gratitude.
Doug Bereuter Accomplished Community Award

NENEDD honors the City of Laurel as the recipient of the Doug Bereuter Accomplished Community Award.

The City of Laurel, population 1,111, is one of 40 Nebraska communities to earn Economic Development Certified Community (EDCC) status in the program, sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by DED. The City of Laurel received original EDCC certification in 2010 and earned program recertification in 2015 and 2021.

Over the past five years, community leaders have established support for several development projects following strategic planning efforts initiated in 2019. Top priorities among Laurel residents included the development of a fire hall, community center, and senior center.

The City’s partnership with the State of Nebraska will provide infrastructure developments for the City’s downtown revitalization project, funded by a local one percent sales tax and bonding. Construction started in April 2021. The project will revamp three-and-a-half blocks in downtown Laurel through median removals and street, sewer, and sidewalk replacements. A $445,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Downtown Revitalization (DTR), awarded by DED, will assist with project costs.

Construction of a new community center in downtown Laurel has started as of spring of 2021, made possible through the Community Center Committee’s extensive fundraising via local grants and pledges. DED’s Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) will also contribute to the project, which will include space for Laurel’s Senior Center.

In November 2020, Laurel’s Fire Protection District broke ground for the Laurel Fire and Rescue Building. The building, located on Highway 20, will increase accessibility to the community and serve as headquarters for the Laurel Volunteer Fire Department and area EMTs.

Several entrepreneurs have gained community support for new and expanding businesses, including T&H Meat Company and Fine Spirits and The Scoop. Local leaders have completed succession planning for newly retired, well-established business owners. New owners of Laurel Hometown Market (formerly Gary’s Foodtown), Cubby’s Convenience Store (formerly Urwiler’s Cornermart), and heating and cooling company Campbell Service (previously Lackas Service) recently acquired their businesses and are fully operational. In addition, the owners of Laurel True Value converted the business to Laurel Ace Hardware. A full-service flower shop and greenhouse, Floral Footprints, also recently received renovations by the shop’s new owner. A new seed business in the community, Top Crop, opened in late 2020.

Christine Rasmussen, Laurel’s Economic Development Coordinator said, “Northeast Nebraska is an incredibly great area to live, and that is due in large part to the people who live here. I feel that Laurel stands out as a leading community because of the dedicated citizens that live here. There is a long list of things that have been done, and that list continues to grow with projects that are in process now, and projects that are in the planning stages. When people see things happening, it inspires them to make changes, too. It is natural to want to be a part of the excitement that positive changes bring. In the words of Margaret Mead, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
Entrepreneurial Advancement Award: TODD’s BBI International, Inc.

NENEDD is proud to present TODD’s BBI International, Inc. with its Entrepreneurial Advancement Award. NENEDD and NED, Inc. have been involved in the original purchase of Summit Foods (Madison Foods) and two expansions. Prior to the 2015 purchase, Summit Foods had been in business since 1926. TODD’s provides turnkey manufacturing and packaging services for small and medium sized emerging brands in the dry food and liquid food industry. In Madison, TODD’s Liquid Food Facility provides and packages liquid food products for human consumption. It emulsifies, cooks, and packages a wide variety of liquid products, such as barbecue sauces, salsa, salad dressings, and Bloody Mary Mixes. Both dry and liquid facilities are Kosher and Organic and SQF certified.

Todd’s Ltd. was founded in 1926 by Martin Todd. Aside from Mr. Todd, it has only been under the ownership of two people, one of which is the current owner – Andy Holt. Andy bought Todd’s Ltd in 2011. Bone Brokers International was a business packaging natural pet treats. After the Todd’s acquisition, it became Todd’s BBI. In 2015, Andy Holt purchased Summit Foods in Madison. The liquid facility can produce both cold and hot fill packaging. In 2019, they sold the pet food division and are concentrating on co-packing FDA registered products. Andy’s son, Grant, and brother, Roy, are involved in the daily operations. The entire Holt family has an entrepreneurial spirit spanning many years. They own many companies in the Des Moines, Iowa, area that employ over 300 people. Currently, Andy is the only officer of TODD’s.

NED, Inc. provided funding for the initial purchase. They have done a substantial amount of work on their older building in preparation of adding additional production lines. In early 2020, NED, Inc. provided additional funding to complete a 2nd production line. Just as that was being completed, the COVID-19 situation became a reality. Andy took immediate action with the conversion to a 3rd line packaging hand sanitizer and soap. In the first two quarters of 2020, TODD’s has added a liquid line cold fill to meet the demand brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and has also installed a single fill line to be able to expand in sanitizer and food grade pouch line. NENEDD provided CARES Act funding for working capital as part of this most recent expansion. These lines were added in response to demand of products and have been funded mostly through cash flow of existing operations. The 38 oz. pouches are packaged for overseas delivery and is long term re-occurring work.

TODD’s BBI International, Inc., NENEDD, and NED, Inc have partnered with Frontier Bank in Madison, Community State Bank in Spencer, Iowa, Madison County Commissioners, Loren Kucera at the Nebraska Business Development Center, and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for the various projects. TODD’s has used many state incentive programs, including the Nebraska Progress Loan Fund and Nebraska Advantage. Additional, in its ongoing continuous improvement efforts, Todd’s BBI has utilized the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s P3 (Partners in Pollution Prevention) program through the College of Engineering and the Nebraska Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

An assembly line shows the process of barbecue sauces being bottled at TODD’s BBI International, Inc.
COMMUNITY AND COUNTY MEMBERS

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

City of Albion  
City of Bloomfield  
City of Clarkson  
City of Columbus  
City of Creighton  
City of Crofton  
City of Elgin  
City of Fremont  
City of Fullerton  
City of Genoa  
City of Hartington  
City of Hooper  
City of Laurel  
City of Lyons  
City of Madison  
City of Neligh  
City of Newman Grove  
City of Osmond  
City of Pierce  
City of Plainview  
City of Randolph  
City of Schuyler  
City of Scribner  
City of St. Edward  
City of Stanton  
City of Tekamah  
City of Tilden  
City of Wakefield  
City of Wayne  
City of West Point  
City of Wisner  
Village of Allen  
Village of Bancroft  
Village of Beemer  
Village of Cedar Rapids  
Village of Clearwater  
Village of Coleridge  
Village of Craig  
Village of Decatur  
Village of Dixon  
Village of Dodge  
Village of Duncan  
Village of Emerson  
Village of Fordyce  
Village of Howells  
Village of Inglewood  
Village of Leigh  
Village of Lindsay  
Village of Martinsburg  
Village of Meadow Grove  
Village of Newcastle  
Village of Niobrara  
Village of Oakdale  
Village of Orchard  
Village of Pender  
Village of Petersburg  
Village of Platte Center  
Village of Richland  
Village of Rosalie  
Village of Snyder  
Village of Thurston  
Village of Verdigre  
Village of Walthill  
Village of Wausa  
Village of Winnebago  
Village of Winslow  
Village of Wynnott

COUNTY MEMBERS

Antelope County  
Boone County  
Burt County  
Cedar County  
Colfax County  
Cuming County  
Dixon County  
Dodge County  
Knox County  
Madison County  
Nance County  
Pierce County  
Platte County  
Stanton County  
Thurston County  
Wayne County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

DIAMOND  $1000+
Elkhorn Valley Bank & Trust  
Faith Regional Health Services  
Loup Power District  
McMill CPAs & Advisors  
Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust  
NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska  
Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce  
Security Bank  
Stanton State Bank  

GOLD  $500
BankFirst  
Charter West Bank  
F&M Bank  
First National Bank  
First Northeast Bank of Nebraska  
Homestead Bank  
Midwest Bank  
Nebraska Public Power District  
Norfolk Daily News  
Schuyler Community Development  
Washington County Bank

SILVER  $350
American Broadband  
Bank of Hartington  
Burt County Public Power District  
Cedar-Knox Public Power District  
Cedar Security Bank  
Citizens State Bank  
Clarkson Bank  
Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce  
Columbus Bank and Trust Company  
Commercial State Bank  
Cornerstone Bank  
Cuming County Public Power District  
Elkhorn Valley Bank  
Farmers & Merchants State Bank  
First Bank & Trust of Fullerton

BRONZE  $200
Frontier Bank  
Genoa Community Bank  
Gilmore & Associates  
JEO Consulting Group, Inc.  
Madison County Bank  
Nebraska Department of Economic Development  
Nebraska Municipal Power Pool  
Northeast Community College  
North Central Public Power District  
Platte Valley Bank  
Points West Community Bank  
Scribner Bank  
Stanton County Public Power District  
Tilden Bank  
West Point Chamber of Commerce
BOARDS AND STAFF

NENEDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Loren Kucera
Chairman, Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC), Wayne

Dan Kathol
Vice Chairman, Hartington Community Development Corporation

Judy Mutzenberger
Secretary/Treasurer, Cuming County Supervisor

Gary Jackson
Norfolk City Council

Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong
West Point Chamber of Commerce

Troy Uhlir
Madison County Commissioner

Charlie Bahr
Columbus City Council

Blake Denton
BankFirst - West Point

Sally Ganem
Fremont City Council

NED, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim McCarville
President, Northeast Community College

Brad Albers
Vice President, Business Owner

Shannon Stuchlik
Secretary/Treasurer, Midwest Bank

Mike Frank
Retired Northeast Community College

Jerry Engdahl
Platte County Commissioner

Megan Weaver
Wakefield Progressive, Inc.

Rich Jablonski
Columbus City Council

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BUSINESS RLF COMMITTEE

Chad Anderson
Pierce City Administrator

Aaron Gutz
President, Security Bank-Osmond Branch

Lori Schrader
Loan Specialist, Center for Rural Affairs

Adam Rief
Owner, Rief Design & Mfg., LLC

Nicole Sedlacek
Economic Development Consultant, Nebraska Public Power District

Ryan Steffensmeier
Vice President, First Community Bank

Jan Weitfield
Vice President, Citizens State Bank

Troy Weyhrich
Owner, Renegade Stores, LLC

Brian Yosten
Owner, Cedar Valley Insurance

NENEDD STAFF

Thomas L. Higginbotham, Jr.
Executive Director (21 years)

Tina M. Engelbart
Deputy Director (16 years)

Kristen Rosner
Fiscal Officer (8 years)

Jeff Christensen
Business Loan Specialist (22 years)

Martin Griffith
Housing Specialist (6 years)

Mandy Gear
Community Planner (5 years)

Jan Merrill
Community Planner (6 years)

Lowell Schroeder
Community Planner (11 years)

Andrea Larson
Community Planner (2 years)

Kirk Brown
Community Planner (3 months)

Riah Deane
Community Planner (2 months)

Grace Petersen
Planning & Administrative Assistant (2 years)
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