Solving the Puzzle: Effective Transitions from Elementary Through Postsecondary and into the Workforce

THURSDAY
APRIL 11, 2013

Holiday Inn Lincoln Downtown
Lincoln, Nebraska
Dear Colleagues,

Educators and students face many new and challenging issues in today’s academic and economic climates. At a time when our country and our state are aggressively working to raise the level of educational attainment, it is becoming increasingly important to understand the future of our students to help them reach their career goals.

The theme of the Nebraska ACT State Organization 2013 Annual Conference is *Solving the Puzzle: Effective Transitions from Elementary Through Postsecondary and into the Workforce*.

State and national education professionals will inform, educate, and inspire those who work with students in preparing them for college and work success. In addition, we will also examine the issues we face and discuss strategies that can help educators with student retention, recruiting, and counseling.

This one-day conference will be held Thursday, April 11, 2013, at the Holiday Inn Lincoln Downtown, located at 141 North 9th Street in Lincoln. Registration and a light breakfast start at 8:30 a.m. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Please plan to join your colleagues from across the state for stimulating discussions and the sharing of ideas in an effort to further student success in our state. This conference is a must for elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educators.

The early registration deadline is March 21, 2013. Register online at [http://www.regonline.com/NE2013](http://www.regonline.com/NE2013). Please contact the ACT Mountain/Plains Regional Office at 303.337.3273 if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you in Lincoln on April 11th!

Sincerely,

John Flemming  
Nebraska ACT State Organization  
Chair  
Omaha South High Magnet School

Lin Brummels  
Nebraska ACT State Organization Council  
Chair-Elect  
Wayne State College

Marcus Garstecki  
Nebraska ACT State Organization  
Past Chair  
Mid-Plains Community College

Mary Findlay  
Nebraska ACT State Organization  
Secretary  
Nebraska Department of Labor

Rick Michaelsen  
ACT State Representative  
Mid-Plains Community College–McCook
Solving the Puzzle: Effective Transitions from Elementary Through Postsecondary and into the Workforce

**Preliminary Agenda**

- **8:30 – 9:00 a.m.**
  - **REGISTRATION AND LIGHT BREAKFAST**

- **9:00 – 9:15 a.m.**
  - **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
    John Flemming, Nebraska ACT State Organization Council Chair and Career Counselor, Omaha South High Magnet School

- **9:15 – 10:15 a.m.**
  - **MORNING PLENARY**
    - **Update on the ACT Statewide Pilot**
      Commissioner Roger Breed and participating district administrators will discuss progress and give updates on the ACT statewide pilot currently in year two.

- **10:15 – 10:30 a.m.**
  - **Break, Visit Exhibits**

- **10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**
  - **CONCURRENT SESSIONS I**
    - **A: Collection and Analysis of Data from ACT Explore®, ACT Plan®, and the ACT® Test**
      This session will describe how to use Microsoft Excel to collect data from ACT Explore, ACT Plan, and ACT Test scores to effectively analyze the relationship among the three tests in the areas of college readiness, core class sequencing in math and science, and school curriculum improvement.
    - **B: Retention Interventions—Using Academic Strategies to Obtain Success**
      Many struggles in student retention arise from student academic needs. This program will highlight academic interventions and processes that can help students become more competent learners and increase their chances for persistence.
    - **C: Transitions into the Workforce—What Employers Need**
      This session will feature Catherine Lang, Director of Economic Development and Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Labor, and an employer panel discussing job opportunities in the state; skill shortages; and high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand occupations.

- **11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**
  - **LUNCH**

- **12:30 – 1:00 p.m.**
  - **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
    Governor Dave Heineman

- **1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**
  - **CONCURRENT SESSIONS II**
    - **D: ACT and Onward**
      This session will instruct educators on how to prepare a high school class for the ACT Test, including setting expectations for students, teaching the sections, strategies for higher scores, grading, and resources. It will provide information on class results and how strategies for success on the test also apply to the workplace.
E: Bridging the Gap—How Early Career Exploration Impacts Students’ Futures
Choosing a career path can be a daunting challenge for high school students. Early career exploration can serve as an effective guide as students begin to think of their future careers. See a model of an effective career exploration workshop, currently used with approximately 600 eighth graders each year.

F: Undeclared but Not Uncharted
Do you have a plan to recruit students who haven’t declared majors? If not, you are missing the boat. In this session, we will explore the components of the ACT Interest Inventory included with your ACT Test score reports and discuss ways to use these measured interests to recruit and retain students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 – 2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 – 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>AFTERNOON PLENARY</td>
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<td>2:15 – 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Helping Millions Reach Their Full Potential—ACT Aspire™</td>
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<td>3:15 – 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>CONFERENCE WRAP-UP AND ADJOURNMENT</td>
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CONFEREE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Conference site  Holiday Inn Lincoln Downtown
141 North 9th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

Lodging  420.475.4011
Request the ACT Conference rate of $95.00 per night, plus tax.

Rate deadline  March 20, 2013; thereafter, reservations will be taken on a
space-available and prevailing-rate basis only.

Register online at: http://www.regonline.com/NE2013
• Register multiple participants
• Immediate confirmation and invoice
• Pay by check, purchase order, or credit card
• E-mail confirmation with conference site details and map

For information or assistance: Contact the ACT Mountain/Plains Regional Office at
303.337.3273 or e-mail NEStateorg@act.org.

Conference cost is $50.00 per person if registered by March 21, 2013; $65.00 per
person thereafter. This includes a light breakfast, lunch, refreshments, parking, and all
session materials.

You will receive confirmation by e-mail with detailed information about the conference site
(including driving instructions).

The deadline for registration is April 1, 2013.

Exhibitor Opportunity: Establish, enhance, and expand your network of clients among
Nebraska’s education professionals. The Holiday Inn Lincoln Downtown can
accommodate a limited number of exhibitors. Register early to secure your space!

The exhibitor registration fee is $125.00, which includes one 8x10 table, wireless
Internet access, parking, light breakfast, lunch, and refreshments for one representative
(additional representative fee is $50.00 per person).

Cancellations: If you cannot attend, you must contact the ACT Mountain/Plains Regional
Office at 303.337.3273 by April 2, 2013, for a full refund; otherwise, your institution is
responsible for payment. Substitutions may be made at any time. This cancellation policy
reflects unrecoverable expenses such as preshipped conference materials and food
services.
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>Rick Michaelsen</td>
<td>Student Advisor, Mid-Plains Community College–McCook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>John Flemming</td>
<td>Career Counselor, Omaha South High Magnet School</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mary Findlay</td>
<td>Research Analyst, Nebraska Department of Labor</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT Liaison</td>
<td>Joe Cruse</td>
<td>Director, Program Solutions, ACT Mountain/Plains Regional Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Cadwallader</td>
<td>School Counselor</td>
<td>Winnebago Public School District 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debra Faimon</td>
<td>K–12 Counselor</td>
<td>Malcolm Public Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Hoffman</td>
<td>Director, Career</td>
<td>Guidance/Counseling, Nebraska Department of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tabitha Kaiser</td>
<td>Operations Manager</td>
<td>University of Nebraska–Lincoln</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jason Keese</td>
<td>Communication and Special Projects Coordinator</td>
<td>Nebraska’s Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Melnick</td>
<td>Director of Institutional Research</td>
<td>Northeast Community College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Les Monroe</td>
<td>Director, College Planning</td>
<td>EducationQuest Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Nipp</td>
<td>Director of Enrollment Management</td>
<td>Northeast Community College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ex-Officio</td>
<td>Carna Pfeil, PhD</td>
<td>Associate Director, Nebraska’s Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Pospisil</td>
<td>Associate Director of Admissions</td>
<td>Nebraska Wesleyan University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Romshek</td>
<td>Curriculum Director</td>
<td>Columbus School District 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Tegeler</td>
<td>Counselor</td>
<td>Lincoln High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tami Wegener</td>
<td>School Counselor</td>
<td>York High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelley Winter</td>
<td>Counselor</td>
<td>Beatrice High School</td>
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**ACT Mountain/Plains Regional Staff**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassandra Barker-Carr</td>
<td>Regional Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crystal Ellis</td>
<td>Office Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Adams</td>
<td>Specialist I</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Houchin</td>
<td>Director, Client Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaliko Oligo</td>
<td>Senior Consultant, Client Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heidi Nelson</td>
<td>Consultant, Client Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Cruse</td>
<td>Director, Program Solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo Martell</td>
<td>Senior Consultant, Program Solutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Wolf</td>
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