



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 17, 2022

Mr. Patrick J. O'Donnell  
Clerk of the Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 2018  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

Nebraska Revised Statute 85-119 requires the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska to report annually to the Legislature by December 1, information regarding ten measurements of progress for Nebraska Innovation Campus. The report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (402) 472-8636.

Respectfully,

Ted Carter  
President

TC/pb

Enclosure

**University of Nebraska Board of Regents**  
**Report to the Legislature as Required by LB 1093**  
**Measurements Regarding Nebraska Innovation Campus**  
**Reporting Year 2022**

(Submitted by December 1 of each year)

**Background**

Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation (NICDC), through its board of directors, has a 25-year buildout goal for the completion of NIC. NICDC is monitoring for on-time completion and is currently reporting that NIC is currently slightly ahead of that development timeline. In fact, Nebraska Innovation Campus (NIC) is currently developing at a rate equal to or faster than research parks listed for comparison in the university's response to LR200, all of which are more advanced/mature on their own development timelines.

**Responses**

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

As of June 30, 2022, \$281 million has been invested at Nebraska Innovation Campus.

Private Sector	155,931
State & University	<u>125,280</u>
	281,211

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

As of June 30, 2022, 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, 19,000 square feet is available for lease as a sublease through the University.

(See Summary on Next Page)

Rentable Building Name	Total	University	Conference Center	Private	Available	UNL Sub Leases	Vacant
	Square Feet				UNL Sublease		UNL Sub Lease
Innovation Commons*	147,784	37,125	44,954	65,705			
Food Innovation Center**	178,000	178,000			39,200	13,360	25,840
Rise Building	75,300	-		75,300			
Scarlet Hotel	115,000	9,821		105,179			
Greenhouse Innovation Center**	44,950	44,950			1,920	1,920	
<b>Total</b>	<b>561,034</b>	<b>269,896</b>	<b>44,954</b>	<b>246,184</b>	<b>41,120</b>	<b>15,280</b>	<b>25,840</b>

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 2020 - 58 companies

Calendar Year 2021 - 58 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 proprietary information of NIC’s private sector partners. This was the seventh year of the survey. Reported employment from the Tenant Survey is below.

Sector	Employment			Total
	Permanent	Student Interns	Other Temporary	
Private Sector	488	58	18	564
UNL	261	43	106	410
<b>Total</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>974</b>

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

For the years ending June 30, 2021, and 2022, the University reports the following sponsored research funding attributable to NIC and its sources.

	YTD	
	6/30/2021	6/30/2022
Associations/Foundations	53,824	87,343
Federal	7,860,137	7,511,196
Industry	667,761	584,439
Local & Area	-	-
Private Donations/research projects at NIC	2,574,806	1,044,941
State Agencies	615,984	299,726
Universities	118,706	134,485
<i>Subtotal</i>	11,891,218	9,662,130
Private sector services provided by the University	6,560,059	6,837,207
<i>Total</i>	18,451,277	16,499,337

**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	58
UNL	43
Total	101

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

261,262	Private Leases
<u>15,280</u>	UNL Sub Leases
276,542	
506,259	Total Leased Space Available
54.6%	

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

During Calendar Year 2021, 15 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, 2021, to June 30, 2022, UNL reported 133 conference days were held at Nebraska Innovation Campus with a total of 16,771 participants.

## **NICDC Board Members as of June 30, 2022**

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

- Preeti Bansal; Independent Board Director, Global Executive, Senior Government Official, Community Builder and Strategic Advisor
- Dana Bradford; Chairman & CEO, C<sup>3</sup> Brands
- Tom Henning; Non-Executive Chairman, Assurity Life Insurance Company
- Larry Miller; COO, Phibro Animal Health
- Tonn Ostergard; CEO & Chairman, Crete Carrier Corporation
- Vishal Singh; Founder and Former CEO of Quantified Ag
- Matt Williams; Chairman, Flatwater Bank
- Michael Yanney; Chairman Emeritus, Burlington Capital

### ***University Representatives***

- Michael Boehm; Harlan Vice Chancellor, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska–Lincoln; and Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska
- Daniel Duncan; Executive Director of the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation, ex-officio
- Ronnie Green; Chancellor, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- Bob Wilhelm; Vice Chancellor of Research & Economic Development, University of Nebraska–Lincoln

### ***Officers***

- Mary LaGrange; NICDC Treasurer
- Kate Engel; NICDC Secretary
- Stacia Palser; NICDC Legal Counsel



## Preeta Bansal

### Current Business Involvement

**Preeta Bansal** is an investor, business advisor, community volunteer, and “boomeranger” to Nebraska.

Her present work relates to working with businesses and nonprofits to empower communities and human networks, using ancient wisdom tools and new technologies – drawing upon network science, quantum physics and new understandings in neuroscience and biology – to amplify small shifts in behavior and consciousness.

### Past Business Involvement

After growing up in Lincoln in the 1970s and going through Lincoln Public Schools for her K-12 education, Preeta had a high-profile career for 35 years in the public and private sectors. Among her public roles, she served as general counsel and senior policy advisor in the White House (Office of Management and Budget) where she helped craft and implement policies to address the financial recovery and stimulus beginning in 2009; as Solicitor General of the State of New York, where she argued cases in the United States Supreme Court and other appellate courts for the State; as a U.S diplomat and chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, a bipartisan federal human rights commission (in which capacity she advised on the drafting of the constitutions of Iraq and Afghanistan); and law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. In the private sector, she served as a global general counsel for HSBC Holdings, plc in London, one of the world’s largest banks, and partner and practice chair of leading international law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York City.

She has lectured at MIT, Harvard, and Singularity University in Silicon Valley on topics relating to technology, innovation, and disrupted governance of public and private institutions.

### Community Involvement

Preeta is a Henry Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute, a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent corporate director of Nelnet, Inc. (NYSE: NNI), Chair of Civic Nebraska, and a member of many other nonprofit boards and advisory councils – including being a board member of the Lincoln Community Foundation and the Community Health Endowment. At the University, she is a member of the advisory councils for UNL’s Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts and the Jeffrey S. Raikes School for Computer Science and Management, and for UNMC. She has recently been a Lecturer at the MIT Media Lab and a Senior Advisor at MIT’s Laboratory for Social Machines.

### Education

A graduate of Lincoln East High School, Preeta attended Harvard-Radcliffe College and Harvard Law School in the 1980s. She received the National Organization of Women’s “Woman of Power and Influence Award” in 2006 and was named one of the “50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America” by the National Law Journal in 2008.



## Dana Bradford

### Current Business Involvements

Dana serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of C<sup>3</sup> 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 Battle, Bobby Jones, Rule, Sunice and Viking.

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

McCarthy Group: Dana served as a director on the board from 2005 to 2012, and served as President and Managing Partner of the private equity firm during the same period. Prior to 2005 he worked for the McCarthy organization in various positions starting in 1999.

### Community

#### 2014/15 Community Involvement

- Chairman: Metropolitan Entertainment & Convention Authority
- Co-chair: Heartland 2050 – Regional Vision
- Chairman: 2015 capital campaign for the United Way of the Midlands
- Director: Omaha Chamber of Commerce (and member of executive committee)
- Director: Nebraska Innovation Campus
- Director: Seventy Five North
- Governor: Knights of Aksarben Foundation
- Advisor: Steven M. Gootter Foundation
- Advisor: Aksarben Future Trust
- Advisor: Robert Daugherty Foundation
- Director: Children's Hospital & Medical Center
- Member: Omaha Public School Strategic Planning Committee

### Past Boards

Dana served as chairman of the boards of SAFE Boats International, a Seattle based manufacturer of defense and emergency response boats and Vornado Air, a Wichita based consumer Brands Company.

Dana served on the board of Ballantyne (AMEX: BTN), a movie projector manufacturer, Guild Mortgage, a San Diego based full service mortgage company, 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**

Non-Executive Chairman of Assurity Life Insurance Company. Tom holds the Chartered Life Underwriter, Chartered Financial Consultant, and the Chartered Financial Analyst designations.

## **Past Business Involvement**

Tom is 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. Tom continues to serve on the Foundation's investment committee and its donor advisory board. He is chair of the Lincoln Chamber Economic Development Corporation, co-chair of the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development and on the steering committee of Lincoln's Vision group. Tom also serves on the University of Nebraska's Innovation Campus Governing Board. 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, the advisory board of Lincoln Industries, the board of directors of Great Western Bancorp, Inc. and the Board of Managers of Resourcing Edge, Inc. in Rockwall, TX.

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

## **Past Community Involvement**

Tom is 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 currently serves on the board of the ACLI Forum 500 and recently received their Distinguished Service Award. 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.





## 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 currently serves as COO, Phibro Animal Health Corporation since July 2016.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Joining as President, Phibro Animal Health in May 2008, Mr. Miller has built a strong, diversified global business. At Phibro, Mr. Miller leads the business through transformational growth comprised of organic development (product and geographic expansion) and acquisitions. He was a key part of the management team that launched the Phibro I.P.O. in March 2014 (NASDAQ PAHC). Prior to joining Phibro in 2008, Mr. Miller spent 17 years with Schering-Plough Animal Health (SPAH) where he was most recently Vice President of the Intervet/Schering-Plough Global Ruminant business. Prior to 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. Prior to SPAH, Mr. Miller held various positions in sales and marketing management with American Cyanamid's Animal Health & Nutrition Business.

### **Community Involvement**

- Honorary Board of Directors, Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey, 1993-1997
- Board of Trustees, University of Nebraska Foundation
- Audit 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 received his secondary education at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, and graduated from Harvard Business School's Owner/President Management Program.



# Vishal Singh

## **Current Business Involvement**

Founder and Former CEO of Quantified Ag

## **Past Business Involvement**

Vishal Singh was the CEO and Founder of Quantified Ag®. The company was acquired by Merck Animal Health.

Vishal was born and raised in his formative years in the metropolitan city of New Delhi, India. His family then moved to a small farming community in Nebraska in the mid-'80s. This was his first exposure to the world of agriculture.

Vishal has worked in the computing industry, first with PC Today and Smart Computing magazines and then in the video game industry. He has over 18 years of experience in the Agriculture Technology (AgTech) industry, with projects ranging from 3D visualizations of animal anatomy to mobile apps and website development. He has developed custom drones for plant crop imaging and previously completed projects with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and individual state beef councils.

Vishal has experience in project and team management, interactive technology component design, including user interface and usability through web and mobile applications. Vishal has experience with analytics and dashboarding for valuable insights in a variety of areas in agriculture.

## **Education**

Vishal's undergraduate degree is in computer graphics/visual communications. His master's degree is in broadcast where he completed user interface usability research.



## Matthew Williams

### **Current Business Involvement**

Chairman of Flatwater Bank, a \$145 million community bank located in Gothenburg, Nebraska. Matt is a fourth-generation banker and has been with the family owned bank since 1973.

Matt became a State Senator representing Legislative District 36 in 2015. He is vice chairman of the Banking Commerce and Insurance Committee and also serves on the Judiciary Committee. He completed the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD) in 2015.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Matt was Chairman of the American Bankers Association in 2012-2013 and also 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**

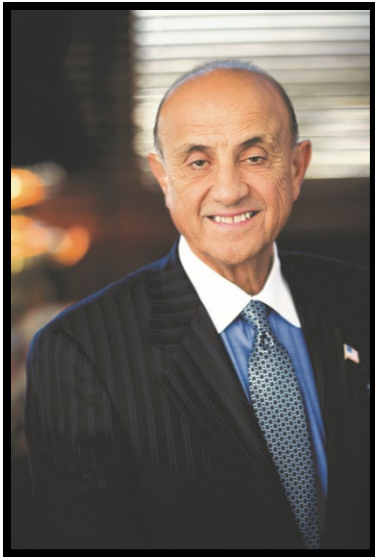
Matt also serves as a Trustee of the University of Nebraska Foundation, UNL Ag Builders, the University of Nebraska President's Advisory Council, the University of Nebraska Finance Department Advisory Board, and is a past Director of the State Chamber of Commerce. He was appointed by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to the Board of Directors of Innovation Campus.

### **Past Community Involvement**

Matt has been very involved with economic development in Gothenburg and Dawson County, formerly serving as Chairman of the Gothenburg Improvement Company and President of the Gothenburg Area Chamber of Commerce. Matt also has served as a State Director for the Tom and Nancy Osborne TeamMates mentoring program. Matt received the Alumni Achievement Award from UNL in 2013, and the ABA Ag Banker of the Year Award in 2014.

### **Education**

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



## Michael Yanney

### Current Business Involvement

Michael B. Yanney founded the Burlington Capital, formerly America First Companies L.L.C. in 1984 and currently serves as Chairman Emeritus. Mr. Yanney has over 58 years of business and investment experience.

### Past Business Involvement

From 1977 until the organization of America First in 1984, Mr. Yanney was principally engaged in the ownership and management of commercial banks. From 1961 to 1977, Mr. Yanney was employed by Omaha National Bank and Omaha National Corporation (now part of US Bank), where he held various positions including Executive Vice President and Treasurer of the holding company and Director of FirstTier Financial, Inc..

Mr. Yanney has significant experience in the development and operation of agribusiness projects in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union, having been involved in a total of more than 40 agricultural related projects in the former Soviet Union over the last 30 years.

Mr. Yanney was formerly a director of Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation, Level 3 Communications, Inc., Freddie Mac Advisory Board, Durham Resources, Inc., Freedom Communications, Inc., Forest Oil Corporation, MFS Communications, Inc., PKS Information Services, Inc., Omaha Steaks, Tetrad and Lozier.

### Past Community Involvement

University of Nebraska Medical Center Distinguished Service Award to Gail & Mike Yanney

University of Nebraska Regents' Medal Award to Gail & Mike Yanney

University of Nebraska Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Gail & Mike Yanney

### Education

BA in Business Education from University of Nebraska at Kearney

Graduate Degree from American Institute of Banking (New York)

Commercial Banking Graduate Degree from University of Wisconsin School of Banking

Honorary Doctorate Degrees from University of Nebraska at Kearney and Bellevue University

Mr. Yanney is the husband of Dr. Gail Walling Yanney and the father of Lisa Y. Roskens, Chairman and CEO of Burlington Capital.



## Michael Boehm

### Current Business Involvement

University of Nebraska in the dual role of Harlan Vice Chancellor for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and vice president for Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska system. Mike joined the university on January 1, 2017.

### Past Business Involvement

Prior to serving in this role, Boehm was professor of plant pathology and vice provost for academic and strategic planning at The Ohio State University. He was responsible for strategic planning for Ohio State's 15 colleges and six campuses; K-12 and community college partnerships; the University Libraries System, College of Public Affairs and Office of Institutional Research and Planning; dean reappointment and academic unit reviews; integrated capital planning; and classroom readiness. He oversaw Ohio State's Discovery Themes initiative, a 10-year program to produce solutions to the challenges of the 21st century, and served as co-lead for the Humanities and the Arts Discovery Theme.

In research, Boehm is a recognized authority on the integrated management of turfgrass diseases with an emphasis on *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa*, the causal agent of dollar spot, and integrated management of Fusarium head blight of wheat and barley. Publications include 32 peer-reviewed articles, six edited book chapters, six US patents (two of which have been licensed and moving towards commercialization), and nearly 100 abstracts, reviews, and proceedings papers. Secured ~\$1.5 million in extramural funding (industry and federal grants); advised 15 MS and PhD students and postdoctoral researchers.

Mike was also a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve for 10 years, serving as a microbiologist and served 10 years as a Staff Sargent in the U.S. Army Reserve.

### Past Community Involvement

In 2013, Boehm was president of the American Phytopathological Society.

### Education

BS from Heidelberg College

MS from Ohio State University

PhD from Ohio State University



## Daniel Duncan

### **Current Business Involvement**

Executive Director of the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation since October 1, 2011.

Dan was born on a diversified farm and ranch in Sioux County, north of Morrill, Nebraska. He attended the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. After graduation, Dan returned to the family farm and ranch for six years.

### **Past Business Involvement**

In 1987, Dan accepted the position of Operations Manager at the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. In 1991, he was named Director of the University of Nebraska Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead, Nebraska. On August 1, 2004, he was named an Assistant Director of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment Station on a part-time basis. In February 2008, Dan moved into the position of Assistant Dean and Director of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Agricultural Research Division.

### **Community Involvement**

Dan is a LEAD VII Fellow. He is also a member of the Nebraska Hall of Ag Achievement and the Agricultural Builders of Nebraska.

### **Education**

Bachelor of Science degrees in Animal Science and Agronomy from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln  
Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics-Agrribusiness from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln



## Ronnie Green

### **Current Business Involvement**

Ronnie Green was appointed as the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s 20th chancellor on May 8, 2016.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Prior to being named chancellor, Ronnie served for six years as the Harlan Vice Chancellor of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In this role, he also jointly served as the Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources of the University of Nebraska system. Since 2015, Ronnie also was UNL’s Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the institution’s chief academic officer and responsible authority in the absence of the chancellor.

Ronnie has served on the animal science faculties of Texas Tech University and Colorado State University, and as the national program leader for animal production research for the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service and executive secretary of the White House’s interagency working group on animal genomics within the National Science and Technology Council where he was one of the principal leaders in the international bovine, porcine, and ovine genome sequencing projects. Prior to returning to NU, Green served as senior global director of technical services for Pfizer Animal Health’s animal genomics business.

### **Past Community Involvement**

He is a past-president of both the American Society of Animal Science and the National Block and Bridle Club, and has served in a number of leadership positions for the U.S. Beef Improvement Federation, National Cattlemen’s Beef Association, National Pork Board, Federated Animal Science Societies and the National Research Council. He was named a fellow of ASAS in 2014 and, in 2015, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world’s largest general scientific society.

### **Education**

Bachelor and master’s degrees in animal science from Virginia Tech and Colorado State University, respectively. Doctoral program was completed jointly at the University of Nebraska and USDA-ARS U.S. Meat Animal Research Center in animal breeding and genetics.





©Aaron Cress 2018

## Bob Wilhelm

### Current Business Involvement

Bob Wilhelm is the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. He has also been named a Kate Foster Professor for Mechanical and Materials Engineering. The endowed professorship was established in the 1970s through a gift by Foster's estate. Foster graduated from the University of Nebraska, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1906 and a Master of Arts in 1909.

### Past Business Involvement

Prior to coming to the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Wilhelm, a professor of mechanical engineering and engineering science, served as vice chancellor at UNC Charlotte since 2011. He held executive roles at that institution since 2005 and had been a member of its faculty since 1993.

An award-winning researcher, Wilhelm specializes in precision engineering. He received a National Science Foundation Young Investigator Award in 1994 and was named a fellow of the International Academy for Production Engineering in 2013. He was awarded more than \$6 million in peer-reviewed competitive research funding between 1993 and 2009, working with companies like Caterpillar and DaimlerChrysler on virtual manufacturing and software frameworks for integrated measurement processes.

Before becoming UNC Charlotte's chief research officer, Wilhelm served as associate provost for strategic research partnerships and as executive director of the Charlotte Research Institute, a facility similar to Nebraska Innovation Campus that provides space to corporate partners to work with faculty and students on campus.

He also assisted with the founding of six National Science Foundation industry-university cooperative research centers and the development of focus areas for large-scale research and academic programs in data science-business analytics, energy, advanced manufacturing, biomedical research and bioinformatics.

Wilhelm has emphasized research that directly impacts social, cultural and economic communities and has led initiatives to support social science, digital humanities and the broader research culture.

### Education

Wilhelm earned a bachelor's degree from Wichita State University. He holds a Master of Science from Purdue University and a doctorate from the University of Illinois.



## **Mary LaGrange**

NICDC Treasurer

### **Current Business Involvement**

Interim Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance, responsible for facilities construction and management, accounting, audit, human resources, security, and auxiliary business services associated with UNL's programs.

### **Past Business Involvement**

LaGrange has worked as a leader in higher education for more than 30 years. Since 2018, she has served as the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's associate to the vice chancellor in business and finance. She was also the university's controller (2010-2018) and director of accounting (2001-2010). And, prior to joining the university, LaGrange served for seven years with Nebraska Educational Telecommunications.

### **Education**

LaGrange is a certified public accountant with a Bachelor of Science degree from Iowa State University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.



## **Kate Engel**

### **NICDC Secretary**

#### **Current Business Involvement**

Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communication for Nebraska Innovation Campus.

Kate is responsible for recruiting companies to partner with the University of Nebraska and other entities working on NIC. Kate's position allows her to create and implement communication and marketing strategies that assist in the continued development of NIC and strive to engage university faculty, staff, students and industry to collaborate and form partnerships.

#### **Community Involvement**

Nebraska Wesleyan University Alumni Executive Council  
Leadership Lincoln Fellows XXXII Class  
City of Lincoln, NE Telecommunications/Cable Television Advisory Board  
University Association of Administrative Development (UAAD)

#### **Education**

BFA from Nebraska Wesleyan University  
MA in Management from Doane University  
MS in Leadership Education from the University of Nebraska



## **Staica Palser**

NICDC Legal Counsel

### **Current Business Involvement**

Stacia L. Palser was named the University of Nebraska's interim vice president and general counsel in March 2018.

As general counsel, Palser is the senior legal officer for the University of Nebraska. She leads a team of attorneys that provides legal expertise to the NU community in the areas of litigation, employment, transactions, intellectual property, compliance, constitutional law and other matters.

### **Past Business Involvement**

Palser previously had served as an associate general counsel at the university since 2012, assisting with various transactions, real estate, construction, procurement and environmental issues and special projects across all campuses. Prior to that, she was a shareholder at Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O.

### **Education**

Palser earned her bachelor's degree in biological systems engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and her law degree from the University of Colorado School of Law.

She and her husband have two children.