Gains and Losses from School Consolidation in the Great Plains
April 5-6, 2013
Kearney, Nebraska

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE (updated March 21, 2013)

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 (All sessions on Friday will be held on the University of Nebraska Kearney Campus)

11:30 a.m.  REGISTRATION OPENS – Ponderosa Room, Nebraskan Student Union
12:00 p.m.  LUNCHEON – Ponderosa Room, Nebraska Student Union
            Welcome by Chancellor Douglas A. Kristensen
            Introduction by Ed Scantling, UNK Dean of Education
            “Schooling in the One-Room Schoolhouse”
            Speaker: Stephen Swidler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2:00 p.m.   PANEL PRESENTATION – Ponderosa Room, Nebraska Student Union
            “Gains and Losses from School Consolidation”
            Moderator: John Falconer, Director, UNK Honors Program
            Panelists:
            Gary Green, University of Wisconsin-Madison
            Virginia Moon, Superintendent, Omaha Public Schools
            Andrea Walton Miller, Simmons Olsen Law, Scottsbluff and member of Oglala Lakota Tribe

4:00 p.m.   KEYNOTE PRESENTATION – UNK Recital Hall
            Introduction by Charles Bicak, Senior Vice Chancellor, UNK
            “Rural Schools and Communities at the Intersection of Assumptions and Evidence”
            Speaker: Paul Theobald, Dean of Education, Buena Vista University

5:15-5:45 p.m.  Transportation from UNK to MONA available
5:30 p.m.  **CHANCELLOR’S RECEPTION** — Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA)
Welcome by *Chancellor Douglas A. Kristensen*

Introduction by *Audrey Kauders*, Director, MONA

*“Atmosphere for Learning Undistracted”*
An exhibition of schoolhouse photographs
Remarks by photographer *Chuck Guildner* at 6:15 p.m.

7:15-7:45 p.m.  Transportation from MONA to UNK available

8:00 p.m.  **SPECIAL CONCERT** — UNK Recital Hall
Introduction by *Valerie Cisler*, UNK Music

*The Hutchins Consort*

Transportation from UNK to hotels available after concert conclusion

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**SATURDAY, APRIL 6**  (All sessions on Saturday will be held at the Younes Conference Center, Kearney)

7:30 a.m  **REGISTRATION OPENS** -- Lobby

8:15 a.m.  **WELCOME AND BREAKFAST** – Crystal Ballroom
Welcome by *Peter Longo*, UNK Political Science

8:30 a.m.  **PLENARY SESSION** – Crystal Balloom

Introduction by *Richard Edwards*, Director, Center for Great Plains Studies

*“The Importance of Being Emily: Lessons from Legislative Battles over School Consolidation”*
Speaker: *Marty Strange*, Sustainable Food Systems, Green Mountain College

9:30 a.m.  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Ruby Room 6

*“Superintendents’ Perspectives on Gains and Losses from Consolidation”*
Moderator: *Marjorie Kostelnik*, UNL Dean of Education

*Brian Maher*, Superintendent, Kearney Public Schools
*Kyle McGowan*, Superintendent, Crete Public Schools
*Lana Sides*, Superintendent, Banner County Public Schools
*Mike Teahon*, Superintendent, Gothenberg Public Schools
Ruby Room 7
“The Economics of School Consolidation”
Session sponsored by the UNK College of Business and Technology, J.A. Baldwin Free Enterprise Lecture Series

Moderator: Timothy J. Burkink, UNK Dean of Business and Technology
Speakers: Eric Thompson, director, Bureau of Business Research, UNL; Bree Dority, UNK Economics
Discussant: Allan Jenkins, UNK Economics

Ruby Room 5
“Ensuring Mathematics Learning in Rural Schools Through Investments in Teacher Knowledge”
Speakers: Jim Lewis, Ruth Heaton, Wendy Smith, NebraskaMATH project, UNL

Ruby Room 4
“Assuring Effective Rural Education Delivery”
Moderator: Diane Duffin, UNK Political Science

Is Online Learning among BSN Student Nurses as Effective as Classroom Learning
Speaker: Colleen Kennedy, UNMC Nursing

Alternative Teacher Certification: Preserving Nebraska’s Rural Schools
Speaker: Wendy McCarty, UNK Education

10:45 a.m. BREAK

11:00 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Ruby Room 6
“The Role of the University in Sustaining Rural Schools”
Moderator: Ronnie Green, IANR Vice Chancellor

Speakers: Ronnie Green, IANR Vice Chancellor, UNL; John Reinhardt, Dean of Dentistry, UNMC; B.J. Reed, Senior Vice Chancellor, UNO; Charles Bicak, Senior Vice Chancellor, UNK; Marjorie Kostelnik, UNL Dean of Education

Ruby Room 7
“Student Reflections on Consolidated and Unconsolidated Schools”
Moderator: James Leiker, Johnson County Community College (KS)

Danielle Olson, Albion, NE, UNK Student
Adam Ripp, Pleasanton, NE, UNK Student
Trevor Lee, Grant, NE, UNK Student
Kevin Carder, St. Edward, NE, UNK Student
Ruby Room 4
“School District Demographics and Dynamics”
   Moderator: Christie L. Maloyed, UNK Political Science

*Micro-Regional Networks: Shifting School District Boundary*
   Speaker: David Karle, UNL Architecture

*The Demographic Foundation of Education in the Great Plains*
   Speakers: Robert Blair, Jerry Deichert, David Drozd, UNO School of Public Administration

*Empirical and Normative Indicators: Assessing the Value of Consolidated Schools*
   Speakers: Satoshi Machida, Laura Brockhaus, Peter Longo, UNK Political Science

Ruby Room 5
“Challenges and Opportunities of Diversity”
   Moderator: Travis Miller, Superintendent, Bayard Public Schools

*School Consolidation and the Use of Mascots*
   Speaker: Claude Louishomme, UNK Political Science

*Are Kansas Schools Meeting the Needs of Multicultural Students in Transition?*
   Speakers: Robert Bruce Scott, Fort Hays State University, Teacher Education

*The 'New Latino Diaspora' and School District Consolidation*
   Speakers: Edmund T. Hamann, William England, UNL Teaching, Learning & Teacher Education

12:30 p.m.  **LUNCHEON** – Crystal Ballroom
   Introduction by Chancellor Douglas A. Kristensen
   Speaker: Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman

1:45 p.m.  **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Ruby Room 6
“The Politics of School Consolidation”
   Moderator: Steve Willborn UNL Law

Speakers: Steve Willborn UNL Law; Herb Schimek, Nebraska Education Association; Jon Habben, Executive Director, Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association; Jason Maloy, Oklahoma State University, Political Science
Ruby Room 7
“Challenges and Opportunities for Rural School Administrators”
Moderator: Ed Scantling, UNK Dean of Education

Dean Tickle, Superintendent, Elm Creek Public Schools
Barry McFarland, Assistant Superintendent, Lexington Public Schools
Chris Prososki, Principal, Diller-Odell Schools

Ruby Room 3
“Coaching as a Form of Professional Development to Support Rural Teachers”
Speakers: Bruce Hayden, Melissa Olsen, Patricia Smith, Pam Wistrand and Brenda Knapp, National Center for Research on Rural Education, UNL

Ruby Room 4
“Economic and Political Dimensions of Consolidation”
Moderator: Claude Louishomme, UNK Political Science

Agricultural Real Estate Values and Rural School Consolidations
Speaker: Lucas Swartzendruber, Vice President, Geneva State Bank

Change and Sustainability in a Rural Kansas Town: The Role of the Public Schools
Speaker: Eric Freeman, Education, Wichita State University

The Political Economy of School Consolidation in North Dakota
Speaker: Nicholas Bauroth, Criminal Justice and Political Science, North Dakota State University

Ruby Room 5
“Rural Schools and Rural Values”
Moderator: Joan Blauwkamp, UNK Political Science

Rural Values and Academic Expectations: A Cultural Mismatch?
Speaker: Richard Miller, UNK Psychology

Civic Virtue in the Boondocks: A Communitarian Defense of Rural Education and Values
Speakers: Christie L. Maloyed, UNK Political Science, and J. Kelton Williams, Education, Knox College

3:00 p.m. WINE, CHEESE, AND CONVERSATION – Crystal Ballroom
3:20 p.m.  CONCLUDING CONVERSATION – Crystal Ballroom

Moderator: JB Milliken, President, University of Nebraska

JB Milliken, President, University of Nebraska; Roger Breed, Nebraska State Education Commissioner; Greg Adams, Speaker, Nebraska Legislature; John Hill, Executive Director, National Rural Education Association