

December 19, 2018 Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, December 19, 2018 at 9:00 AM CDT

Host Location: Varner Hall, Lower Level; 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE

Remote Site 1: Eppley Admin Bldg Room 110A, UNO, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE

Remote Site 2: Old Gym Room OGYM100, Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE

Remote Site 3: Campus Service Bldg 129, Wayne State College, 704 Lindahl Drive, Wayne, NE

Remote Site 4: Superintendent's Office, Schuyler Central High School, 401 Adam Street, Schuyler, NE

Remote Site 5: I.T. Office, ESU 9, 5807 Osborne Drive West, Hastings, NE

Open Meetings Act (PDF - 11 pgs, 234KB)

Meeting Documents (PDF - pgs, MB)

9:00 AM	1. Call to Order, Electronic Posting, Location of Open Meeting Law Documents, Roll Call, Introductions	Co-Chair
9:05 AM	2. Consider approval of the Agenda for the December 19, 2018 meeting*	Co-Chair
9:08 AM	3. Consider approval of the Minutes from the 10/30/2018 meeting*	Co-Chair
10:10 AM	4. Public Comment	Co-Chair
9:15 AM	5. Announcements, Miscellany A. Action Item Task Group Rosters	T. Rolfes
9:20 AM	6. Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force Update A. Meeting Minutes and Documents B. Rural Broadband Study Task Force Resources C. Defining and Measuring the Homework Gap	T. Rolfes
9:40 AM	7. Network Nebraska 2018-2020 Action Items and Task Group Report A. Future Network deliverables B. Communication Hub deliverables (Marketing Survey Discussion & NNAG letter to Ed Toner) C. Security Initiative deliverables	Co-Chairs

10:00 AM	8. Digital Education 2018-2020 Action Items	Co-Chairs
	A. Student Transition deliverables (P-16 Initiative)	
	B. Equity of Access deliverables (Upcoming Rural Broadband Task Force Meeting)	
10:30 AM	9. Subsector Reports	Co-Chair
	A. University of Nebraska	
	B. Nebraska State Colleges	
	C. Nebraska Community Colleges	
	D. Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities	
	E. Public K-12 and ESUs	
	F. Private/Denominational K-12	
	G. Nebraska Educational Television	
	H. Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education	
10:50 AM	10. Agenda Items for the 2/20/2019 Meeting	Co-Chair
11:00 AM	11. Consider location(s) for the 2/20/2019 Meeting	Co-Chair
11:05 AM	12. Adjournment	Co-Chair

* Indicates an expected action item.

The Council will attempt to adhere to the sequence of the published agenda, but reserves the right to adjust the order of items if necessary and may elect to take action on any of the items listed.

The NITC Education Council wishes to thank staff of the University of Nebraska for helping to arrange the December 19, 2018 meeting.

NITC/Education Council [Homepage](#)

Meeting Notice Posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) 12/17/2018

Agenda Posted to the [NITC Web site](#) 12/17/2018

EDUCATION COUNCIL
Nebraska Information Technology Commission
Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 10:00 A.M. CDT
Lower Level, Governor's Residence, 1425 H Street, Lincoln, NE

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Burke Brown, District OR 1
Mr. Mike Carpenter, Doane University
Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 02
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross High School
Dr. Dan Hoelsing, Schuyler Public Schools
Steve Hotovy, Nebraska State College System
Mr. Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools
Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09
Ms. Mary Niemiec, University of Nebraska
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College

LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT: Mr. Steven Stortz, Norfolk Lutheran School; Ms. SuAnn Witt, NDE; Dr. Kathleen Fimple, CCPE

MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT: Mr. Derek Bierman, Northeast Community College; Bret Blackman, University of Nebraska-Omaha; Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools; Mr. John Dunning, Wayne State College; Mr. Greg Maschman, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Mr. Alan Moore, ESU 03; Mr. Ed Toner, OCIO; Ms. Ling Ling Sun, NET.

CALL TO ORDER, ELECTRONIC POSTING, LOCATION OF OPEN MEETING LAW DOCUMENTS, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS

Co-Chair, Mary Niemiec, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken. There were 10 voting members present. A quorum existed to conduct official business. The meeting notice and meeting agenda were posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) on October 8, 2018 and to the NITC website on October 26, 2018.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 30, 2018 MEETING*

Mr. Kelly moved to approve the October 30, 2018 agenda as presented. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemec-Yes, and Peters-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE [MINUTES](#) FROM THE 8/15/2018 MEETING*

Mr. Peters moved to approve the August 15, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Brown seconded. Roll call vote: Brown-Yes, Carpenter-Yes, DeTurk-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Hoelsing-Yes, Hotovy-Yes, Needham-Yes, Niemec-Yes, and Peters-Yes. Results: Yes-10, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, MISCELLANY

Mr. Rolfes circulated the task group roster spreadsheet and asked every member to sign up for action items under either Network Nebraska, Digital Education, or both. He asked for Council members' assistance in preparing the Action Item Status Report for the upcoming NITC meeting. The Council membership renewals will be presented to the NITC for their consideration on November 8, 2018. Mr. Rolfes announced Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Assistant General Manager for Technology at NET, as the liaison to replace Mr. Chad Davis. Ms. Sun was not able to attend. Mr. Rolfes shared that the NITC Technical Panel and State Government Council reviewed nine I.T. projects as part of the upcoming biennial budget from Secretary of State, State Historical Society, Nebraska Educational Television, Dept of Administrative Services, Oil & Gas Commission, and the Liquor Control Commission. None of the projects were the prevue of the Education Council.

NEBRASKA RURAL BROADBAND TASK FORCE UPDATE

Mr. Rolfes announced that the next Rural Broadband Task Force meeting would be on Wednesday, November 7 at Varner Hall in Lincoln. He provided links to the meeting agendas and minutes. Several members of the Council commented that although availability of broadband is important, that the affordability of broadband is just as important. There are many students whose families cannot afford faster internet, although the service is technically available in the area. Based on proceedings of the last meeting, the group is expected to provide formal definitions of "rural" and "broadband." Broadband will be defined as 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up or greater. Anyone with less than 10 Mbps down and 1 Mbps up will be considered "unserved," while users between 10/1 and 25/3 will be considered "underserved." Rural status, unserved, and underserved customers will all be used to determine priority for funding, and data related to student home access should prove to be useful when determining the scope of the "homework gap" or equity of access as it relates to digital education. Mr. Needham asked about the FCC's 10% matching E-rate funds for special construction, and whether the Rural Broadband Task Force would be the right group to address this opportunity. Mr. Rolfes responded that one of the Task Force's tasks had to deal with using state funds to maximize federal funding. Mr. Rolfes encouraged the Council members to take an active interest in the Task Force and to funnel any comments either to Ron Cone and Andrew Buker, or directly to the Task Force through the online comment submission, found at <https://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov/>.

NETWORK NEBRASKA 2018-2020 ACTION ITEMS

As a NN operational update, there will be a small circuit procurement this year for 2019-20. The northeast Nebraska backbone node will also be bid. The University of Nebraska has proposed an agreement with GlobalNOC to address technology support services. The State will be undertaking financial and E-rate filing role for any schools that desire the transition, and subsequent adjustments to the E-rate processes will be made as well.

There will be an effort by this task group to reinstitute the Network Nebraska marketing survey by the end of February 2019. Members were asked to review the 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 reports for possible survey questions.

Mr. Carpenter provided a summary of the Cyber-Resiliency Review undertaken by Doane University, a free service by the Department of Homeland Security that is available to K-20 education institutions. He also discussed the June 1-hour Zoom awareness seminar and September 28 workshop introducing the cyber-resiliency review concepts to many members of Network Nebraska (and some non-members). This workshop was hosted by Doane and promoted by the Education Council to NN membership. The Council discussed whether NN support staff should be advised of any such scans prior to an individual organization engagement. The discussion will be forwarded to NNAG.

DIGITAL EDUCATION 2018-2020 ACTION ITEMS

The Council members spent some considerable time discussing the equity of internet access and the effect that it had on the quality of digital education. Council members agreed that the collection of address-level data of internet access at student homes would be a worthwhile endeavor. Ms. Niemiec acknowledged that the P-16

Initiative and the Education Quest Foundation may have some data about K-12 students' transition to postsecondary education and agreed to follow up with Gabrielle Banick. Several members agreed that it would be worth exploring a possible PhD student's dissertation to research transitional activities and impediments involving graduating high school seniors as they make their way to postsecondary institutions. Dr. Hoising shared a technology tool called *Thought Exchange* used by Schuyler Public Schools to get parental information and feedback in real time.

SUBSECTOR REPORTS

A. University of Nebraska – Ms. Niemiec reported that over 6,000 University students are fully online and over 35,000 students take one or more online courses per year. MHEC Nebraska team/committee will be discussing Open Education Resources (OER) for higher ed

B. Nebraska State Colleges – Mr. Hotovy reported that the state colleges had completed a 2017 security risk assessment to meet federal compliance; resulted in development of a new security policies and procedures manual in draft form

C. Nebraska Community Colleges – Mr. Peters reported that there will be an NCCA meeting in Norfolk next week

D. Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities – Mr. Carpenter reported that the independent college's CFO meeting last week included a presentation about Network Nebraska. He also reported that the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska (AICUN) has become the Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges (CINC) Foundation and is headed by Dr. Dennis Joslin.

E. Public K-12 and ESUs – Dr. DeTurk reported that there is a statewide committee working on OER tied to the BlendEd Committee, Student data committee with Dean Folkers; ESU and NDE working together. Mr. Needham attended the SHLB Conference discussing wireless potential, equity of access, public library partners. Mr. Brown has been working on Safety in schools, digital footprint for active intruders, and found that the Dept of Homeland Security (DHS) has physical security resources, as well as NDE.

F. Private/Denominational K-12 – Mr. Stortz reported that he was going to hold an E-rate training for private Lutheran schools and that the Lutheran Education Association would be holding a conference in Omaha next week.

G. Nebraska Educational Television – No report

H. Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education – SARA reciprocity agreement progress report, 49 states + DC + Puerto Rico + Virgin Islands on board, over 1900 institutions involved, 1.25 million students (California not involved) ; student's state licensure requirements is separate from State Authorization; dual credit policies also lacking in Nebraska.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 12/19/2018 MEETING

- Rural Broadband Task Force
- P-16 Initiative
- OER
- Security follow up with the Network Nebraska Advisory Group
- Survey questions for Feb. 2019

CONSIDER LOCATION(S) FOR THE 12/19/2018 MEETING

- Possible Zoom meeting at either Varner or NET

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kelly moved to adjourn the October 30, 2018 meeting. Mr. Carpenter seconded. Voice vote. All were in favor, 10-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Minutes were recorded by Tom Rolfes, Education I.T. Manager of the NITC.

NITC Statewide Technology Plan--EC Task Group Rosters	Network Nebraska								Digital Education							
12/19/2018 Version	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.2	2.3
Post Secondary																
Bret Blackman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Andrew Buker (Alt.)														X	X	X
Derek Bierman																
Carla Streff (Alt.)																
Mike Carpenter							X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Chuck Lenosky (Alt.)																
John Dunning																
Ann Burk (Alt.)																
Steve Hotovy					X	X	X	X								
Stan Carpenter (Alt.)																
Greg Maschman																
TBA (Alt.)																
Mary Niemiec									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jaci Lindburg (Alt.)									X	X	X	X	X			
Tom Peters		X	X	X					X	X	X	X				
Keith Vincik (Alt.)																
K-12																
Burke Brown									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cassandra Joseph (Alt.)																
Matt Chrisman																
Emily Tobias (Alt.)																
Ted DeTurk									X			X	X			X
TBA (Alt.)																
Stephen Hamersky									X	X	X	X	X			
Steven Stortz (Alt.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Dan Hoelsing									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
TBA (Alt.)																
Trent Kelly	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Leonard Kwapnioski (Alt.)	X	X	X	X	X											
Alan Moore																
Tracy Popp (Alt.)																
Gary Needham	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Scott Jones (Alt.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X								
Liaisons																
Mike Baumgartner																
Kathleen Fimple (Alt.)																
TBA																
SuAnn Witt (Alt.)	X	X	X	X												
Ed Toner																
TBA (Alt.)																
Ling Ling Sun																
Chad Davis (Alt.)																

Network Nebraska

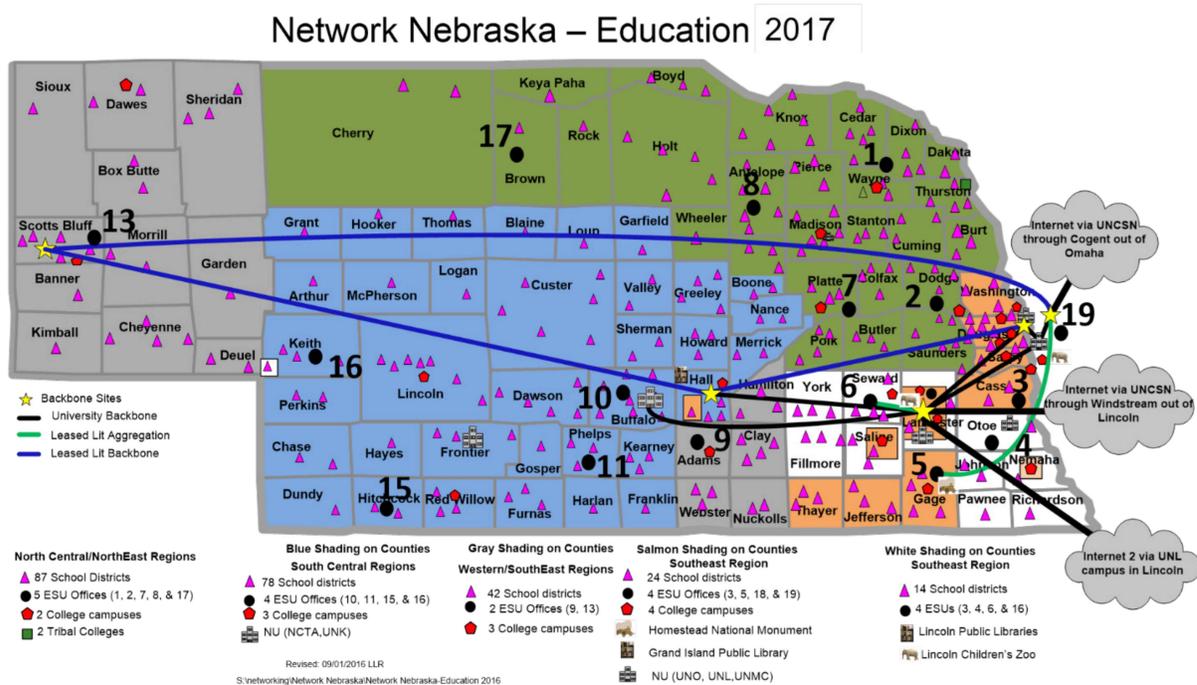
Overview

Objective:

To develop a broadband, scalable telecommunications infrastructure that optimizes the quality of service to every public entity in the State of Nebraska.

Description:

Network Nebraska interconnects several hundred education entities to a multipurpose core backbone extending from Omaha to Lincoln to Grand Island and Scottsbluff, and provides aggregated Internet and commercial peering services extending out to the furthest corners of the state.



Collaborators:

- Collaborative Aggregation Partnership: Office of the CIO, University of Nebraska Computing Services Network, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications, Public Service Commission, Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Information Technology Commission
- Network Nebraska Advisory Group: 8 K-12 members; 8 higher education members
- Educational Service Unit (ESU) Coordinating Council, ESU-Network Operations Committee, ESU-Distance education Advisory Committee, higher education chief technology officers



Strengths/Assets:

- Every K-12 school district, educational service unit, and public college and university participate in Network Nebraska and share in its annual costs.
- Network Nebraska is a completely voluntary, self-funded project, which contributes to its resilience, sustainability and focus on customer service.
- Shared personnel support within the Office of the CIO, Administrative Services, and the University of Nebraska contribute to its ultra-low operational costs and affordability.
- Having all of the K-20 education entities on Network Nebraska provides not only a sense of pride in ownership of the network, but the daily offsets in Internet access peaks between K-12 and higher education also saves on the cost of Internet access.

Challenges/Issues:

- The absence of full-time network employees reduces the capacity for such services as marketing, communications, research & development, and customer follow-up.
- The Network Nebraska cost recovery rates, although small in comparison to other state networks, are still above what rural public libraries and private K-12 schools are accustomed to paying for Internet service provision alone.

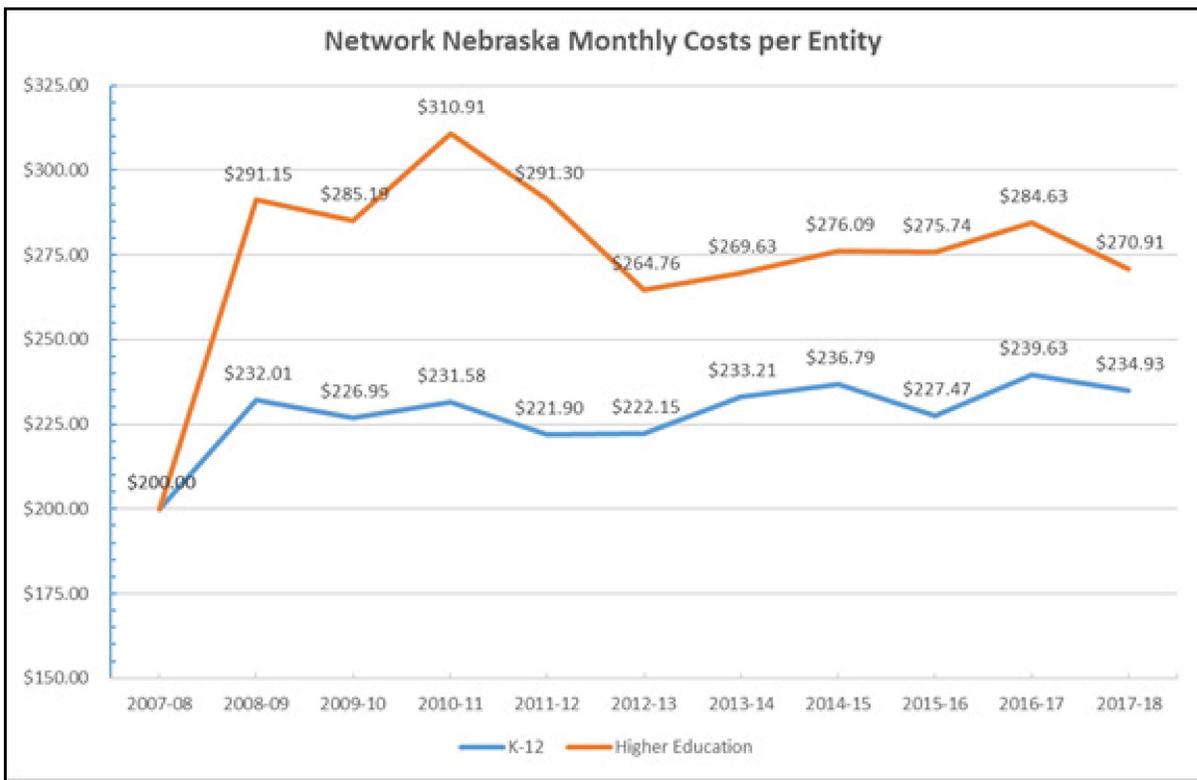
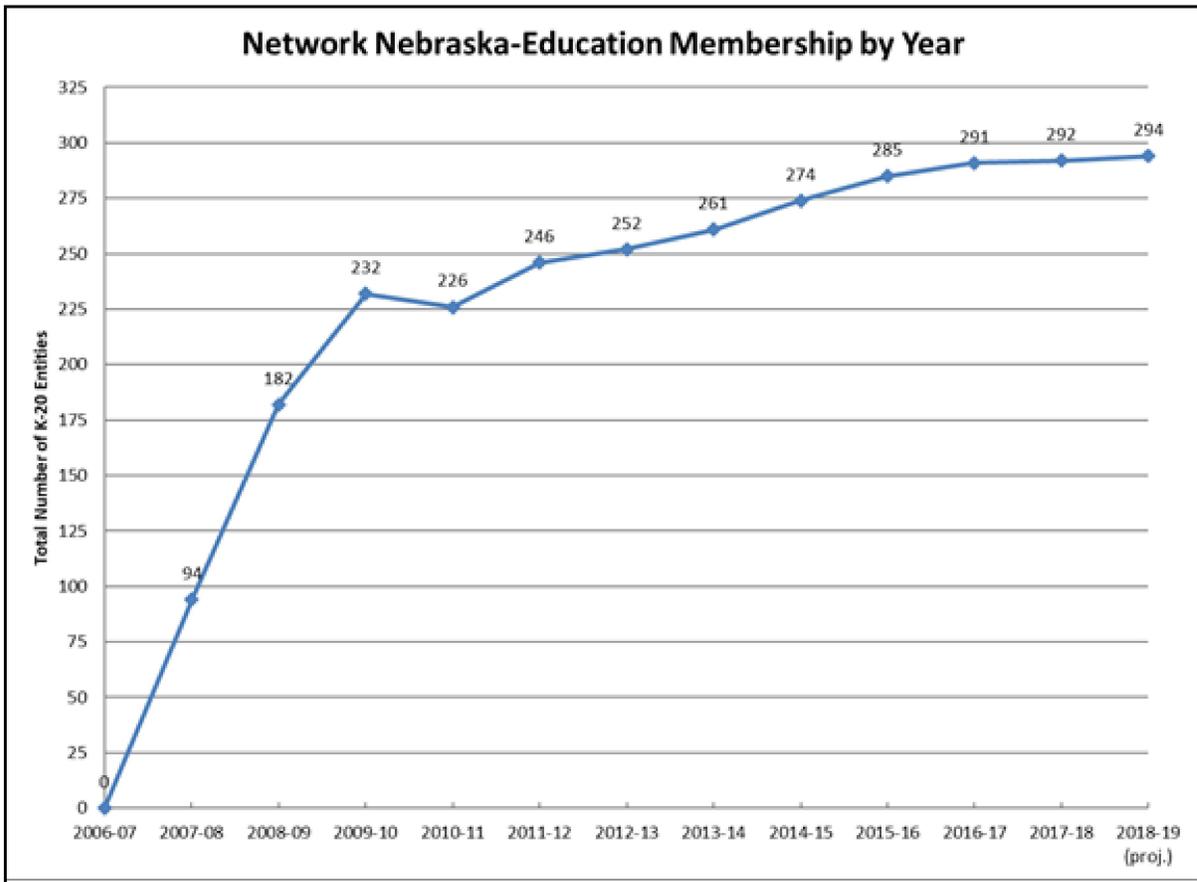
Recent Accomplishments:

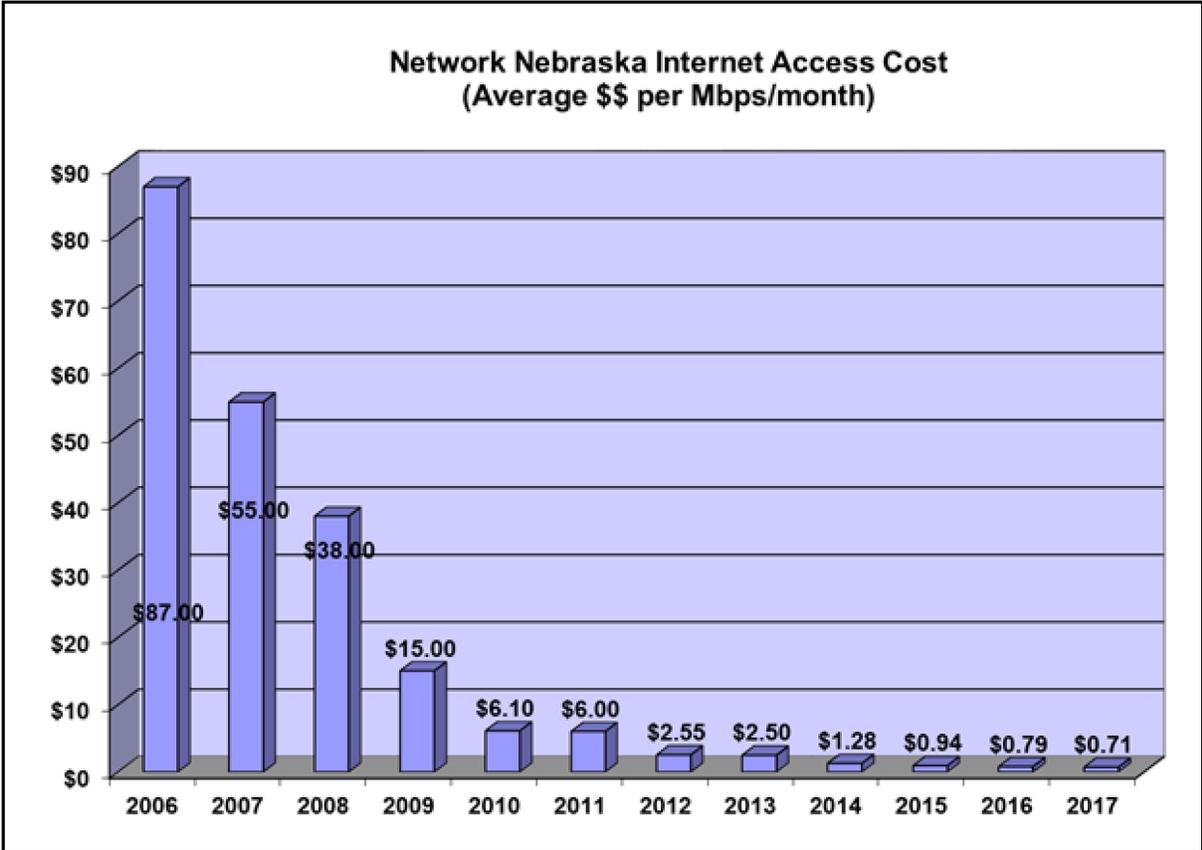
- Increased public school district participation to 100% by 7/1/2017
- Public higher education participation at 100% by 7/1/2012
- Achieved one of the lowest commodity Internet rates in the entire country, made possible through aggregation of demand and statewide bidding
- Achieved 100% retention of voluntary membership, now reaching 292 entities by 7/1/2017

Recommendations:

- Continue this initiative.
- Position Network Nebraska to provide services such as network monitoring and management, mitigation of Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks, statewide helpdesk, aggregated invoicing, and coordinated E-rate filing

Metrics





Action Items

1. Action: Prepare for the future of Network Nebraska as a statewide, multipurpose, high capacity, scalable telecommunications network that shall meet the demand of state agencies, local governments, and educational entities as defined in section 79-1201.01.

Lead: Education Council

Participating Entities: Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP); Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG), OCIO/NITC staff

Timeframe: 2018-20

Funding: Additional funding and/or resources will be required for this action item out of the Network Nebraska Participation Fee, which is a participant-funded budget.

Targets/Deliverables:

1.1 The NNAG Participant Criteria subcommittee and OCIO staff will accommodate and enforce affiliate connections into Network Nebraska.

1.1.1 Measurable: A) List the types and quantities of affiliate and hosted entity connections to the network.

1.2 The Network Nebraska support team will use automated tools to monitor network utilization and uptime and develop a web-based graphic for real-time depiction of WAN circuits, backbone and Internet.

1.2.1 Measurable: A) Regularly present utilization statistics to NNAG and to the Network Nebraska membership in an annual report.

1.3 The Network Nebraska support team will implement incident management and change control frameworks appropriate to the staffing of Network Nebraska.

1.3.1 Measurables: A) Implementation of a ticketing system that allows interaction with supported users. B) Advance communication of planned outages / upgrades that affect membership. C) Documentation of past changes to core network systems.

1.4 NNAG and CAP will guide Office of the CIO (OCIO) decisions regarding network capacity, services, and reliability.

1.4.1 Measurables: A) NNAG co-chairs will attend monthly CAP meetings and share information. B) CAP liaisons will attend bi-monthly NNAG meetings and share information.

2. Action: The Education Council and OCIO/NITC staff will serve as the communication hub for existing and potential new Network Nebraska Participants.

Lead: Education Council; OCIONITC Staff

Participating Entities: Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP); Network Nebraska Advisory Group (NNAG)

Timeframe: 2018-20

Funding: Additional funding and/or resources will be required for this action item out of the Network Nebraska Participation Fee, which is a participant-funded budget.

Targets/Deliverables:

2.1 Develop and implement a communications strategy.

2.1.1 Measurables: A) Specific data and reports in an online newsletter or other form of communication to members outside of the annual fee memo. B) Designated representatives send timely notifications of changes in procedures affecting member relations with the Network Nebraska Support Team.

2.2 Conduct an annual survey of Participants to guide direction and service development.

2.2.1 Measurables: A) Survey is conducted, and data from the survey is compiled for sharing with NNAG, CAP, and the NITC Education Council.

3. Action: Review the NITC IT Security Initiative and cloud computing components of the State Government IT Strategy Initiative as drafted by the NITC State Government Council.

Lead: Education Council; NNAG

Participating Entities:

Timeframe: 2018-20

Funding: No additional funding is projected for this action item.



3.1 Develop applicable practices and strategies for security and cloud applications in educational environments

3.1.1 Measurables: A) Formulation of a Strategy document

3.2. Determine how to incorporate the applicable strategies within services of Network Nebraska.

3.2.1 Measurables: A) Additional services or security practices added to NN services list or provided by member “centers of excellence.”

Other Recommended Measurables:

- Network Nebraska backbone uptime
- Network Nebraska Internet access uptime
- Network Nebraska backbone bandwidth utilization (actual)
- Network Nebraska membership growth
- Network Nebraska Internet growth (purchased and actual)
- Network Nebraska unit cost of Internet
- Number of public and non-profit, non-education entities (e.g., libraries) connected to Network Nebraska

Agenda, Network Nebraska Initiative Group

November 28, 2018, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

1. Review meeting history, notes
 - a. Feb 2017:
 - i. Mostly discussion of membership and operations.
 - ii. Communications brainstorming around survey, “NN Town Hall,” creation of document repository for member leaders to get official documentation in discussion and presentation.
 - b. June 2017:
 - i. Discussion of contract privity and erate implications (K-12).
 - ii. Discussed creation of audience-specific marketing documents, assigned to Steve Hotovy.
 - iii. Telehealth future in question
 - iv. Network Nebraska staffing changes.
 - c. (I think I’m missing notes for a meeting here)
 - d. Apr 2018:
 - i. Reviewed draft of audience-focused marketing materials
 - ii. Desired infographic development by OCIO
 1. Key message #1: We are better together. Be sure that is clear, cost reduction information is a component of that.
 2. Advanced Services listing: DDoS protection, traffic shaping, and more
 3. Key message #2: Nebraska membership model is different from other state networks. Especially important for new out-of-state administrators and CIOs to understand this up front.
 - iii. Network Nebraska support / transition. When should the Ed Council get involved and how much should be left up to NNAG/CAP?
 - iv. Service Catalog. We had a draft. Is it worth pushing forward?
 - e. Oct 2018 (before Ed Council)
 - i. Security is being gradually addressed. Looking for a workshop date around spring for a DHS repeat.
 - ii. Survey revival is needed; it will be 7 years since our last survey.
 1. Include cloud and security differently from before.
 2. “Homework Gap” is a national conversation around digital equity of access. While this topic belongs to the other initiative group, it should be included in the survey.
 - iii. Broadband Task Force would be a good group for us to keep up with.
2. Survey
 - a. History:

- i. NNAG document archive:
<http://www.nitc.nebraska.gov/nnag/documents.html>
 - ii. 2012 Survey Report (Surveys were conducted 2008-2011):
http://www.nitc.nebraska.gov/nnag/meetings/documents/Documents/NMarketingSurveyReport_20120805.pdf
 - iii. 2016 Services and Benefits document (took the place of the survey 2012-2016)
http://www.nitc.nebraska.gov/nnag/meetings/documents/Documents/NetworkNebraskaBenefitsServices_20160701.pdf
 - iv. Audience-specific materials development in 2017 has not produced formal document
- b. New Survey Development
- i. 2011 Questions to keep, revise, throw out
 - 1. Discussion: Like general format. Should use similar or same questions but update service and function lists
 - ii. Other questions, new perspectives we should gather
 - iii. Digital equity of access / Digital Ed Initiative (leave room for add'l questions)
 - 1. This need is felt more at the higher ed level regarding student access, both for quality online attendance and for courseware access.
 - 2. Ask questions regarding the amount of access in student homes. Broadband mapping personnel are pushing for additional detail, such as customer addresses with and without access, plus bandwidth available (unserved, underserved, served).
 - 3. Affordability data is separate from access.
- c. Other discussion
- i. Network Nebraska isn't necessarily cheaper than school Internet access anymore. After e-rate discount on circuit + Internet from an ISP, there is less benefit to NN than there used to be. Communicating the benefits is going to be of growing importance.
 - ii. Past documents and actions that need completion. These are growing in importance because the cost savings aren't what they used to be, and because marketing will no longer focused on achieving membership, it's more about maintaining membership.
 - 1. Infographics from Holly West
 - 2. Presentation / communication of infographics by NN proponents that belong to NATA, NETA Tech Coordinators, Higher Ed CIOs, Higher Ed Administrators, NCSA Administrators, ESU representatives, etc. Do this at various group meetings. Use the documents as talking points but also get individual and group feedback outside of the survey.

3. After completing the survey, which will included audience-specific questions, revise / complete audience-specific handouts to go with the infographics.

SCOTT JONES
Network Operations Director

ALISON SMITH
Teaching & Learning Director

MARY PETERS
Director of Special Education



DEB PAULMAN
Administrator

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December 14, 2018

Ed Toner
Chief Information Officer
501 South 14th Street, 4th Floor
PO Box 95045
Lincoln, NE 68509-5045

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer:

Since its inception, a primary focus of Network Nebraska has been reduced costs based on common infrastructure through collaboration. Although cost is still important, there are benefits that are equally, if not more significant for participants. Network Nebraska has consistently improved the speed and reliability of the network. Redundancy across the state and tools that help address monitoring and security issues have become focal points. The ability to provide requested services such as the offering to Network Nebraska members to license Zoom for video conferencing at special rates through a University of Nebraska at Kearney agreement have and can be made available.

With that said, it is openly apparent in discussions with members, prospective members, government agencies/officials, and the public that the accomplishments and benefits are not well known or recognized outside the tiny pockets of those with direct affiliation to the Network Nebraska leadership. This in conjunction with the need to complete a marketing survey to make sure that the network is still meeting the needs of members brought about a motion to create a informational video, a survey, and an infographic to gather data and disseminate information in regard to the accomplishments and continued success of Network Nebraska.

The Network Nebraska-Education Advisory Group would recommend that Holly West's expertise be utilized in producing marketing materials that will communicate to Network Nebraska-Education members and prospective members the benefits and network management services that members receive. The communication will be directed toward both non-technical and technical staff and adjustments will be made to the message and materials that best meet the needs of the projected audience.

We pass this recommendation on as co-chairs of the NNAG and would answer any questions that you may have in regard to the discussions that resulted in this recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debbie Schroeder". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Debbie Schroeder, co-chair NNAG (Higher Ed)-University of Nebraska
Scott A. Jones, co-chair NNAG (K-12)-ESU 15 & 16

BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY DISTRICT:

1 Julie Boettcher, Hershey
2 Rodney Rayburn, Brady
3 Bill McGahan, No Platte
4 Robert Jones, Stapleton

5 Nikki Bergeron, No Platte
6 Judy Thompson, No Platte
7 Mel McNea, No Platte
8 Margaret "Sooky" Marks, Mullen

9 Norma Mayer, Grant
10 David Lawler, Paxton
11 Dayton Reichman, Venango
12 Claudia Melvin, Arthur

Digital Education

Overview

Objective:

To promote the effective and efficient integration of technology into the instructional, learning, and administrative processes and to utilize technology to deliver enhanced digital educational opportunities to students at all levels throughout Nebraska on an equitable and affordable basis.

Description:

The Digital Education initiative will involve the coordination and promotion of several major systems and applications that heretofore have either been developed mostly at the local level or have not been replicated statewide.

Initiative progress will be dependent upon adequate Internet connectivity and transport bandwidth for learners, instructors, administrators, and for educational attendance sites. A minimum acceptable level of classroom technology will have to be established for the initiative to be successful.

Collaborators:

- Educational Service Unit (ESU) Coordinating Council and advisory groups
- Public and private K-12 schools
- Nebraska Department of Education
- University of Nebraska
- Nebraska State College System
- Nebraska Community College System
- Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Nebraska

Strengths/Assets:

- The enhancement of Digital Education is the combined focus of public and private K-12 entities and public and private higher education entities working together through Network Nebraska.
- The recent developments in learning management software, content management software, and longitudinal data tracking and depiction make it a particularly important time to improve on the statewide deployment of these systems.
- The high bandwidth transport and Internet capacity of Network Nebraska makes it possible to implement private cloud and public cloud applications to every education entity on Network Nebraska.

Challenges/Issues:

While collaboration among entities is strong, the initiative lacks a “champion” and any additional implementation funding is a scarce commodity.

Recent Accomplishments:

- ESU collaborators have developed BlendEd briefing materials and the TLT Learning Group.
- The Nebraska Department of Education has made progress on the Adviser project involving all but four Nebraska school districts.
- The Nebraska Department of Education's Future Ready Nebraska Digital Learning Plan is being developed by a statewide committee for review and approval by the State Board of Education.
- NITC Education Council and Community Council have collaborated on the design of several technology solutions that may reduce the Homework Gap and improve digital equity among economically challenged students.
- The Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the State Office of the CIO, has applied for a Sparks Grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services to incentivize school districts and public libraries to work together to improve Internet speeds at rural public libraries.

Recommendations:

- Continue and refocus this initiative.
- Encourage and/or incentivize collaborators and stakeholders to be more results-oriented using project management techniques.
- Build on the excellent foundation and success of Network Nebraska to deliver high quality digital educational opportunities that provide a framework for student success.

Action Items

1. Action: Address technical challenges for students in the transition from secondary to post-secondary education.

Lead: Education Council

Participating Entities: K-12 and Higher Education professional and advisory groups

Timeframe: 2018-20

Funding: Additional funding may be required for this action item

Targets/Deliverables:

1.1 Conduct a collaborative research project to identify existing infrastructure and pedagogical efforts in both secondary and post-secondary institutions.

1.1.1 Measurables: A) Create collaborative research study engaging the colleges of education at NE higher education institutions with a focus on opportunities for graduate student involvement. B) Secure funding support for research study. C) Develop and conduct national collaborative research study with entities i.e., Educause, MHEC.

Targets/Deliverables:

1.2 Based on the results of the research project and other available resources, identify opportunities for collaboration to ease transition for students.

1.2.1 Measurables: Pending study outcomes.

1.3 Identify key challenges for transitioning students and conduct an environmental scan to identify successful approaches to mitigate those challenges.

1.3.1 Measurable: These challenges will be identified in the study.

1.4 Create a guide for effective practices in the use of flexible learning technologies.

1.4.1 Measurable: Pending study outcomes.

1.5 Develop a strategy to encourage vendors to implement data exchange standards in their products and services.

1.5.1 Measurable: Pending study outcomes.

2. Action: Expand awareness and address the need for equity of access as it relates to digital education.

Lead: Education Council

Participating Entities: NITC Community Council, K-12 and Higher Education professional and advisory groups

Timeframe: 2018-20

Funding: Additional funding may be required for this action item

Targets/Deliverables:

2.1 Form a joint study group comprised of stakeholders from across the state to identify opportunities and actions to ensure equitable access for students.

2.1.1 Measurables: A) Members of the NITC Ed Council will participate in the study proposed in LB 994. B) Alternative should LB 994 not be approved, NITC will secure resources to form its own study group with key stakeholders across Nebraska.

2.2 Education Council will work in collaboration with other Nebraska stakeholders, such as the Community Council Broadband Initiative, to find solutions for available, accessible, reliable, secure and affordable Internet access as related to academic success.

2.2.1 Measurables: A) NITC Ed Council members meet regularly with Community Council Broadband Initiative members. B) Propose grant to provide resources for affordable access through NE libraries.

2.3 Identify and promote the use of accessible products and services in achieving equity of access.

2.3.1 Measurables: A) Implement statewide bid for internet hot spot access. B) Explore TV White Space for student home access for educational purposes.

Other Recommended Measurables:

- Published research regarding infrastructure, pedagogy, equity of access, and impact on learning
- Number of K-12 students who have gained home Internet access through Digital Inclusion initiatives
- Number of public libraries that have gained faster Internet access by reaching Network Nebraska, either directly or indirectly