

December 21, 2018

EDUCATION IN NEBRASKA HAS IMPACTS

This past week was a point of pride in the Pryor family as my youngest son, Andrew Pryor, Syracuse, NE, received his Master's degree in Education and Instruction at the winter Doane University graduation ceremony. My wife, Michelle, and Andrew both have a Doane University Master's degree in common now and both had great things to say about the program and how it enhanced their classrooms and teaching skills.

This holiday season I was also reflecting on the positive impacts to the state of Nebraska that our flagship university, NU, has on our five campuses (Kearney, UNL, UNO, Medical Center and Curtis). Across this system we graduate 10,000 plus students annually sustaining Nebraska's workforce. We support 1 out of every 36 jobs in Nebraska. 1 out of 7 working age Nebraskan's hold a University of Nebraska degree and NU graduates annually grow this state's earning power by 50 million dollars. Thanks in part by the steady support of the legislature, the University serves as a major economic driver or 3.9 billion dollars annual economic impact and 385 million dollars annual impact from our research.

Who trains more than half of Nebraska's doctors, dentists and nurses? Who educates 50% of Nebraska's doctors practicing in rural areas? Who produces more than 80% of Nebraska's dentists practicing in rural Nebraska? Who treats the 1 in 2 Nebraskan's who will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime? Who trains nearly 50% of all new LPS teachers hired each year and educates 2 out of 3 Omaha area educators? The answer is NU does.

Who certifies 1 out of 2 Nebraska public school superintendents? Who provides a college degree to 1 in 7 working Nebraskans? Who empowers 140,000 4-H kids with skills they need in life? Who works with 75% of Nebraska farmers and ranchers to boost crop and animal productivity, production efficiency and help solve and educate about environmental issues? Who generates employee and student volunteer time worth nearly 74 million dollars to area communities? Who trains and certifies 30,000 pesticide applicators? Who trains 5,500 applicators who apply fertilizer or chemicals through irrigation water? The answer is NU does. Food borne illnesses annually affect 1 in 6 Americans including 128,000 hospitalized and 3,000 deaths in the U.S. Who trains over 10,000 plus food handlers (school, childcare, restaurant, food preservation and Nebraska households) to reduce foodborne illness in Nebraska? Using the website <https://food.unl.edu> who had 2.8+ million page views from 229 countries concerning food safety, nutrition and food educational issues? The answer is NU does. Our online presence in crops and beef delivering research based information is significant with CropWatch.unl.edu and Beef.unl.edu reaching 33,000 plus page views.

This week I became interested in Senator District 32 (Saline, Jefferson, Thayer, Fillmore and parts of Lancaster County) how many students are currently enrolled at NU? The answer is Kearney 110, UNL 350, Med Center 30 and UNO 50 or a total of 540 students. We have 2,866 alumni in this area and 109 NU employees in District 32.



These comments are just the tip of the iceberg. The University of Nebraska trains our workforce, conducts and commercializes innovative research, delivers quality clinical care and leverages partnerships with public and private entities to attract talent and create jobs. We have one of the leading Extension systems among land grant universities. As the school song goes, “There is No Place Like Nebraska!”

Best wishes to you and your family during this holiday season! I hope you enjoy every moment.

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