



November 2017

USDA Announces Directors of NE State Agencies: Karl Elmshaeuser

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced a slate of Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Rural Development (RD) State Directors, all serving as appointees of President Donald J. Trump.

FSA State Directors help implement U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policies in planning, organizing, and administering FSA programs in their respective states. They are also responsible for running the day-to-day activities of the state FSA office. Similarly, RD State Directors work to help improve the economy and quality of life in rural America.

“These state directors will help ensure that USDA is offering the best customer service to our farmers, ranchers, foresters, and agricultural producers across the country,” Secretary Perdue said. “FSA and RD both play a critical role in helping the people of agriculture, and are able to connect with people in their home states. They are the initial points of contact for millions of our USDA customers. Our goal is to help rural America prosper, and these state leaders will be of great assistance in that task.”

Karl Elmshaeuser was selected to direct Rural Development and Nancy Johner will serve as the Executive Director for the Nebraska Farm Service Agency.

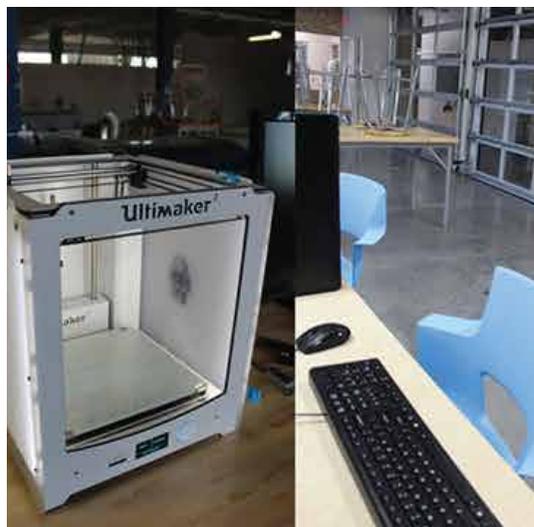
Senator Fischer released a statement after the announcement.

“President Trump has selected two outstanding Nebraska leaders to serve as our USDA state directors,” Fischer said. “Karl Elmshaeuser is a former U.S. Marine with a strong passion for building prosperous Nebraska communities. His first-rate management and development skills will enable him to make invaluable contributions to rural areas across the state.

I was also happy see Nancy Johner nominated to head our other USDA state agency. Her long career in public service, as an Under Secretary at USDA and the State Director for former Senator Mike Johanns, have prepared her to serve Nebraskans well once again at the Farm Service Agency.

In their respective roles, Karl and Nancy will be in good positions to promote Nebraska agriculture and effectively communicate the common sense policies our producers and communities need to be prosperous. I look forward to working with both of them to advance the priorities of our great state.”

As Elmshaeuser transitions into his new role with USDA Rural Development, CJ Poltack has been named Interim Executive Director of West Central Nebraska Development District.



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, be on the lookout for the 2018 second public library application deadline.

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

SBA Accepting Nominees for National Small Business Week Awards

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation announcing National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America’s entrepreneurs and small business owners.

More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year.

As part of National Small Business Week, the U.S. Small Business Administration takes the opportunity to highlight the



impact of outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and others from all 50 states and U.S. territories. Every day, they're working to grow small businesses, create 21st century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness. And in recognizing the changing face of America, the SBA's National Small Business Week awards honor individuals and businesses that reflect our nation's rich diversity.

If you are a small business owner with an amazing success story, submit your nomination today for the 2018 National Small Business Week Awards. All nominations must be mailed or hand delivered to the nearest SBA Office no later than 3:00 p.m. ET on January 9, 2018.

To see the award guidelines,

https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2018_NSBW_Awards_Guidelines.pdf



#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 ...

Civic and Community Center Financing Fund

Annually, the Department of Economic Development accepts applications from Nebraska municipalities for grants to support the development of civic, community, and recreation centers under the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) program.

The fund may be used for new construction of or the renovation and/or expansion to existing civic, community, and recreation centers, which may include the conversion, rehabilitation, or reuse of historic buildings. The fund may also be used for preliminary planning related to the development or rehabilitation of eligible projects. The definitions of eligible projects are:

- Civic Center- a facility that is primarily used to host conventions, meetings, and cultural events and/or a library. A civic center therefore includes space for conventions, meetings, and cultural events and/or a library.
- Community Center- the traditional center of a community, typically comprised of a cohesive core of residential, civic, religious, and commercial buildings, arranged around a main street and intersecting streets. A community center is therefore an area of multiple buildings with both internal and external elements. A civic center may or may not be in a community center.

- Recreation Center- a facility used for athletics, fitness, sport activities, or recreation that is owned by a municipality and is available for use by the general public with or without charge. A recreation center does not include any facility that requires a person to purchase a membership to utilize such facility.
- Planning- engineering and technical studies directly related to eligible projects.

The program operates on a two-part application process on an annual cycle. A municipality seeking a grant will submit a letter of intent to apply signed by the applicant municipality’s chief elected official and received by DED on or before January 15 of the current program year. To be considered for CCCFF assistance, applicants must meet eligibility requirements, provide a signed letter of intent to apply, and submit a completed application online using <https://neded.fluidreview.com>. Applicants may submit their application at any time from January 15 to February 15.

To see if your project is eligible to apply, please review all of the program fund guidelines, <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/program/civic-and-community-center-financing-fund-cccff/> or contact Jenny Mason with DED for more information: 402-471-6280 or jenny.mason@nebraska.gov

Important Deadlines:

2018 Nebraska Passport Application	December 2017
Tourism Marketing Grant Application	December 15, 2017
Community Impact Grant Application	December 15, 2017
National Small Business Week Nomination Deadline	January 9, 2018
Civic and Community Center Financing Letter of Intent	January 15, 2018
USDA VAPG Grant Application	January 24, 2018
Waste Reduction and Recycling Application	February 1, 2018
Civic and Community Center Financing Application	February 15, 2018
CDBG Water & Waste Water	Open Cycle