

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA**  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

December 1, 2025

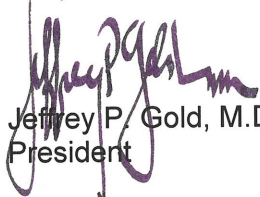
Mr. Brandon Metzler  
Clerk of the Legislature  
State Capitol Room 2018  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Mr. Metzler:

Nebraska Revised Statute 85-119 requires the Board of Regents to report annually to the Legislature on ten measurements of progress for Nebraska Innovation Campus. Enclosed is the report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at (402) 472-8636. Thank you for your partnership in this important work for our state.

Respectfully,



Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.  
President

JPG/ekc

Enclosure

**University of Nebraska Board of Regents**  
**Report to the Legislature as Required by LB 1093**  
**Measurements Regarding Nebraska Innovation Campus**  
**Reporting Year 2025**  
(Submitted by December 1 of each year)

**Nebraska Innovation Campus Description**

Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC) is connecting the talents of experts, companies and the university to create a unique culture of innovation. NIC facilitates new and in-depth partnerships between the University of Nebraska and private sector businesses. NIC is adjacent to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and strategically provides access to research faculty, facilities and students. For more information about campus facilities, leasing opportunities, events and programs, please visit [INNOVATE.UNL.EDU](http://INNOVATE.UNL.EDU).

**Responses**

**1. *Percentage of investments by the state and university compared to private sector investments***

As of June 30, 2025, \$282 million has been invested at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

Private Sector	155,931
State & University	<u>125,746</u>
	281,677

**2. *The number of square feet of construction***

As of June 30, 2025, NIC had 569,698 square feet of constructed space. Details regarding the available square feet is noted below. Vacant space is warm core and shell and not finished. Of the total space, 20,432 square feet is available lease as a sub-lease through the University.

(See Summary on Next Page)

Rentable Building Name	Total Square Feet	University	Conference Center	Private	Available UNL Sublease	UNL Sub Leases	Vacant UNL Sub Lease
Innovation Commons*	147,784	37,125	44,954	65,705			
Food Innovation Center**	178,000	145,818			32,182	11,750	20,432
Rise Building	75,300	-		75,300			
Scarlet Hotel	115,000	9,821		105,179			
Greenhouse Innovation Center**	44,950	44,950					
Total	561,034	237,714	44,954	246,184	32,182	11,750	20,432

Non-Rentable Building Name

Nucorp Owned CRES Power Plant 8,664

Total 569,698

Note:

\* Conference Center is owned by the University

**3. The number of private sector companies located on Nebraska Innovation Campus**

Calendar Year 2023 - 72 companies

Calendar Year 2024 - 67 companies

**4. The number of private sector jobs located on Nebraska Innovation Campus**

In response to LB 1093, NICDC engaged the UNL Bureau of Business Research to conduct a survey of university and private sector activities on Nebraska Innovation Campus ("Tenant Survey"). The goal of the Tenant Survey was to provide more robust and independently verified data for this response without compromising the proprietary information of NIC's private sector partners. This was the ninth year of the survey. Reported employment from the Tenant Survey is below.

Sector	Employment			Total
	Permanent	Student Interns	Other Temporary	
Private Sector	315	41	47	403
UNL	244	77	23	344
Total	559	118	70	747

**5. The amount of private sector research funding to the university attributable to Nebraska Innovation Campus**

For the years ending June 30, 2024, and 2025, the University reports the following sponsored research funding attributable to NIC and its sources.

		YTD	
		6/30/2024	6/30/2025
Associations/Foundations		536,920	922,229
Federal		7,554,487	8,333,032
Industry		637,331	456,840
Local & Area		-	-
Private Donations/research projects at NIC		1,057,402	770,903
State Agencies		167,081	198,308
Universities		3,106	97,418
	Subtotal	9,956,327	10,778,730
Private sector services provided by the University		4,513,340	4,250,694
	Total	14,469,667	15,029,424

*Note: An important component of UNL's research mission is its research services to the private sector provided by The Food Processing Center and the Food Allergy Research and Resource Program; this activity is included above.*

**6. The number of internships or other employment opportunities provided by private sector companies at Nebraska Innovation Campus to University Students**

As reported from the Tenant Survey,

Sector	Internships
Private Sector	41
UNL	77
Total	118

**7. The percentage of facilities leased by private sector companies**

Type of Lease	Leased Space
Private Leases	246,184
UNL Sub Leases	<u>11,750</u>
Total	257,934
Total Leased Space Available	516,080
Percent Leased	50.0%

**8. The number of new businesses started or supported at Nebraska Innovation Campus**

During Calendar Year 2024, 8 new businesses have been started or supported at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

**9. *The number of conferences and participants at Nebraska Innovation Campus***

From July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, the Nebraska Alumni Association reported 149 conference days were held at Nebraska Innovation Campus with a total of 20,978 participants.

## **NICDC Board Members as of June 30, 2025**

### ***Private-sector Members***

- Dana Bradford; Chairman & CEO, C3 Brands
- Tom Henning; Corporate Board Member, Business Consultant, Angel Investor and Farmer, Tom Henning LLC
- Dan Hoffman; CEO, Invest Nebraska
- Jessica Korinek; Co-Founder & CEO, Nave Analytics
- Larry Miller; COO, Phibro Animal Health
- Tonn Ostergard; CEO & Chairman, Crete Carrier Corporation
- Matt Williams; Chairman, Flatwater Bank

### ***University Representatives***

- Rodney Bennett; Chancellor, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- Tiffany Heng-Moss; Interim Harlan Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln; and Interim Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska
- Jennifer Nelson; Interim Vice Chancellor of Research & Innovation, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

### ***Officers***

- Michael Zeleny; NICDC Treasurer
- Kate Engel; NICDC Secretary
- Laura Gonnerman; NICDC Legal Counsel



## Dana Bradford

### Current Business Involvements

Dana serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of C3 Brands, a brand platform committed to building brands that offer a clear and compelling value proposition that can be consistently delivered to the market. The consumer brands include Vornado, Prince, Bobby Jones, Sunice and Battle.

In addition, Dana serves on the boards of Meritage Homes (NYSE: MTH), one of America's largest homebuilders, Southwest Value Partners, a San Diego-based real estate company, and Customer Service Profiles, an Omaha-based provider of customer satisfaction data and analytics.

### Past Business Involvements

Dana joined McCarthy Capital in 1998, an Omaha-based private equity firm. He served as President and Managing Partner of McCarthy Capital from 2004 through 2011. He also served as chairman of Vornado Air, a Wichita-based consumer brand company.

### Community Engagement

- **Chairman, Co-Founder**, Omaha Urban Core
- **Chairman**, The Aksarben Foundation
- **Chairman**, Omaha Chamber of Commerce
- **Chairman**, MECA – Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority
- **Chairman**, MILITARY - Strategic Command Consultation Committee (USSTRATCOM)
- **Co-chair**, Heartland 2050 - Regional Master Growth Plan for Metro Omaha
- **Chairman**, United Way Capital Campaign
- **Chairman**, Ronald McDonald House
- **Director**, Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation
- **Director**, Seventy-Five North, a North Omaha redevelopment project
- **Director**, Omaha Community Foundation
- **Community Advisor**, Aksarben Future Trust
- **Community Advisor**, Robert Daugherty Foundation
- **Director**, Children's Hospital & Medical Center
- **Honorary Chair**, TeamMates, a mentoring organization
- **Honorary Chair**, Film Streams, a non-profit independent film organization
- **Honorary Chair**, American Heart Association

### Past Boards

Dana served as a director on the boards of McCarthy Group, an Omaha-based investment holding company; Ballantyne (AMEX: BTN), a movie projector manufacturer; Guild Mortgage, a San Diego-based full-service mortgage company; SAFE Boats International, a Seattle-based manufacturer of defense and emergency response boats; Prince Global Sports, a manufacturer of tennis products; NRG Media, a Cedar Rapids-based broadcast network of radio stations; and Gold Circle Films, a Los Angeles-based movie production company.

### Education

BSBA University of Arizona  
MBA Creighton University



# Tom Henning

## **Current Business Involvement**

Corporate Board Member, Business Consultant, Angel Investor and Farmer

## **Past Business Involvement**

Tom is the retired Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Assurity Group Inc. and its subsidiaries. Tom holds the Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, and Chartered Financial Analyst designations.

Tom is also a former banker, and in the 1980s was president and CEO of the Overland National Bank in Grand Island and president and COO of the National Bank of Commerce in Lincoln.

## **Community Involvement**

Tom's been active in many civic organizations, including past chair of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and the University of Nebraska Foundation. He is also past chair of the Lincoln Chamber Economic Development Corporation, and co-chair with the Mayor of Lincoln for the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development. Tom is a founding board member of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation. Tom was honored in 2015 to receive the Lincoln Chamber's Burnham Yates Citizenship Award. In 2016, Tom was inducted into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame.

Tom is a member of the board of directors of Nelnet Inc., the advisory board of Lincoln Industries, and the board of directors of the Federal Home Loan Banks of Topeka. In late 2022, Governor Ricketts appointed Tom to serve on the five-member Nebraska Investment Council.

Tom and his wife, Candy, also operate Henning Farms, which is devoted to developing wildlife habitats.

## **Past Community Involvement**

Tom was active in a variety of industry groups, including recent service as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI). He also served a two-year term as chair of the ACLI Political Action Committee board. He received the distinguished service award from the Forum 500 section of the ACLI. He is a two-time past president of the Nebraska Insurance Federation.

## **Education**

Tom is a graduate of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, as well as the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University.



## Dan Hoffman

### **Current Business Involvement**

Chief Executive Officer, Invest Nebraska

Dan Hoffman is the CEO of Invest Nebraska, where he has been instrumental in building the venture ecosystem in Nebraska. Since 2008, he has led Invest Nebraska, the state's Venture Development Organization that invests seed capital in the state's innovative startups, advises entrepreneurs, and collaborates with public/private partners to build entrepreneurial infrastructure. Invest Nebraska was the most active venture capital seed investor in the Mountain and Midwest Region in 2024 according to Pitchbook.

In 2022, Dan served as the Principal Investigator of the Heartland Robotics Cluster which was awarded a \$25M grant by the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration under the Build Back Better Regional Challenge.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Before joining Invest Nebraska, Dan served as a Senior Policy Adviser to Governors Dave Heineman and Mike Johanns.

### **Community Involvement**

Dan serves on the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation Board of Directors, the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Diplomats and the Advisory Board for the UNL College of Engineering.

### **Past Community Involvement**

In 2017, Dan was awarded the Entrepreneurship Advocate Award by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Entrepreneurship Center.

### **Education**

Dan earned an M.A. in Economics and a B.S. in Finance from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and is a 2012 graduate of the Venture Capital Institute.



## Jessica Korinek

### **Current Business Involvement**

Co-Founder & CEO, Nave Analytics

Jessca co-founded Nave Analytics, Inc. to be a part of the response to the challenges of climate change in agriculture. Together with her partners, she has chosen to contribute to irrigation as it is the most climate-sensitive and data-intensive input in crop production. Data is the key driver for irrigation sustainability. This is why Jessica leads her company on the task to deliver a scalable and cost-effective way to provide necessary data, thus enabling

sustainable water use with the broadest base of customers.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Jessica is experienced in the agriculture industry, carrying out small plot research as well as managing commercial field trials directly with growers. She has spent a great deal of 12+ years having candid conversations with farmers and learning about the intricacies of irrigation operations across many regions as well as the gaps in the information available to make irrigation decisions. Jessica has previous experience driving innovation forward in a startup at HydroBio, which went through successful acquisition. After the acquisition, Jessi worked as a Field Product Specialist where she was responsible for carrying out research trials with farmers and being a source of technical knowledge for the Climate FieldView platform. She brings a wealth of real field experience as well as a potentially unhealthy fascination with the use of water in crop production.

### **Education**

Jessica earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Buena Vista University.



## Larry Miller

### **Current Business Involvement**

Chief Operating Officer, Phibro Animal Health Corporation

Mr. Miller has a successful record of over 30 years in the animal health industry and has served as COO at Phibro Animal Health Corporation since July 2016.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Since joining Phibro Animal Health, Mr. Miller has built a strong, diversified global business driven through a high-performance culture. Mr. Miller leads the business through transformational growth comprised of organic development (talent, product and geographic expansion) and acquisitions. He played a key role in launching Phibro's I.P.O. in March 2014 (NASDAQ PAHC). Prior to joining Phibro in 2008, Mr. Miller spent 17 years with Schering-Plough Animal Health (SPA) where he was most recently Vice President of the Intervet/Schering-Plough Global Ruminant business. Before this, Mr. Miller held numerous positions with SPAH including V.P. of the US Cattle Business, General Manager of their Australia and New Zealand operations, and he also led the product development and launch of Nuflor® florfenicol in the U.S. Before SPAH, Mr. Miller held various positions in sales and marketing management with American Cyanamid's Animal Health & Nutrition Business.

### **Community Involvement**

- Board of Trustees, University of Nebraska Foundation
- Finance Committee, University of Nebraska Foundation

Mr. Miller was raised on a diversified family farming operation near North Bend, NE. Larry and his wife, Nancy, live in Warren, NJ.

### **Education**

BS in Animal Science from the University of Nebraska

Executive M.B.A from the City University of New York, Baruch College



## Tonn Ostergard

### **Current Business Involvement**

Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Crete Carrier Corporation, a privately owned Lincoln, Nebraska-based transportation and logistics company. Crete Carrier, along with temperature-controlled division Shaffer Trucking, and flat-bed subsidiary Hunt Transportation, employ over 6,000 associates with 19 terminal locations across the United States operating

5,000 power units and 13,000 trailers.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Prior to joining Crete Carrier he spent five years in Public Accounting working for the firm of KPMG. He also held the position of Chairman for the Nebraska Trucking Association for 1995-1996, and currently serves as a Member and Director of the American Trucking Associations and Truckload Carriers Association.

### **Community Involvement**

In addition to his industry related positions, Ostergard currently serves on the Board of Directors of Union Bank and Trust Company in Lincoln, Nebraska, and on the Board of Directors of Ameritas Mutual Holding Company and NEBCO, Inc. He serves on the Revenue Forecasting Board for the State of Nebraska, appointed by the Nebraska Legislature.

### **Past Community Involvement**

His civic responsibilities include Past Chair of The University of Nebraska Foundation; Chair of University of Nebraska Business College Capital Campaign; Board member and Vice Chair of Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation; Past Chairman and Board Member of St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center; Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; a Past Director and Past President of the University of Nebraska College of Business Administration Alumni Association; Alumnus of Leadership Lincoln. Ostergard was honored in 1991 with the College of Business Administration's Alumni Leadership Award, and in 1994 was honored with the University of Nebraska Young Alumnus Award. He is also a member and past officer of the Young President's Organization.

### **Education**

Ostergard earned his Bachelor of Science at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, and graduated from Harvard Business School's Owner/President Management Program.



## Matthew Williams

### Current Business Involvement

Matt is Chairman of Flatwater Bank, a community bank with headquarters in Gothenburg, Nebraska. He is a fourth-generation banker and has been with the family-owned bank since 1973.

### Past Business Involvement

Matt became a State Senator representing Legislative District 36 (central Nebraska) in 2015 and was reelected in 2018. He served as Chairman of the Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Health

and Human Services Committee, and on the Legislature's Planning Committee and Economic Development Task Force.

Matt was Chairman of the American Bankers Association in 2012-2013 and served on the ABA Board. Matt has been a member of the ABA Government Relations Council and has served as the ABA State Grassroots Coordinator for the State of Nebraska. He was selected as one of 14 bankers from across our country to serve on the FDIC Advisory Committee on Community Banking. Matt was Chairman of the Nebraska Bankers Association in 2003-2004 and has served on many NBA committees.

### Community Involvement

Matt serves as Chairman of the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation Board of Directors, and he is a Governor of the Board of the Aksarben Foundation. He also serves as a Trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation and UNL AG Builders.

### Past Community Involvement

Matt is a past member of the University of Nebraska Presidents Advisory Council and the University of Nebraska Finance Department Advisory Board and is a Past Director of the State Chamber of Commerce. He also served as a State Director for the Tom and Nancy Osborne TeamMates Mentoring Program.

Matt has been involved with economic development in Gothenburg and Dawson County, formally serving as Chairman of the Gothenburg Improvement Company and President of the Gothenburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Matt received the Alumni Achievement Award from UNL in 2013, the ABA Ag Banker of the Year Award in 2014, a Friend of the Court award from the Nebraska Judiciary for work on problem-solving courts in 2017, the Nebraska Alumni Association Public Service Award in 2019, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 2020, the 2022 Diplomat of the Year Award from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, and the 2022 Friend of Education Award from the Nebraska Public Schools Administrators Association. Matt was inducted into the Nebraska Business Hall of Fame by the State Chamber in 2025.

### Education

Matt received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Matt and his wife, Susan, have two children and six grandchildren.



## Rodney Bennett

### Current Business Involvement

Dr. Rodney D. Bennett began his work as the 21st chancellor of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Nebraska's flagship, Big Ten research institution on July 1, 2023. He is a 30-year veteran of higher education with a track record of growing research, increasing student success and building impactful partnerships.

In his first year as Chancellor, the University experienced rising retention and graduation rates, demonstrated positive signs related to enrollment, and expanded its research and creative activity efforts.

### Past Business Involvement

Chancellor Bennett came to Nebraska after nine years of successful leadership at the University of South Mississippi. During his tenure as president, USM was reclassified from a Carnegie R2 to an R1 university, signaling growth in research prestige and funding. Dr. Bennett also invested in programs to support student recruitment, retention and outcomes, including for the 30 percent of USM students who were first-generation. His efforts led to an improvement in the university's six-year graduation rate.

Prior to his role at the University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Bennett served at the University of Georgia for more than a decade. He was the senior administrator for student programs and services for Georgia's 34,000-plus students; oversaw \$150 million in capital projects; and made key staff and programmatic investments in extracurriculars, mental health programs and other areas to better support students.

Dr. Bennett has also been the dean of students at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and a dean of student life at Middle Tennessee State University.

### Community Involvement

Chancellor Bennett values community leadership and service. He has served on numerous boards, including the Mississippi Aquarium, Northeast Georgia Girl Scouts of America, Catholic Health East (Philadelphia), and Mary's Health Care System in Athens, Georgia. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and Past Sire Archon for the Sigma Pi Phi fraternity, The Boulé.

### Education

Dr. Bennett earned a bachelor's degree in mass communication, a master's degree in educational administration, and an education specialist degree from Middle Tennessee State. He earned his Doctor of Education degree from Tennessee State University.



## Tiffany Heng-Moss

### Current Business Involvement

Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss currently serves as the Interim Harlan Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources for the University of Nebraska system. In this role, she leads system-wide efforts focused on agriculture, natural resources, and rural economic prosperity strategic initiatives.

### Past Business Involvement

From 2017 to 2025, Dr. Heng-Moss served as Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR) at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. As dean, she provided visionary leadership in advancing academic innovation, workforce development, and student success. She led the development and implementation of interdisciplinary academic credentials, a graduate education framework, Nebraska's first education compact, and a comprehensive student success roadmap aligned with UNL's N2025 Strategic Plan. Her efforts have positioned CASNR as a leader in preparing students to address the dynamic challenges facing agriculture and natural resources.

Dr. Heng-Moss joined the UNL faculty in 2001 and has been engaged across the tripartite mission of teaching and learning, research and discovery, and extension and engagement. She has authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and has served as principal or co-investigator on over \$70 million in teaching and outreach grants and \$8 million in research funding. Dr. Heng-Moss has designed and led impactful extension programming, sharing her expertise with producers, industry professionals, and the broader community. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses and has mentored numerous graduate students and post-doctoral scholars—many of whom have gone on to assume leadership roles in academia, government, and industry.

Her contributions have been recognized with numerous honors, including the USDA National Award for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences, the University of Nebraska Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award (OTICA), Nebraska Science Education Catalyst Award, Engler Inspiration Award, and Inductee into the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement.

### Education

Dr. Heng-Moss received her Bachelor of Science in horticulture in 1995, her Master of Science in entomology in 1997, and her Ph.D. in entomology in 2000. All degrees were awarded from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.



## Jennifer Mize Nelson

### **Current Business Involvement**

Jennifer Nelson serves as Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation. In this role, she is responsible for UNL's research enterprise, including enhancing research development and its societal impact, as well as ensuring the ethical, safe, and efficient conduct of research. She works with Industry Relations, NUtech Ventures and Nebraska Innovation Campus to forge partnerships and technology development that advance the state and region economically and socially. She oversees UNL's university-wide research centers, the University of Nebraska State Museum, and the University of Nebraska Press.

Nelson is research faculty in the Department of Psychology, and since her arrival at UNL in 2009, she has been a co-investigator in a National Institutes of Health funded laboratory studying children's cognitive development and health outcomes. Specifically, her research has focused on the development of executive control in longitudinal samples from early childhood through adolescence, and implications of executive control abilities for mental and physical health.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Before becoming Interim Vice Chancellor, Nelson was most recently Associate Vice Chancellor and Research Integrity Officer in the UNL Office of Research and Innovation. She worked closely as liaison to UNL's university-wide research centers and major research core facilities and co-led a campus-wide effort to develop a comprehensive research data strategy. She was also an Institutional Official with responsibility for several compliance areas, including the protection of human research participants, care and ethical treatment of animals, and the conflicts of interest program. Prior to joining the Office of Research and Innovation in 2019, Nelson was the Director of Administration in the UNL Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior from 2015-2019.

### **Education**

Nelson received her undergraduate degree in psychology from UCLA, her Ph.D. in clinical child psychology from the University of Kansas, and completed a predoctoral clinical internship at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford and the Children's Health Council.



## **Michael Zeleny**

**NICDC Treasurer**

### **Current Business Involvement**

Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, responsible for accounting, budget, bursar's office, financial services, procurement services, environmental health and safety, facilities management planning and construction, facilities maintenance and operations, utilities, human resources, payroll, risk management, university police, inventory, parking and transit services, print, copy, mail and distribution services, student accounts, sustainability, transportation service, and auxiliary business services associated with UNL's programs.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Zeleny served as Chief of Staff and Associate to the Chancellor from 2018 through 2022, reporting on a wide variety of strategic and executive duties, including both internal and external relations.

Zeleny previously served as associate vice chancellor for research and economic development. He worked more than 20 years in the Office of Research and Economic Development, assisting with the university's research growth and building its economic development mission. He is active in several community organizations and has served as director of the university's Emergency Operations Command and chair of its Sesquicentennial Steering Committee.

### **Education**

Zeleny, who is originally from Exeter, Nebraska, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the university in 1993 and a Master of Business Administration in 1996.



## **Kate Engel**

### **NICDC Secretary**

#### **Current Business Involvement**

Executive Director for Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation

Kate's primary responsibility is to supervise NICDC staff, direct business operations and work to grow the roster of partners, including private businesses and university entities, at NIC. She also leads infrastructure planning and development, client services, and marketing and public

relations, as well as manages relationships with commercial developers and other entities that may build or operate facilities at NIC.

#### **Past Business Involvement**

Kate joined the NICDC team in 2011 to assist with establishing operations and marketing for the public/private research campus before its 2012 groundbreaking. Most recently, Kate was director of strategic partnerships and communications. In that role, she assisted the past executive director with recruitment and retention, additional marketing and public relations efforts, space build-outs, workforce development, and resources and programs for NIC's private- and public-sector partners.

#### **Community Involvement**

Lincoln Rotary Club 14

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Entrepreneurship Campus Fellows

Nebraska Wesleyan University Alumni Executive Council

Leadership Lincoln Fellows XXXII Class

#### **Education**

BFA from Nebraska Wesleyan University

MA in Management from Doane University

MS in Leadership Education from the University of Nebraska



## **Laura Gonnerman**

### **NICDC Legal Counsel**

#### **Current Business Involvement**

Laura Gonnerman is Associate General Counsel for the University of Nebraska.

Laura's primary responsibilities include intellectual property matters, particularly trademarks and copyright; managing the corporate books of the University's subsidiaries; data security and information technology service matters; and licensing.

#### **Past Business Involvement**

Before joining the University of Nebraska in 2015, Laura was an associate attorney with a private law firm practicing in the areas of securities, mergers, and acquisitions. She also clerked for the Nebraska Supreme Court.

#### **Education**

Laura is a graduate of Creighton University (B.S. History/Biblical Studies, *summa cum laude*) and the University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D., *with distinction*).