



# NN21 News

*NN21 . . . changing the way Nebraskans will learn in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*

October 2000

*As we conclude the final months of Nebraska Network 21, we are looking for ways to save a little “here” so we can enhance some spending “there” without sacrificing overall quality. Communicating with you has been, and continues to be, very important. With both objectives in mind, we’re experimenting with our first “in-house” newsletter.*

*You all are important to NN21 and, as we approach closure, it continues to be important to keep you in the loop. If the newsletter is discontinued, we will use memos, e-mail messages, or other organizations’ newsletters as a way of keeping in touch.*

*We have important news since our Spring 2000 newsletter, so, here we go!*

## New NN21 Director

For those of you who don’t already know, Ellen Russell and her husband, Earl, retired to sunny California on June 30, 2000. They spend time walking on beaches and in nearby nature reserves. This sounds wonderful, especially after having had record low temperatures here in Nebraska in early October!

Donald Edwards, former Dean of UNL’s College of Agriculture Science and Natural Resources, assumed the directorship of NN21 on July 1. Don and Valerie, NN21 Staff Assistant, have established new routines and are keeping NN21 on track. Don will serve as director carrying NN21 forward through June 30, 2001 even though his *official* date of retirement is December 31, 2000.

## Date Extension for NN21



The W. K. Kellogg Foundation approved our request to extend end date of the NN21 grant period from March 31, 2001 to June 30, 2001. This doesn’t mean NN21 receive extra funding. It simply means the office will be open for another three months.

The extra months will be used to further develop some projects, for proposal writing, to continue to look at sustainability issues, and for the nitty-gritty stuff like cleaning-up files for archiving, and taking care of late bills and budget concerns.

## There Will Be No Phase III

NN21 was firmly established for a five-year period with Phase II funds from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation’s Food Systems






Professions Education (FSPE) initiative. Phase II has been responsible for supporting twenty-nine projects throughout Nebraska that focused on how Nebraskans

will learn in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. When NN21 transitioned from Phase I to the Phase II period, there was always the expectation of future Phase III funds that would allow NN21 to continue into the future.

Last spring it was anticipated that Phase III funds would be in the form of the Foundation’s *Food and Society* grant. In April, many of you participated in NN21 Focused Conversations designed to assist us in writing a concept paper for the *Food and Society* grant.

However, due to some restructuring and rethinking at the Foundation, there will be **no Phase III funds**. The Foundation is still developing *Food and Society*—which is twelve to eighteen months away from a formal Request For Proposals. As you can see, *Food and Society* will not happen until *after* the NN21 office has closed.

During the interim period, the Foundation is encouraging FSPE projects to submit “innovative” proposals for grant funding which can be used to help sustain some project activities. Focus areas will continue to be:

-  Youth and Community
-  Food and Health
-  Rural Sustainability

Nebraska Network 21  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
PO Box 830701, 309 Biochemistry Hall  
402-472-6621 fax 402-472-6617

Donald Edwards, Director . . . . . dedwards1@unl.edu  
Valerie Egger, Staff Assistant . . . . . vegger1@unl.edu  
<http://www.unl.edu/NN21/>

In September, NN21 submitted an innovative proposal focusing on Youth and Community. We are waiting to hear if it will be funded. Over the next few months, grants will be developed in the other two areas of focus.

## NN21 Accomplishment Brochure







*Accomplishments 1997-2000* is a brochure highlighting NN21 accomplishments. In July 2000 the report was distributed throughout the state and, selectively, throughout the nation. If you did not receive a copy or would like additional copies, please contact Valerie.

## A New Video

Our most recent and exciting news is the completion of a video, *Changing the Way Nebraskans Learn*, that features six NN21 projects and highlights collaborations that took place. It was developed by UNL's Department of Public Relations. Dave Fitzgibbon and Kim Davis merit our special thanks for their excellent work.

Deciding which of the twenty-nine NN21 projects to showcase was a hard decision, especially since the experts insisted the length should not exceed ten minutes or we would risk losing our audience. We wish we could have included every project and team, but it just wasn't possible within a ten minute time frame.

The Demonstration Projects included in the video are:

-  Community Publishing Project, at the Taylor site,
-  UNL Artist Diversity Project,
-  Learning Our Story,
-  Native American Leadership,
-  On-Line Course Catalog,
-  Mead Agricultural Sciences Magnet School.

It was important to tell the NN21 story in light of the many collaborative efforts from across the state that developed ideas, experimented, and made things happen. We hope this video has done just that.

If you would like a copy of the video, contact the office and Valerie will send one your way

## Networking



To help present and distribute the video, as well as solicit your ideas, we are planning to hold several small *Coffee and Conversations with NN21* in the near future. You will receive more detailed information in the mail.

Nebraska Network 21  
PO Box 830701  
Lincoln NE 68583-0701

NN21 has a number of *listservs* set up to reach individual teams/projects, or all of our participants. We would like to use them more effectively. If you have noteworthy information and feel it would be of interest to some or all of NN21 participants, send your information to Valerie at [vegger1@unl.edu](mailto:vegger1@unl.edu) for distribution.

In a few more weeks, you will be receiving a small **bulletin** describing all NN21 teams and projects, both current and past projects. This will include information on how to contact the leaders and co-leaders. This information is being provided to help extend networking and collaboration possibilities. Please contact leaders directly if you are interested in their NN21 work or see potential for collaboration.

## March 20-22, 2001 — A Time for Celebration and “Challenge”

**Dr. Gail Imig**, from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, plans to visit Nebraska on March 22, 2001. She will, attend the NN21 Strategy Team meeting that day, visit a couple of NN21 projects and meet with some university personnel.

Also at this time, evaluators from **WIRE** (Western Institute for Research and Evaluation) will be in Nebraska conducting local interviews March 20 and 21, during their third visit to evaluate the NN21 project. The WIRE team will present their findings to the Strategy Team during the March 22 meeting.

Plans are being developed to hold a **celebration and “challenge”** in conjunction with the Strategy Team meeting. The time has come to celebrate the many outcomes of NN21 and the partnerships that made them possible. However, it is also a time to reflect and challenge ourselves with ways to continue collaborations, projects, and networking opportunities beyond the life of NN21. Further information on the celebration and “challenge” will be available closer to March.

## Governor's Task Force

The Governor's Task Force on Agriculture and Natural Resources Education now has a brochure describing their mission. For a copy, contact Dick Fleming, 402-472-8742. Their Web site is at [www.unl.edu/aglec\\_govtfagnr/index.html](http://www.unl.edu/aglec_govtfagnr/index.html).