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THANK YOU FROM THE FOOD SYSTEMS FACILITATOR TEAM

The 3rd annual Nebraska Regional Food Systems Summit was held February 8, 10 and 11, 2021 over five sessions on “Building Resilience in the Nebraska Food System.” As with much of the past year, the 2021 Nebraska Regional Food Systems Summit was different, and it was an exciting opportunity for all involved.

The virtual event allowed participants from several states across the country to attend bringing new and shared perspectives to the table. We can all agree that when working in food systems, we all have challenges and much to learn from each other in finding solutions. It is in this spirit of camaraderie that conversations began, connections were built, and we are continuing to work together to build more resilient, culturally diverse and equitable food systems and communities around us. I encourage you to dive into the information in the following pages, to watch the recordings of presentations throughout the event, and to reach out and be involved.

The Summit is our yearly reminder that this work is incredibly important, and it is work that requires each and every one of us to play a part: to hold the important conversations and to be persistent on the issues our society is facing; and to hold ourselves accountable for our actions and to develop and share the abundance mindset with those around us. As we approach a post-pandemic society in our near future, and take consideration in a world already at a monumental intersection of challenges around food, climate, and culture, we must consider the next generations and the actions we take today that will impact them.

Let’s go forward together.

Katie King & the Nebraska Regional Food Systems Summit Planning Team

Justin Carter  Ben McShane-Jewell  Sarah Smith
Tara Dunker  Rex Nelson  Abbey Snyder
Lisa Franzen-Castle  John Porter  W. Cecil Steward
Wally Graeber  Tim Rinne  Nancy Williams
Claudia Granillo  Angie Rushman  Vanessa Wielenga
Megan McGuffey  Chris Schroeder

“IT’S NOT AS IMPORTANT WHERE WE STAND, AS IN WHAT DIRECTION WE ARE MOVING.”

-OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES
SUMMIT BY THE NUMBERS

SUMMIT REGISTRATION

303 REGISTERED

- 35% CONSUMPTION
- 24% PRODUCTION
- 16% DISTRIBUTION & MARKETING
- 20% RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- 5% PROCESSING

ATTENDEE GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

Registrants represented 149 valid, unique zip codes, with state representation including Nebraska, Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington, Washington, D.C., Wyoming, and the Virgin Islands.

REACHING BEYOND THE UNIVERSITY

Approximately 81% of registrations were non-University of Nebraska representatives. Examples included non-profit, education (K-12, community colleges, universities), community-based, healthcare systems, foundations, agencies, economic development, food retailers, agriculture-based businesses, local, state and federal government, faith-based, and tribal organizations.

REGISTRANT ATTENDANCE

- 24% PLANNED TO ATTEND LIVE SESSIONS
- 68% PLANNED TO ATTEND LIVE & WATCH RECORDINGS
- 8% PLANNED TO WATCH RECORDINGS
POST-SUMMIT EVALUATION SUMMARY

The post-summit survey was available via online survey software (Qualtrics), with a response rate of 14.8% (n=45). Approximately 49% of respondents were first time summit attendees.

OVERALL SURVEY RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 DATA</th>
<th>2021 DATA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>98%</strong> Overall found the event satisfactory</td>
<td><strong>98%</strong> Learned something worthwhile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>78%</strong> The event built confidence in implementing food systems work</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong> Speakers motivated them to think about topics and how it applied to their work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>85%</strong> Will make changes or improvements to their work</td>
<td><strong>85%</strong></td>
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EQUITY & ACCESS

Out of the 5 sessions offered, Food System Equity and Food Access were the most frequently attended among respondents at approximately 23% (Farm to School and Sustainability at 18% and Climate and Resilient Agricultural Practices at 16%).

NEEDED CONNECTIONS

Approximately 45% said they had follow-up communications with people connected with at the summit, with an additional 20% planning to have follow-up communications. About 95% said they were going to share information from the event with others. Over 5,300 additional people were potentially reached via summit attendees.

NEEDS OF SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

In an effort to gauge needs for trainings and other professional development opportunities, respondents were asked to answer the following questions about themselves. Respondents agreed to strongly agreed about the following below, indicating there may be more needs for training around professional development planning, creating and using logic models, tools to conduct evaluation, and coalition development.
FOOD SYSTEM EQUITY

BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION, FOOD & ACTION

“You can’t just have the policy [on diversity, equity, and inclusion] on your books, and you can’t just espouse that part of your value is to do this. If you are not truly living and working to bring that value to fruition, then we’re missing the boat. We’re missing a real opportunity here.” - Rob Larew

Rob Larew, now the National Farmers Union President, grew up in rural West Virginia on a dairy farm and has built a career in agriculture policy. We thank Rob for his vulnerability in not only sharing his personal story with us as a gay man working in agriculture, but also for his passion and work for more equitable and just agriculture communities across the United States. Participants agreed that the call is strong for action-- breaking down barriers beginning at the local levels, and challenging and shifting the paradigms of the long ingrained and exclusive worldviews. Each one of us can join these conversations and play a role too. Nebraska Appleseed is spearheading multi-ethnic, multi-sector teams creating welcoming spaces for planning and relationship building. Learning and becoming involved on the local level is exactly where changes in racial equity, land and discriminatory reparations, and agriculture labor regulations begin to impact the work that Rob Larew and others are working towards in Washington D.C.

Also during the Equity session, Dr. Andrea Basche, University of Nebraska-Lincoln assistant professor focused on soil and water sciences, shared a reflection on a new short course she offered in the fall of 2020 called “Exploring the Culture of Agriculture.” The course analyzed the history in agriculture focused on values, customs and social norms, and how this history and culture supports and inhibits inclusivity in our work today. She challenged participants of the Summit to think about what sustainability truly means and who we are making the world a better place for.

“I IMPLORE YOU IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF A DOMINANT GROUP TO TAKE IT AS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO EDUCATE YOURSELF, AND TO REFLECT ON WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A SEAT AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE ELSE.”

- ANDREA BASCHE

FARM TO SCHOOL

FEEDING THE FUTURE

“The resiliency of a forest is based on the interconnectivity of its roots (as quoted by Tim Mary). Strong root systems are what make something resilient. And so if we look at our young people as individual trees in a forest then we’re investing in building strong root systems. That is how we build a more resilient food system.” - Sommer Sibilly-Brown

Sommer Sibilly-Brown, Executive Director for the Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition, shared the Coalition’s mission and vision - advancing the common good through food through security, sovereignty, and sustainability for all. Giving people access to culturally relevant food, ensuring all voices are heard in food decision making, and that the Earth will be able to provide for the many generations to come are all important needs of the larger food system that can be addressed through Farm to School efforts.

In Nebraska, 26.1% of children are food insecure; a statistic that should not be overlooked for the opportunity it creates for farm to school programs. Fortunately, Nebraska’s school systems have passionate individuals committed to helping students develop connections with the food they eat. It is through opportunities of growing their own food in their school garden and greenhouse that Umo-ho! Nation Public School students of Ricardo Ariza learn not only about where their food comes from, but also about the food that sustained their ancestors. It is through partnerships with local farms and regional chefs that allows Mary Carmen, Food Service Director of Gering Public Schools, to introduce her students to hydroponic production and new ways of preparing food such as an Ethiopian dish called Doro Wat. “The kids loved it,” she says.

The common thread from the speakers is this:

“FARM TO SCHOOL FEEDS OUR FUTURE”

- SOMMER SIBILLY-BROWN

Take a moment to let that truly sink in. It is the teaching and investment in our future generations that make these efforts truly regenerative.
FOOD ACCESS

ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF AN ABUNDANCE MINDSET

Nancy Williams, founder and CEO at No More Empty Pots (NMEP), in Omaha, Nebraska pours her heart and soul into providing her community with fresh, local food from surrounding producers. Fannie Lou Hamer, an American voting and women’s rights activist and founder of the Freedom Farm Cooperative, is one from whom Nancy gains inspiration. The growth in NMEP to meet the needs of food insecurity in Omaha hasn’t always been easy. She can point back to one key change she made through a lot of intentional engagement, self-awareness and focus that she hopes others around her will adopt too: developing the abundance mindset. It is a concept of seeing greater and knowing that there is enough to go around, and at the same time helping others to view the abundance as a gift and not a handout or charity. Nancy says, “When we see each other as human and support what we each can be, then we can be sure these resources are distributed properly.”

This sums up the work of not only Nancy Williams, but also Cecilia Saavedra, a lead garden instructor for the Latino Center for the Midlands and Whispering Roots, and a University of Omaha student passionate about food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture. Her work has produced hundreds of pounds of food and education for food production for the Latino communities in and around Omaha. Being from Mexico, Cecilia is reminded that, “being able to grow your own food is very powerful, connecting yourself to your culture and your roots.”

One aspect that the Covid-19 pandemic has reminded us of is how critical our food system connections are, and one particular program, the Weekend Food Backpack Assembly Program in Fremont, pieced together many food insecurity programs to create a major effort. Tera Kucera, CEO of LifeHouse, Melissa Diers, Fremont Area Community Foundation Executive Director, and Christy Fiata, Executive Director of the Fremont Area United Way spearheaded the effort with Fremont Public Schools and Hyvee to assemble 6,500 food backpacks for children across the Fremont School District.

CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

CHANGING ACTIONS AND POLICIES BEGINS WITH CONVERSATIONS

How do we begin to address the farming sector, which is caught between major technological growth and a rapidly changing climate? In a deeply rooted agricultural state like Nebraska, creating meaningful agriculture policy can sometimes be viewed as an insult to the current way of doing things. But like many things that have had major policy shifts - for example, voter rights for women and people of color - we see greater good as a result. We are hopeful that in starting conversations around shifting agriculture policy and action, we can in turn begin to see a place that is better than we found it, and our rich resources of water and soil are abundant for the future generations.

In this session, Carrie Horazeck, Innovation and Foresight Consultant and University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Graduate Student, and Dr. Andrea Basche, Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln laid the foundation of challenges in the farming sector, challenging farmers and consumers with shifting resources to smarter production practices which would reduce climate risks.

So what can we do from here? Jess Halliday, consultant, journalist and researcher specializing in food policy at RUAF shared worldwide efforts within the food system to inspire action here from both our day to day activities and at the local policy level. Local producers, Robinette Farms and Grow With The Flow Aquaponics shared their efforts in strengthening the local food system, and Delberta Frazier and Brenda Murphy shared educational efforts through the Umo’ho’nation Public Schools.

From a local governance perspective, we can increase the engagement of those around us and bolster our small scale producers and processors. We can improve our nutrition and mental health through the promotion and education to change practices that help mitigate climate change, and create a more enabling environment for our local and regional food supply chains. We can put and keep climate in food policies, and put food in sustainability plans. We as individuals can make a difference too by joining the conversation and creating collaborations and partnerships. We as individuals can advocate and take ownership of our actions, and ask ourselves where we can begin to make small changes.

“WHEN WE DO IN FACT WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD, WE CAN ABSOLUTELY DO IT QUICKLY... WHEN WE COME TOGETHER AS A SOCIETY, AND WE EMBRACE CHANGE RATHER THAN SHYING AWAY FROM IT, WE CAN REALLY CREATE SOMETHING INCREDIBLE.”

- CARRIE HORZECK

"ANOTHER WAY TO AMPLIFY OUR EXPERIENCES AND THE HUMAN CONDITION IS TO SHARE OUR STORIES. STORIES CONNECT US TO EACH OTHER AND HELP US TO SEE OTHER POSSIBILITIES.”

- NANCY WILLIAMS
SUSTAINABILITY

WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD: POLICY AT WORK TO CREATE EQUITABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

Long distance travel of out-of-season food, for an average distance of 2000 miles, defines the method of our current food system, leaving us to face numerous problematic issues, especially during a major crisis. Nebraska’s 2019 flood event and now the health pandemic have awakened us to the vulnerability and environmental consequences of our imported foods. Many questions arise. How secure are we in the event of a crisis? How do we ensure there will always be enough food? Do city policies need to change? How can we maximize local natural resources to help with climate risks? How can we extend awareness in our own community about the current risks associated with climate change?

Shocks to our system create cascading consequences often hitting the most vulnerable populations the hardest. Four overlapping pandemics including, climate change, a health pandemic, economic stress and social insecurities have highlighted gaps within the way our current food system operates. This has led to the sudden onset of mass awareness and concern. Please join local leaders as they highlight the dramatic realities of our food system and the current Climate Action Plan adopted by the city of Lincoln, Nebraska. Panelists, Cecil Steward (CEO and founder of The Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities), Tim Rinne (Lincoln Food Policy Council, founder of Hawley Hamlet Food Gardens), Miki Esposito (Sr. policy advisor to the Lincoln Mayor) and Jerry Cornett (owner, Lakehouse Farms and Prairie Plate Restaurant) discuss resiliency and sustainability in relation to local production and distribution of food.

The Sustainability session continued with a presentation from Kim Criner Ritchie and Connie Fitzpatrick focused on the boots on the ground efforts by the Douglas County Food Policy Council in Kansas. The presenters shared the processes of assessment, partnership development, stories and strategies leading to policy action as they created and implemented a county food system plan as part of the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan.

“WE’RE THE PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP OUR NEIGHBORS RISE TO THIS CHALLENGE.”

- TIM RINNE

Contributed by Alexandra McCracken, Project Associate, The Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities

WHAT OUR ATTENDEES ARE SAYING

“I was impressed with the knowledge and expertise that the featured speakers and the panel speakers shared during their presentations. They covered complicated subjects and gave us ideas on how we can start to tackle some of these issues.”

Great conference; hope that you can continue to incorporate the online sessions over multiple days with the opportunity to view later.

Thank you for hosting the Summits! I’ve found all of them informative and helpful to my work and understanding of food systems work going on across the state. They are also great for networking with others.

These sessions were very informative and useful in gaining ideas on how to combat food issues in our community. The presenters and guest speakers were great and very knowledgeable in their fields, offering great information.

I am grateful that despite living in another state, the University of Nebraska extended this awesome training to [other states]. The hosts and other guests were very hospitable and pleasant to zoom with. I look forward to future pieces of training with [this] group.

Presenters were definitely knowledgeable and passionate about the subjects they spoke on. Many gave tangible steps towards solutions which is something I feel is critical to all of these topics and provides hope as well. I did come away with goals for myself.

I was impressed with the knowledge and expertise that the featured speakers and the panel speakers shared during their presentations. They covered complicated subjects and gave us ideas on how we can start to tackle some of these issues.

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Contributed by Alexandra McCracken, Project Associate, The Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities
SPEAKER SPOTLIGHTS

RICARDO ARIZA
Ricardo is a teacher at the Umo'no Nation Public Schools in Macy, Nebraska. He serves as a career specialist for Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG).

ANDREA BASCHE
Andrea is an agriculture scientist and assistant professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Agronomy and Horticulture with interdisciplinary experience in policy, water resources, and climate for environmental sustainability. She holds a B.S. degree from Fordham University and a PhD from Iowa State University. Her lab, Resilient Cropping Systems Lab, explores opportunities for agriculture to address 21st century challenges around profitability, resource use efficiency, and a changing climate.

SENATOR TOM BRANDT
Tom is a member of the Nebraska State Senate, representing District 32. He serves on the Agriculture, General Affairs, and Judiciary Committees.

SOMMER SIBILLY-BROWN
Sommers is an advocate for food equity and justice, whose passion led her to founding the Virgin Islands Good Food Coalition, Inc, a place-based organization that works toward security, sovereignty, and sustainability for all. She has worked with farmers, chefs, teachers, and local and State Agencies, multiple national Universities and testified at congress. She is also the creator of Food Learn, a program that exposes youth in the US Virgin Islands to food system conversations.

MARY CARMAN
Mary is a Director of Food Services for Taher Inc., our nation’s largest private Food Management Company. She is currently directing the food service program for the Gering School District in Western Nebraska. This K-12 food program focuses on preparing meals from scratch using high quality ingredients sourced from Nebraska.

In addition, Mary has implemented Fork Farms aquaponics systems in the district to grow lettuce for use in the food program.

JERRY CORNETT
Jerry is the Farm Manager/Owner of Lakehouse Farm and Prairie Plate Restaurant. He grew up in Omaha, Nebraska and graduated from University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1990 with a BS in Political Science. He was commissioned an Ensign in the US Navy upon completion of Aviation Officer Candidate School and earned his designation as a Naval Aviator in 1992.

He retired from active service in August 2011 with the rank of Commander. Lakehouse Farm started growing certified organic fruits and vegetables in 2012, and provides most of the produce for Prairie Plate Restaurant. He sells at the Sunday Farmer’s Market at College View in Lincoln and other restaurants and grocery stores in the Omaha and Lincoln areas.
MELISSA DIERS
Melissa is the Executive Director of the Fremont Area Community Foundation. She oversees donor services, grant-making, and community leadership initiatives for the Foundation.

Previous to joining the Foundation staff, Melissa served as Director of Institutional Advancement at Midland Lutheran College, her alma mater, where she was responsible for the planning and implementation of annual fund campaigns and a major capital campaign which raised more than $19 million for programs and bricks-and-mortar projects.

Immediately prior to joining the Foundation, Melissa worked as a freelance marketing consultant, helping area businesses promote their products and services on a local and regional level.

MIKI ESPOSITO
Miki works for the City of Lincoln as the Senior Policy Advisor to Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird. She has extensive government experience at the local, state and federal level that includes public administration, legislative affairs, regulatory compliance, emergency response, strategic planning, finance and budget formulation, communications, public relations and media management as well as program and project delivery.

Miki has a record of transformational leadership due to her ability to inspire, motivate and direct team members toward a shared vision. Miki has special expertise in natural resources and environmental law and policy, with a Juris Doctorate from Washburn University School of Law as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Baker University in Kansas.

CHRISTY FIALA
Christy is the Executive Director of Fremont Area United Way. Previously she worked as a clinic manager for Good Neighbor Fremont where she increased access to services and served more patients month-over-month.

Prior to her time at Good Neighbor, Fiala also served as the regional director for Lutheran Family Services in Fremont. She worked with the Fremont Family Coalition to enable both organizations to better serve the families in their programs, and lead the charge to increase funding for the Rupert Dunklau Center for Healthy Families.

CONNIE FITZPATRICK
Connie is a Peace and Conflict Studies major at the University of Kansas and is currently an intern at the Douglas County Sustainability Office. She is also a community-based public art organizer, artist, and muralist. Her work reflects her Peruvian heritage and focuses on projects that build racial and cultural equity. Some of her murals include “Compartiendo Culturas”, “Sharing Cultures” with the help of the KC Carver Dual Language School third grade class of 2019; and “Justicia Para Las Madres Inmigrantes” with Horizontes Project in Wichita, KS. She is the first Kansas National Association of Latino Arts & Culture ALI Fellow, and is a coordinator of the Eastside People’s Intercultural Center (Epicenter). Connie has served on the Douglas County Food Policy Council and has contributed to the creation and implementation of the Douglas County Food Systems Plan.

DELBERTA FRAZIER
Delberta is a teacher for the outdoor classroom of the Áshita thewathé! (Let’s go outside!) program for the Umonhon Nation Public Schools in Macy, Nebraska. Her passion shines through her work with her students as she teaches them to learn about and explore nature.

JESS HALLIDAY
Jess is a consultant, researcher and journalist specializing in food policy. As an associate of the RUAF Global Partnership, she works with a number of cities, NGOs and universities around the world on policies and programs for sustainable, resilient urban and city region food systems.

She holds a PhD in Food Policy from City, University of London. She is now based near the city of Montpellier in southern France.
CARRIE HORAZECK
Carrie is a former Associate Director in the Futures Practice of Kantar Consulting, helping clients make sense of consumer trends and behaviors to guide product development and intelligent marketing strategy.

Most recently Carrie has been teaching innovation and foresight to undergraduates through the Engler and CUSP scholars programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Carrie holds a BA in international comparative studies from Duke University, and is currently working on a dual Masters of business administration and applied science through the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at UNL.

JEFF JIROVEC
Jeff is the founder and operator of Grow with the Flow Aquaponics in Denton, Nebraska. He grows flowers and food with aquaponics and is passionate about the community and providing fresh, local products.

TERA KUCERA
Tera is CEO of LifeHouse, a service providing help to families in the Fremont and Dodge County area through the pantry, thrift store, and rent/utilities assistance programs. LifeHouse works closely with area churches, organizations, and agencies to meet the basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter for over 500 households annually.

ROB LAREW
Rob was elected National Farmers Union’s 15th president during the organization’s 118th anniversary convention in 2020. He previously served as NFU’s Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Communications, and prior to his employment with NFU, he served over 22 years in Congress and USDA.

Larew was raised on a dairy farm in Greenville, West Virginia. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a Bachelor of Science in Dairy Science and completed graduate work in Agronomy at Pennsylvania State University.

ALEX MCKIERNAN
Alex is the Co-Founder and Financial Manager of Robinette Farms in Martell, Nebraska, a farm specializing in organic greens production, and local food aggregator. Alex is the jack of all trades and project manager for the farm.

BRENDA MURPHY
Brenda is the program coordinator for the outdoor classroom of the Áshita théwathe! (Let’s go outside!) program for the Umo’ho’ Nation Public Schools in Macy, Nebraska. Through her efforts, the program provides K-12 students culturally relevant learning experiences on food sovereignty, sustainability, and being caretakers of their land.
Kim is a Sustainability & Food Systems Analyst for Douglas County, where she serves as staff liaison to the Douglas County Food Policy Council; oversees the City’s Common Ground garden program and pursues and tracks progress on the Douglas County Food System Plan. She led efforts to secure the first ever USDA Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Grant for Douglas County. Prior to joining the County team, she worked as Education and Outreach Coordinator in the Center for Sustainability at the University of Kansas. There, she helped launch the undergraduate Sustainability Certificate program and co-organized an annual regional sustainability curriculum workshop. She has also worked on sustainability programs and partnerships at Johnson County Community College.

Kim Criner Ritchie

Nebraska native Tim Rinne has been the State Coordinator of Nebraskans for Peace since 1993. A career political organizer, he is a co-founder of both the Lincoln-Lancaster County Food Policy Council and the Nebraska Food Council. Along with his wife Kay Walter and his neighbors, Tim helped create the award-winning “Hawley Hamlet” neighborhood garden in their Lincoln city block. And while the public attention is nice, it’s kind of weird, since all they’re doing is growing some of their own food and getting to know their neighbors -- something humans have been doing for thousands of years. His recent article, “The Tale of the Hamlet”, can be found in the Spring 2021 issue of Yes! Magazine.

Tim Rinne

Cecilia is a student, grower, advocate, educator and organizer working towards an equitable food system. She is the Garden Coordinator for the Siemba Salud program at the Latino Center of the Midlands and Garden Contractor at Whispering Roots. Cecilia has a degree in Horticulture and is working towards an Environmental Science degree with a minor in Native American Studies. She plans to continue her education in graduate school to focus on her passion for food systems and working with diverse communities. She is fascinated about documenting the culinary traditions of Michoacán Mexico, sustainable agriculture, reclaiming the roots and culture of the original peoples of the Americas, seed saving, as well as engaging in discussions about climate change and how it will impact vulnerable communities.

Cecilia Saavedra

W. Cecil Steward, FAIA, is dean emeritus and emeritus professor of architecture and planning at the University of Nebraska College of Architecture. He is founder and President/CEO of the Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities. He was awarded the national Topaz Medalion for Excellence in Architectural Education, jointly, by the American Institute of Architects and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. He was elected to be the 68th President of the American Institute of Architects. He earned his professional B. Arch. degree from Texas A&M University and his M.S. in Architecture from Columbia University after study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in France. He was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Drury College in Springfield, MO.

W. Cecil Stewart

Tony was elected to the Nebraska Legislature in 2016 and has spent the last three years successfully fighting for economic justice and opportunity, including equity in education, technology and innovation, juvenile justice and corrections, college affordability, and healthcare access. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, he has led efforts to prioritize state funding to support the most vulnerable in our communities, especially children and families from low-income backgrounds. He proudly serves as the Vice Chair of the Executive Board and Chair of the Legislative Planning Committee. Previous to his election to the Legislature, Vargas was a school board member of the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education, and supported improved organizational outcomes.

Senator Tony Vargas

Nancy is the Co-Founder and President/CEO of No More Empty Pots. She has diverse experiences in agriculture: from corporations, serving as an agronomist for local farmers and entrepreneurs to grassroots organizing and management for nonprofit community organizations. Nancy earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Louisiana State University then pursued a master of science in Weed Science with a minor in Plant Pathology at Cornell University. For nearly 15 years, Nancy served as an IT leader for Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands; where she led award winning programs, increased technology integration, and supported improved organizational outcomes.

Nancy Williams
ATTENDEES

A
Jeremy Adams
Statewide Community
Health Non-Profit
Max Adams
Panari
Tina Adelman
Extension Foundation
Heather Akin
UNL Extension
Brittney Albin
Lincoln Public Schools
Andrew Allen
UNL Student
Andrea Almo
USDA Food & Nutrition Service
Viridiana Almanza
Latino Center of the Midlands
Aja Ammachathram
UNL Extension
Robert Anderson
University of Kentucky
Lindsey Anderson
UNL student
Pat Anderson-Sifuentez
NeighborWorks Lincoln
Caitlyn Andrews
UNL Extension
Leslie Anno
Human Services
Regan Anson
Nebraska Impact
Erica Asti
Estibe Education Experience

B
Megan Baker
Community Crops
Emily Barber
No More Empty Pots
Sandra Barrera
UNL Extension
Andrea Basche
UNL Extension
Nathan Beacom
Center for Rural Affairs
Collen Beard
Recipe Box, Inc.
Zaria Beckton
AmeriCorps
Jennifer Bedrosian
Padron Triad Regional
Wood Council
Gary Bentrup
USDA
Darla Berger
State Government
Kayla Bergman
The Center for Rural Affairs
Amanda Berhaupt-Glickstein
Non-profit Research
Brigitte Berry
Trusts of Virgin Islands Land
Crystal Besse
Louisiana State University
Rachel Bessire
Eastern Michigan University
Charlotte Bi
Joslyn Institute for Sustainable Communities
Daren Bingham
Northern Arizona University / Rosebird Farms
Karly Black
UNL Extension
Trey Blackhawk
Winnebago Tribal Farm
Denise Bone
Aurora Public Schools
Senator Tom Brandt
Nebraska State Senate
District #3
Mark Brannen
Benson Bounty LLC
Karen Bredthauer
Straight Arrow Bison
Mary Ann Brennan
Nebraska Department of Education
Jamiie Bright
Nebraska Business Development Center
Cindy Brison
UNL Extension
Barb Brockley
Community Crops
Claire Brown
The Wellbeing Partners
Stephanie Brown
Virgin Islands Department of Education
Christina Burger
Nebraska Department of Education
Kasayla Burrell
Seventh Five Reincarnation Corporation
Megan Burton
Food Bank for the Heartland
Tee Bush
Northeast Community College
Mitch Calkins
Lake Agassiz Regional Council
Ashley Carroll
March of Dimes
Justin Carter
Center for Rural Affairs
Cal Caughy
Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska / Global Roots New American farm
Lauri Celetta
Hmong Heritage Corps
Catherine Chan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Jay Cleveland
American Community
Elizabeth Cody
Southeast Nebraska Development District (Non-Profit) / University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Jessie Coffey
Nebraska Department of Education
LaPorchia Collins
Tulane University
Jerry Cornett
Prairie Plaza Restaurant
Omar Correa
Nebraska Department of Labor
Kim Criner Ritchie
Douglas County KS Administration
Gillian Cromwell
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Zach Curinga
Student
D
Marissa Dake
Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries / Operation Food Secure
Charity Davis
Nebraska Department of Education
Rosalyn Days-Austin
USDA
Bridget Delio
Legal Aid of Nebraska
Laura DeWitt
UNL Extension
Villa DiCostanzo
City of Lincoln
Melissa Diers
Fremont Area Community Foundation
Holly Dingman
Children's Hospital & Medical Center
Judy Dittrmar
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach
Liam Downes
Americorps
E
Pam Edwards
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Courtney Eltzmann
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
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THANK YOU TO OUR PLANNING COMMITTEE

[Logos of various organizations]