

NORTHEAST NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT STAFF

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**Northeast Nebraska
 Economic Development
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NENEDD link

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS' MATTHEW CHASE TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT NENEDD/NED, INC ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Matthew Chase, Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) will be the keynote speaker at the 2009-2010 NENEDD/NED, Inc Annual Luncheon.

Matthew Chase has served as the Executive Director of the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and the NADO Research Foundation since October 2003. From March 1997 to August 2000, he served as the association's Director of Legislative Affairs until he was promoted to Deputy Executive Director. Prior to joining NADO, he was the Chief Operating Officer and Membership Services Director of the Professional Managers Association in Washington, DC.

Chase has extensive advocacy experience with federal community, economic and rural development programs, including successful campaigns to reauthorize the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 1998 and 2004, establish the Delta Regional Authority in the early 2000s and preserve annual funding for core rural development programs under USDA. In addition, he is a regular presenter on the impact of federal budget and appropriations trends on small metropolitan and rural America.

As the chief administrative officer of the NADO Research Foundation, he oversees a diverse set of projects and

programs. These programs include the Economic Development Finance Service (EDFS), a subscription-based service providing information, training and networking opportunities for small business development finance professionals; the Rural Brownfields Awareness Project (EPA funded); the Rural Transportation Capacity Building Project (FHWA funded); a new initiative with EPA to promote regional approaches to environmental stewardship and economic development; and a new national center for regional transportation and economic development.

NENEDD and NED, Inc board members and staff are very excited to host Mr. Chase. The annual luncheon will be Wednesday, July 28th, 2010 from 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. The luncheon will be held at Midland Lutheran College in the Dining Hall. The "Doug Bereuter" Accomplished Community Award will be presented to the City of Columbus. The Outstanding Service award will be presented to Kevin Wilkins, former Executive Director of the Greater Fremont Development Agency. The Partnership Award will be presented to Nebraska Investment Finance Authority. Please make plans to attend the 2009-2010 NENEDD/NED, Inc annual luncheon.

NENEDD COMMUNITY MEMBER LAUREL RECEIVES ITS NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CERTIFIED COMMUNITY DESIGNATION

Laurel is now Nebraska Economic Development Certified—one of the most recent Nebraska community to successfully tackle the strenuous certification process.

“Laurel really embraced the certification concept and what it will mean for the community in the long run,” said Dan Koch, Nebraska Diplomats president. “I am excited about Laurel setting an example and leading the way for many more Nebraska communities to follow suit.”

“Laurel is very proud of the partnerships it has created to accomplish some very major development,” said Annette Junck, Laurel economic development coordinator. “We are very proud of having achieved the Community Certification status and look forward to the opportunities this brings to our area.”

Projects that Laurel has accomplished through its strong partnership network include:

- Construction of a learning center thanks to joint efforts between community and Laurel-Concord Public School leaders. The center features a computer lab, distance learning center, and key resources. Post-secondary partners including the University of Nebraska, Wayne State College and Northeast Community College regularly bring classes to the community.
- Construction of Providence Physical Therapy, a business that provides aquatic, physical, and occupational therapy and created five jobs in the process. Key partners were Cedar Knox Public Power District, Providence Medical Center, and



- The creation of 27 lots in the Norris Housing addition, through the efforts of Laurel Development Corporation and the City of Laurel. Currently there are only five lots left, and a local landowner is developing an additional housing addition (already selling two lots).

The program, sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats, is one of a handful nationally that recognize communities' economic development preparedness. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development administers the application process.

For information about Laurel, contact Annette Junck at 402-256-9614, cell 402-841-2051 or laureled@huntel.net

\$11 MILLION AVAILABLE...UP TO \$750,000 DOLLAR AND ENERGY SAVING LOANS AT 2.5%

In August 2009, the Nebraska Energy Office began offering 2.5% loans for energy efficiency projects in Nebraska. Loans of up to \$750,000 may be used for Nebraska commercial businesses, non-profits, institutions such as private schools and hospitals, manufacturers, and other industrial operations, Nebraska political subdivisions, public school districts and federal ENERGY STAR® program partners.

The low-interest loans have generated many calls. "The first thing people should know is these loans cannot be used for new construction", said Jack Osterman of Nebraska Energy Office. The goal is to make current commercial buildings and industries more energy efficient. A number of loans for projects have already been made.

For more information contact Jack Osterman at (402) 471-2817, Email: john.osterman@nebraska.gov or visit the web site at: <http://www.neo.ne.gov>.

NENEDD COMMUNITY MEMBER HARTINGTON EARNS NEBRASKA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CERTIFIED



Hartington is the latest community to earn the designation of Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community.

“Our communities continue to step up to the plate in terms of how serious and committed they are to building a solid foundation and footings to ensuring bright and prosperous economic and community development for their citizens,” said Dan Koch, Nebraska Diplomats president. “We applaud Hartington for its concerted efforts.”

“Hartington’s community leaders have worked hard during the past three years on this process, and we’re excited and proud that our community has accomplished the goal of becoming an Economic Development Certified Community,” said Carla Becker, Hartington economic development coordinator.

“We look forward to the opportunities this will bring to our community and to our continued partnership with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED).

Hartington has charged ahead with a number of projects during the past half-dozen years. In 2004, the City completed a \$1.6 million outdoor Community Complex that is in full use by two area school systems, Hartington residents, and even people from neighboring communities. In 2005, a \$450,000 new airplane taxiway was completed at Hartington Municipal Airport’s Bud Becker Field. Cedar Catholic Junior-Senior High School completed construction in 2006 of the \$2.5 million, 29,500-sq. ft. Monsignor Cyril J.

Werner Activity Center, which features a gym, weight room, lockers, classrooms, office and meeting rooms.

In 2007, Hartington passed LB840, the Local Municipal Options Sales Tax, which earmarked 1 percent revenue for economic development projects. The City then began planning for a new 38 residential housing division in 2009 to help meet projected needs for new homes during the next 15 years. That same year, a local telecommunications company invested \$5.6 million of a Rural Utilities Service loan to link each Hartington home and business with fiber optic cable. The Cedar County Courthouse also unveiled a new \$2.3 million renovation and complex addition project.

So far this year, Hartington has updated its comprehensive plan, received a recycling baler grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality’s Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program, and used Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act grant funding to develop and launch www.wehaveitallincedarcounty.com for area communities and create two recruitment DVDs to attract families and businesses.

“This is a large accomplishment for our community and the surrounding area that Hartington services,” said Chris Miller, Hartington Economic Development president. “After a lot of hours and great effort by the Hartington Area Economic Corporation, especially Coordinator Carla Becker, we’re pleased to receive this designation, which will benefit us now and in the future, putting us among the top Nebraska communities for business recruitment and retention. We’ll continue striving to be at the forefront of community development and keeping Hartington progressing forward.”



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"Linking federal and state programs at the local level where development actually occurs."

May Board of Directors Meeting

The May Board Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at the NENEDD Offices, 111 S. 1st St, Norfolk

NED, Inc. Board of Directors begins at approximately 7:00 p.m.

NENEDD Board of Directors begins at approximately 7:15 p.m.



AGENDAS & MINUTES

Agendas are kept current. A copy can be obtained by contacting Thomas Higginbotham, Executive Director at (402) 379-1150, Ext. 103. You may obtain current board meeting minutes at: www.nenedd.org/publications If you are unable to access the internet, please call Mickella at (402) 379-1150 to request a copy.

NENEDD

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