



## NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF TECHNICAL AGRICULTURE

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### **Service awards to NCTA employees**

By NCTA News

CURTIS, Neb. – The University of Nebraska recognizes employees across Nebraska for their years of service.

Larry Gossen, dean of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis, presented 2021 employee service awards at a staff and faculty in-service on campus prior to this spring semester. Employees receive awards based on five-year increments, with a plaque, clock or other memento provided by the NU system.

#### **25 Years:**

Linda Cole joined NCTA in 1996 working in the Dean's Office and Business Office at Ag Hall and is a familiar face in Student Services at the NCTA Welcome Center as Administrative Support Associate and Tour Coordinator. Linda coordinates the Student Ambassadors for campus tours and many events at the Nebraska Agriculture Industry Education Center.

David Jibben previously served nine years as NCTA Assistant Dean for Business Affairs and Facilities Management. He was chair of Agribusiness Management Systems and started NCTA's Ag Business major in 1991. Dave has more than 20 years of small business and ag lending experience and a master's degree in economics from South Dakota State University. This semester he teaches Farm & Ranch Management, Ag Finance, Ag Marketing and Ag Law.

Mo Khamouna is Library Specialist, and as sole librarian at NCTA he oversees all library resources, a computer lab, and the career services center posting job and internship opportunities. He holds a Master of Science in Library Science and Information Management from Northumbria University in England and a degree in Document Control Foundation from Aberdeen Business School in Scotland.

#### **20 Years:**

Mary Rittenhouse, M.B.A., joined the NCTA faculty in 2015 as chair of the Agribusiness Management Systems Division after serving as Senior Lecturer of Economics at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Before joining the University system, she was an Economic Education Specialist with the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She is academic lead of the AMS unit, teaching Micro and Macro Economics, Business Statistics, Accounting, Management and co-teaching the Ag Capstone course. She also is faculty advisor for NCTA's Ag Business Club, Women in Ag, and oversees the Aggie Store.

#### **10 Years:**

Douglas Smith, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Animal Science and Agricultural Education at NCTA and is Professor of Practice in these same areas at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. His undergraduate degree is in animal science with master's in agricultural science, both from Sam Houston State University, and doctorate in agricultural education from Texas A & M. Dr. Smith coaches the NCTA Livestock Judging Team and is faculty sponsor for Collegiate FFA & 4-H and Collegiate Cattlemen.

#### **5 Years:**

Josi Arnold completed five years of employment working in two areas at NCTA, first with the Veterinary Technology Systems division as Administrative and Lab Support Associate, then returned to campus in 2020 as Administrative Associate in the NCTA Dean's Office. Josi earned her Associate of Science degree in Veterinary Technology from NCTA in 2014. Currently, she also is pursuing a bachelor's degree online in Early Childhood Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney.



Dr. Larry Gossen congratulates Linda Cole 25 years



Dr. Larry Gossen congratulates Dave Jibben 25 years



Dr. Larry Gossen and Mo Khamouna 25-year award



Dr. Larry Gossen and Associate Professor Mary Rittenhouse – 20 years



Dr. Larry Gossen presents 10-year award to Dr. Doug Smith



Dr. Larry Gossen congratulates Josi Arnold on 5 years



David Jibben (upper left) collects project papers while students in his Ag Marketing class at NCTA work on cost of production calculations. Jibben, a 25-year employee, was among six staff and faculty members recently recognized with University of Nebraska Years of Service Awards. (George Hipple Photo / NCTA)

*Part of the University of Nebraska system, the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is a two-year institution with a statewide mission of preparing students for successful careers in agriculture, veterinary technology and related industries. NCTA is known for its affordable tuition, high job-placement rate for its graduates, and for the success of student teams in competitive activities including crops judging, ranch horse events, livestock judging, shotgun sports, stock dog trials, and intercollegiate rodeo. The college is consistently ranked as one of the best two-year schools in the nation.*

Online: <https://go.unl.edu/ophd>