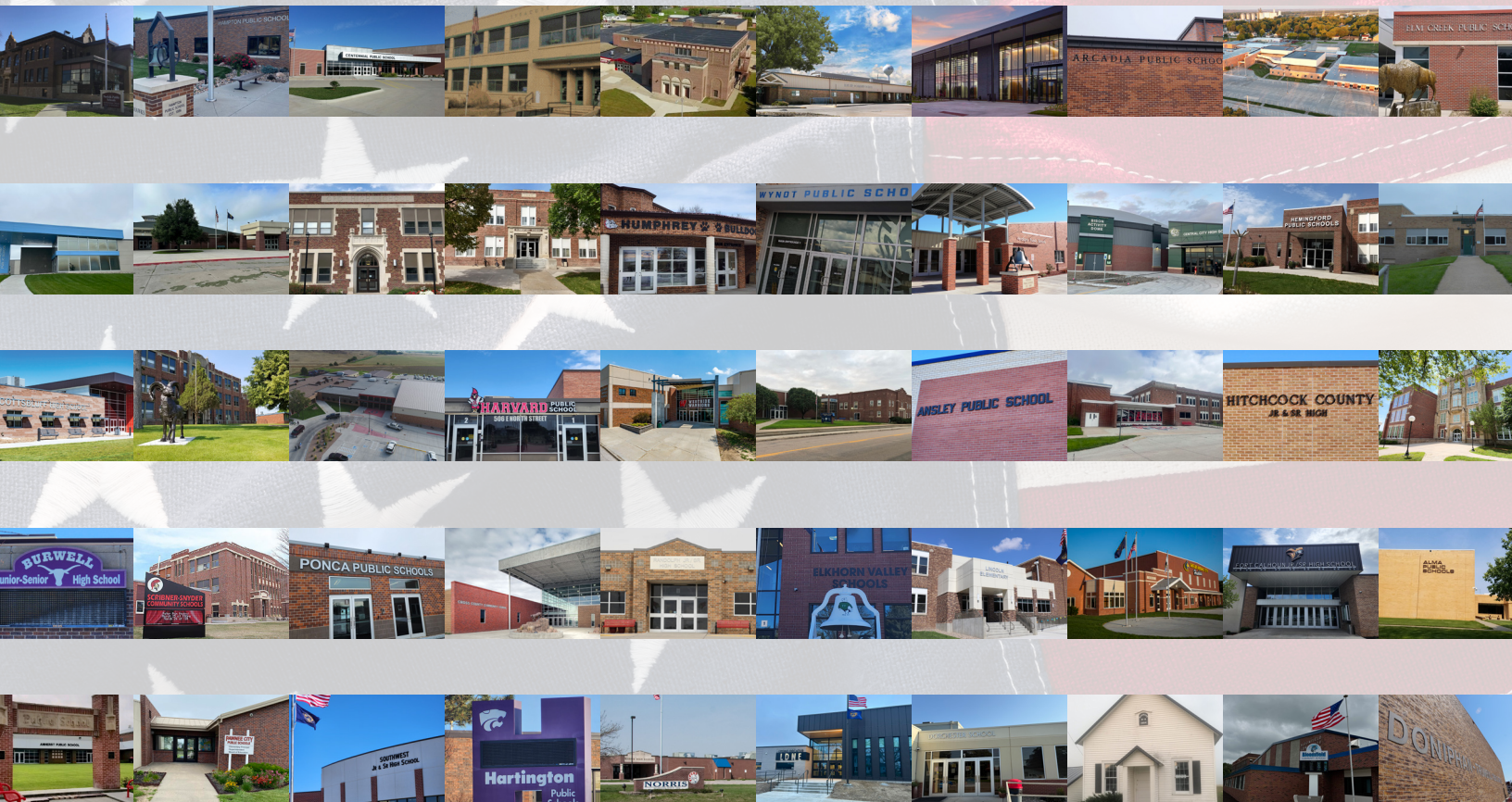


# 2025 State Education Conference

## November 19-21 - CHI Health Center - Downtown Omaha



**“Out of the Public Schools  
Grows the Greatness of the Nation”  
— Mark Twain**





REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025  
STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE WILL OPEN  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

To register, go to [www.NASBOnline.org](http://www.NASBOnline.org)

Log in using your email and password, and  
click the 'Events' tab to register.

Registration fees for the conference are as follows:  
REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 10 - NOVEMBER 7  
PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION  
CANCELLATION FEE (PRIOR TO 11/7)  
(No refunds after the registration deadline)



<b>\$350</b>	LATE-REGISTRATION NOVEMBER 8 - ON-SITE	<b>\$400</b>
<b>\$100</b>	NON-MEMBER	<b>\$900</b>
<b>\$150</b>	(Substitutions are done at no charge)	

## Hotel Reservations

TO RESERVE ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE  
HOTELS YOU MUST FIRST REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AS  
DESCRIBED ABOVE.

To qualify for a room, you must first register for the Conference.

Once your conference registration is complete, you will receive  
an email with your NASB Registration code and a Conference  
Hotel reservation link. The code will not be activated until  
10:00 AM CT, Wednesday, September 24, 2025

SUBMIT YOUR CONFERENCE HOTEL ROOM REQUEST  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025.

THE OMAHA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU WILL ACT  
AS THE HOUSING AGENT FOR ALL PROPERTIES.

Hilton Omaha - 1001 Cass Street  
\$161 per night

**ROOM REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED  
UNTIL OCTOBER 29, OR UNTIL FULL**

Omaha Marriott Downtown - 222 North 10th Street  
\$164 per night

**ROOM REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED  
UNTIL OCTOBER 28, OR UNTIL FULL**

A RESERVATION AT ONE OF THE ABOVE IS NOT REQUIRED TO  
ATTEND THE STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE



**“Out of the Public Schools Grows the Greatness of the Nation”**

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Pre-Conference Sessions  
1:00 to 4:00 PM

Exhibitor Reception  
4:00 to 5:30 PM

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Board Member Boot Camp  
7:00 to 8:00 AM

Opening Keynote Speaker  
8:15 to 9:30 AM

A - Breakout Sessions  
9:45 to 10:45 AM

B - Breakout Sessions  
11:15 AM to 12:15 PM

Thursday Luncheon Keynote Speaker  
12:30 to 2:00 PM

C - Breakout Sessions  
2:15 to 3:15 PM

D - Breakout Sessions  
3:30 to 4:30 PM

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Classroom Showcase  
8:00 to 11:30 AM

NASB Delegate Assembly  
8:00 to 9:30 AM

NASA Membership Meeting  
8:00 to 9:30 AM

E - Breakout Sessions  
9:15 to 10:15 AM

F - Breakout Sessions  
10:30 to 11:30 AM

Friday Luncheon Keynote Speaker  
11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

19<sup>th</sup>

## DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

NASB LEGISLATION COMMITTEE MEETING

NASA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

EXHIBITOR RECEPTION

NASB BOARD MEETING

20<sup>th</sup>

## DAY 2

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2025

BOARD MEMBER BOOT CAMP

OPENING & LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (A, B, C & D)

21<sup>st</sup>

## DAY 3

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025

NASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

NASA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

CLASSROOM SHOWCASE

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (E & F)

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR PRESENTED

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ADJOURN



## REDEFINE IMPOSSIBLE

### JAMES LAWRENCE

**THURSDAY MORNING OPENING SPEAKER - 8:15 TO 9:30 AM**

Known as The Iron Cowboy for the signature cowboy hat he wears while running races so his five kids can see him coming from far away, James Lawrence is an ultra-endurance athlete who has pushed himself beyond what many doctors previously believed to be physiologically possible. In so doing, he has redefined both mental toughness and physical endurance. James spent a decade in the mortgage and finance business before losing it all in the financial crisis of 2008. At rock bottom, his career as the greatest endurance athlete on the planet started quite humbly, struggling to complete a local 4-mile fun run with his wife, Sunny. Inspired by that experience, on that day he learned a lesson that has served him well ever since. "I quickly realized that 'hard' looks different for everyone. Back then, four miles was really difficult for me. But I learned that one of the most important things in life is simply showing up." Today, James is one of the most dynamic, inspiring, larger-than-life keynote speakers in the world, is a best-selling author and the subject of a critically acclaimed feature film. He continues to redefine the impossible in his own life, while teaching audiences around the world to do the same in their own lives.



## THRIVING AS A TEAM WITH THE 3 C'S

### DR. JERMAINE DAVIS

**THURSDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER - 12:30 TO 2:00 PM**

Dr. Jermaine's presentation "Thriving as a Team" will bring a new and fresh perspective to your team. His guidance will help your team focus on keeping "the main thing the main thing." Courageous conversations, cohesive cooperation, and committed collaboration are possible! Applying his practical and down-to-earth Dump Your Slump Model & Research, Dr. Jermaine's leadership expertise is rooted in his professional experience, academic research, and personal journey, giving him a real-world perspective that resonates. Born and raised in the Henry Horner Housing Projects on Chicago's West Side, Dr. Jermaine learned early that resilience wasn't just a skill—it was a necessity to survive and thrive. After losing six family members, including his youngest brother, Lil' Greg, to violence, he made a promise to break the cycle. Through mentorship, education, and determination, he became the first in his family to graduate from college, earning a B.A. in Speech Communication, an M.A. in Speech Communication, and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership.



## INVISIBLE THREADS: PRIVACY IN THE WORLD OF AI

### JOE TOSCANO

**FRIDAY LUNCHEON SPEAKER - 11:45 AM TO 1:15 PM**

Joe Toscano is an award-winning designer, author of Automating Humanity, and former Google consultant who left the tech industry over concerns about data misuse. Now based in Omaha, he works globally to promote ethical innovation, support privacy legislation, and raise awareness about the dark side of big tech. You may recognize Joe from Netflix's The Social Dilemma, his TEDx Talk "Want to work for Google? You already do," or his appearances on major news outlets. In "Invisible Threads," Joe explores the critical intersection of privacy and AI. He reveals how modern data flows impact our lives, highlights the ethical challenges of AI, and offers forward-thinking solutions to protect privacy in a connected world. This talk is essential for anyone shaping or navigating the digital future.

**"Out of the Public Schools Grows the Greatness of the Nation"**



Pre

**PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 - 1:00 TO 4:00 PM****YOUR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: UNWRAPPED**

Understanding the roles of the Nebraska Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education as they relate to local schools can be confusing. During this pre-session opportunity, staff members of the Nebraska Department of Education will engage participants with knowledge and information sharing on the balance of federal, state, and local education policymaking. We will discuss the key roles the Nebraska Department of Education plays, share priority areas from a new strategic planning process, and discuss how changes at the federal level could impact Nebraska schools and students. Topics will include state and federal finance policy, state and federal requirements for assessment and accountability, accreditation and teacher certification, and much more.

**PRESENTERS:** Nebraska Department of Education staff

**UTILIZING EFFECTIVE SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION AND BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT TO SUPPORT STUDENT SUCCESS**

Designed for both boards and superintendents, this session will strengthen governance through effective superintendent evaluation, meaningful board self-assessment, intentional relationship-building, and building a district-wide foundation based on common values. Learn how to design an evaluation process that fosters professional goals, clarifies board expectations, and builds trust and cohesion. Explore "trust accelerators" to enhance collaboration, improve decision-making, and provide constructive feedback that supports growth and shared commitment to student success. Leave equipped with practical strategies and resources to enhance board-superintendent collaboration and sustain long-term student outcomes.

**PRESENTERS:** Troy Loeffelholz - NCSA; Stacie Higgins - NASB

**JOIN US!!! EXHIBITOR RECEPTION****WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 - 4:00 TO 5:30 PM**

Register now at [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)



## SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THE THURSDAY LUNCHEON

### Previous Winners Include:

2025 - MELISSA POLONCIC, DC WEST	2012 - BILL MOWINKEL, GRAND ISLAND NW	1999 - KENNETH ANDERSON, HASTINGS
2024 - ANDY RIKLI, PAPILLION LA VISTA	2011 - MIKE CUNNING, HERSHEY	1998 - KEN BIRD, WESTSIDE
2023 - MARK LENIHAN, WAYNE	2010 - KEITH LUTZ, MILLARD	1997 - RICK BLACK, CONESTOGA
2022 - TERRY HAACK, BENNINGTON	2009 - STEVE RECTOR, SOUTH SIOUX CITY	1996 - GARY HAMMACK, KEARNEY
2021 - JIM SUTFIN, MILLARD	2008 - LARRY RAMAEKERS, AURORA	1995 - MARTIN PETERSEN, ALLIANCE
2020 - MARK ADLER, RALSTON	2007 - ROGER BREED, ELKHORN	1994 - VANDLE PHILLIPS, SOUTH SIOUX CITY
2019 - MIKE TEAHON, GOTHENBURG	2006 - RICHARD EISENHAUER, LEXINGTON	1993 - FRED BELLUM, COLUMBUS
2018 - JOHN SKRETTA, NORRIS	2005 - ROY BAKER, NORRIS	1992 - GLENN LARSEN, ADAMS CENTRAL
2017 - CAROLINE WINCHESTER, CHADRON	2004 - DAN ERNST, WAVERLY	1991 - NORBERT SCHUERMAN, OMAHA
2016 - JAY BELLAR, BATTLE CREEK	2003 - RANDY NELSON, NORFOLK	1990 - DOUG CHRISTENSEN, NORTH PLATTE
2015 - BRIAN MAHER, KEARNEY	2002 - PHILIP SCHOO, LINCOLN	1989 - DONALD STROH, MILLARD
2014 - STEVE BAKER, ELKHORN	2001 - KEITH ROHWER, NEBRASKA CITY	
2013 - KEVIN RILEY, GRETNA	2000 - STEVE JOEL, BEATRICE	



## ANN MACTIER - SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE FRIDAY LUNCHEON

### Previous Winners Include:

2024 - BRAD WILKINS, AINSWORTH	2017 - BONNIE HINKLE, GRAND ISLAND	2010 - KIM FASSE, ELKHORN
2023 - ALLISON WELCH, CONESTOGA	2016 - TERRI HAYNES, CHADRON	2009 - RON PEARSON, ESU #3
2022 - MARCIA MAHON, SOUTH SIOUX CITY	2015 - LINDA RICHARDS, RALSTON	2008 - SANDRA JENSEN, OMAHA
2021 - STEVE KOCH, HERSHEY	2014 - BRAD KRIVOHLAVEK, NORFOLK	2007 - JOHN HANSEN, BELLEVUE
2020 - MARIAN HOLSTEIN, WINNEBAGO	2013 - PATTY BENTZINGER, NORRIS	2006 - FRED TAFOYA, PAPILLON-LA VISTA
2019 - VALERIE FISHER, PAPILLON-LA VISTA	2012 - KATHY BARTEK, FALLS CITY	2005 - WAYNE ERICKSON, WISNER-PILGER
2018 - KATHY DANEK, LINCOLN	2011 - JULIE AGARD, KEARNEY	2004 - ANN MACTIER, OMAHA



#### BOARDSMANSHIP



#### CAREER & COLLEGE READINESS



#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



#### CURRICULUM



#### ESU



#### FACILITIES



#### LEGAL & POLICY



#### LEGISLATIVE & ADVOCACY



#### MANAGEMENT/ADMINISTRATION



#### NEW BOARD MEMBER/NEW SUPERINTENDENT



#### SAFETY



#### STUDENTS/EARLY CHILDHOOD



#### TECHNOLOGY



#### WELLNESS & RETENTION

**“Out of the Public Schools Grows the Greatness of the Nation”**



## THURSDAY

- A1** LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- A2** DUAL CREDIT AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION
- A3** PUBLIC COMMENT UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT
- A4** LEADERSHIP, CULTURE AND COMMON LANGUAGE
- A5** BOARD MEMBER PERSONAL LIABILITY
- A6** HONORS COURSE ENROLLMENT AND SUCCESS
- A7** ENHANCE COMMUNICATION W NON-ENGLISH FAMILIES
- A8** ELEVATING BOARD LEADERSHIP
- A9** PARTNERSHIPS TO COMBAT THE TEACHER SHORTAGE
- A10** SCHOOL SAFETY DOESN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT
- A11** THE ROLE OF THE ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR
  
- B1** Q & A WITH NSAA
- B2** SUPERINTENDENT PANEL - "A DAY IN THE LIFE"
- B3** HANDLING CLOSED SESSION CORRECTLY
- B4** COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS WITH A PURPOSE
- B5** PAIN IN THE APP, V. 11.0
- B6** DEVELOPING NEBRASKA'S FUTURE EDUCATORS
- B7** DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FINANCE, AND MORE
- B8** STRENGTHENING BOARD & SUPERINTENDENT LEADERSHIP
- B9** EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH SUMMER LEARNING
- B10** CELL PHONES OFF
- B11** TRANSFORMING SCHOOL CULTURE
  
- C1** STUDENT VOICES
- C2** THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW AS AN ESU BOARD MEMBER
- C3** NEGOTIATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERS
- C4** WHY YOUR SCHOOL STORY MATTERS!
- C5** BARGAINING & CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS
- C6** A BOARD-LED INITIATIVE FOR DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP
- C7** SCHOOL FINANCE REVIEW COMMISSION UPDATE
- C8** COMMUNITY-CENTERED STRATEGIC PLANNING
- C9** EMPOWERING STUDENTS IN SCHOOL MEDIA
- C10** AN EVOLVING TECHNOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE
- C11** ACCESSIBLE PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN EDUCATION
  
- D1** LISTENING SESSION W/ MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD
- D2** EHA BENEFITS UPDATE
- D3** GLOBAL INSIGHTS
- D4** TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP
- D5** HOT TOPICS WITH KAREN & JIM
- D6** NCSA 3-YEAR MENTORING PROGRAM
- D7** UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING
- D8** HOW FOUNDATIONS UNITE TO SUPPORT

## FRIDAY

- E1** POSITIVITY PROJECT: THE '80S MIX TAPE VERSION
- E2** BIRTH-GRADE 3 APPROACH FOR NEBRASKA SCHOOLS
- E3** TEACHER SHORTAGE: RECRUITING, AND ONBOARDING
- E4** CREATING A CULTURE OF ATTENDANCE
- E5** TRENDS IN DISABILITY LAWS
- E6** ADDRESSING THE TEACHER SHORTAGE
- E7** INCORPORATING AI RESOURCES WITHIN SCHOOLS
- E8** USING DATA TO DRIVE ACCOUNTABILITY & SUCCESS
- E9** RENEWED 'TUDE (RESILIENT EDUCATORS)
  
- F1** SUPERINTENDENT SHORTAGES & INCREASED INTERIMS
- F2** RULE 10: REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, REPORTS, ETC
- F3** GENERATIVE AI IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- F4** FILLING THE ED PIPELINE
- F5** CONSTRUCTION DELIVERY METHODS
- F6** CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION
- F7** CO-TEACHING: CHATGPT & ME
- F8** STRENGTHENING BOARD LEADERSHIP FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

## BOARD MEMBER BOOT CAMP

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 7:00 TO 8:00 AM**

### **ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**

Start your day with a continental breakfast and an interactive Bootcamp for all board members and superintendents too! Move through the eight engaging stations, each highlighting a key characteristic of an effective board from governance vs. management to fostering accountability and actionable tools to take back to your district. This session serves as a warmup for Breakout Session A8: Elevating Board Leadership: Effective Board Governance = Student Success where we move from the "what" of board work to the "how" of focusing on measured student success. Register for the Bootcamp through the QR Code:



## A

## A - BREAKOUT SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 9:45 TO 10:45 AM



### A1 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - 2025 LEGISLATIVE RECAP AND LOOK TO 2026

Join Colby and Mike for a dive into what the Legislature accomplished in 2025 and a look at what is in store for 2026. New policy mandates, option enrollment discussion, retirement and benefit changes, and direction of school finance will all be discussed.

**PRESENTERS: Colby Coash - NASB; Mike Dulaney - NCSA**



### A2 DUAL CREDIT AND WORKFORCE PREPARATION: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE CAREER ACADEMY

The Career Academy is a joint venture between Lincoln Public Schools and Southeast Community College. TCA provides academic and real-world experiences to high school juniors and seniors through high school and dual credit courses. We'll share innovative models that integrate high school academics with industry-relevant skills, creating pathways to immediate employment and higher education; and showcase data-driven outcomes that highlight strategic partnerships between schools and businesses that address critical workforce gaps. This presentation will empower attendees to implement and expand dual credit initiatives, ensuring students graduate with the skills demanded by today's job market.

**PRESENTERS: Annie Mumgaard, Josh Jones & John Skretta - Lincoln Public Schools**



### A3 PUBLIC COMMENT AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

In this session, we will walk through public comment as prescribed by the Open Meetings Act. Then, we will walk through real-world examples and how boards should handle both simple and complicated scenarios under the Open Meetings Act.

**PRESENTERS: Justin Knight - Perry Law Firm**



### A4 CONTROL THE CONTROLLABLES THROUGH LEADERSHIP FOCUSED ON CULTURE AND COMMON LANGUAGE

Attendees will hear how Westside Community Schools is focused on controlling what we can control through leadership, collaboration, and an emphasis on district culture. We will share ideas on how to create common language and a mindset about being focused on our classrooms while all kinds of things go on around us that we can't control. We will also share various "culture game plans" and an emphasis on E+R=O leadership.

**PRESENTER: Mike Lucas - Westside Community Schools**



### A5 DOLLARS AND SENSE: BOARD MEMBER PERSONAL LIABILITY AND RELATED CONCERNS

It's already an unpaid volunteer job, and now you're telling me I could be personally liable?! Sometimes, maybe, possibly, yes. This presentation will focus on those situations where school board members (and superintendents) could face allegations leading to personal liability (i.e., money out of your own pocket), criminal sanctions, and even removal related to service on the school board. Don't fret too much--it doesn't happen often, but it's worth knowing when those situations could arise and how to navigate them!

**PRESENTERS: Bobby Truhe & Steve Williams - KSB School Law**

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## **A6 OPPORTUNITY & ACCESS: BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS TO HONORS COURSE ENROLLMENT AND SUCCESS**



Discover how one school district in Nebraska implemented system-wide changes to increase access and opportunity for honors courses for all students, with a particular emphasis on how the action steps were operationalized within social studies honors courses. Explore a step-by-step process and consider how similar impactful actions could be adopted in your own context!

**PRESENTERS: Jaclyn Kellison & Takako Olson - Lincoln Public Schools**



## **A7 INTEGRATING RESOURCES TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION WITH NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING FAMILIES**

Columbus Public Schools will share the available resources that can be integrated into your regular communication strategies to create seamless access for your non-English speaking families.

**PRESENTERS: Nicole Anderson & Chip Kay - Columbus Public Schools**



## **A8 ELEVATING BOARD LEADERSHIP: EFFECTIVE BOARD GOVERNANCE = STUDENT SUCCESS**

Building on the Board Member Boot Camp warmup, this breakout takes you beyond the "what" of board roles and responsibilities into the "how" of using those roles to drive student success. Through scenarios, discussion, and practical resources, learn how to connect governance leadership to student outcomes, align board work with district improvement goals, and foster a culture of continuous growth. Leave equipped to move from understanding your role to leveraging it for maximum impact on student success.

**PRESENTERS: Marcia Herring, Stacie Higgins & Stephanie Summers - NASB**



## **A9 CREATING PARTNERSHIPS TO COMBAT THE TEACHER SHORTAGE**

Learn how UNK and Kearney Public Schools have partnered to form the Kearney Education Collaborative aimed at improving educational opportunities and partnerships for recruiting teachers. Specifically, they will discuss "Teachmates," a program where selected UNK and KPS students form a mentee-mentor relationship. The speakers will discuss the "Kearney Teachers Tomorrow" scholarship program which created a Kearney High School to UNK to KPS pipeline for selected students/teachers. This session will highlight how other districts can consider similar options for their districts, both large and small.

**PRESENTERS: Jason Mundorf - Kearney Public Schools; Mark Reid - UNK**



## **A10 SCHOOL SAFETY DOESN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT**

Children who feel SAFE will take risks, ask questions, make mistakes, learn to trust, share their feelings, and grow! The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) School Safety Team has built guidance and resource tools for schools in the safety and security requirements and best practices. The NDE Safety Team operates under the four pillars of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery while using acronyms like EOP, SRP, SRM, PFA-S, and TA. Additionally, State Statutes implemented or introduced must also be adhered to. Schools who learn the acronyms, state statutes, and how to apply these concepts, toolkits, presentations, videos, and trainings are those recognized by NDE & their community to place school safety first. Join the NDE School Safety Director to make sure your school community is earning their Badge in safety and security.

**PRESENTER: Jay Martin - NDE**



## **A11 THE ROLE OF THE ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATOR**

This session will help school district administrators and members of boards of education understand the multiple roles and responsibilities of the athletic administrator. Attendees will gain a better understanding of how to support and retain their athletic administrator, including the mentoring and professional growth opportunities available through both the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the Nebraska State Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

**PRESENTERS: Nate Larsen - O'Neill Public Schools; Mark Armstrong - NSIAAA; Steve Throne - Millard Public Schools**

## B

## B - BREAKOUT SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 11:15 AM TO 12:15 PM



### B1 Q & A WITH NSAA

This session will explore topics affecting NSAA member schools. Bring your questions as we discuss emerging trends and their impact on NSAA sanctioned activities.

**PRESENTERS: NSAA Staff**



### B2 SUPERINTENDENT PANEL - "A DAY IN THE LIFE"

Practicing Superintendents present, discuss, and answer questions regarding their efforts in developing positive and personal work relationships with their board of education.

**PRESENTERS: Troy Loeffelholz & Kevin Wingard - NCSA; Chris Proski - Hastings Public Schools; Chip Kay - Columbus Public Schools; Mitch Kubicek - Milford**



### B3 HANDLING CLOSED SESSION CORRECTLY: LEGAL REMINDERS AND REMEDIES

Closed session can be a very complicated area of the law. In this session, we will walk through the legal requirements and case studies involving entering into closed session, discussions during closed session, "leaks" from closed session, and other legal issues that may arise in closed session.

**PRESENTER: Justin Knight - Perry Law Firm**



### B4 COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS WITH A PURPOSE

Located on the Omaha Reservation in Macy, Nebraska, the Umónhon Nation "Against the Current" Career Academy is a model for small school districts seeking to create opportunities for local students and strong partnerships. Designed by BVH Architecture and built by Boyd Jones in close collaboration with the district, the Academy equips students with hands-on skills in automotive, construction, culinary, early childhood, entrepreneurship, and healthcare - offering direct career pathways within the community. This project demonstrates the power of team collaboration and local partnerships to develop resources, bringing meaningful workforce pipelines to life and reinvesting in their communities.

**PRESENTERS: Kari Bappe, Cleveland Reeves, Stacie Hardy & Mark Pfister - Boyd Jones Construction**



### B5 PAIN IN THE APP, V. 11.0

This presentation is already in middle school, at 11 years and going strong. Come join the KSB attorneys for the latest and greatest in legal and practical developments around social media, technology, cell phones, and other key topics for administrators and board members.

**PRESENTERS: Sara Rogers & Amanda Dabney - KSB School Law**



### B6 GROW YOUR OWN: DEVELOPING NEBRASKA'S FUTURE EDUCATORS

The Grow Your Own Education and Training Program of Study is a statewide, open-resource curriculum to help Nebraska schools develop future educators. This four-course program aligns with Nebraska state standards, embeds Universal Design for Learning, integrates Educators Rising, and meets dual-credit requirements. Attendees will learn how to implement the curriculum, access teacher training, and engage students in career exploration. Discover how this program can help build a sustainable educator pipeline for your district and invest in Nebraska's future teachers.

**PRESENTERS: Lynne Herr - ESU 6; Katie Soto - ESU 9**





## **B7 PROJECT PLANNING 101: INSIGHTS FROM PARTNERS IN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, FINANCE, AND MORE**



Navigating a school construction project is no small task. This panel of experts will guide school leaders through three critical steps: identifying key partners, selecting the right delivery method, and understanding financing options; lease-purchase agreements, bonds, and building fund dollars. Attendees will gain actionable strategies and valuable perspectives from industry leaders, leaving equipped to navigate the complexities of construction planning with confidence and clarity. Whether planning a new project or refining your approach, this session will provide the essential knowledge to move your district forward successfully.

**PRESENTERS: Aaron Plas - Bennington Public Schools; Steve Thiele - Hausmann Construction, Inc.; Tobin Buchanan - Northland Securities; Bob Soukup - Carlson West Povondra Architects**



## **B8 STRENGTHENING BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT LEADERSHIP: UTILIZING A BOARD HANDBOOK FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**

Effective governance is the foundation of a successful school district, and a well-structured Board of Education Handbook serves as a vital tool for aligning leadership, clarifying roles, and fostering strong superintendent-board relationships. This session will explore the process of implementing a BOE Handbook to enhance communication, decision-making, and governance efficiency. Participants will learn strategies for creating and utilizing a handbook that sets clear expectations, promotes collaboration, and strengthens the leadership capacity of both board members and superintendents. Practical examples and best practices will provide attendees with actionable steps to enhance their district's governance framework.

**PRESENTERS: Sean Molloy, Derrick Joel & Gary Kubicek - Norris School District 160; Marcia Herring - NASB**



## **B9 TAKING LEARNING BEYOND 175: EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH SUMMER LEARNING**



"Taking Learning Beyond 175" is a dynamic session designed to showcase the innovative summer school program aimed at expanding educational opportunities for all students beyond the regular 175 school days. Building on the foundation of whole-student excellence, this innovative "summer school" program goes beyond traditional boundaries by offering creative, hands-on learning experiences that foster growth, imagination, and resilience. Explore how this program has helped us enhance skills and empower students to reach their full potential. We'll discuss the program's impact on student activities and teacher satisfaction, at limited to no expense to the school district.

**PRESENTERS: Susan Lindblad, Libby Lollman & Shawn Scott - Adams Central Public Schools**



## **B10 CELL PHONES OFF**



Grand Island Senior High School implemented a comprehensive effort to strictly enforce a no cell phone throughout the school day policy in January of 2024. GISH administrators, staff, and students will discuss the reasons behind the action, how students and parents were prepared for the implementation, what worked and didn't work, and where they are after living this change for almost two years.

**PRESENTERS: Matt Fisher, Calvin Hubbard, GIPS teachers & students - Grand Island Public Schools**



## **B11 BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT WALLS: TRANSFORMING SCHOOL CULTURE THROUGH RESTORATIVE PRACTICES**

At Brady Public Schools, we've been reshaping our school culture by embracing restorative practices, which have become a cornerstone of how we connect, work, and grow together. These practices have strengthened relationships, fostered mutual respect, and created a true sense of community among students, staff, administrators, and the school board. Through collaboration and open communication, restorative practices have fostered a positive, supportive environment across our entire school ecosystem. In this presentation, we'll highlight how restorative practices have embedded our core values, helping repair harm, prevent conflict, and ensure everyone feels valued—building a community, not just a school.

**PRESENTERS: Sara Gentry & Ann Foster - Brady Public Schools**



## C - BREAKOUT SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 2:15 TO 3:15 PM



### C1 STUDENT VOICES

Students from Nebraska high schools share their perspectives on issues that are important to the leaders of tomorrow.



### C2 YOU ARE AN ESU BOARD MEMBER - 17 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

As ESU Board Members, you will learn up to date information about the services in ESUs, the work of the ESUCC, the MOU with the NDE, legislative priorities, and more! Come ready to learn, share, and problem solve together.

**PRESENTERS: Larianne Polk - ESUCC; Brad Dirksen - NDE; Colby Coash - NASB**



### C3 NEGOTIATIONS FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Negotiations is one of the most important functions of a school board. In fact, "personnel" is the largest item of a school district's budget. This session will walk through the statutory requirements for negotiations. We will also give boards an update on negotiations "hot topics" and ideas for your upcoming negotiations season.

**PRESENTER: Justin Knight - Perry Law Firm**



### C4 BUCKLE UP: JOURNEYING THE STATE AND WHY YOUR SCHOOL STORY MATTERS!

Why do Nebraska schools rank high nationally? Why are Nebraska students sought after by employers everywhere? We'll take you to school districts across our great state in a quest to find the answers. The NCSA Ambassador Program and Nebraska Public School Advantage advocate for public education one remarkable story at a time. Since 2016, we have gathered nearly 500 stories of public school success. These stories, from the Metro to The Panhandle, are examples of the student first, Nebraska way. Buckle up!

**PRESENTERS: Kevin Wingard & Tyler Dahlgren - NCSA**



### C5 LET'S DEAL! BARGAINING & CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS FOR TOUGH POSITIONS & SHORTAGES

Every year, we're all getting more creative to address staffing issues. Those range from bargaining things like retention or hiring bonuses to salary schedule placement gamesmanship. The contract renewal process is becoming an arms race, with more schools incentivising staff to recommit or resign sooner. Plus there are always unique contract considerations for those unique positions and hybrid roles as staffing shortages continue. This presentation will go through all your options, pros and cons, and leave board members and administrators feeling ready to tackle these questions at your district.

**PRESENTERS: Steve Williams & Sara Rogers - KSB School Law**



### C6 A BOARD-LED INITIATIVE FOR DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

In today's digital world, teaching students to navigate online spaces responsibly is just as important as traditional academics. That's why the Hershey Board of Education made digital citizenship a formal priority for the 24-25 school year with the board goal to "Provide instruction on acceptable use of technology to better prepare students for responsible digital citizenship." To support this goal, we partnered with A.Plum Creative to develop engaging, fact-checked content that promotes responsible digital habits. Our initiative includes weekly social media posts, digital signage across campus, and ongoing resources for families and staff to help build a culture of integrity and safety in digital spaces, and we're already seeing results. Conversations around digital safety are increasing across classrooms and homes, showing the power of this effort.

**PRESENTERS: Jane Davis & Steve Koch - Hershey Public Schools**

"Out of the Public Schools Grows the Greatness of the Nation"





## C7 SCHOOL FINANCE REVIEW COMMISSION UPDATE

Join members of the recently created School Finance Commission for a panel presentation, Q & A, and update on the work of the commission.

**PRESENTERS:** Ann Foster - Brady Public Schools; Jason Dolliver - Pender Public Schools; Aaron Plas - Bennington Public Schools; Liz Standish - Lincoln Public Schools; John Schwartz - Millard Public Schools; Shavonna Holman - Omaha Public Schools; Keith Runge - Lakeview Community Schools



## C8 LISTENING, LEARNING, LEADING: COMMUNITY-CENTERED STRATEGIC PLANNING

Engaging stakeholders for graduate success and long-term district planning. In partnership, the board and superintendent lead efforts to connect with the community, parents, staff, students, and local partners to define what every graduate must know and be able to do. This work begins with strategies for effective community engagement drawing from research linking public involvement to improved student outcomes and continues through ongoing stakeholder conversations that shape a shared vision for student success.

**PRESENTERS:** Caden Frank, Ben Anderjaska & Avary Pansing Brooks - NASB



## C9 EMPOWERING STUDENTS IN SCHOOL MEDIA: CONTENT CREATION & MANAGEMENT

This session will showcase how students take an active role in managing and producing school media content. From publishing sports, extracurricular, and academic achievements on social media to creating engaging visuals for two video boards, students gain hands-on experience in digital media. By taking ownership of projects, they develop critical skills in communication, design, and media production. This presentation is ideal for school leaders seeking innovative ways to enhance media presence while providing students with real-world skills in communication, design, and project management.

**PRESENTERS:** Crystal Hassenstab & Shawn Scott - Adams Central Public Schools



## C10 AN EVOLVING TECHNOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE: UPDATES TO SPARQ MEETINGS, NEGOTIATIONS, AND ONLINE PUBLISHING

Join us to learn about how Sparq Meetings and Negotiations have adapted to the ever-changing landscape of board governance. In this session, we will discuss updates to these applications and review tips and tricks to help you become more efficient and proficient. In addition, we will give an overview of Sparq Online Publishing and how it integrates with Sparq Meetings and your board governance.

**PRESENTERS:** Darion Miller & Nicole Kobus - Sparq Data Solutions



## C11 REDEFINING ROUTES: ACCESSIBLE PATHWAYS TO CAREERS IN EDUCATION

Learn how Central Community College collaborates with institutions like Kearney Public Schools to establish accessible pathways to education careers. CCC's statewide, cost-effective offerings have already demonstrated significant impact in alleviating staffing challenges across K-12 institutions. This session will equip administrators and board members with practical knowledge to consider, potentially transforming their approach to recruitment and professional development. Join us to explore how these innovative programs are not only addressing immediate staffing shortages but also cultivating a sustainable pipeline of qualified educators for the future.

**PRESENTERS:** Megan Schmidt - Kearney Public Schools; Taylor Brase & Amy Mancini - Central Community College





## D - BREAKOUT SESSIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 3:30 TO 4:30 PM



### D1 A LISTENING SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



Share your thoughts on statewide education policy with members of the State Board of Education. State Board members are particularly interested in what is currently affecting local school boards and districts, and the solutions you have to offer for these issues. Topics may include school accountability, accreditation, and approval; educator certification; and statewide assessment, among others. Attending this session is a great opportunity for you to have your voice heard among members of the State Board of Education.

**PRESENTERS: Elizabeth Tegtmeier - State Board of Education; Ryan Foor - NDE**



### D2 EHA BENEFITS UPDATE

Come learn more about the changes to the Medical and Dental plan effective September 1, 2026!

**PRESENTERS: Courtney Ray - Blue Cross Blue Shield of NE; Greg Long - EHA**



### D3 GLOBAL INSIGHTS, LOCAL IMPACT: LESSONS FROM SINGAPORE AND SOUTH KOREA

Larriane Polk and Dan Schnoes had the privilege of participating in an international leadership academy in Singapore and South Korea, gaining invaluable insights into global leadership practices, innovative educational strategies, and cultural exchange. By observing how these countries tackle educational challenges and foster growth, we gained a deeper understanding of their approaches to teaching and learning. We hope you take away a desire to explore similar opportunities for yourself or your leadership personnel, as these global experiences not only enrich leadership development but also bring fresh, transformative perspectives that can benefit our entire educational ecosystem.

**PRESENTERS: Larriane Polk - ESUCC; Dan Schnoes - ESU 3**



### D4 TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP - EXPERIENCES FROM THE FIELD

This session highlights the collaborative efforts of the Nebraska State Department of Education, Westside Community Schools, and Midland University in developing a successful apprenticeship program aimed at diversifying and strengthening Nebraska's teaching workforce. The session underscores the program's core purpose: to create sustainable pipelines of educators who are deeply grounded in their communities. The discussion covers the program's benefits - such as increased on-the-job training, community familiarity, and addressing critical staffing shortages - as well as lessons learned through ongoing stakeholder feedback, comprehensive support, and celebrating milestones. Future plans focus on expanding apprentice graduation rates, ensuring program sustainability through continued funding, and forging partnerships to meet high-need areas across Nebraska. Attendees will gain insights into the program's impact, lessons learned, and strategies for scaling these innovative pathways into teaching careers.

**PRESENTERS: Nancy Christensen, Johanna Barnes, & Cammy Romanuck Murphy - Midland University; Andrea Haynes - Westside Community Schools; Kelly Baehr - NDE**



### D5 HOT TOPICS WITH KAREN & JIM

Join veteran school attorneys Jim from Perry Law and Karen from KSB for an insightful and entertaining session on the latest "Hot Topics" in school law. This dynamic duo will break down key legal issues that Nebraska school board members need to understand, whether they're already on your radar or just around the corner. Expect valuable takeaways... and a bit of lively banter between Jim and Karen along the way!

**PRESENTERS: Karen Haase - KSB School Law; Jim Gessford - Perry Law Firm**





## **D6** NCSA 3-YEAR MENTORING PROGRAM

Research shows that the retainment of school administrators is more successful if they are engaged in a strong multi-year mentoring program that supports the school administrator beyond a one year mentor program.

**PRESENTERS:** Troy Loeffelholz - NCSA; Mike Sieh - Wayne State College; Mike Teahon - UNK; Tami Williams - UNO



## **D7** UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EMPOWERING SCHOOLS TO TAKE ACTION

This session will offer a thorough overview of human trafficking, aiming to debunk common myths and highlight the harsh realities of this critical issue. Participants will explore how trafficking affects communities, recognizing warning signs and vulnerabilities that make students susceptible. The presentation will also introduce ESU 2's Human Trafficking Youth Prevention Education (HTYPE) program, which supports school districts in implementing prevention strategies. Attendees will learn how ESU 2 can collaborate with schools to provide tailored training for staff, students, and caregivers, equipping them with the knowledge to identify and prevent trafficking in their communities.

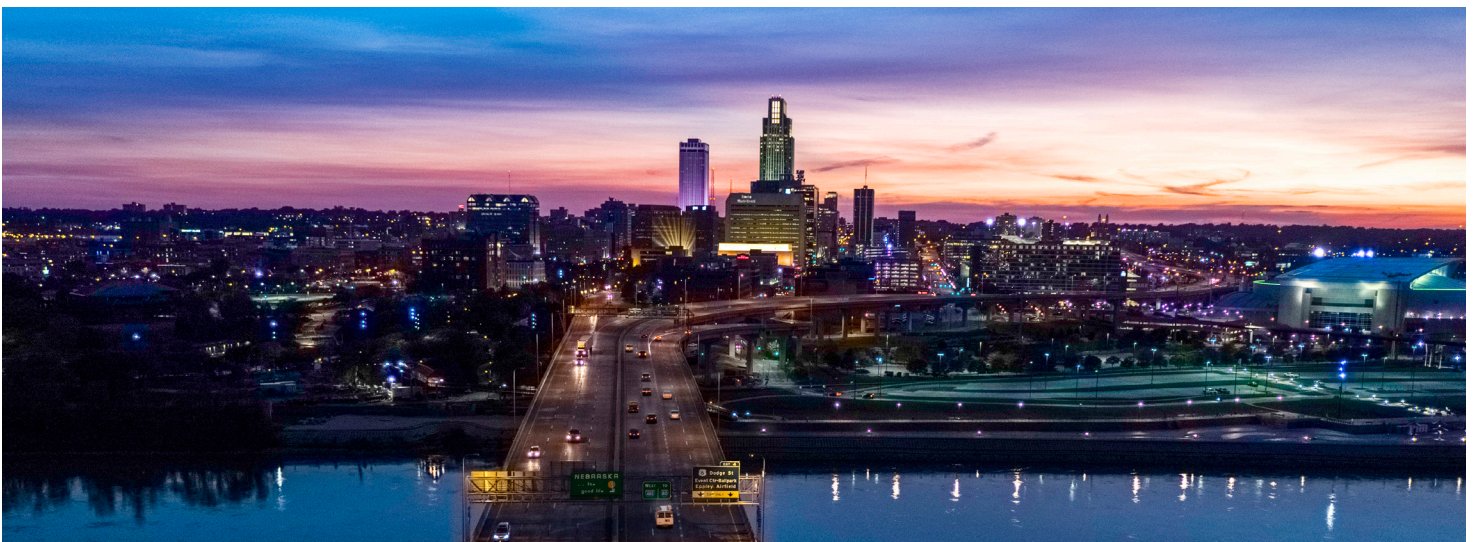
**PRESENTER:** Megan Reese - ESU 2



## **D8** STRENGTH IN PARTNERSHIPS: HOW FOUNDATIONS, DISTRICTS, AND COMMUNITIES UNITE TO SUPPORT TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Education foundations play a unique and essential role in bridging the gap between district needs and community resources. This session will explore how one rural and one metro foundation have successfully partnered with their district and local community to create impactful programs that directly benefit teachers and students. Attendees will learn how collaborative initiatives such as teacher grants, student scholarships, technology enhancements and community-driven fundraising have strengthened public education and fostered engagement. Through real-life examples and practical takeaways, this session will highlight strategies for building meaningful partnerships, securing sustainable funding, and aligning efforts with district goals.

**PRESENTERS:** Toba Cohen-Dunning - Omaha Public Schools Foundation; Terri Burchell - North Platte Public Schools





## E

## E - BREAKOUT SESSIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - 9:15 TO 10:15 AM



### E1 POSITIVITY PROJECT: THE '80S MIX TAPE VERSION

With a fun and nostalgic '80s mixed tape anthem, this session will spotlight our district's PK-12 SEBL curriculum implementation of the Positivity Project. We will make connections to our CIP, the MTSS framework, PBIS, and our efforts to transform school culture by living out our district's mission to educate, embrace, and empower the whole child. We will share schoolwide activities we have implemented, our tiered approach to supporting student mental health and behavior learning, and resources we have found beneficial. Walk in with your best air guitar, walk out with power ballads and rad ideas on how Positivity Project could impact your school culture!

**PRESENTERS: Allie Holcomb, Angela Zach & Brittany Vinchattle - Wakefield Community School**



### E2 BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS: THE SCHOOL AS HUB BIRTH-GRADE 3 APPROACH FOR NEBRASKA SCHOOLS

The first eight years are crucial for a child's success, with schools playing a key role. The School as Hub Birth-Grade 3 Approach is built on an evidence-based framework designed to close opportunity gaps by strengthening early learning, family-school partnerships, and instruction. This session explores strategies for integrating early childhood with elementary education, building leadership, and engaging families and communities. Join us to learn actionable steps for transforming schools into hubs of support, ensuring all children and families have access to opportunities for lifelong learning and success from birth through age eight.

**PRESENTERS: Cris Lopez Anderson - Buffet Early Childhood Institute; Itzeni Nayeli Lopez - University of Nebraska**



### E3 PRACTICAL STRATEGIES AND LESSONS LEARNED IN THE TEACHER SHORTAGE: RECRUITING, ONBOARDING, AND TRANSITIONING FOREIGN-TRAINED TEACHER CONTRACTS

As schools across Nebraska continue to grapple with teacher shortages, districts are exploring innovative and ethical strategies to recruit and retain high-quality educators. We will share and discuss practical strategies, along with lessons learned in recruitment, certification, and onboarding, as well as legal and ethical considerations when transitioning or ending contracts with international teachers.

**PRESENTERS: Daniel Oldenburg, Katelyn Larsen & Jeremy Christiansen - Laurel-Concord-Coleridge School; Justin Knight - Perry Law Firm**



### E4 CREATING A CULTURE OF ATTENDANCE: STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN HIGH-POVERTY RURAL SCHOOLS

Chronic absenteeism is a major issue in elementary schools, especially in high-poverty rural areas. This session will explore strategies for reducing absenteeism by improving school culture, implementing targeted interventions, and enhancing family support. Drawing from our experience, where we reduced absenteeism from 39% to 9% in three years, we'll share practices like building a positive school environment, early identification, and personalized support for at-risk students. Participants will gain actionable strategies to foster consistent attendance.

**PRESENTER: Charla Brant - Hastings Public Schools**



## **E5** MMMMM...SMELLS LIKE MEDICAL MARIJUANA AND MONEY DAMAGES: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRENDS IN DISABILITY LAWS

Disability laws (IDEA, 504, ADA, etc.) can be tricky, because superintendents and board members usually aren't directly involved but certainly cut the checks and get the phone calls. This presentation will cover the emerging trends in special education that you have to know about in 2025 in a school leadership role, including policy implications and other legal considerations.

**PRESENTERS: Bobby Truhe, Jordon Johnson & Amanda Dabney - KSB School Law**



## **E6** MOVING TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS: HOW ONE DISTRICT IS ADDRESSING TEACHER SHORTAGE

To combat teacher shortages, Lincoln Public Schools is implementing innovative "Grow Your Own" (GYO) programs to develop future educators from within its community. Participants will explore helpful strategies for creating and sustaining successful GYO programs, from identifying potential future teachers in local high schools to supporting paraprofessionals and career changers on their path to certification. Learn about the pilot Para Pathway to Teaching (PPT) program, Educators Rising Career, and Technical Student Organization opportunities. Learn practical ideas to build homegrown talent pipelines that reflect the richness and strengths of your student population, ultimately fostering a teaching workforce invested in its community.

**PRESENTERS: John Skretta, Vann Price & Annie Mumgaard - Lincoln Public Schools**



## **E7** INCORPORATING AI RESOURCES & GUIDELINES WITHIN NEBRASKA SCHOOLS

Attendees will hear from Westside Community Schools as they outline the process they have recently gone through to further study Artificial Intelligence and determine how to best embrace it and provide efficient and ethical guidelines for students, staff, parents, and community.

**PRESENTERS: Mike Lucas, Andrea Haynes, Mark Weichel - Westside Community Schools**



## **E8** ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS: USING DATA TO DRIVE ACCOUNTABILITY & STUDENT SUCCESS

Accountability and student success begin with the questions board members bring to the table. This interactive session will help boards understand how to use data effectively to guide decision making, understand realistic expectations for improvement, and support district priorities. Learn how a Data Assessment Framework strengthens governance and why ongoing professional development matters. Explore the board's role in advancing system interventions to ensure a positive impact on student learning. Leave with practical questions and strategies to ensure your board is driving improved student outcomes through informed, accountable leadership.

**PRESENTERS: Stacie Higgins & Stephanie Summers - NASB**



## **E9** RENEWED 'TUDE (RESILIENT EDUCATORS)

Life moves at breakneck speed, and the pace in today's classrooms is no different. How can teachers keep up with the demands of the ever-changing curriculum, school meetings, and the never-ending tasks of running a classroom while still having fuel for life and their families? How can we best prioritize the human element of teaching so we can thrive both at work and at home? This deep dive into the Science of Happiness, Psychology, and the latest findings from Neuroscience will provide teachers with personally relevant strategies and tools to thrive in their professional and personal lives!

**PRESENTER: Christopher Knoell - UNK**



## F

## F - BREAKOUT SESSIONS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - 10:30 TO 11:30 AM



**F1 HELLO! THERE ARE SUPERINTENDENT SHORTAGES & INCREASED INTERIM POSITIONS. WHY?** Shortages in the teacher ranks are not the only shortages in education. What does the current landscape look like to replace school superintendents and administrators across the state.

**PRESENTERS:** Troy Loeffelholz - NCSA; Mike Sieh - Wayne State College; Mike Teahon - UNK; Tami Williams - UNO



**F2 RULE 10: REQUIREMENTS, REGULATIONS, REPORTS, AND COMPLIANCE VISITS. HOW BOARD MEMBERS CAN SUPPORT SUPERINTENDENTS**

Rule 10 has several sections, numerous statutes, and over 200 regulations. This is for board members who want to support their superintendent through having a better understanding of what it means to be accredited through Rule 10.

**PRESENTERS:** Decua Jean-Baptiste, Todd Wolverton & Sandra Suiter - NDE



**F3 GENERATIVE AI IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SEEMS LIKE THE "WILD, WILD WEST" - HOW SCHOOL BOARDS AND ADMINISTRATORS NEED TO UNDERSTAND AND MIGHT ADDRESS CORRALLING IT!**

Jim and Derek will address the current status of AI, how many schools are or are not using it and what's in the future!

**PRESENTERS:** Jim Gessford & Derek Aldrege - Perry Law Firm



**F4 LEVERAGING CAREER & TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS TO FILL THE ED PIPELINE**

Nebraska FCCLA is reaching nearly 3,000 Nebraska students with over 30 competitive events and programming opportunities that develop career skills in education and childcare. FCCLA's members are preparing for careers in some of the state's most concerning shortage areas. Join us to learn how your continued support of Family and Consumer Sciences and FCCLA can continue to enable your students and communities to thrive.

**PRESENTERS:** Nebraska FCCLA State Officers, Nebraska FCCLA Board of Directors



**F5 CONSTRUCTION DELIVERY METHODS: THE PROS, THE CONS, AND THE RISKS**

Choosing the right construction delivery method is critical for the success of your school project. This session will break down the details of common delivery methods, including hard bid, construction manager as advisor, construction manager at risk, and design-build. Learn how each method impacts cost, schedule, and collaboration - and which one aligns best with your goals. Through real-world examples, we'll discuss lessons learned, potential pitfalls, and key factors in making an informed decision. Whether you're planning a renovation or a new build, this session will help you confidently navigate the construction process.

**PRESENTERS:** Steve Thiele - Hausmann Construction, Inc.; Coady Pruett - KSB School Law



**F6 STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP: CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION**

Delve into the essential elements that foster a culture of collaboration within education organizations. Gain insights into the underlying purpose, leadership approaches, and structural frameworks that propel collaborative efforts forward with an emphasis on the importance of leading with intentionality and focus. Attendees will explore four key levers, along with associated strategies and actions, that shape and nurture collaboration as well as have opportunities to make connections to deepen understanding throughout the session. The content, strategies, and resources are designed to accommodate various levels of implementation and stages of collaborative culture development.

**PRESENTERS:** Bill Pulte, Scott Blum & Cecilia Wilken - ESU 3





## **F7 CO-TEACHING: CHATGPT & ME**

In this forward-leaning exploration, we will consider questions about Artificial Intelligence, ranging from its definition and potential applications/use cases to more fundamental issues such as ethical considerations and implications for classrooms and students. Our discussion will be both upbeat and honest, and you will leave with valuable insights for navigating the future that skipped our doorstep and is already in our classrooms.

**PRESENTER: Christopher Knoell - UNK**



## **F8 POLICY TO PRACTICE: STRENGTHENING BOARD LEADERSHIP FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**

Strong school board leadership is essential for student success. This session will explore the NASB Board Governance Standards and their role in promoting effective governance, strategic decision-making, accountability, and policy leadership. Participants will gain insights into how policy serves as the foundation for board work, guiding district operations and aligning decisions with student-focused priorities. Whether you are a new or experienced board member, this session will provide valuable guidance on fostering a high-functioning, policy-driven board that supports improved student outcomes.

**PRESENTERS: Marcia Herring, Caden Frank & Becky Erdkamp - NASB**

## Registering for the Conference

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025 STATE EDUCATION CONFERENCE WILL OPEN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

To register, go to the NASB website at [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org) and log in using your email and password, and click the State Education Conference link.

AS YOU REGISTER, BE SURE TO MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE EXHIBITOR RECEPTION  
FROM 4:00 TO 5:30 PM ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19.

IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS DUE TO A MEDICAL CONDITION, CONTACT TAIDA GRANTSKI AT  
TGRANTSKI@NASBONLINE.ORG TO ARRANGE ALTERNATIVE MENUS.



Register now at [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)



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