NASB BOARD NOTES



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS



Leadership Innovation Vision Engagement #liveNASB #weLIVEhere

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IN THIS EDITION OF BOARD NOTES ...
YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND EM ME
AT THE BOARD TABLE
MARCH HIGH SCHOOL MASCOT MADNESS 2024
WHY HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS MATTER
EDUCATION & REVENUE TREES: A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
RELY ON NASB'S NATURAL GAS PROGRAMS
NATIONAL WALK @ LUNCH DAY - APRIL 24
NASB MEMBER GOLF OUTING - JUNE 12
YOUR 2024 NASB AFFILIATES
THIS MONTH IN ... AND MUCH MORE!

TRAINING, NETWORKING, ENGAGEMENT & EVENTS

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https://members.nasbonline.org/events



NAEP State Convention - March 27-28 - Kearney





NASB Leadership Workshop - June 5-6 - Lincoln

NASB Member Golf Outing - June 12 - Kearney



School Leaders & Law Conference - June 12-13 - Kearney



Board Candidate Workshop - July 9 - Ogallala
Board Candidate Workshop - July 10 - Hastings
Board Candidate Workshop - July 11 - Ord
Board Candidate Workshop - July 16 - Milford
ALICAP Summer Workshop - July 10 - Gering
ALICAP Summer Workshop - July 11 - Kearney
ALICAP Summer Workshop - July 12 - Lincoln
ALICAP Summer Workshop - July 12 - Lincoln

To register for an NASB event, click on the 'My Membership' link, then navigate to the 'Events' dropdown and select 'Register'. If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 800-422-4572 for assistance.

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Consolidation. A decision that takes time, patience, data, and understanding. The school districts in Exeter-Milligan and Friend have been in an on and off working partnership when it comes to the topic of consolidation for about 25 years.

In 1999, a feasibility study was done that included four school districts. Exeter, Milligan, Friend and Dorchester. The outcome of this initial study resulted in the consolidation of Exeter-Milligan becoming one district. Fast forward to 2015, Friend Public Schools, and Exeter-Milligan Public Schools begin the cooperative agreement for Junior High Football, with High School Football to follow in 2018. During this time, the school's student bodies voted to adopt a cooperative mascot and school colors known as the EMF Bobcats, represented in silver and black. Shortly thereafter, the districts also initiated shared staff to enhance academics for both school districts.

In 2020, the shared staff and successful co-op spawned further discussion of opportunities to support the success of each district. However, the discussion was tabled for several reasons for each district. In 2021, Friend hired Derek Anderson as the new Superintendent. Discussion was revisited leading to an all NSAA activity co-op for the 2023-24 school year. Through this co-op, it became clear that not only could the two districts see athletic success by coming together, but it could translate into academic success. A timeline to support the consolidation followed.

In January 2024, the two boards held four joint public meetings. The first two initial meetings were held in each district for the sole purpose of providing information only. At the conclusion of each meeting, community members were invited to submit



Exeter-Milligan Public Schools

https://www.emwolves.org/

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Adam Erdkamp, President
Kendra Jansky
Paul Jurgensen
Dan Kallhoff
Eric Milton
Allen Vavra
Paul Sheffield, Superintendent

Friend Public Schools https://www.friendbulldogs.org/

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jamie Tuttle, President Tyler Bartels Tiffany Shonerd Scott Spohn Nancy Vossler Megan Weber Derek Anderson, Superintendent

questions for the two school boards and administrators. The questions were addressed at the next set of meetings and posted on both school websites. At the final two joint public meetings in recent weeks, additional information was shared, and public comment was included to provide patrons the opportunity to present additional questions or general comments regarding the proposed consolidation. The feedback received at each public meeting supported the work of the boards of education and this initiative. Each district will provide yet another opportunity for comment at their next regular board meeting. A final vote for consolidation will also be on the agenda for the Friend and Exeter-Milligan April board meeting.

The petition submitted to NDE includes the use of both buildings in Exeter and Friend. The Exeter site will provide K-5 instruction and Friend will house grades 6-12, and each site will provide a preschool.

NASB is appreciative of the opportunity to serve in a facilitative and advisory role throughout this process. We congratulate each board and the superintendents for the hard work, purposeful decision-making, and focus on the students of each school district.

District Resources for their Communities

https://www.emwolves.org/page/school-board https://www.friendbulldogs.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/EMF%20Consolidation

AT THE BOARD TAB



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BOARD CALENDAR AGENDA ITEMS FOR YOUR MONTHLY MEETINGS

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https://members.nasbonline.org/board-leadership



Each month, this space reflects recommended regular board meeting agenda items to include in the upcoming board meeting agenda. Please contact Marcia at mherring@NASBonline.org if you have questions or recommendations for improving the Board Meeting Annual Calendar.



APRIL BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

Please see the March 15 email from mherring@NASBonline.org and shiggins@NASBonline.org for the draft of the April Board Meeting Agenda. If you have questions or need us to resend the email, please feel free to contact Marcia at 402- 450-5152 or Stacie at 402-209-1608.

UPCOMING NASB BOARD LEADERSHIP EVENTS

2024 Candidate Workshops

July 9 - Candidate Workshop - Ogallala Library

July 10 - Candidate Workshop - Hastings - ESU 9

July 11 - Candidate Workshop - Ord High School

July 16 - Candidate Workshop - Milford - ESU 6

**Additional Sites to be added, updates will be posted at www.NASBonline.org

The March 1 deadline for non-incumbent board candidates to file for school board is fast approaching.

The Board Leadership team encourages the Superintendent and Board President to invite the non-incumbent board candidate(s) to visit the district to initiate a positive working relationship by learning more about the individual and share information pertaining to board service.

Following the 2024 Primary Election, the Association will mail a Candidate packet to each non-incumbent candidate who will appear on the General Election ballot. We will include a copy of the 2024 Preparing To Serve publication, NASB Association Membership Guide, and a personal invite to attend the Candidate Workshop to be held throughout the state this July.

The Candidate Workshop is designed to provide a high-level overview of the role and responsibilities of a board member. This workshop is sponsored/provided free of charge to all participants courtesy of the Nebraska Public Leadership Foundation [NPLF]. Target audience includes non-incumbent board candidates, experienced board members who wish to accompany candidates, and superintendents.

If you have questions and/or wish to learn more about the workshop, please feel free to contact a Board Leadership team member at 800-422-4572. Registration is not required but appreciated.

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March High School Mascot Madness 2024: NCAA Tournament-style bracket

Original Article by Mike Swanson, SBLive Sports, @sblivesport, https://scorebooklive.com/ Modified slightly for NASB's Board Notes

The race is officially on to crown the best high school mascot in America in 2024, and Nebraska is represented with Nebraska's very own Mighty Bunnies, Chanticleers, and Crimson Pride! (NASB side note: We definitely feel there are some other extremely creative names from Nebraska missing from this list!)

Here's the field and matchups in SBLive Sports' annual contest where you can vote for the best high school mascot in America.

https://highschool.si.com/national/2024/03/15/march-high-school-mascot-madness-2024-ncaa-tournament-style-bracket-first-round-links

Last fall SBLive Sports held 50 contests to determine the best mascot in every state, and now those winners and top vote-getting runners-up will compete to be named best high school mascot in America in a traditional NCAA Tournament-style bracket, complete with 64 overall seeds. The winners will be determined by fan votes. In addition to the Omaha Benson Mighty Bunnies, Ord Chanticleers, and Roncalli Catholic Crimson Pride ... here are the other mascots from around the U.S. to make the list. The overall seeds were sorted according to which teams earned the most votes in our fall statewide contests. Each team's write-up ends with the total number of votes it received during SBLive Sports' fall mascot contests, its first-round matchup and when that matchup's poll closes.

- 1. Oakville Acorns (Washington)
- 2. Charles Wright Tarriers (Washington)
- 3. Coalinga Horned Toads (California)
- 4. Hollister Haybalers (California)
- 5. Tarpon Springs Spongers (Florida)
- 6. Key West Conchs (Florida)
- 7. Omaha Benson Mighty Bunnies (Nebraska)
- 8. Ridgefield Spudders (Washington)
- 9. Ord Chanticleers (Nebraska)
- 10. Compton Tarbabes (California)
- 11. North Kingstown Skippers (Rhode Island)
- 12. Alma Airedales (Arkansas)
- 13. Fordyce Redbugs (Arkansas)
- 14. Jordan Beetdiggers (Utah)
- 15. Clarkston Bantams (Washington)
- 16. Cairo Syrupmakers (Georgia)
- 17. Fort Vancouver Trappers (Washington)
- 18. Lincoln Abes (Washington)
- 19. Corbin Redhounds (Kentucky)
- 20. Shelton Highclimbers (Washington)
- 21. Camas Papermakers (Washington)
- 22. Ascension Episcopal Blue Gators (Louisiana)
- 23. Lincoln Fighting Zebras (California)

- 24. Lancaster Golden Gales (Ohio)
- 25. Crowley Gents/Ladies (Louisiana)
- 26. Gurdon Go-Devils (Arkansas)

27. Roncalli Catholic Crimson Pride (Nebraska)

- 28. Ashland Clockers (Massachusetts)
- 29. Shenandoah Zeps (Ohio)
- 30. Danville Little Johns (Arkansas)
- 31. Taylorsville Tartars (Mississippi)
- 32. Kenmare Honkers (North Dakota)
- 33. Colon Magi (Michigan)
- 34. Man Hillbillies (West Virginia)
- 35. Bend Lava Bears (Oregon)
- 36. Yuma Criminals (Arizona)
- 37. Farson-Eden Pronghorns (Wyoming)
- 38. Orofino Maniacs (Idaho)
- 39. Waterloo West Wahawks (Iowa)
- 40. Archie Whirlwinds (Missouri)
- 41. Miami Wardogs (Oklahoma)42. Northeast Dubois Jeeps (Indiana)
- 43. Hesston Swathers (Kansas)
- 44. Hutto Hippos (Texas)
- 45. Avon Old Farms Winged Beavers (Connecticut)
- 46. Alabama School for the Deaf Silent Warriors

- 47. Tabernacle of Prayer Christian Revelators (VA)
- 48. Northampton Konkrete Kids (Pennsylvania)
- 49. Carlsbad Cavemen (New Mexico)
- 50. Polo Marcos (Illinois)
- 51. Archmere Academy Auks (Delaware)
- 52. Crisfield Crabbers (Maryland)
- 53. Tonopah Fighting Muckers (Nevada)
- 54. Clinton Dark Horses (North Carolina)
- 55. Hillsboro-Deering Hillcats (New Hampshire)
- 56. Rhinelander Hodags (Wisconsin)
- 57. Wai'anae Seariders (Hawaii)
- 58. Anaconda Copperheads (Montana)
- 59. Roosevelt Teddies (Minnesota)
- 60. Vineland Fighting Clan (New Jersey)
- 61. Alamosa Mean Moose (Colorado)
- 62. Edward Little Red Eddies (Maine)
- 63. Marion Swamp Foxes (South Carolina)
- 64. Vermont Commons Flying Turtles (Vermont)
- 65. Haines Glacier Bears (Alaska)
- 66. Beresford Watchdogs (South Dakota)
- 67. Chattanooga Central Purple Pounders (TN)
- 68. Somers Tuskers (New York)

WHY HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS MATTER

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Prior to her election to the State Board of Education in November 2020, Patti Gubbels served on the Norfolk Board of Education, and was a member of the NASB Board of Directors, and the NASB Legislation Committee since 2016.

The Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System (NSCAS), Nebraska's statewide accountability test, measures student achievement in terms of attainment of the Nebraska college and career ready standards. For students to perform well on the NSCAS, they need to learn the content found in the standards and at the level of understanding called for in the standard. For example, if we expect students to use inquiry to answer, "why do some things sink?" instructional materials need to provide students with opportunities to hypothesize and experiment to find the answer to that question.



High-quality instructional materials (HQIM) include textbooks and teaching and learning materials that are aligned with standards, are user-friendly, and include lesson ideas that demand more than memorization. High-quality instructional materials include meaningful content and call for interaction between active learning and critical thinking.

In 2017, the Nebraska Department of Education partnered with the ESU Coordinating Council and the Nebraska State Literacy Association to establish the Nebraska Instructional Materials Collaborative (NIMC). The purpose of the collaborative is to inform and support local school districts as they select and implement high-quality instructional materials and curriculum.

The NIMC uses Ed Reports, an independent non-profit organization, to conduct reviews of existing instructional materials such as textbooks. The reviewers determine degree of alignment of Math, English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science instructional materials with Nebraska College and Career-ready Standards, look for academic rigor, and determine useability of the materials. The reviews are conducted for instructional materials by grade level for K-8 and by course for high school.

The NIMC publishes review results on the nematerialsmatter. org website so educators, local school board members, and the public can determine if a specific instructional material meets, partially meets, or does not meet the NE high-quality materials criteria. For each reviewed text and supporting materials, result ratings are presented like a stop light. That is, a red circle rating means the material does not meet expectations for being high-quality, a yellow circle signifies the text and supporting materials only partially meet the standard for being high-quality, and a green circle signifies the published material is high-quality because the content is aligned with Nebraska college and career-ready standards, has appropriate academic rigor, and is user-friendly.

In addition to the instructional material reviews, the NIMC website includes resources to help schools navigate the instructional materials selection process, such sample selection processes used by other school districts, a timeline for the materials' selection process, and a guidebook that includes questions school textbook selection committees might ask when choosing teaching and learning materials.

Selecting high-quality materials is the first step. But materials do not matter if the accompanying instruction is not high-quality. Professional development is an integral component of the NIMC. High-quality professional development helps educators understand the college and career-ready standards, develop skills necessary to align learning goals and lesson with the standards, implement research-based instructional strategies, and use student centered approaches.

The use of the Nebraska Instructional Materials Collaborative resources has led to increased numbers of schools adopting and implementing high-quality instructional materials. More than half of Nebraska elementary schools are using highquality instructional materials. The percentages for middle and high school are lower. Schools that have implemented HQIM are experiencing increased student proficiency rates on the NSCAS test. The important work of the collaborative is not done. Continuing to build awareness of the impact of high-quality instructional materials and instruction on achievement and removing barriers that prevent the adoption and implementation of HQIM are important next steps. The Nebraska Department of Education will survey schools to determine why they have not adopted or implemented HQIM. The collaborative will then provide information and resources necessary so all Nebraska students will have opportunities to learn from high-quality materials with teachers who are implementing high-quality instructional and learning strategies.

Editor's Note: The opinions expressed in the column are those of Patti Gubbels and do not necessarily represent the Nebraska State Board of Education.

EDUCATION & REVENUE TREES: A LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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EDUCATION TREES (as of 3/21/24)

LB 1329 (Murman ... Education Priority) - Change provisions of the Nebraska Career Scholarship Act
LB 1284 (Walz) - Provide for a statewide computer science education expansion program

LB 1329 = Includes grants to schools for emergency response mapping, actions relating to outstanding debts on a school lunch accounts, projection maps, school safety, firearms in schools, streamline the application process for teacher certification process, option enrollment, excessive absences, and more. Bills include LB 231, LB 550, LB 673, LB 855, LB 962, LB 1012, LB 1328, LB 1339, LB 1377, & LB 1385

LB 1284 = A lot of good ideas but expensive (\$20 million tree). Some items may get cut. Includes computer science and technology education, reading improvement, dyslexia research grants, special education teacher recruitment, loan forgiveness, Teach in Nebraska Today Act, period poverty, and more. Bills include **LB 964**, LB 985, LB 986, **LB 1005**, LB 1014, **LB 1050**, **LB 1238**, **LB 1253**, **LB 1254**

REVENUE TREE (as of 3/21/24)

LB 388 (Linehan ... Revenue Priority) - Change provisions relating to sales taxes. Per media sources, this is a \$650 million property tax relief package. It lowers local school taxes by frontloading current property tax refunds directly to schools and increasing foundation aid. Paid for by raising state sales tax by up to one cent and eliminating several sales tax exemptions from items like candy, soda, pet grooming, state lottery, skill games, cigarettes, and vaping. All of this is subject to change.



RELY ON NASB'S NATURAL GAS PROGRAMS

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https://members.nasbonline.org/programs-services/njump-cjump

NASB's natural gas programs were created to fulfill two needs that many local districts had in dealing with utility costs – competitive prices and budget certainty. NASB has over 115 school districts and ESUs across Nebraska participating in our NJUMP and CJUMP purchasing consortiums to leverage their purchasing power and achieve lower utility bills. With this year's timely purchase of supplies at very competitive prices, we've continued to add new members for next year.

Superintendents and their business managers have their hands full with a huge range of responsibilities to oversee. Natural gas purchasing is one job your peers in these Interlocals can handle for you. Rather than pricing the entire year's gas needs on one day, the consortiums lock in fixed prices as market opportunities become available by purchasing in layers over time and in varying percentages of total projected volumes. Historically, this approach has achieved a better price for natural gas with a higher level of budget certainty than the districts could have achieved on their own.

The Nebraska Joint Utilities Management Program (NJUMP) purchases natural gas for school districts and ESUs on the Black Hills Energy natural gas pipeline in southeast Nebraska. Choice Joint Utilities Management Program (CJUMP) supplies natural gas on the Black Hills Energy (formerly SourceGas) distribution system in northern, central and western Nebraska. Both programs operate as independent Interlocal Pools created and governed by their own Board of Trustees drawn from consortium members. The trustees hold their annual meeting at the State Education Conference in Omaha each November.

Now is the time to sign up for membership in NJUMP or CJUMP for the 2024-25 heating season.

For more information, NASB members on the Black Hills Energy distribution system can contact Alan Pederson of WoodRiver Energy at alan.pederson@woodriverenergy.com ... Members on the SourceGas distribution system can contact Mandy Heermann of Public Alliance for Community Energy at mheermann@nmppenergy.org. Jim Luebbe of the NASB staff can also discuss the program with you and help you enroll in this time-saving, dollar-stretching consortium.



NATIONAL WALK @ LUNCH DAY - APRIL 24

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National Walk at Lunch (NW@L) Day is Wednesday, April 24

To participate, visit https://www.nebraskablue.com/walk and register your organization as a team for the event. Invite your employees to participate by using the promotional materials available at the NebraskaBlue.com page under Walk-Resources.



NASB Member Golf Outing June 12 - Kearney Country Club



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... GALLUP STRENGTHS

With the excitement of March Madness and bracketology upon us, take a minute to explore some relevant strengths ...

Arranger, Analytical, Competition, Context, Deliberative, Includer, Input, Strategic.

How many of you have a bracket (or two) filled out and plan to watch closely as March Madness unfolds?

> Contact Shari at sbecker@NASBonline.org

... POLICY

The use of vaping devices is now returning to the high levels of a few years ago, and are now disguised to look like highlight markers with a colored tip. Vape users inhale ultrafine particles along with unregistered and untested chemical flavorants, not to mention the frequent presence of heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead. Chest x-rays of teenage vape users sometimes show significant oily residues already coating their lungs. Your district's Tobacco Free Schools policy should have clear language regarding the prohibition of nicotine delivery products, vapor products, and e-cigarettes. This language should also be included in your Student Handbook.

Contact Jim to learn more!

... TECHNOLOGY

Welcome New Subscribers Sargent Public Schools

We are still missing quite a few Negotiated Agreements for 2024-2025. Please continue to upload these or send them to Darion and he'll upload them for you.

Darion - dmilller@NASBonline.org Nicole - nkobus@NASBonline.org www.sparqdata.com

... MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Great to see so many of you at the Amplified Finance and Budget & Finance Workshops this month!

NASB Membership Drive is nearly complete. We look forward to working with you again in 2024.

Save the Date for the NASB Golf Outing at the Kearney County Club on June 12.

- Sharon -

... ALICAP & INSURANCE

ALICAP says "Welcome!" to some new members: Seward Public Schools McPherson County Schools

ALICAP's school district/ESUs member count grows to 194.

Thanks, Megan!

... DATA ANALYTICS

There continues to be a push in the Legislature to force districts to look at consolidation possibilities, although NASB pushes back with the philosophy of allowing local districts to determine their own futures. However, we do provide **Consolidation Feasibility Studies** for districts to give you helpful, detailed information about your district's various options. We supply information to facilitate the discussion - we never make recommendations ourselves since that decision should always be the responsibility of the Board. Jim Luebbe can give you further information about the scope of these studies and how the process works.

... EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SEARCH

We are updating our interim list. Let Shari know if you might be interested in serving as an interim superintendent.

Contact Shari Becker with questions sbecker@NASBonline.org

... BOARD LEADERSHIP

Check out "At the Board Table" on page 4.

Marcia, Kari, Katie, Caden, Stacie, Ben & Stephanie

THIS MONTH IN ...



... ENERGY PURCHASING

If you are not already in NJUMP or CJUMP, April is the last chance to get signed up for these gas purchasing programs for the coming winter heating season in 2024-25. Contact Jim Luebbe for the Board Resolution form or other information to join.

... ADVOCACY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

As you can again see by this months **SNAPSHOTS, NASB members have been** busy at the Capitol this past month.

Let us know if you want to engage with senators at the capitol or simply watch from the rotunda. The invite is open, give us a call.

A lot of moving pieces, stay up to speed via the NASB Bills Page at

https://nasb.enviseams.com/legislative-bills

We are nearing the final stretch with only 12 working days left!

See the latest updates from the Education and Revenue Committees on Page 7.

More details to come as we know more, specifically on the Revenue Tree in the coming days ... Stay Tuned!

Call Colby & Matt with questions any time!



Paul Grieger Managing Director, Public Finance 402-392-7986 pgrieger@dadco.com



Cody Wickham Senior Vice President. Public Finance 402-392-7989 cwickham@dadco.com



Andy Forney Senior Vice President Public Finance 402-392-7988 aforney@dadco.com

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https://members.nasbonline.org/board-of-directors

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https://members.nasbonline.org/about-us/nasb-staff Matt Belka



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YOUR 2024 GOLD AFFILIATES































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BCDM Architects

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BVH Architecture

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

Carlson West Povondra Architects

PLATINUM LEVEL AFFILIATE

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MCL Construction

GOLD LEVEL AFFILIATE

Project Control

Sampson Construction

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ENERGY SERVICES

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EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

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D.A. Davidson & CO.

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Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund

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Northland, (First National Capital Markets)

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Opaa! Food Management

FUNDRAISING

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Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska

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National Insurance Services

Public Risk Management/ALICAP

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PLAYGROUND/SCOREBOARDS/SURFACING

Creative Sites, LLC SILVER LEVEL AFFILIATE

PLAYGROUND/SCOREBOARDS (CONTINUED)

Crouch Recreation

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Cunningham Recreation/GameTime

Fisher Tracks, Inc.

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One Source The Background Check Company
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