NCTA to host “Hope Inspires Vision” Rural Futures event Oct. 21-22

Successful rural entrepreneurs will be among featured panelists at the Rural Futures Conference Oct. 21-23 in two Nebraska locations, including right here at the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis.

We are excited here at NCTA to be a part of the 2015 RFC event entitled “Hope Inspires Vision.” I attended the last conference, held in Lincoln in 2013, which hosted a sell-out audience of more than 500 participants. It was an inspiring and informative conference on Nebraska’s greatest economic development asset – its rural people.

The Rural Futures Institute (RFI) is a part of the University of Nebraska system, and a great partner to NCTA. In addition to superb resources for rural growth, RFI has given funding to two programs here on campus. We are in our second year of the NCTA Community Garden and Farmers’ Markets, one of the RFI-funded projects.

And, recently selected, the NCTA agribusiness management systems entrepreneurship program has received an RFI grant. Along with the Nebraska Community Foundation, NCTA will coordinate youth entrepreneurship curriculums with several communities and high schools in southwest Nebraska.

RFI has been known for its ingenuity since its start and its leaders, including Chuck Schroeder, executive director, are taking that one step further with the October event. Using the latest in technology, participants will be engaging simultaneously in two locations to bring the voices of rural leaders, in real time, together at Nebraska Innovation Campus in Lincoln and NCTA.

“Hope Inspires Vision” is open to the public, with registration now available at http://rfc.nebraska.edu. Attendees at Curtis will be able to participate at NCTA on Wednesday evening, Oct. 21, for the popular Heuermann Lecture series, and all day Oct. 22. Registration is $100 at NCTA ($20 for high school and college students). Seating is limited.

An interactive session kicks off the conference with Howard G. Buffett and Howard W. Buffett discussing “Finding Hope: Pioneering Your Own 40 Chances” at 5 p.m. on Oct. 21.

The Thursday sessions will include several participants at NCTA, including Anne Burkholder, Will Feed, Inc. of Cozad; Ben Blecha, Ace Ortho Solutions, Benkelman; Ken Rahjes, AgView, Elwood; Sarah Pinet, Victory Hill Farm, Scottsbluff and Barry Fox, Kinkaider Brewing Company, Broken Bow.

We will also feature a luncheon discussion on dual credit education in rural workforce training by representatives of Cambridge, Elm Creek, Cozad and York High Schools.

Entrepreneurs, business leaders, agricultural producers and students from high schools and colleges throughout the region will be joining us here at NCTA. We look forward to hosting you in Curtis!
**NCTA Calendar** (public events):

**Sept. 17:** 6-9 p.m. Food Preservation and Safety Workshop, Curtis Community Center, hosted by Frontier County Extension and NCTA Horticulture Club

**Sept. 19:** 9 a.m. - 12 noon, NCTA Farmers Market, Curtis City Park

**Sept. 19:** 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., NCTA Stock Dog Clinic, Livestock Teaching Center arena, “how to” train stock dogs for sheep, goat and cattle sorting, management work. Hosted by the NCTA Vet Tech dog obedience class and the Outback Stock Dog Association

**Sept. 21:** 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., NCTA Discovery Day, Welcome Center at Ed Center, open house and tours for students and families. Pre-register at [http://ncta.unl.edu/visit-ncta](http://ncta.unl.edu/visit-ncta)

# # #

**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.*

# # #