

THE PLEDGE

FALL 2020



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NEBRASKA FBLA

FBLA STATE ADVISER

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2020-21 STATE OFFICER TEAM

Lucas Lunzmann, *President*
Jaelyn Gross, *Vice President*
Caden Carlson, *Secretary*
Trey Lamkins, *Treasurer*
Wyatt Nun, *Reporter*
Isabella Cao, *Parliamentarian*

BY JACQUI GARRISON, STATE ADVISER

This spring, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced our state and nation to come to an abrupt stop, the Nebraska FBLA Board of Directors had to make decisions that would impact the entire organization. This spring they decided to cancel the in-person conference at the direction of the local health departments from across the state. This meant that many students who had worked so hard would not be able to showcase their knowledge and skills. We were able to recognize students for a number of competitive events that were submitted and held prior to the shutdown.

I have seen our organization come together during this time to provide numerous opportunities for our members in a virtual environment. The Nebraska FBLA State Officer Team has been working extremely hard over the past six months to prepare for this ever changing environment to ensure they can provide Nebraska FBLA with engaging leadership experiences throughout the year. From Fall Leadership Conference sessions to state executive committees, the officer team is ready for the year ahead.

No matter what challenges lie ahead, Nebraska FBLA is dedicated to continue to move our organization forward. Thank you for stepping up to the challenges and keep moving forward. Through the changes that are made, Nebraska FBLA will grow and innovate new ways to overcome any obstacle we face. I am proud of what our organization has accomplished and am eager to see what else we aspire to!

QUICK LINKS TO FALL FEATURES

Lucas's Latest
FLC Overview
SLC T Shirt Contest
Jaelyn's Journal
Empowering Advisers
Connect with Caden

Trey's Treasure's
Izzy's Insights
Chapters Success Stories
National Anthem Singer
Wyatt's Wisdom
Alumni Spotlight



WE ASPIRE TO...

The State Officer Team has been hard at work developing a plan for you, the members and advisers who make this organization perform at its highest level. With the national theme of “Aspire,” we have decided to expand upon what it means to strive for excellence. **During this upcoming year, we will ASPIRE TO...**

CONNECT: We will bridge the gap between the State and Local levels alongside other divisions. This entails officer table meetings, virtual chapter visits, and a middle-level executive committee.

GROW: We will elevate our state chapter through the development of each and every member. From growth in membership to expanding leadership

knowledge, the entire organization will see results.

ADVOCATE: We will promote our organization to the community and business leaders. Increasing general sponsors, emphasizing the Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust, and promoting more participation in national projects will allow us to do so.

If you would like to see a more detailed outline of our goals and Program of Work, click on the link below:



SLC T-SHIRT CONTEST WIN A FREE SLC REGISTRATION!

The annual SLC t-shirt design competition is underway. We are looking for talented FBLA members to submit your designs by November 1. Please follow these guidelines:

- Design should include both a front and back design
- Design should be broad enough to include all Nebraska FBLA members
- Design may or may not include the state theme, “Aspire.”
- Design should include the words “2021 SLC” or “2021 State Leadership Conference.”

- Choose color of t-shirt
- Choose color(s) of design
- Use any electronic software to create the design.
- Must follow copyright laws. Design should be original work. *Nebraska FBLA logo and Nebraska FBLA theme logo are ok to use in the design.*

The design should be emailed as a jpg file to Pat Hinkle, Bellevue West FBLA, at hinklepat@gmail.com.

Please include the following in the email message: Name, School, Adviser Name, Phone Number, and Email Address

SAVE THE DATE: FALL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS SEPTEMBER 29-30

Join the 2020-2021 State Officer Team as they Aspire to “Connect, Grow, and Advocate” at his year’s Fall Leadership Conference Virtual Experience. There will be sessions for chapter officers, advisers, and members looking to be more involved in the upcoming year.

The Fall Leadership Conference is being moved to a no cost, virtual event this year. Please visit the website for more details about the event and a complete schedule of events.



The keynote speaker that will kick off this year’s Amplify Your Leadership event is Aaron Davis. Speaker and Author Aaron Davis has shared with over a million people about performing like a champion from personal experience!

As a member of the 1994 National Championship Nebraska Football team and working with numerous corporations, organizations, colleges, and high schools, he understands firsthand what it takes to perform like a champion & experience incredible results both personally & professionally!

Aaron has shared the stage with top luminaries in the business and sporting worlds and has spoken for some of the nation's leading companies, colleges, and hundreds of High Schools and Middle Schools.

He's a graduate of the University of Nebraska and has received numerous business & speaking awards, but he's most proud of his family.

Aaron and his wife Brooke have two sons and a daughter & he's a golf fanatic!!

Register for Amplify Your Leadership by clicking on the image to the left.

AMPLIFY
YOUR LEADERSHIP

Center for Student Leadership and Expanded Learning

DESCRIPTION

Enjoy a recorded keynote message from Aaron Davis along with the opportunity to participate in a **LIVE** workshop.

Students will have the opportunity to reflect on their leadership skills and the messages that they are amplifying as well as how to amplify positivity as leaders.

TIME

Live workshops will be hosted by Aaron at **3** different times:
Wednesday, September 30, 2020 | 8:30am | 2:30pm | 7:00pm CDT.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be accepted until **Friday, September 25.**
There is no cost for participation.

This workshop is a great opportunity for CTSO advisers to connect leadership training into their CTE courses!



A LOOK BACK AT SOLA

Everyone brings something different to the table. During the summer, you are able to meet with your new team and establish roles in your chapter's officer team. Numerous icebreakers and team building exercises can help you build your foundation for the year. Taking personality tests, hosting kahoot game nights, and sharing your passion can help you develop a strong team bond.

During SOLA, your State Officer Team was tasked with presenting their hobbies in a short video. From cooking to kayak fishing, we were able to learn more about each other and what aspects of FBLA encapsulated us.

Your officer team's foundation is crucial in all successful teams, which is why activities are vital while getting to know your officers. When an amazing officer team puts their individual talents to work, you can aspire to connect, grow, and advocate.

Here are some of the fun tools we used:

[Personality Test Link](#)

[Muse Videos Link](#)

[Kahoot Game Link](#)

EMPOWERING ADVISERS

Nebraska FBLA celebrates all of our dedicated and talented advisers. You give so much of yourself to help students get the most out of their FBLA experiences. THANK YOU!



Centura

Our chapter adviser, Stacie Loeffelholz, has been encouraging to members and inspires them to take advantage of leadership opportunities.



Raymond Central

Since becoming our adviser two years ago, Mrs. Schaffer has sparked new member recruitment, brought new opportunities and ideas to the table, and has helped our chapter connect as a whole.



Weeping Water

The Weeping Water Chapter zoomed and met our new adviser, Ms. Pauli. We are looking forward to an awesome and unique year! We're excited to welcome Ms. Pauli to the Nebraska FBLA world!



RETENTION TIPS

Due to COVID-19, many of us are unable to gather at the moment. This poses a major problem for gatherings of all kinds. Whether it's a chapter meeting or just seeing your grandma, we have had to adapt to the situation through the use of virtual resources. While this is not preferred, there are many examples of how Nebraska FBLA can surmount these setbacks and run virtual meetings during this unprecedented time.

Communication: Before a virtual meeting can take place, all participants need to be on the same page. Distributing information, such as meeting times and links, can be done through resources like Remind, email, and text.

Maintaining Parliamentary Procedure: By utilizing Zoom's features, such as hand raising, text chat, video, and audio, we are given the ability to take attendance, vote, and have organized communication.

Games and Activities: There are a wide variety of group games that can take place online. A few school appropriate activities that chapters can play virtually are online scavenger hunt, name that tune, and charades.

These examples are only scratching the surface of what we can accomplish through the use of virtual meetings. Our ability to adapt and overcome will allow Nebraska FBLA to continue its legacy of excellent chapter meetings.

Monthly Adviser Trainings Webinar

On the first Wednesday of every month starting in September, the Board of Directors and Nebraska FBLA staff will host Adviser Training Webinar Series from 8-9pm. These will be recorded and posted on the Nebraska FBLA website. There will be an agenda for each of the trainings along with an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.



Register for the webinar series to receive the link to connect



Recorded Webinars located on the Nebraska FBLA Website

Jacqui Garrison Awards Program Committee Announcement

Nebraska's State FBLA Adviser has just begun her first year on the FBLA National Awards Program Committee. This committee ensures that FBLA competitive events are relevant and rigorous. Jacqui Garrison has been selected by National FBLA staff to serve on this committee. Nebraska FBLA is proud to have her represent our state!





VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING

As many of you know, fundraising is essential to our amazing organization's success. You can raise money for anything and everything: from collecting money to attend a conference to raising money for your local chapter or food bank. There are many people and organizations that need help acquiring funds, so here's a few ways to fundraise during these unusual times.

Obtaining funds for the chapter has become more difficult, but fundraising is still very doable! Joan Flanagan says, "All the knowledge about fundraising can be summed up in ten words. Ask 'em, thank 'em, ask 'em again, thank 'em again." Below are some suggestions on how to fundraise virtually..

Find a way for donors and sponsors to support the chapter virtually. This could include GoFundMe, PayPal, Venmo, Facebook, a website or many other online fundraising tools. This is our opportunity to take advantage of the time people spend online.

IDEAS:

Sell Personalized Masks: You can get masks made with your school mascot and colors. Another option is to order masks featuring a specific organization to sell in your community. (btw, we strongly suggest buying from local companies within your community.)

Hosting a Speaker: Utilize Zoom or another online video platform to host a guest speaker. See if your speaker will donate their time, and then charge an entry fee for everyone wanting to attend.

Birthday Challenge: When a member of the chapter has their birthday, see if you can try raising money by asking people to donate an amount equal to the age of the person. Ex. If it is Cathy's 16th birthday, we would ask people to donate \$16.

Example Script: "Good Morning, Ms. Smith! Would you like to donate \$16 to our Local FBLA Chapter in celebration of Cathy's 16th birthday?"

Amazon Smile/iGive: Promote the use of Amazon Smile and iGive to raise funds for the Nebraska FBLA Foundation and Trust. They don't take long to set up and are easy to share.

Online Stores: Hold an online sale of goods. There are a number of businesses and fundraising companies that will work with groups to hold online sales of goods. National retailers like WC Fundraising, Otis Spunkmeyer and Krispy Kreme will allow for items to be ordered online (or orders are placed with you via social media, text, etc.) One idea for contact-free delivery is to tell the person you are dropping the item off, then, put it on their doorstep, etc. and they can grab it after you leave to keep you both safe!



[FIND MORE IDEAS HERE...](#)



RECRUITING WHILE REMOTE

As summer winds down and schools begin to open up for the fall, one topic on the minds of many chapters across Nebraska is membership recruitment. Recruiting new members can be a struggle, especially for smaller schools or those with many other CTSOs. With the added restrictions put on schools by the COVID-19 pandemic, how can chapters keep growing and expanding their membership during these trying times?

Take advantage of online resources. Online resources, like Zoom and Google Hangouts, are a great way to reach out to potential members and continue having meetings in the event of a school closure. Try inviting students from your school to an informational meeting using a digital slideshow, or try hosting a guest speaker over Zoom. Kahoot can be a great way to keep things fun and encourage member interaction.

Make the most out of social media. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter can serve as a virtual “bulletin board” for your chapter. Having a social media manager or graphic design team can help increase the visibility of your chapter and spread awareness of your events. Free design websites, like Canva, can help you make your posts clean and professional.

Give people a reason to care. Incentives are one of the most important factors to consider when recruiting new members. Food, games, prizes, influential speakers, and your impact on the community can all draw students to your chapter. Make sure to incorporate incentives into your beginning of the year events and make activities open for all students to attend!

NATIONAL ANTHEM SINGER APPLICATIONS DUE DEC 1

Your Voice is Needed

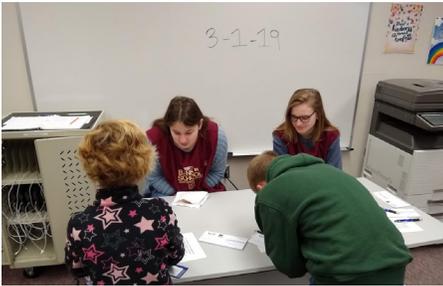
Applications are being taken for a member to sing the National Anthem at the 2021 State Leadership Conference.

Interested soloists should complete the online application form and submit an audio file of your a cappella solo of the National Anthem by December 1.

The winner will be announced in the spring edition of the Pledge.

CHAPTER SUCCESS STORIES

Arlington



The Arlington High School FBLA chapter connects with the elementary school by running a bank-in-school program with the elementary students. This program is partnered with the local Two Rivers Bank in Arlington. The bank-in-school program at Arlington allows elementary students to bring in money every Friday before school. Arlington High School's FBLA members want to help elementary students connect to the FBLA chapter and teach them how to save money for their future starting at a young age.

Auburn



The Auburn FBLA officer team held our first meeting to discuss possible plans and activities for the year.

Aurora



Aurora FBLA qualified 17 individuals for the National Leadership Experience as part of 3 individual and 6 team events. This group gathered to enjoy a catered meal, listen to the NLE keynote speaker, and participate in the Nebraska meeting. Although we wish we were able to travel to Salt Lake City, we enjoyed being together for a short time.

Bennington

Despite the awkward year, Bennington FBLA has been moving forward with its program of work! Throughout the summer, the Bennington FBLA Officer Team and a select group of its chapter members have been safely and efficiently setting up their year for success by partnering with local businesses to create this year's "Badger Discount Card". Not only will the card provide advertising for the local businesses, but proceeds generated from selling the card will benefit high school sports in Bennington. This year, Bennington FBLA Chapter President McKenzie Sharp and

the officer team are working to make the selling process COVID approved, ensuring funds reach a good cause and people remain healthy. Bennington chapter has plans for the coming year to leave its impact on the local community while operating in a healthy and safe fashion!

Centura

The Centura FBLA Chapter recently created a video showcasing the memberships of seniors in the chapter. The video included how long each member was in the chapter as well as a shout out to our officer team. It made for a nice tribute to these seniors, who otherwise wouldn't have been recognized.

Fillmore Central



Despite the challenges that COVID-19 presented, the Fillmore Central FBLA Chapter was still able to gather for the 2020 NLE opening and closing sessions. While social distancing within the room, advisor Mrs. Talley broadcasted the livestream onto the whiteboard for members to watch. Though it didn't make

up for the memories students would have created in Utah, the members from Fillmore Central still made the most of their experience.

Gibbon



The Gibbon FBLA Chapter made a donation to the Kearney Recycling Center in early 2020. It was the first donation that

the recycling center had ever received, and they used it to buy and plant a new tree outside their facility. The chapter plans to make more donations to support the recycling center in the future.

Kearney

Despite not being able to meet in person, Kearney High FBLA ended the 2019-2020 school year with a bang. Our chapter hosted an end-of-the-year Zoom celebration where members got the opportunity to talk, play games, and congratulate the chapter's outstanding members and award winners. At the end of the celebration, members were able to compete in a virtual scavenger hunt. Our adviser used a slideshow to show everyone the items they needed to find, and each member who brought it back in the allotted time earned a point. Everyone had a great time with each other, and we started summer on a high note!

Lincoln Southwest



Although times are different and so is the way we connect, that didn't stop Lincoln Southwest from continuing their annual Summer Academy for the Leadership Team, or SALT as we call it. Each Tuesday, members of the Leadership Team met with our adviser via Zoom to connect and build plans on how to make the 2020-2021 school year an amazing year even if it might look a little different. SALT was an excellent opportunity to catch up, keep connecting, build ideas, and also discuss the newest TikTok trends!

In addition to our weekly SALT Zooms, we also read *The Energy Bus* by Jon Gordon. The Energy Bus helped show us how we can "drive our Chapter bus" to success this year and how to "defeat the energy vampires" that might try to sabotage our plans with their negative attitudes. Summer seemed unusual without being able to enjoy all of the regular summer activities, but with the help of Zoom, FBLA still felt like the organization we all love.

Raymond Central



Our chapter's leadership team attended our annual Chapter Officer Leadership Academy before school started this month. Current circumstances prevented us from having the training in person, but moving the event to a virtual setting did not prevent our officers from planning this year's activities. Our officer team grew their knowledge of national projects and connected with one another in order to work more efficiently as a team. We look forward to seeing what our chapter can accomplish by connecting with other members and chapters, growing as leaders, and advocating for the March of Dimes and other important projects.

CHAPTER SUCCESS STORIES

Syracuse



Syracuse FBLA connected with the community and raised \$275 for March of Dimes with a Bake Raffle at a home basketball game.

Valentine



Even with the difficulties of this past spring, the Valentine FBLA chapter has still been busy getting ready to connect, grow, and

advocate during the 2020-2021 school year. We conducted our officer interviews over zoom and started putting together plans right away. Before school started, our leadership team traveled up to the Black Hills for an officer retreat, where we discussed our focus for this next year and scheduled our FBLA fundraisers and community services. We even came up with ideas to help promote our chapter at school, one of which was making an introductory video that included all of our student officers. We had a lot of fun this last year and are excited to see what we will accomplish in the future.

Wilber-Clatonia

The Wilber-Clatonia chapter was tired of being apart from each other and not being able to participate in normal FBLA events that they have every year. Wilber-Clatonia officer team came up with the idea, “Why

can’t we?” The 2019-2020 officers started talking about how we could make FBLA still possible. The officer team developed a plan to host a “Virtual Duck and Dumpling Run”. The Duck and Dumpling run is a fundraiser that we do annually, and with the circumstances we were facing, we wanted to make it accessible for anyone who wanted to participate. We also held virtual officer team interviews and meetings as a way to remain as normal as possible.

Wilber-Clatonia FBLA will not let COVID-19 stop us from being innovative, learning, and being leaders. The Wilber-Clatonia FBLA Chapter is dedicated to our school and community. Life may not be what is used to, but we will still connect, grow, and advocate.



[SUBMIT STORIES HERE...](#)



THE BENEFITS OF JOINING AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

As summer winds down and schools begin to open, FBLA offers many opportunities to network with new members. Whether it be through talking with other members during a competitive event or chatting with students after a workshop, there are a plethora of chances to meet new people. But what happens when conferences are put on hold?

With many in person conferences being held online due to this pandemic, it's left many of the state's members wondering how they can stay involved. That is where the Nebraska FBLA State Executive Committees come into play. For students who are unaware, the State Executive Committees are subsidiary groups that are led by your state officer team.

Throughout the course of this school year, members are given the chance to work closely with not just members from other chapters, but state officers as well. This opens up many doorways that the future leaders from our state can utilize in order to meet new people, enhance their leadership skills, and have an amazing time.

Look out for all the fascinating projects coming from the state executive committees in the coming year. Younger students, if any of these activities seem to catch your eye, consider applying to join next year. And remember, if you aspire to push your boundaries as a member, the state executive committees are a great first step.

WEAR YOUR PROJECT RIBBONS AT SLC!

Showcase your chapter's achievements by wearing Nebraska FBLA project ribbons during the virtual SLC.

Chapter Projects:

1. Connect with Business
2. Feed Nebraska
3. Go Green Challenge
4. iGive (Foundation)
5. March of Dimes Donations
6. Sweepstakes
7. NSBEA/NBEA Membership Ribbon
8. Prepare Nebraska
9. Seven Up (Membership increase)
10. StepUp 2 Tech
11. Nebraska FBLA Foundation Trust Donation

Individual Projects:

1. All-State Quality Member Award
2. Business Achievement Awards (BAA)
 - a. Future
 - b. Business
 - c. Leader
 - d. America (recognized at NLC)
3. Community Service Awards (CSA)
 - a. Community
 - b. Service
 - c. Achievement (recognized at NLC)



[FIND MORE PROJECTS HERE...](#)



NICKOLE SIS

ALUMNI Q&A

Nickole Sis

Dundy County Alum

When were you in FBLA? Fall 1985 - Spring 1989 (My freshman through senior years of high school).

What inspired you to join FBLA? Actually, my Mom was my first business teacher and FBLA adviser, so it was a requirement!

What skills has FBLA taught you? Networking has probably been the most important skill I gained through my years of involvement in FBLA. But, of course, interviewing and public speaking are high on the list as well!

If you could go back and tell your high school self anything, what would you tell yourself and why? I would tell myself that it's ok to not have my life plan all figured out at age 17-18. And it's ok to change your mind mid-stream. The world changes at such an incredible pace today ... plans have to be fluid and flexible. And it's ok to just not have it all figured out. I'm 49 and still figuring some things out!

What is one thing everyone in FBLA should take advantage of while they're in high school? The many opportunities that FBLA has to offer. I know it's not *one thing,* but there is quite literally something available for everyone who joins FBLA. The vast array of projects and events is enormous, and if you look hard enough, you can find something that fits your interests and skill set. Find a project or event to focus on and then dedicate yourself to it! It will pay off!



What was your favorite FBLA experience/memory? Being selected runner-up Ms Future Business Leader at SLC in 1989.

How has FBLA affected your choice in career/major? Well, FBLA prompted me to major in Business Education and become an FBLA Adviser myself! I taught business and technology and led an FBLA chapter in Fleming, Colorado for three years in the mid 1990's. From there, life has taken me in many different directions, but FBLA & PBL have always been a part of my life!

GRACE MCDONALD



ALUMNI Q&A

Grace McDonald Centura Alum

When were you in FBLA? I was in FBLA from 2014-19. I joined in 8th grade and continued through my senior year.

How has FBLA affected your choice in career/major? I've loved writing since age three, and FBLA gave me the opportunity to explore where it could take me. I succeeded in events like proofreading, public speaking, graphic design, broadcast journalism, and I was also lucky enough to win the Outstanding Reporter Award two years in a row! It was a no brainer for me to major in journalism and multimedia at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. My goal is to eventually become a news anchor/reporter or a talk show host.

What is one thing everyone in FBLA should take advantage of while they're in high school? Everyone in FBLA needs to take advantage of the opportunities to meet people at conferences. I started out as a freshman going to officer booths, sessions, and the SLC dance by myself! Because I took risks, I now have a loyal network of friends that I keep in touch with to this day.

If you could go back and tell your high school self anything, what would you tell yourself and why? I would tell my high school self to take a deep breath and enjoy the moment. Sometimes I would dedicate myself to too many things, and I would forget to stop and smell the roses. It's okay to take a breather with the people you love, and thank God for the good things in life.

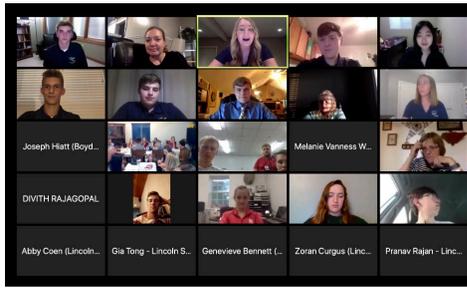
What FBLA chapter or High School did you attend? I was the Centura FBLA reporter for three years when I attended Centura High School.

What inspired you to join FBLA? My mom was the Nebraska FBLA state secretary when she was in high school, and the way she talked about the organization inspired me to join. When my FBLA advisor approached me in my 7th grade keyboarding class, I knew exactly what she was talking about. The rest is history!

What was your favorite FBLA experience/memory? My favorite FBLA experience was qualifying for the 2019 NLC in San Antonio, TX. It was so rewarding to be with my fellow Nebraska FBLA members chanting, "GO BIG RED!," at one last general session. Whether it was exploring the river walk, remembering the Alamo, or making donut runs, I will always cherish the memories I made at San Antonio. It gave me a chance to say a heartfelt goodbye to my wonderful advisor, my chapter, my little sister, and the friends I made in FBLA.

What skills has FBLA taught you? FBLA taught me how to graciously succeed and sometimes fail, even after putting forth 100% of my effort. My work as a reporter taught me the importance of communicating and representing an organization. Finally, organizing our March of Dimes walks inspired me to pursue what I'm passionate about and inspire others.

FUN PHOTOS FROM NLC



STAY SOCIAL WITH NATIONAL FBLA-PBL



The Pledge is published three times a year by the Nebraska Future Business Leaders of America. (August, December, March)

Submit your articles at nebraskafbla.org > News > Submit Chapter News

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The Nebraska Department of Education recognizes the value of Career & Technical Student Organizations in the personal and professional development of career education students through Nebraska Career Education. Per Nebraska Statute 79-772 to 79-775, the Nebraska Department of Education provides financial and administrative support for state leadership and administration of the Center for Student Leadership and Expanded Learning.

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