



Nebraska Workforce Development Board Meeting

June 13, 2025, 9:00a – 12:00p

Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center

1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503

<https://dol.nebraska.gov/ReemploymentServices/Training/WIOA/NWDB>

Agenda

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Call to order | Bradley Schroeder |
| 2. Roll call | Kelly Flanagan |
| 3. Notice of publication | Kelly Flanagan |
| 4. Approval of March 14, 2025 meeting minutes ¹ | Bradley Schroeder |
| 5. Old business | Bradley Schroeder |
| a. Modification of Board bylaws | |
| b. Board effectiveness updates | |
| (1) Board member interests survey | |
| (2) Board member training | |
| (3) Board member portal | |
| 6. New business | |
| a. Commissioner of Labor – Conversation about the Board | Katie Thurber |
| b. 6 Regions, One Nebraska | Roberta Pinkerton |
| c. Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System (NSWERS) | Matt Hastings |
| d. Alignment Workgroup update | Dylan Wren |
| e. Career Pathways Workgroup update | Tim Faunce |
| f. Lincoln AJC tour | Dylan Wren |
| g. Omaha AJC tour | Erin Porterfield |
| 7. Member updates | Board Members |
| 8. Public comment | Bradley Schroeder |
| 9. Adjournment ¹ | Bradley Schroeder |

¹ Requires a motion and roll call vote



Nebraska Workforce Development Board

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2025

Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center
1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503

<https://dol.nebraska.gov/ReemploymentServices/Training/WIOA/NWDB>

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Chair Mark Moravec introduced Katie Thurber as the newest Member of the Board, based on her Gubernatorial appointment as the Commissioner of Labor. Chair Moravec also stated that he is retiring from the Board in May 2025.

Agenda item 1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Moravec (hereafter referred to as Mark) called to order the meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Development Board (hereafter referred to as the Board) on March 14, 2025 at approximately 9am at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503.

Agenda item 2. Roll Call

Mark asked Kelly Flanagan to call role for purposes of establishing a quorum of the Board. Kelly called roll and advised Mark that quorum was established (12 of 22 Governor-appointed members attending, in accordance with Section 4.7 of the [Board's bylaws](#)).

Governor-appointed members *attending*

1. Jim Bulkley
2. Gary Dixon, Jr.
3. Joanna Estrada
4. Michael Geary
5. Jim Hansen
6. Susan Martin
7. Mark Moravec, Chair
8. Don Nordell
9. Sara Riffel
10. Keisha Thomas
11. Paul Turman
12. Kevin Wetuski

Non-Governor-appointed members *attending*

1. KC Belitz
2. Steve Corsi
3. Lindy Foley
4. Katie Thurber

Non-Governor-appointed members *absent*

1. Governor Jim Pillen
2. Senator Merv Riepe
3. Tate Lauer

Governor-appointed members *absent*

1. Elizabeth Babcock
2. Kyle Nixon
3. Sherla Post
4. Terri Ridder
5. Bradley Schroeder, Vice-Chair
6. Jennifer Sedlacek
7. Bryan Slone
8. Lisa Wilson
9. Courtney Wittstruck
10. Mark Wright

Also in attendance were the following members of the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) Board support team.

1. Erick Carrillo, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
2. Kathy Cedillo, NWorks Program Coordinator, Division of Reemployment Services
3. Kelly Flanagan, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
4. Joel Green, Acting General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel
5. John O'Keefe, Director, Division of Reemployment Services
6. Joseph Tisko, Program Analyst, Division of Reemployment Services

Agenda item 3. Notice of Publication

Kelly Flanagan announced that public meeting notices were published, in accordance with the [Nebraska Open Meetings Act](#), in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Columbus Telegram, Grand Island Independent, Hastings Tribune, Kearney Hub, Lincoln Journal Star, Norfolk Daily News, North Platte Telegraph, Omaha World-Herald, and Scottsbluff Star-Herald. Kelly announced that public notice was posted also published on the [State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#).

Agenda item 4. Approval of Minutes

Mark called the next order of business, which was the approval of the draft meeting minutes from the September 13, 2024 meeting of the Board. The draft minutes from the September meeting were emailed to Board Members on March 11, 2025. The meeting minutes were included in Board Member packets as Handout 1.

Mark opened the floor to Board Members for discussion on the draft minutes. Board Members did not comment on the draft minutes. Mark opened the floor for public comment on the draft minutes. Public comments were not provided.

KC Belitz motioned to approve the September minutes, as provided; and Jim Bulkley seconded the motion. Members of the Board voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously, with the exception of one abstention. Katie Thurber abstained as she wasn't a Member of the Board during the September meeting.

Agenda item 5. Old Business

a. State plan workgroups: Career Pathways Workgroup and Alignment Workgroup

Mark addressed the first item of old business, state plan workgroup membership. Mark reminded the Board that Sections II.b. and II.c. of the [Combined State Plan for Nebraska's Workforce System for Program Years 2024 through 2027](#) define Nebraska's continuing two-part statewide goal and supporting strategies for preparing an educated and skilled workforce that meets the needs of Nebraska employers:

- selection and prioritization of development of career pathways; and
- alignment of the Nebraska's workforce development system.

Mark reminded the Board that the Board established two workgroups in 2021 to implement the goals in accordance with the supporting strategies defined in Section II.c. of the plan:

- The Career Pathways Workgroup implements statewide goal number 1, and
- The Alignment Workgroup implements statewide goal number 2.

Mark informed the Board that he had appointed and reappointed Board Members and other workforce system partners to serve on the Workgroups, as permitted under Sections 3.1(b) and 5.3(c) of the [Board's bylaws](#). The letters of appointment were included in Board Member packets as Handouts 2a and 2b.

b. Board effectiveness

The second item of old business was follow up on September's discussion of proposed methods to enhance the effectiveness of the Board. Mark reminded the Board that the proposed methods discussed in September were outlined on page 2 of Handout 1 (the draft of the September meeting minutes). During the September meeting, four methods for enhancing the effectiveness of this Board were proposed by Michael Geary. Mark provided follow-up information to the Board on the proposed methods.

1. The first proposed method was establishment of training for current and future Board members, including training on this Board's responsibilities and the roles and responsibilities of local workforce development boards within Nebraska's workforce development system. Update:
 - a. The US Department of Labor (USDOL) recently conducted multisession training on rules and regulations concerning state and local board membership composition, collaboration requirements for state and local boards, and methods for measuring board impact.
 - b. The information provided during the USDOL training sessions will be used to develop training for current and future Members of the Board.
2. The second proposed method was to survey Board members to determine (1) topics of interest to the Board; (2) how to take advantage of Board membership diversity to help Nebraska businesses, including forward thinking concerning disruptive technology; and (3) how to take advantage of information shared by Board members during "Member Updates" portions of Board meetings. Update:
 - a. NDOL is working to identify a digital tool that can be used to survey Board members on these topics.
3. The third proposed method was creation of a portal for Board Members only, where they may obtain information about Board roles and responsibilities and other relevant and current information relating to the purposes of the Board including workforce system performance. Update:
 - a. NDOL is investigating platforms that could be used to establish the Board Member portal.
4. The fourth proposed method was setting up tours of Nebraska's four American Job Centers for interested Board members, which would subject to limitations relating to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and the possibility of establishing Board quorum during tours based on Board Member participation in tours. Update:
 - a. Board Members were asked to indicate their interest in participating in tours of one or more of Nebraska's four American Job Centers (located in Beatrice, Grand Island, Lincoln, and Omaha).
 - b. Approximately 10 Board Members expressed interest in participating in tours.
 - c. The Board's support team will:
 - i. survey Board Members on the tours they would like to attend; and
 - ii. organize the tours.

c. Board subcommittee structure

The last item of old business was follow up on the Board's subcommittee structure. Mark reminded the Board that Michael Geary addressed the Board on this topic during the September 13, 2024 meeting, asking the Board if its current subcommittee structure works for the purposes of the Board.

Mark advised the Board that if the subcommittees are disbanded, the responsibilities of the subcommittees would become the responsibilities of the full Board, which would result in greater involvement of the full Board in its required roles and responsibilities as a state workforce development board, as mandated under [WIOA Sec. 101\(d\)](#) and [29 USC 3111](#). Mark further advised the Board that when considering disbanding of its subcommittees, it was important to remember that the Board's support team has and will continue to assist the Board with meeting its legislative and regulatory responsibilities.

Mark asked for discussion among Members of the Board concerning the proposal to disband the Board's subcommittees, the (1) Policy and Oversight Subcommittee and (2) Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee. Handout 3, an excerpt from the current bylaws of the Board, was provided to Members of the Board. Sections 5.9 and 5.10 in Handout 3 generally describe the current responsibilities of the subcommittees.

- Paul Turman indicated support of this change as long as it does not prevent the Board from forming future special committees, taskforces, and workgroups as needed to meet legislative requirements and shifts in workforce needs. Paul went on to say that committees, taskforces, and workgroups need to have specific goals and not be directionless.

- Steve Corsi also voiced support for the change. Steve stated that the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS) serves at least 350,000 recipients of SNAP benefits, as well as benefits from other entitlement programs. He also stated that entitlement programs are income-based programs. Steve recommended that the Board focus on increasing income thresholds for Nebraska's workers, as well as job creation. He went on to say that NDHHS strives to place its benefit recipients in employment that provides dignity and independence based on family-sustaining employment. Steve concluded by saying that there is a need for more jobs opportunities across Nebraska, acknowledging that there are many job opportunities across the state with which NDHHS benefit recipients need to be connected.

Mark opened the floor for comment from members of the public on this agenda item. No comments were offered by the public.

Michael Geary motioned to disband the Board's subcommittee structure. Keisha Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda item 6. New Business

a. Commissioner of Labor update

For the first item of new business, Mark introduced Katie Thurber, Commissioner of Labor. Katie spoke about her vision for workforce development as the new Commissioner of Labor. She emphasized that the state is currently in a position of opportunity, because of Nebraska's continuing low unemployment rate and Nebraskan's love of living in Nebraska. Katie stressed that the Board needs to take advantage of this position of opportunity. Katie went on to say that Nebraska must do a better job of investing in its youth to ensure they stay in Nebraska and that she wants the Board to be a part of that investment. Katie also addressed the need for alignment of State agencies towards one goal, stating that NDOL is already working closely with Nebraska Departments of Corrections, Economic Development, and Health and Human Services, as well as other State agencies having the same mission – supporting and enhancing Nebraska's workforce and economic development efforts and eliminating duplication of services.

Katie issued a call to action to the Board.

- Make this Board more beneficial and effective in its efforts.
- Make WIOA¹ mean something in Nebraska, rather than just an acronym.
- Start driving action not just thoughts.

Following her remarks, Katie introduced Kenny Zoeller, Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Research.

b. Governor update

The second item of new business was a presentation from Kenny Zoeller, Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Research. Kenny spoke on behalf of the Governor saying the Governor sees tremendous opportunity in the Board, as leaders in industry, state government, and labor all in one room together to talk about how to improve Nebraska, which is unique in Nebraska.

Kenny spoke about six items on which the Governor is focused concerning Nebraska's workforce system.

1. Driving workforce innovation through collaboration
 - a. [6 REGIONS, One Nebraska](#), for example, is a new approach to economic development that is:
 - i. community-directed, guided by the ideas and insights of area leaders;
 - ii. action-oriented, committed to rapid execution and concrete results; and
 - iii. partnership-driven, powered by strong relationships among Nebraskans in neighboring communities.

¹ WIOA refers to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

2. Expanding apprenticeships and career pathways in key industry sectors, especially through state funding of community colleges
3. Building future-focused education and training opportunities
4. Promoting public and private collaborations, including promotion of industry sector partnerships
5. Support Nebraska entrepreneurship and small business development in areas that will make a difference, such as the [Nebraska Elite 11 Veterinarian Program](#), a uniquely designed program aimed at increasing the number of production animal veterinarians in Nebraska
6. Incorporating technology into workforce development, while finding a balance between technology and jobs and elasticity in the labor market, including investments in AI (artificial intelligence)

Kenny posed two questions to the Board for consideration when proposing ideas to further these goals.

1. Is it the government's job to be funding these efforts?
2. Are these efforts going to help kids in Nebraska?
 - a. The Governor is very focused on supporting kids, providing for kids so they can meet their goals and dreams and help grow Nebraska.
 - b. Kids, values, taxes, agriculture are the Governor's focus.

c. Program performance, Federal monitoring, and research and evaluation project goals

The next items of new business were five topics on program performance, Federal Monitoring, and research and evaluation project goals. Mark introduced Dr. John O'Keefe, Director of the Nebraska Department of Labor Reemployment Services Division. John presented on those topics:

1. State and local area performance assessments for Program Year 2023
2. Annual Statewide Performance Report Narrative for Program Year 2023
3. State and local area performance negotiations for Program Years 2024 – 2025
4. Federal review: NDOL and Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area, August 2024
5. Research and Evaluation Project Goals for 2025

(1) State and local area performance assessments, Program Year 2023

John advised the Board of state and local performance assessments for Program Year 2023.

- In August 2024, USDOL issued Training and Employment Notice 04-24 to announce performance indicators that would be formally assessed for Program Year 2023.
- In Board Member packets:
 - Handout 4 was provided, describing state level performance outcomes for Program Year 2023 for:
 - WIOA Title I adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs;
 - WIOA Title III Wagner-Peyser Employment Service; and
 - WIOA Title IV vocational rehabilitation programs.
 - Handout 5 was provided, which describes local area performance outcomes for WIOA Title I adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs.
- Performance was assessed at state and local levels based on four performance indicators:
 1. employment rate 2nd quarter after exit
 2. median earnings 2nd quarter after exit
 3. employment rate 4th quarter after exit
 4. credential attainment rate
- Nebraska met all WIOA Title I and Title III performance measures assessed for Program Year 2023.
- All three local areas met all WIOA Title I performance measures assessed for Program Year 2023.

(2) Annual Statewide Performance Report Narrative, Program Year 2023

John advised the Board on the annual Statewide Performance Report Narrative for Program Year 2023.

- NDOL submitted Nebraska's annual statewide performance report narrative to USDOL and the Nebraska Legislature on November 25, 2024.
- A link to the annual report was sent to the Board by email on November 27, 2024, which is also accessible at <https://dol.nebraska.gov/AnnualReports> under "Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act". (The report was not included in the Board packet due to its length.)

John pointed out three notable sections in the report.

1. Section II(a) on page 4 discusses local customer satisfaction outreach and includes summaries of customer satisfaction outreach efforts conducted by each local area during Program Year 2023. NDOL is currently developing technical assistance for all local areas concerning customer satisfaction outreach methods and tools.
2. Section II(b) discusses NDOL's efforts during Program Year 2023 concerning research and evaluation. NDOL is building on the efforts described in the report. (Refer to [subsection c\(5\)](#) below for additional information.)
3. Section II(g)(B)-(C) describes local area promising practices and success stories relating to Federal waivers that were approved for and implemented during Program Year 2023.

(3) State and local area performance negotiations, Program Years 2024 – 2025

John advised the Board on Nebraska Department of Labor and local area performance negotiations for Program Years 2024 and 2025.

- Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, state-level WIOA Title I, II, III, and IV programs are required to negotiate levels of performance for their respective programs with their Federal partners.
- Handout 6 was provided in Board Member packets, describing Nebraska's negotiated levels of performance for state-level WIOA Title I adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs and WIOA Title III Wagner-Peyser Employment Service for Program Years 2024 and 2025.
- In addition to negotiating levels of performance with USDOL every 2 years, NDOL must also negotiate performance levels with Nebraska's local workforce development areas every 2 years for their respective local WIOA Title I adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs.
- NDOL completed negotiations with Nebraska's local workforce development areas in September 2024. The negotiated levels of performance for each of Nebraska's local areas are described in Handout 7, which was included in the Board Member packets.

Board Members asked how performance levels are negotiated at state and local levels and asked what performance results mean on the individual level. John provided an explanation of the negotiation processes; and Kelly Flanagan provided an explanation of each program performance indicator.

(4) Federal monitoring: NDOL and Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area, August 2024

John advised the Board on a Federal monitoring event, during which NDOL and the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area were reviewed for compliance with the requirements of WIOA Title IB.

- In August of 2024, USDOL monitored NDOL and the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area, after which USDOL issued a monitoring report to NDOL.
- NDOL's response to the Federal monitoring report was included in Board Member packets as Handout 8.
- The monitoring event resulted in no material findings; however, one area of concern was identified.
 - The area of concern related to NDOL's decrease in staffing levels due to budgetary constraints, which has effected the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area.
 - USDOL mentioned that reduced staffing levels have the potential for increased caseloads, lack of staffing to perform required grant activities, and knowledge gaps through loss of institutional knowledge and experience.

- USDOL suggested cross-training existing staff and coordinating with the USDOL Regional Office for technical assistance.

(5) Research and Evaluation Project Goals for 2025

John advised the Board on 2025 goals for NDOL's research and evaluation project.

- Pursuant to [20 CFR 682.220](#), states are required to use WIOA funds to conduct research and evaluation activities.
- The activities must be coordinated with and designed in conjunction with state and local workforce development boards and state agencies responsible for administration of WIOA Title I, II, III, and IV programs (commonly referred to as "core programs" or "core partners").
- An outline of NDOL's research and evaluation project for 2025 was included in Board Member packets as Handout 9.

John requested feedback on project goals from the Board, as well as local boards and Nebraska's core partners, stating questions, ideas, concerns, or feedback should be submitted to the policy mailbox at ndol.wioa_policy@nebraska.gov for inclusion in NDOL's report on the project which will be published on the NDOL website by January 2026.

Agenda item 7. Member Updates

Mark asked Members of the Board for updates on their respective industries or organizations and local workforce development area activities for the Members who also serve on local workforce development boards. Members of the Board provided updates as requested.

Agenda item 8. Next meeting date, time, and location

Mark reminded the Members of the Board that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 13, 2025 from 9a to 12p and will be held at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503. If the date, time or location of the meeting changes, Mark advised Board Members that they will be notified by email.

Agenda item 9. Public comment

Mark opened the floor for public comment.

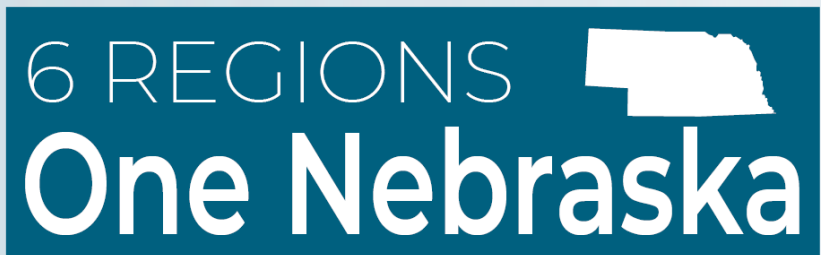
- Erin Portfield provided an update on activities in the Greater Omaha Workforce Development Area including:
 - system alignment;
 - closing gaps between workforce talent and good paying careers;
 - engaging workforce talent in Nebraska, while focusing on workforce retention and workforce success;
 - seeing some effects of local area layoffs;
 - working with 73 legal refugees
- Jessica Lindhurst updated the Board on activities in the Greater Lincoln Workforce Development Area including:
 - new initiative in partnership with City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation, focusing on financial wellbeing;
 - hosting internships; and
 - additional information on Greater Lincoln programs are accessible at <https://ajc.lincoln.ne.gov/our-programs/>.

No other public comments were made.

Agenda item 10. Adjournment

Mark asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board. Jim Bulkley motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Jim Hansen seconded the motion. Members of the Board voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00am.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Regional Development Initiative

NEBRASKA

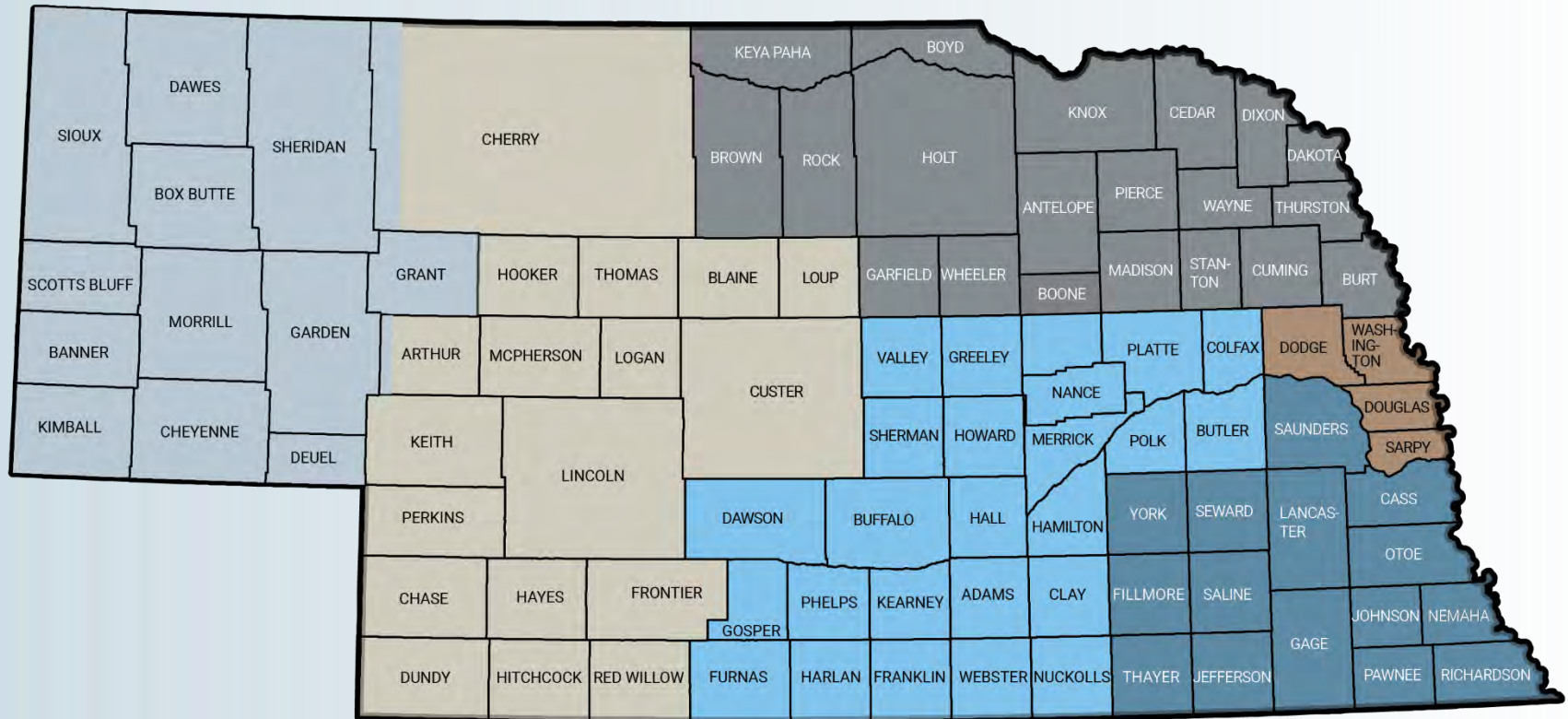


6 Regions, One Nebraska is a NEW APPROACH suited to a new era of economic development

- It's **COMMUNITY-DIRECTED**, guided by the ideas and insights of area leaders
- It's **ACTION-ORIENTED**, committed to rapid execution and concrete results
- It's **PARTNERSHIP-DRIVEN**, powered by strong relationships among Nebraskans in neighboring communities

Website: opportunity.nebraska.gov/regions

Designated Nebraska Community College Areas



Western



Northeast



Metro



Mid-Plains



Central



Southeast

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Opportunity.

Regional Initiative

- 3-year financial investment
- Matching private funds
- Hiring of full-time navigator to keep project moving
- Governor meets with regional work team
- Data provided to allow for informed decisions
- Asset mapping to identify regional strengths
- Create regional alignment by building the plan together
- Catalyze regional cooperation for future growth

Process

- Kick-off meeting with regional leaders (May-August 2024)
- Data presentation – Dr. Josie Schafer, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research
- Mission Matters – facilitators
- Leaders selected priorities for their region based on data



Process (continued)

- Action Teams formed and met 2-5 times
- Leaders met 2nd time to hear Action Team recommendations



Regional Leadership: Northeast

Regional Co-Chairs



Nicole
Sedlacek,
Economic
Development
Manager,
Nebraska
Public Power



Josh Moenning
Executive
Director,
New Power
Nebraska

Regional Navigator



Denise
Wilkinson,
Nebraska
Chamber

Northeast Priority Areas and ARPA Project

PRIORITIES: Leadership and Housing

ARPA PROJECT:

Housing Assessment & Inventory – Identify affordable housing needs across the region, municipal barriers and workforce gaps. Compile housing studies to assess need for single/multi-family housing, rehabilitation of existing properties, vacant lots, etc. as well as increase the knowledge of available assistance programs.

Housing information will be shared through a website, video content and social media. A Developer Academy, in partnership with SPARK, is also being planned to expand outreach and engagement.

Leadership Development Project – Goal is to address the lack of civic engagement and leadership continuity across the region. Modeled after the Georgia Academy for Economic Development, the program will inspire future leaders, youth and board members.



Regional Leadership: Southeast

Regional Co-Chairs



Jonathan Jank,
President & CEO,
Seward County
Chamber & Development
Partnership



Marc LeBaron,
Chairman & CEO,
Lincoln Industries

Regional Navigator



Zane Francescato,
Nebraska
Chamber

Southeast Priority Areas and ARPA Project

PRIORITY: Mindset Shift and Infrastructure to Support Growth

ARPA PROJECT:

Infrastructure to Support Growth- Project aim is to build a comprehensive, GIS-enabled inventory of municipal water and wastewater systems in Southeast Nebraska.

Using LASSO for data collection and tools like LOIS and GIS, the project will support community grants, planning and economic development – addressing aging systems and vulnerabilities to boost long-term regional resilience.

Mindset Shift: Southeast R.E.A.C.H (Southeast Regional Empowerment and Collaboration Hub)

This project is designed to connect communities, leaders, and resources to respond to local challenges. Pilot assessment is currently being conducted. This comprehensive community assessment will assist in developing a picture of the region's assets and challenges to guide targeted programming.



Regional Leadership: Central

Regional Co-Chairs



Dave Rippe,
Owner,
Queen City
Development



Jim Ediger,
Chief Legal
Officer,
Hamilton
Communications

Regional Navigator



Dena Beck,
Nebraska
Chamber

Central Priority Areas and ARPA Project

PRIORITIES: Housing, Workforce, & Child Care

ARPA PROJECT:

Child Care Champions – Increase licensed childcare facilities by mentoring and providing stipends for starting/operating childcare business. GOAL – 300 NEW, quality, licensed childcare spots in the Central region by 9/2026 utilizing 6 in home childcare champions (2 bilingual)

Progress update – The first childcare provider has completed requirements for the process to earn a \$2,500 stipend

- minimum of 3 interactions with Child Care Champion,
- obtain Nebraska in-home childcare license, and
- complete step 1 of *Step Up to Quality* rating



Housing – Registration is LIVE for the Cost of Complacency Cohort starting on June 24th. Goal is 10% decrease in vacant housing properties in 5 years which will provide increase in school enrollment, decrease in open jobs, and increase in utility revenue.

Workforce – *Trades-on-the-Move* aims to increase the number of young people entering construction careers. Working with the Edgerton Explorit Center model and partnering with Central Community College (who pledged the first \$100,000 toward the project), they will reach middle and high school students across the region. *Medicine-on-the-Move* is also in the development stages.



Regional Leadership: Mid-Plains

Regional Co-Chairs



Gary Person
President &
CEO,
North Platte
Area
Chamber &
Development



Kyle Arganbright
President,
Sandhills State
Bank
Mayor,
Valentine

Regional Navigator



Emily Wurl
Nebraska
Chamber

Mid-Plains Priority Areas and ARPA Project

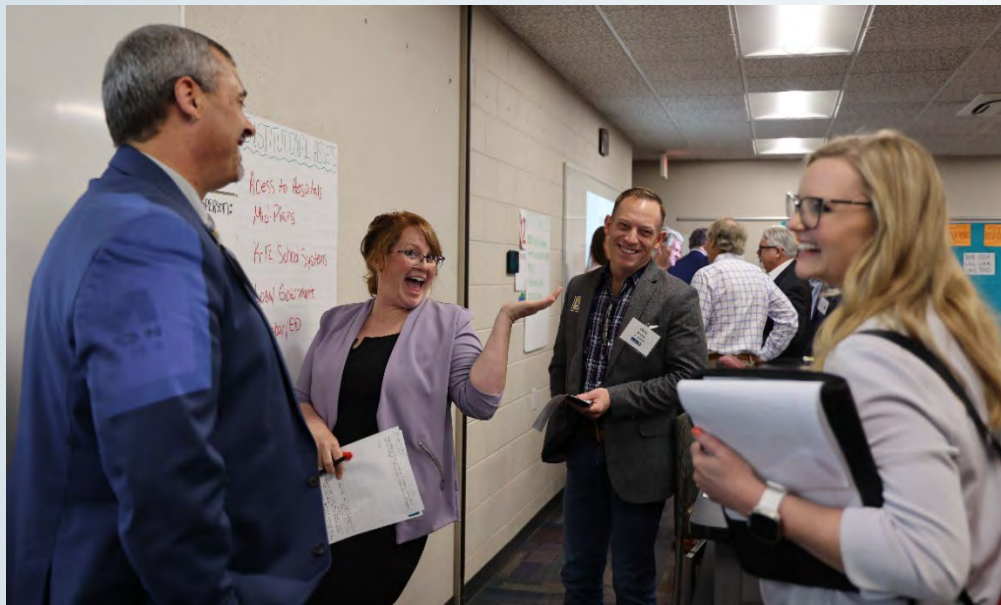
PRIORITIES: Workforce, Housing and Community Building

ARPA PROJECT: Workforce Housing Revitalization Plan

- Analyze current workforce housing conditions
- Map key housing and workforce data
- Create tools for workforce development and housing solutions
- Create regional resource hub with data dashboards, inventory of skilled-trades workforce

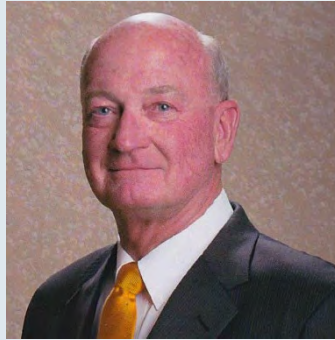
Cost of Complacency Cohort – partnering with the Central Region to host this effort with the goal of 10% decrease in vacant housing properties in 5 years, providing increased school enrollment, decreased open jobs, and increased utility revenue.

Community Building – The team is discussing leadership topics like burnout, ownership and empowering new leaders across the region. They are also considering quarterly regional meetings like the Development Network hosted in previous years to improve communication and find opportunities to partner.



Regional Leadership: Western

Regional Co-Chairs

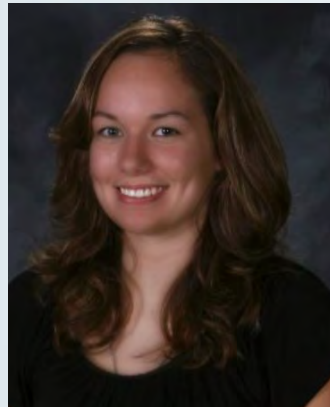


Owen Palm
President &
CEO,
21st Century
Equipment



Zac Karpf
President,
Platte Valley
Bank

Regional Navigator



Toshia Jones,
Nebraska
Chamber

Western Priority Areas and ARPA Project

PRIORITY: Linking Education and Workforce, Create Public/Private Partnerships and Policy to Enhance Regional Collaboration, Housing and Childcare

ARPA PROJECT:

Housing Infrastructure Assessment – Led by Panhandle Area Development District (PADD), an asset inventory of residential building sites is in process and will be completed by Fall 2025. Deliverables include:

- Using a regional approach to housing development
- Interactive map showing sites and estimated development costs
- Tool to market residential housing regionally

Childcare - Led by UNL Rural Prosperity, the regional childcare resource guide content is collected. Info has been distributed to some resource partners. A plan for effectively and efficiently targeting businesses is still under review. Continue to work with C4K groups, Panhandle Partnership, and Systems of Care in building awareness and discussions around the issue. There is potential for a regional marketing campaign.

Partnerships - Currently exploring opportunities to partner with PADD in creating actionable public/private partnerships.



Regional Leadership: Metro

Regional Co-Chairs



Joey Spellerberg
Mayor,
City of
Fremont



Dana Bradford
CEO,
Waitt Brands

Regional Navigators



Mike Rooks
Executive
Director,
Gateway
Development
Corp.



Megan Skiles
Executive Director,
Greater Fremont
Development
Council



Alec Gorynski
SVP of
Economic
Development,
Omaha
Chamber



Lisa Scheve
Executive Director,
Grow Sarpy

NEBRASKA
Good Life. Great Opportunity.

Metro Priority Areas and ARPA Project

PRIORITIES: Affordable, quality housing and Pathways to growth in career, talent and wage

ARPA PROJECT:

Housing Developer Academy- Training and education to emerging housing developers through the SPARK Developer Academy. Annual cohorts of 10-20 emerging developers will participate in an intensive 36-hour classroom-based model including national curriculum for Freddie Mac, fundamentals of real estate development, local panels and mentors and a capstone project pitch.

Outcomes

- ✓ Regional solutions designed by locals
- ✓ Focus on regional thinking
- ✓ Data driven decisions
- ✓ New Partnerships in each region
- ✓ Scale and scope to make impactful change

Regional Development Initiative

Cooperation not Competition

Website: opportunity.nebraska.gov/regions



Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System



Introducing the Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System



- The most comprehensive education-to-workforce longitudinal information source ever created in Nebraska
- NSWERS creates a data-informed decision culture that supports pathways of learning and earning in the state



Supporting Decision Making

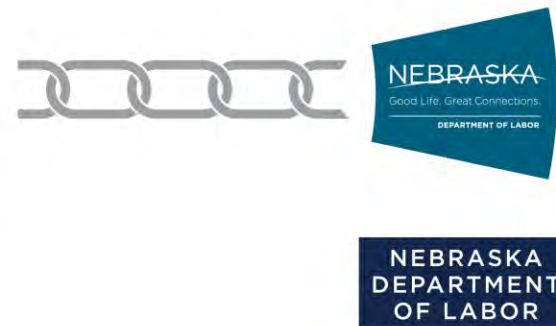
- NSWERS develops products that support decision making in Nebraska
- Integrated education and workforce data help answer the big and bold questions facing the state today
- Questions like:
 - How many high school graduates go on to college?
 - Are students ready to work when they graduate?
 - How long does it take graduates to find a good job?
 - Do they stay and work in Nebraska?



NSWERS ADVANTAGE

- Cross-system and cross-sector pipeline
- Centralized system with standardized definitions and data efficiencies
- Analysis and evaluation capabilities

Earning & Learning Partnerships



Research & Analysis

- Use Information & Research Agenda to prioritize research topics
- NSWERS Six Stages of Analysis serves as a framework for analysis
- Modern, flexible, scalable approach



NSWERS STAGES OF ANALYSIS™

Strategically designed to embody a modern, flexible, scalable analytic approach.



EXPLORE



DESCRIBE



EXPLAIN



PREDICT



FORECAST



SIMULATE

Eight Outcomes

EDUCATION OUTCOMES



High School Graduation



College Going



Postsecondary Persistence



Postsecondary Graduation



WORKFORCE OUTCOMES

Employment Gap



Time to Employment



Industry Placement



Employment Location



Education Data

- Identify and understand education options
- Evaluate educational programs to inform public policies
- Align education offerings with state and local workforce needs
- Continuous improvement and public transparency



Workforce Data

- Identify and understand career pathways
- Identify industry trends and align education programs with workforce needs
- Evaluate where to invest, expand, and advance business

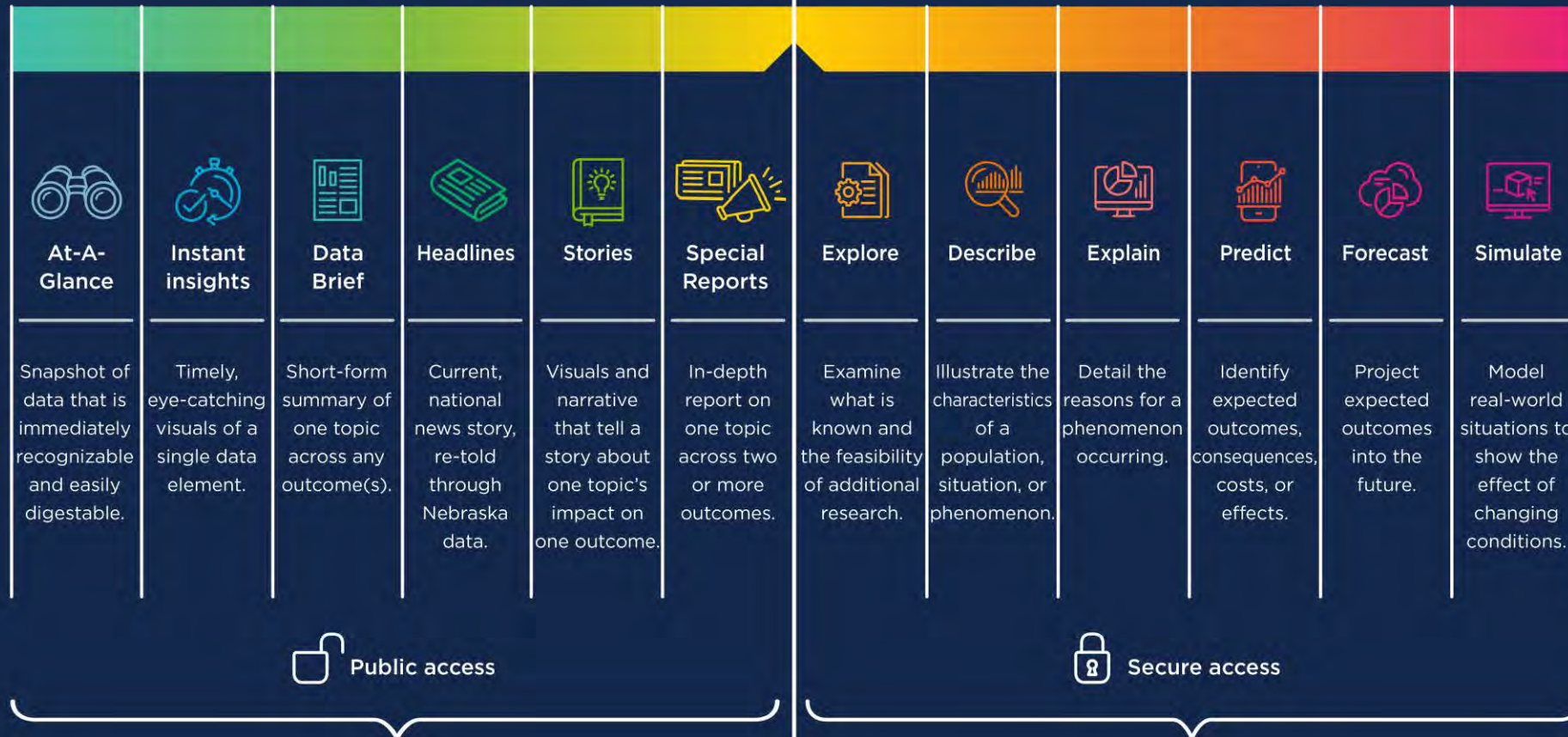


NSWERS Product Spectrum



> insights

> insights +



insights

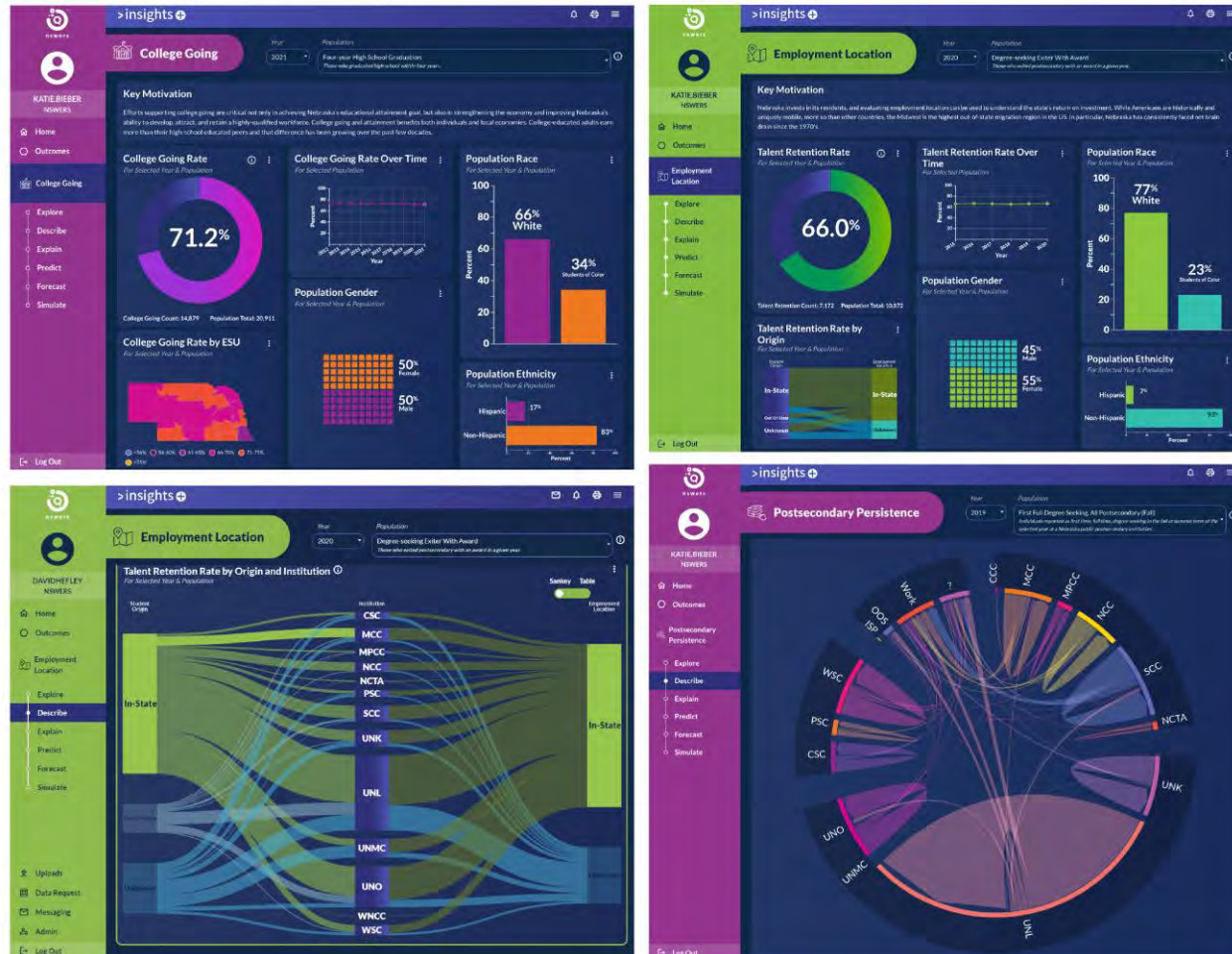
- Web-based public information tool
- Available at insights.nswvers.org
- Supports all Nebraskans in their learning and earning decisions

> insights



> insights +

insights+



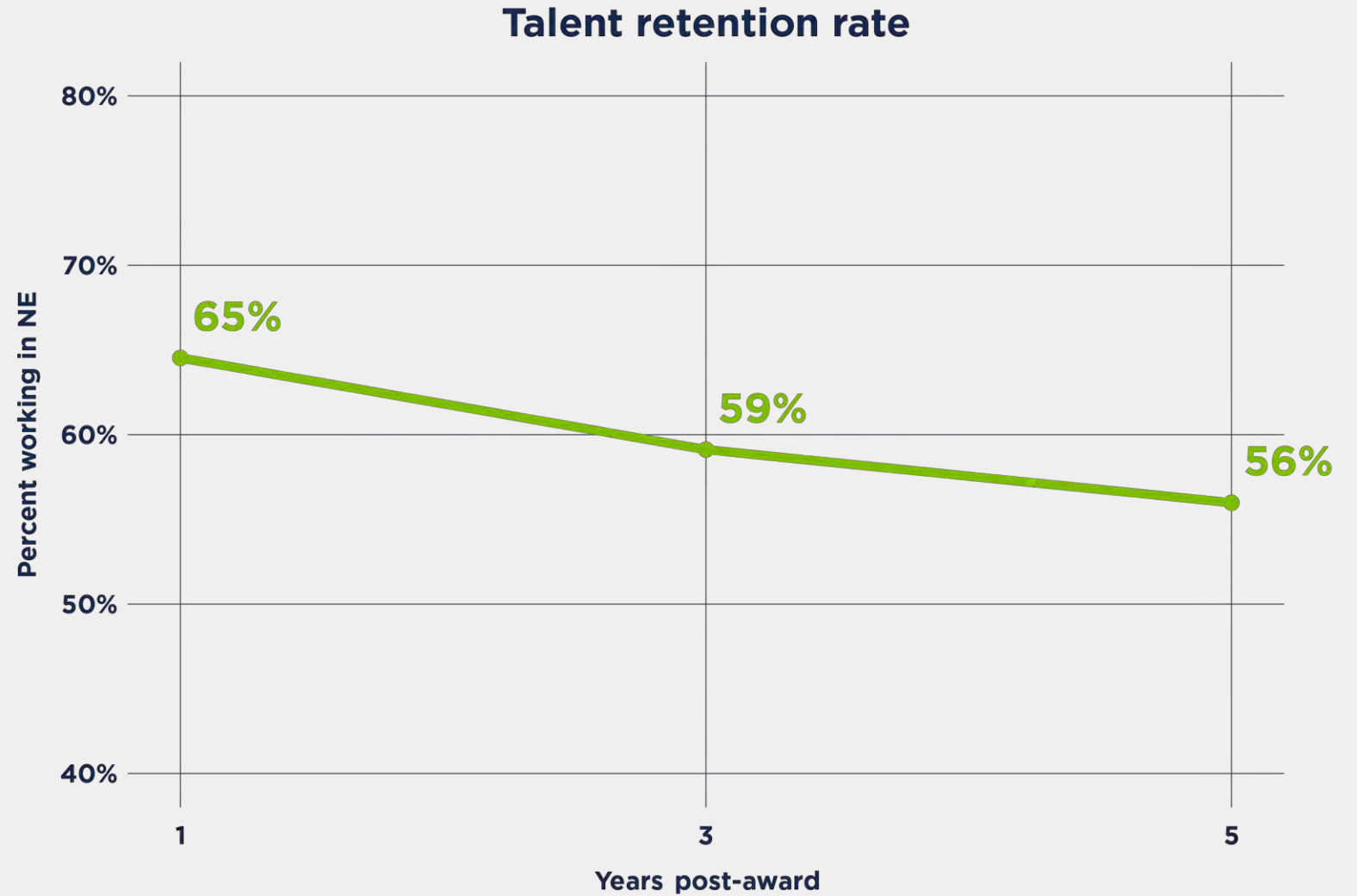
- State-of-the-art secure web platform where NSWERS' partners conduct business with NSWERS staff
- Access to cutting-edge data and research products across eight outcomes and six stages
- Supports decision makers in the education and workforce sectors



Talent Retention in Nebraska

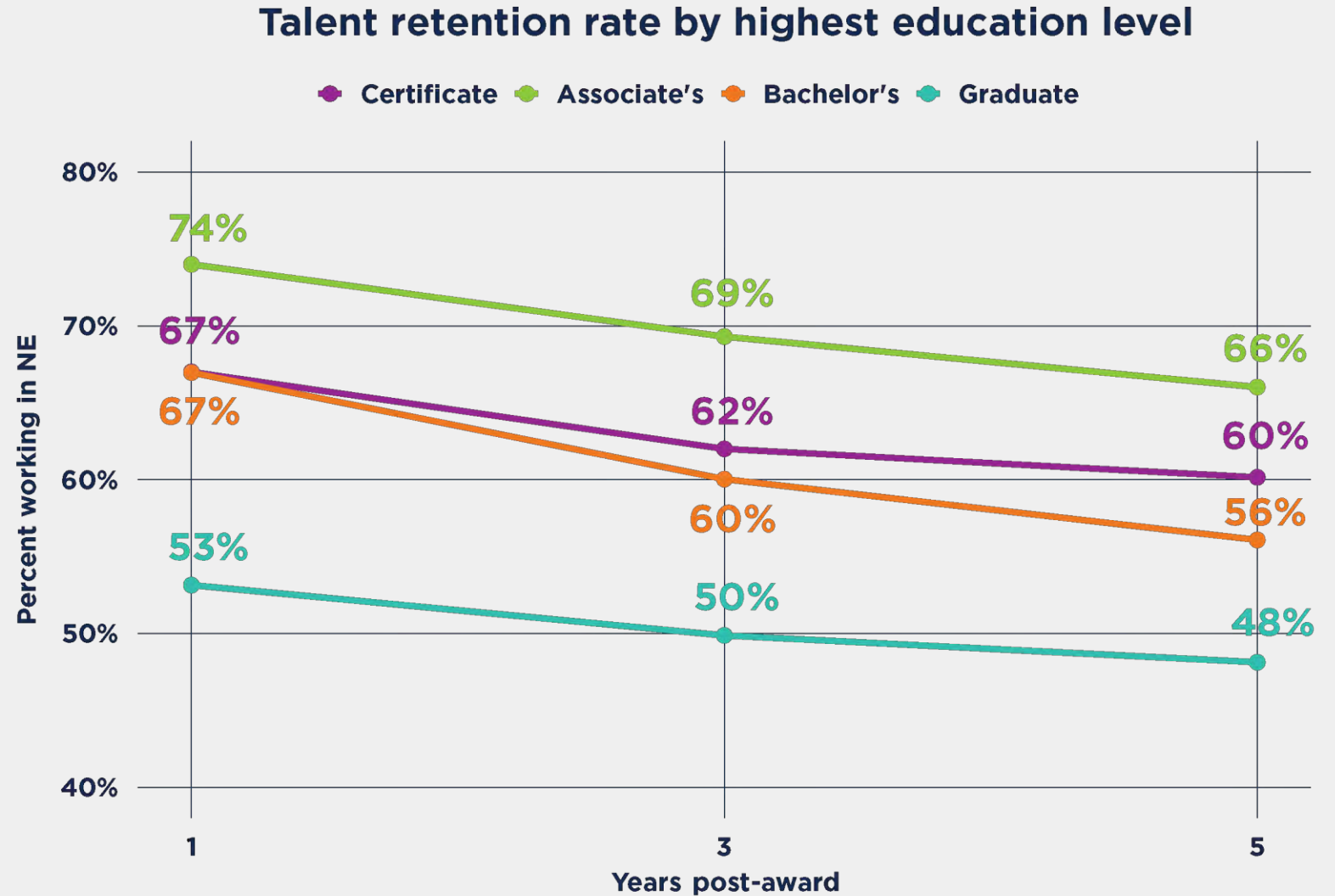


Just **over half** of Nebraska public college graduates still work in Nebraska **five years after graduation.**



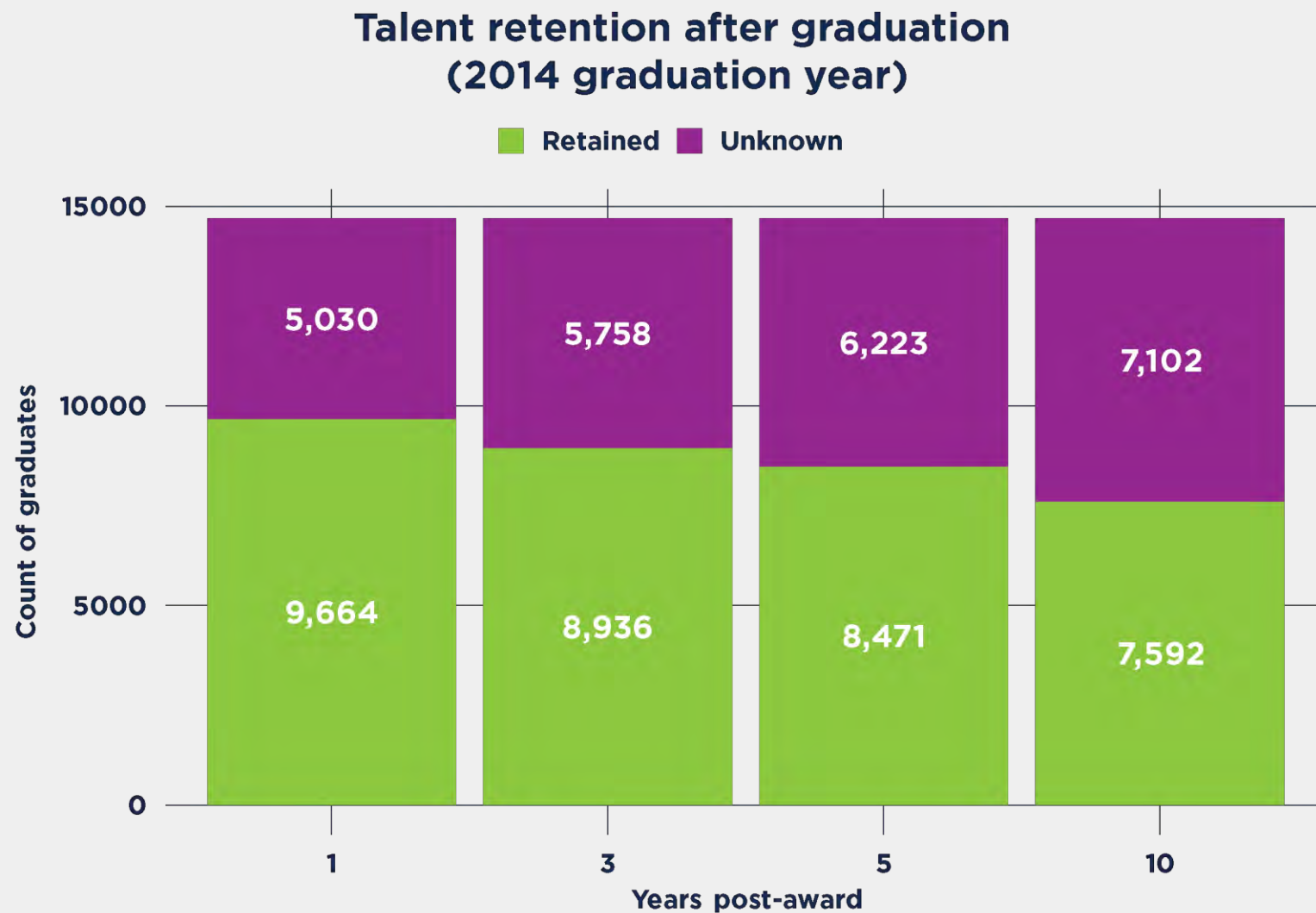
2013-2018 graduates

Graduates with higher education levels are less likely to stay and work in Nebraska.



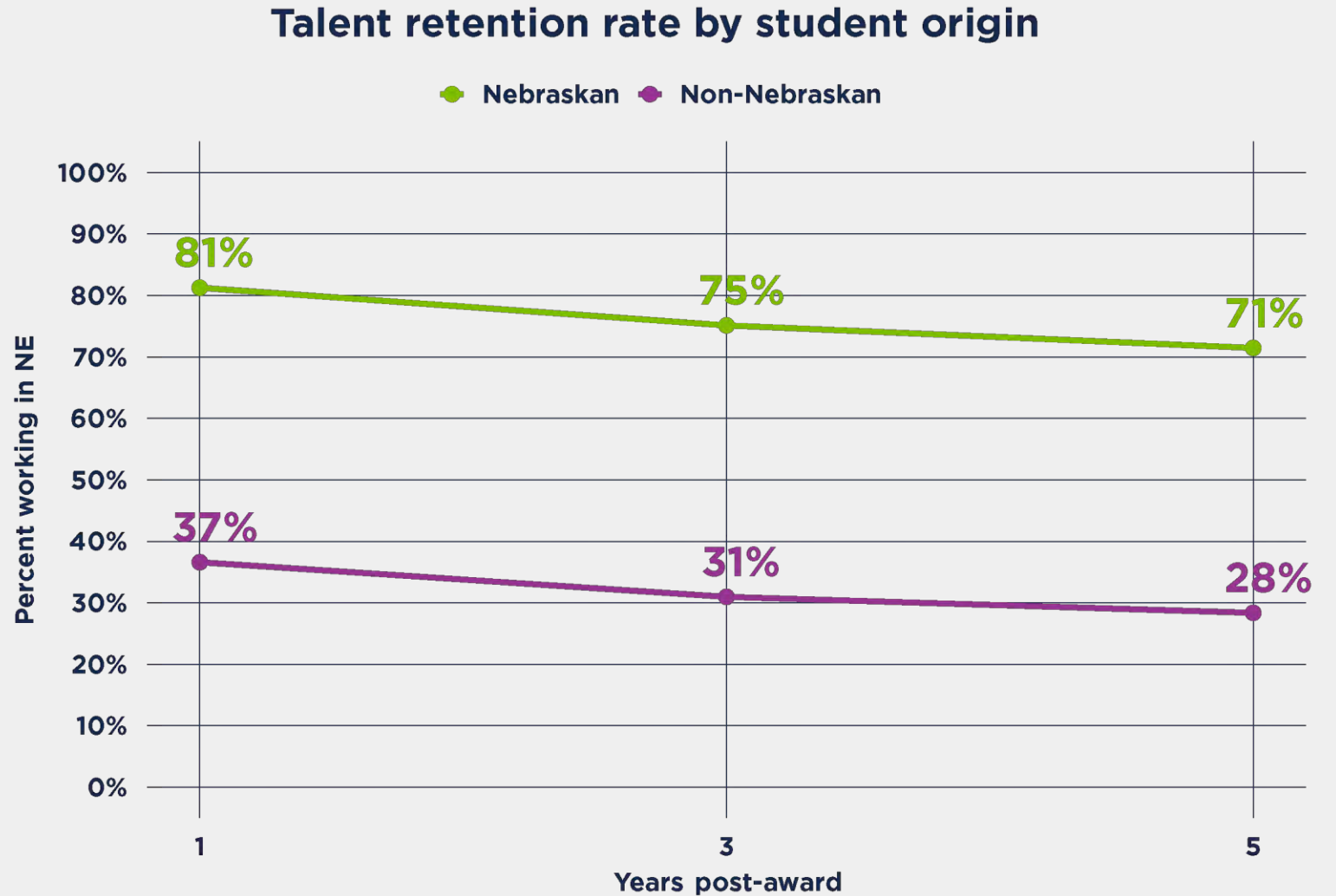
2013-2018 graduates

How would
Nebraska
benefit from
retaining
more
graduates?



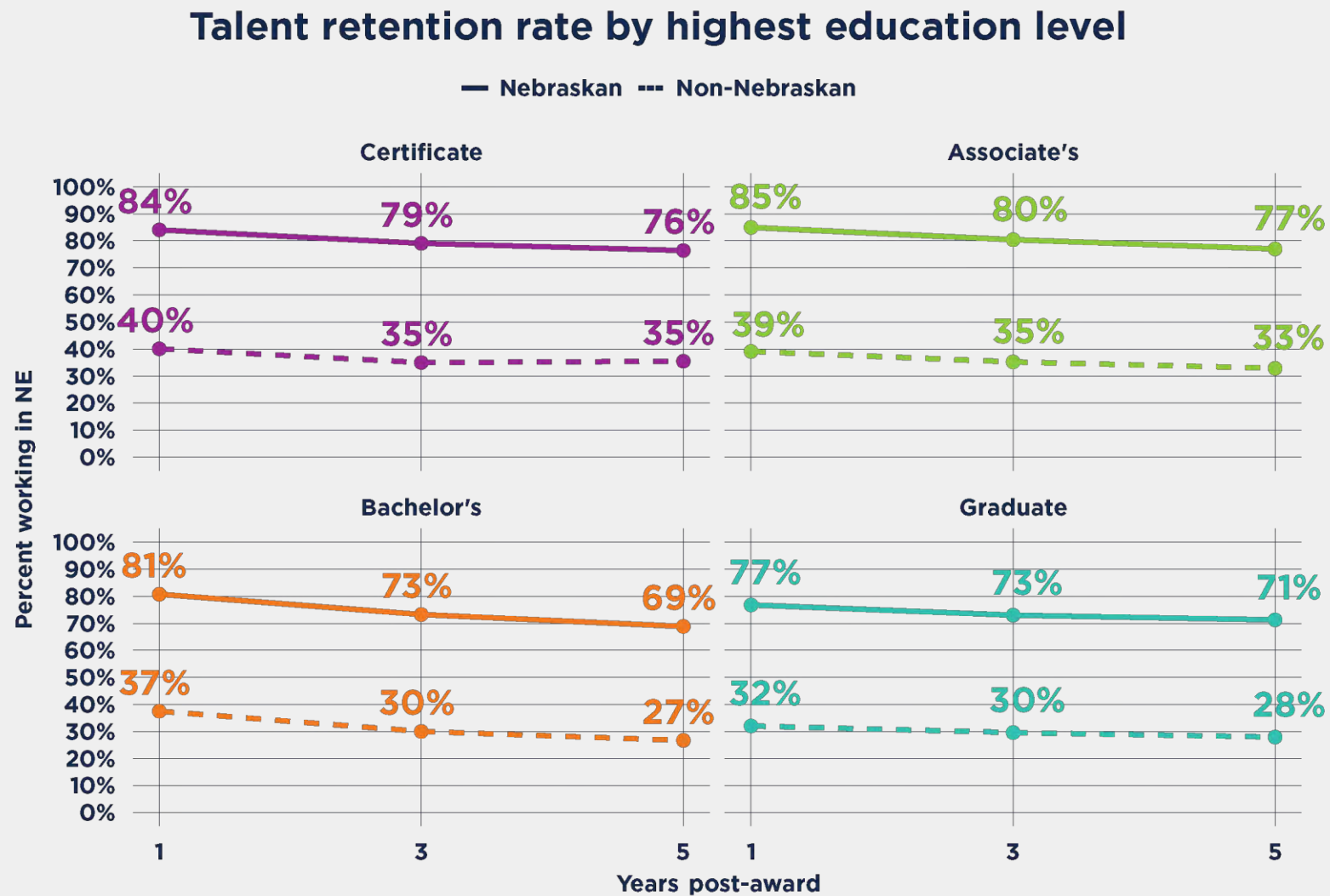
Nebraskans
stay to work
in Nebraska

...



2013-2018 graduates

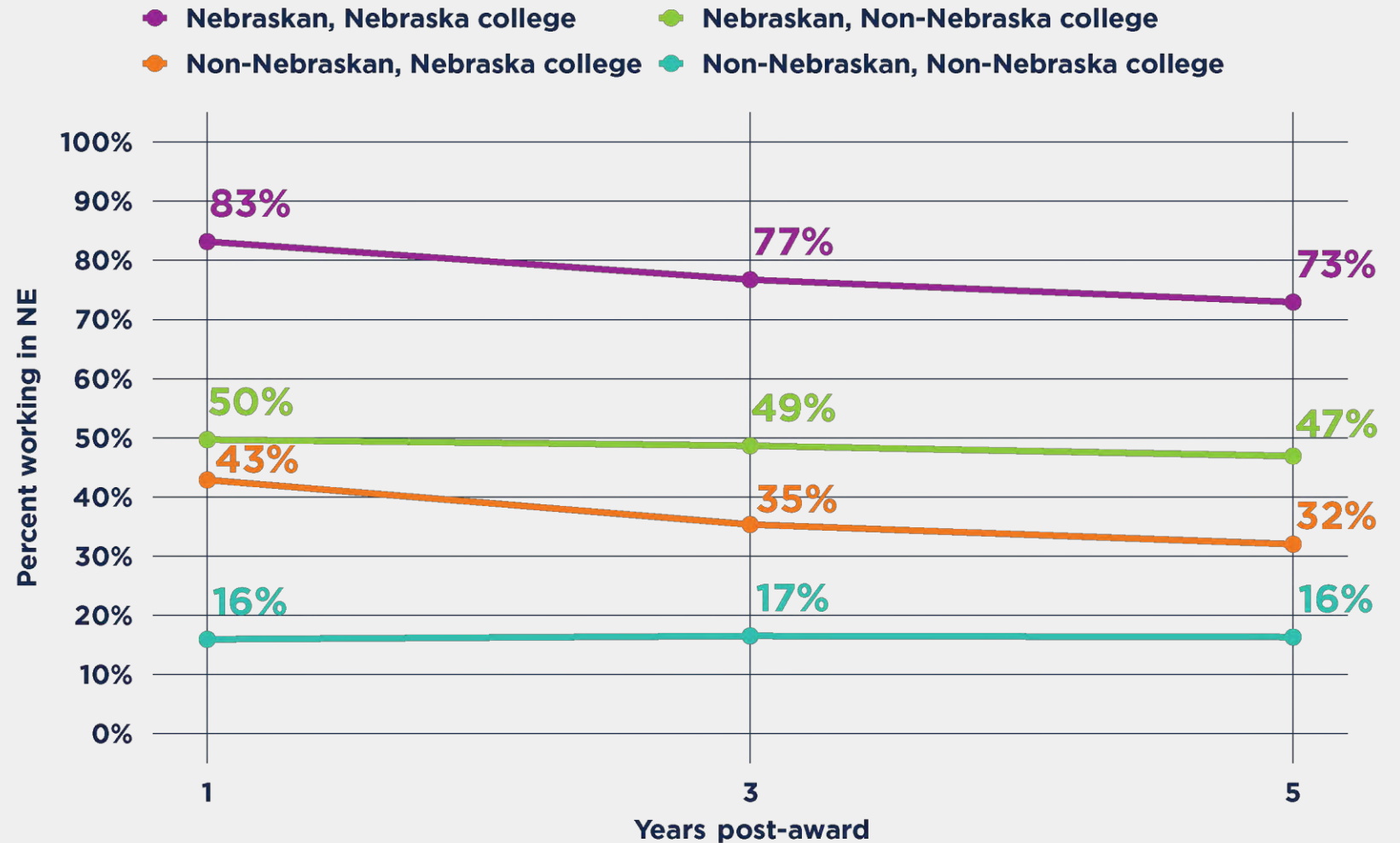
... even if
they have
high
educational
attainment
...



2013-2018 graduates

...
especially
Nebraskans
who graduate
with their
highest
degree from a
Nebraska
college!

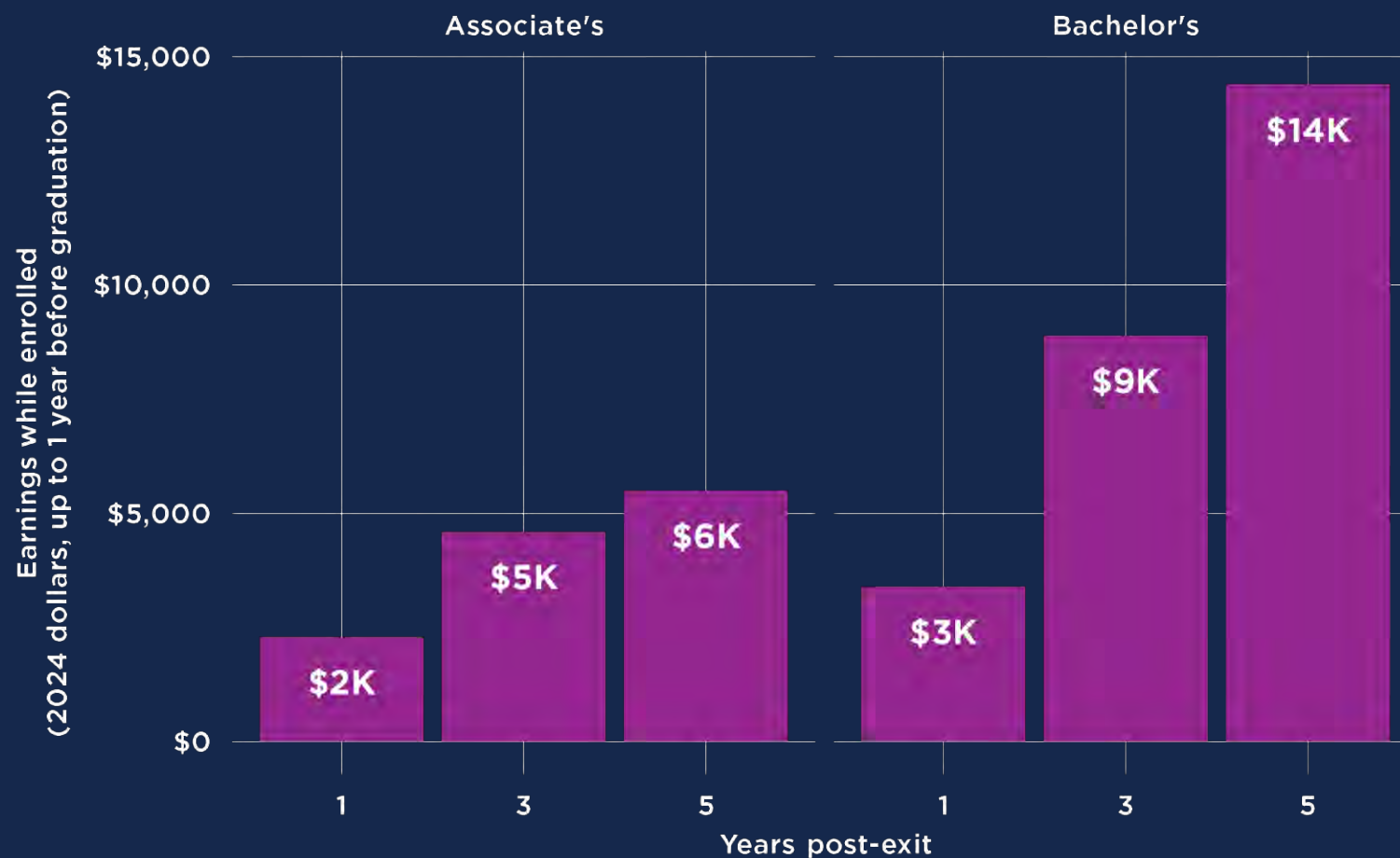
Talent retention rate by student origin and college location



2013-2018 graduates

Nebraska
work
experiences
help non-
Nebraskans
choose
Nebraska.

Estimated earnings needed to have >50% chance
of talent retention



2013-2018 non-Nebraska graduates from Nebraska public colleges

“

Let's start a
conversation!

”

feedback@nswers.org





Thank You!

Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System

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