



NGage

ANNUAL REPORT
2021

218 N 5TH STREET, BEATRICE NE 68310
NGAGEGROUP.ORG | 402-228-5869

MEMBER INVESTORS

Founder (\$150,000)*

City of Beatrice
Gage County

Leader (\$5,000)*

Beatrice Community
Hospital & Health Center

Champion (\$2,500)*

Black Hills Energy
Pinnacle Bank
Security First Bank

Catalyst (\$1,000)*

Caspers Construction
Clabaugh Pharmacy
Diode Communications
Echo Electric Supply
Exmark Manufacturing
First National Bank
First State Bank Nebraska

Garnett Investment Strategies

Landmark Snacks
Neapco Components
Norris Public Power District
Precise Fabrication
Premier Chevrolet Buick GMC
Rosene Machine
Smith, Schafer, Davis, LLC
Tredz Central
Unite Private Networks
Village of Adams

Advocate (\$500)

American Family Insurance,
Cheryl Wirth
Midwest Livestock Systems
Nebraska Public Power District
Southeast Community College
Terracon Consultants, LLC
Worldlawn Power Equipment

Associate (\$100)

Beatrice Area Chamber of
Commerce
Blackburn Technologies
Bryant & Associates, PC
State Farm, Ed Easley
Farm Credit Services of America
LeRoy & Doren Janzen
Jones Group
Krista Wiedel, Brick & Mortar
Realty, LLC
Members Own Credit Union
Mosaic
Nebraska Department of Labor
Dave & Betty Norton
Pickrell Lumber & Hardware
R.L. Tiemann Construction, Inc.
Schuster's Outdoor & RV
Village of Cortland
Willet & Carothers
Wood Bros Realty

* Voting-level

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andrea Schafer, President
Chad Lottman, Vice President
David Norton, Treasurer
Traci Garnett-Froscheiser, Secretary
Erich Tiemann, County

Rick Clabaugh, City
Rex Adams, County
Erin Dorn, County
Ryan Norris, County
Steve Sandman, City

From the Director



Dear Friends,

What a year it has been.

In 2021, the NGage Board of Directors underwent a timely strategic planning process, resulting in a renewed focus on Business Retention and Expansion, People Attraction/Retention, and Business Recruitment.

We also kicked off a new initiative in partnership with the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation to evaluate how we are doing as a community in terms of early childhood capacity. Why? Because it matters and impacts our ability to retain people (workforce).

In addition, NGage launched a refreshed website, named the third best economic development website in the country. A national scan of economic development websites was conducted and ours medaled. Let that sink in.

We continued due diligence on the Hickory Industrial Site, including conceptual rail designs for the future tenant. We didn't stop there. In December, we added 80 controlled acres to the infrastructure-rich Gage County Industrial Park, paving the way for future industrial growth within the corporate limits of Beatrice.

Although staffing changes are ahead for NGage, know that your board of directors and its partners are keeping the pedal to the floor and our organization will not miss a beat on current initiatives and projects. Where do we grow, how do we develop land, how do we complement industry, what's next? These are just a few of the questions that keep our board members up at night. That's a good thing and why the future of Gage County remains bright.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Trevor Lee, Executive Director

2021 SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA MANUFACTURING WAGE SURVEY

In response to input from local manufacturers, NGage conducted a Southeast Nebraska Wage Survey with participation from eight businesses in Beatrice and eight businesses within one hour of Beatrice. Survey results produced valuable information, particularly how our local and regional manufacturers stack up in terms of wages and health benefits for their employees. A total of 225 job titles and descriptions were received and were later grouped into 15 key job categories. The public report is available on www.ngagegroup.org so that local non-participants, site selectors, and prospective companies can better understand the labor market in Beatrice and the surrounding area.

BY THE NUMBERS

16 completed surveys

8 in Beatrice

8 within a one-hour drive

total of

225 job descriptions

condensed &
categorized into

15 job
classifications

2021 GAGE COUNTY MANUFACTURING DAY

NGage facilitated the 2021 Gage County Manufacturing Day in October with over 80 high school students from Beatrice, Freeman and Diller-Odell High Schools visiting Rare Earth Salts, Precise Fabrication, Neapco and Landmark Snacks. The event affords students the opportunity to see first hand what 21st century manufacturing is really like.

NGage thanks the schools and companies for their support of another successful Manufacturing Day. It would be a disservice to our community and our residents if we did not do everything we could do to expose our young people to all of the career opportunities in their hometowns.

BY THE NUMBERS

2 Days
3 Schools
4 Manufacturers
86 Students



BEATRICE/GAGE COUNTY SELECTED FOR COMMUNITY FOR KIDS INITIATIVE

Over the past two years, area employers have indicated that the availability of quality childcare is an issue for area residents. In response, NGage reached out to our friends at the Nebraska Children & Families Foundation (NCFF).

As a result, Beatrice/Gage County was selected to be part of NCFF's Communities for Kids, a state-wide initiative which supports young children, families, and those providing their care.

The Communities for Kids initiative is a multi-year planning and implementation initiative that was created in response to community requests for assistance with shortages of high-quality early childhood care and education programs.

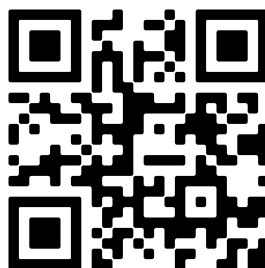


These shortages impact children's optimal development and also pose a challenge for communities hoping to attract and retain the viable workforce they need to thrive. Through the initiative process, Communities for Kids assists in facilitating conversations among each community's public and private organizations. Communities for Kids also provides expertise, tools, and resources to the community to support the creation and implementation of solutions to childcare shortages. To learn more visit www.CommunitiesforKids.org.

We can't do this alone. We need community input and buy-in. Please help us by completing and sharing our Early Childhood Capacity Survey using the QR code below.



Communities for Kids
nebraskachildren



BEATRICE | GAGE COUNTY C4K SURVEY NOW OPEN

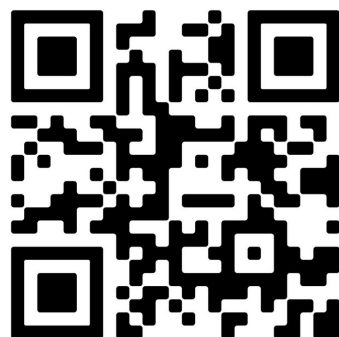
WHY TAKE THE SURVEY?

- It will identify early childhood development and childcare needs in Beatrice and Gage County.
- It's a quick and easy way to help your community.
- It's an opportunity to share your perspective and experiences.



SCAN THE CODE
BELOW TO TAKE
THE SURVEY

**PARTICIPANTS
CAN ENTER TO
WIN ONE OF
TWENTY \$100
GIFT CARDS TO
LOCAL GROCERS!**



NGage
OPPORTUNITY GROWS HERE



Communities for Kids
nebraskachildren

Local Area Success

Kinney Manufacturing

Lincoln-based Kinney Manufacturing, owner of Precise Fabrication in Beatrice recently purchased more space in Beatrice to expand their company.



Boutiques

The Bluebird Boutique, Adams
Back Roads Nutrition & Boutique, Odell

Shop local across all of Gage County with two new boutiques that opened in 2021.

Southeast Community College-Beatrice

SCC-Beatrice completed design and architectural plans to support their new agricultural career center for their ag and ag-related programs of study.



Odell's Rice Lodge

It has been 10 years since the Rice Lodge and Conference Center was put into service offering lodging in Odell. Hats off to the volunteers that repurposed this 1929 hospital into a beautiful landmark that attracts visitors from near and far.



NGage Expands Industrial Sites

In 2021, NGage secured an additional 80 acres adjacent to the Gage County Industrial Park, expanding our inventory of truly shovel-ready land.

In addition, the option for the 260-acre Hickory Industrial Site was renewed for 2022 and two conceptual rail spur designs were completed in compliance with BNSF standards.

Landmark Snacks



Landmark Snacks opened a hiring center in downtown Beatrice in 2021 to help grow their workforce. In 2021, the company nearly doubled its employment.

MyPlace Hotel Opens

A 2017 Lodging Feasibility Study for Beatrice showed the need for additional guest rooms. From this study, MyPlace Hotel decided to stake a claim in Beatrice and opened fall of 2021.



Beatrice's All New Fire Station

In 2021, the new Beatrice Fire Station was completed. This state of the art facility sits proudly near the heart of downtown Beatrice and will meet the needs of a growing community.

BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

2021 - 2022



96%

companies
whose sales
increased



\$33M

in expansions
planned among
companies
surveyed



12

respondents
said internet
speed is barrier
to growth



3.1/7

average worker
availability
ranking



4.9/7

average
workforce
quality ranking



5.3/7

average
workforce
stability ranking



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