

Lisa Franzen-Castle is a tenured Professor and Extension Specialist in the Nutrition and Health Sciences Department under the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS) and Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources with UNL. From 2009-2013, she was housed at the Panhandle Research, Extension and Education Center. From 2014-present she has been on East Campus. She has successfully coordinated and evaluated Extension programs, broadened the reach of Extension through creating, curating, and repurposing content to a variety of formats and audiences, and disseminated evidence-based materials and publications to academic, professional and general public audiences. Through local, state, and multi-state collaborations and funding, she has helped enhance health and wellbeing, contributed to thriving communities, and strengthened the food system.

She has consistently served in leadership roles and provided professional development to the Food, Nutrition and Health area and served as a resource for and collaborated with colleagues in Animal Science, Biological Systems Engineering, Agricultural Economics, and Extension colleagues working with childcare providers, positive youth development, regional food systems, and health and wellbeing. From 2021-2023, she was Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs for CEHS, serving as a resource and support for Dept. Chairs and faculty. Service and leadership activities span department, college, and institute to local, regional, and national committees/groups. She is currently a Fellow in the UNL Academic Leadership Program with the Big Ten Academic Alliance. She received her PhD from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities (Nutrition; Anthropology minor), with MS (Entomology) and BS (Dietetics; Insect Science minor) degrees from UNL.