Students and the professors who inspire them to learn, lead and achieve are our greatest assets at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.

We value educators from across the state who thrive in important roles amid students in classrooms, laboratories, athletic fields, performing arts stages, business incubators, farm fields, gardens, and animal facilities.

As I discussed last week, we also value relationships and business partnerships established with private industry and Nebraska agriculture. These public-private linkages will continue to be a key to our success.

Recently, I was fortunate to host “Accelerate Nebraska” leaders to campus for a tour and discussion about our efforts to enhance NCTA’s academic programming by weaving business and community into higher education.

“Accelerate Nebraska,” an Omaha-based entity with a statewide mission, was established earlier this year by Greg Adams, Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature, and Catherine Lang, former Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and Commissioner of Labor.

As a 31-year educator in American government and economics in the York Public Schools, and former mayor of the City of York, Speaker Adams is keenly aware of Nebraska’s educational system.

Equally attuned to Nebraska’s economy and labor needs, Ms. Lang served state government for more than 30 years. Together, the Adams-Lang duo state: “Our goal is to develop and keep promising talent right here in Nebraska, resulting in stronger communities and a more robust economy.”

By combining local education, business and community leaders, Accelerate Nebraska emphasizes career development and skills for Nebraska industry with economic and community development.

We see our partnership with Reinke Manufacturing, Inc., based at Deshler, Neb., for the NCTA Irrigation Technician concentration as a model for the Accelerate Nebraska format.

Chris Roth, Reinke president, joined Speaker Adams and Ms. Lang, for the campus collaboration, as did Fred W. Schott, program advisor for the Robert B. Daugherty Charitable Foundation, also based in Omaha.

I look forward to further conversations on how NCTA, the community of Curtis, and all of our education/business partners will dedicate efforts to Nebraska agriculture and a skilled workforce.

Your input and ideas are always welcome! Contact me on campus at 26 Ag Hall, or 367-5200.

*NCTA Mission:*
*The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is devoted to a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology, food and related industries. The college provides open access to innovative technical education resulting in associate degrees, certificates, diplomas and other credentials.*