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Deputy Director David Kling



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Kling Starts New Journey with WCNDD

David Kling has recently joined the staff of West Central Nebraska Development District (WCNDD) to serve as the organizations Deputy Director. Kling brings with him an extensive career in law enforcement, as well as more than a decade of management experience. His knowledge of municipal government and the nuisance abatement program make him an invaluable asset to this organization.

Kling graduated from Chadron State College with a Bachelor of Science in Education in 1991. Shortly after obtaining his degree, he sought out a career in law enforcement. He worked for the City of Ogallala Police Department since 1994 and served as the Chief of Police for the last 12 years.

Kling has been an active member of the Ogallala community where he and his wife, Kathleen, have been longtime residents. He is the President of the Ogallala Rotary Club and is currently seeking re-election to the Ogallala Board of Education for his second consecutive term.

To simply put it, Kling was ready for a change and was intrigued by the opportunity to take on a new career with new challenges. WCNDD is excited to have Kling on board and looking forward to all the possibilities the future holds not only for our organization, but also for the communities we serve.

Contact David Kling at dkling@west-central-nebraska.com or 308.284.6077



Rural Workforce Housing Application Deadline March 30, 2018

Is your community struggling to draw in working class professionals because adequate housing is not available?

The Rural Workforce Housing Fund (RWHF) provides matching grants to non-profit development organizations to reduce the cost of workforce housing in Nebraska's rural communities.

Workforce housing is housing that meets the needs of working families and is attractive to new residents locating in

a rural community. Housing projects that are considered eligible for RWHF Grants include:

- New owner-occupied housing costing no more than \$275,000.
- New rental housing units costing no more than \$200,000.
- Owner-occupied or rental housing units for which the cost to substantially rehabilitate exceeds 50% of a unit's assessed value.
- Upper-story housing.
- And in all cases, housing that does not receive federal or state low-income housing tax credits, Community Development Block Grants, HOME funds, National Housing Trust Fund, or funds from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Grants shall be awarded through fiscal year 2020-21 on a competitive basis until grant funds are no longer available. The initial competitive application cycle is now open. Applications are due March 30, 2018. No more than \$1,000,000 may be awarded to any one non-profit development organization over a two-year period, with no more than \$2,000,000 cumulative for any single grantee through fiscal year 2020-21. RWHF grants require a minimum one-to-one in matching funds.

Matching funds can be dollars contributed by individuals, businesses, foundations, local and regional political subdivisions, or other non-profit organizations into a single investment fund, administered by the eligible nonprofit development organization. For more information contact Housing Manager

Leslie Coleman at leslie.coleman@nebraska.gov or visit

<https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/program/workforce-housing-fund/>

2018 FedEx Small Business Grant

The FedEx Small Business Grant Contest recognizes and rewards incredible small businesses from across the country. This could be your year, enter now for a chance to win a grant to help your business grow.

Any for-profit small business in good standing that has been in continuous operation selling a product or service in market for no less than six (6) months at the start of the contest and has 99 or fewer employees is eligible to enter the contest.

There will be a total of ten (10) Winners: one (1) Grand Prize



Winner will receive a U.S. \$25,000 Grant in the form of a check and \$7,500 in print and business services from FedEx Office; one (1) Silver Level Winner will receive a U.S. \$15,000 Grant in the form of a check and \$5,000 in print and business services from FedEx Office; eight (8) Bronze Level Winners will each receive a U.S. \$7,500 Grant in the form of a check and \$1,000 in print and business services from FedEx Office. Total value of all Grants and Prizes: \$120,500

To enter the Contest, entrants are required to visit the Contest website located at fedex.com/grantcontest and submit an entry between February 20, 2018 and March 28, 2018. A FedEx account is not required to enter the contest. Entrants will be required to provide responses to the following: (1) Give us your elevator pitch (tell us what you do, what you sell, the service you offer...) (2) Tell us about your business, what inspired you to get into it, what makes your business stand out and what difference it makes on you, your community or the environment and (3) How would you use the FedEx Small Business Grant money to make a significant impact on your business?

See Official Contest Rules for more details, <https://smallbusinessgrant.fedex.com/#/rules>



#whatshappeningWCNDD

What are you doing this year? Send us your pictures to mburke@west-central-nebraska.com with the hashtag #whatshappeningWCNDD and we might feature them in our newsletter. Meanwhile, see if you can guess where this is ...

Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities

The Nebraska Library Commission along with partners University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, and Regional Library Systems, are excited about the Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities project, which was recently awarded a National Leadership Grant of \$530,732 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The project will begin July 1, 2017 and conclude June 30, 2020.

The project uses Library Innovation Studios (makerspaces) hosted by public libraries to support community engagement and participatory learning experiences by providing access to technological and innovative learning tools not readily accessible locally. This strengthening of the maker culture in Nebraska communities is expected to stimulate creativity, innovation, and the exchange of ideas to facilitate entrepreneurship, skills development, and local economic development.

With this project, rural community residents will be empowered with the tools and guidance to explore, collaborate, create, learn, and invent. Libraries will transform their rural communities through participatory learning spaces, while establishing themselves as strong community catalysts for community change. If your community is interested in this opportunity, the second public library application deadline is May 18, 2018.

For more information, contact JoAnn McManus at joann.mcmanus@nebraska.gov or visit <http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/grants/InnovationStudios/>

Important Deadlines:

FedEx Small Business Grant Contest	March 28, 2018
Rural Workforce Housing (LB518) Application	March 30, 2018
Second Cycle Public Library Application	May 18, 2018
CDBG Water & Waste Water	Open Cycle