



## Participants List

### **Competitiveness Conversations Across America: *Nebraska — Leading the New Frontier in the Global Bioeconomy***

As of January 30, 2026

#### ***Co-Hosts***

**Dr. Jeffrey Gold**  
President  
University of Nebraska System

**Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith**  
President and CEO  
Council on Competitiveness

#### ***Participants***

**Ms. Katherine Ankerson**  
Interim Chancellor  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**Mr. Tyler Autera**  
Chief Operating Officer  
Bluestem Biosciences

**Dr. Michael Ash**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Nebraska Medicine

**Mr. Jason Ball**  
President and CEO  
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

**Ms. Anne Barnes**  
Senior Vice President  
Chief Financial Officer  
University of Nebraska

**Prof. Mark Bathe**

Professor  
MIT

**Ms. Shana Bathe**

Entrepreneur  
Self-employed

**Dr. Ken Bayles**

Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Mr. Todd Bingham**

President and CEO  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and  
Industry

**Mr. John Bode**

CEO and President  
Corn Refiners Association

**Mr. David Bracht**

Attorney  
Kutak Rock LLP

**Mr. Latane Brackett**

Innovation Program Manager  
Jackson State University

**Mr. Jesse Bradley**

Director  
Nebraska Department of Water, Energy,  
and Environment

**Ms. Veronica Breckenridge**

Managing Partner  
First Bight Ventures

**Ms. Jessie Brophy**

Director of External Relations  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**Prof. Nick Brozovic**

Director of Policy  
Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

**Mr. Kelly Brunkhorst**

Executive Director  
Nebraska Corn Board

**Dr. Kelly Bruns**

Director  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln

**Prof. Nicole Buan**

Professor  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Mrs. Dawn Caldwell**

Executive Director  
Renewable Fuels Nebraska

**Mr. Bruce Carpenter**

Senior Vice President  
HDR

**Mr. Mike Cassling**

Founder and Executive Chairman  
CQuence Health  
Vice Chair  
Aksarben Foundation

**Mr. Jim Clifton**

Chairman  
Gallup

**Gen (Ret.) Anthony Cotton**

Former Commander  
United States Strategic Command

**Mr. Dan Curran**  
Executive Director  
Nebraska Business Development Center

**Dr. H. Dele Davies**  
Interim Chancellor  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Mr. Barry DeKay**  
State Senator  
Nebraska Unicameral Legislature

**Mr. John Dineen**  
Director  
Planning Education and Science  
HDR

**Dr. Michael Dixon**  
Executive Director  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Ms. Keristiena Dodge**  
Chief of Staff to the Chancellor  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

**Dr. Kirk Dombrowski**  
Vice President for Research and Economic  
Development  
University of Vermont

**Prof. Timothy Donohue**  
Director  
WI Energy Institute  
Great Lakes Bioenergy  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Dr. Peter Dorhout**  
Vice President for Research  
Iowa State University

**Mr. Robert Dover**  
Nebraska Senator District 19  
Nebraska Legislature

**Mr. George Dungan**  
Senator  
Nebraska Legislature

**Dr. Monica Dus**  
Director  
Office of National Laboratories  
University of Michigan

**Ms. Joy Eakin**  
Entrepreneurship Program Manager  
NUtech Ventures, UNL

**Mrs. Kate Engel**  
Executive Director  
Nebraska Innovation Campus

**Hon. John Ewing**  
Mayor  
City of Omaha

**Dr. Viv Ewing**  
City of Omaha

**Ms. Halee Fisher**  
REE Senior Policy Advisor  
United States Department of Agriculture  
(USDA)

**Mr. Christopher Frankland**  
Founder  
InsurTech Heartland

**Mr. Mike Freeman**  
CEO  
General Partner  
Innosphere

**Mr. Chad Frey**  
President  
Bison Biocomposites

**Gen. Paul Friedrichs**  
Senior Biopreparedness  
Fellow  
Rand

**Mr. Dan Foy**  
Principal  
Global Analytics  
Gallup

**Dr. Tommy Gardner**  
Chief Technology Officer  
HP Federal  
HP Inc.

**Dr. Sarah Glaven**  
Visiting Fellow  
Princeton University

**Mr. James Glueck**  
Senior Vice President  
Advanced Bioproducts  
Corn Refiners Association

**Mr. Mark Goes**  
Producer  
M & P Gelbvieh

**Ms. Patty Goes**  
Producer  
M & P Gelbvieh

**Mr. Billy Hagstrom**  
CEO  
Bluestem

**Mr. Matt Hammons**  
Assistant Vice President  
Director of Federal Relations  
University of Nebraska System

**Mr. Rob Hanson**  
Co-Founder and CEO  
Monolith Materials

**Mr. Jeff Harrison**  
Nebraska Client Services Leader  
Deloitte

**Ms. Janet Hayes**  
Economic Development Specialist  
City of Lincoln  
Mayor's Office

**Mr. Scott Henderson**  
NMotion Managing  
Principal gener8tor

**Dr. Tiffany Heng-Moss**  
Interim Vice President  
Vice Chancellor for the Institute of  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**Mr. Dan Hoffman**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Invest Nebraska

**Ms. Cheryl Horst**  
Executive Director  
NUtech Ventures

**Dr. Scott Hutchins**  
Under Secretary for Research, Education,  
and Economics (REE)  
United States Department of Agriculture

**Mr. Loren Isom**

Assistant Director  
Industrial Agriculture Products Center  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Dr. David Jackson**

Interim Executive Vice President and  
Provost  
University of Nebraska System

**Ms. Meghan Jackson**

Director, Food, Agriculture and  
Environment Security  
National Strategic Research Institute  
University of Nebraska System

**Mr. Gregory Jaffe**

President  
Jaffe Policy Consulting

**Mr. Josh Jelden**

Director of Agriculture  
U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

**Mr. Jud Jesske**

Regional Vice President  
Farm Credit Services of America

**Ms. Alesha Johnson**

Director  
Communications and Marketing  
Primient

**Mr. Tim Jones**

Chief Operating Officer  
Innosphere

**Mr. Nate Kauffman**

Senior Vice President  
Omaha Branch Executive  
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City -  
Omaha Branch

**Ms. Kathleen Kauth**

State Senator  
State of Nebraska

**Mr. Dan Kinsella**

Nebraska Office Managing Partner  
Deloitte

**Dr. Chris Kratochvil**

Vice President for External Relations  
University of Nebraska

**Ms. Maureen Larsen**

Director  
Nebraska Department of Economic  
Development

**Dr. James Lawler**

Associate Director of International  
Programs and Innovation  
Global Center for Health Security  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Dr. Agnes Lenagh**

Director  
Strategic Partnerships  
University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Dr. Joanne Li**

Chancellor  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

**Dr. Gina Ligon**

Director  
National Counterterrorism Innovation,  
Technology, and Education Center (NCITE)  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

**Dr. Jonathan McIntyre**

Founding Partner  
Nodl Advisors

**Dr. Derek McLean**

Dean  
Agriculture Research Division  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**Mr. Heath Mello**

President and CEO  
Greater Omaha Chamber

**Mr. Kris Montgomery**

Vice President  
Business Unit Leader  
McCarthy Building Companies

**Mr. Liz Morel**

Director  
Nebraska Manufacturing Extension  
Partnership

**Ms. Kaitlin Murphy**

CEO  
Anytime Seltzer

**Dr. Sara Myers**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

**Mr. Mike Nelson**

Vice President  
Council on Competitiveness

**Dr. Jen Nelson**

Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and  
Innovation  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**Ms. Jackie Ostrowicki**

Assistant Vice President  
Marketing and Community Engagement  
University of Nebraska System

**Mr. Niraj Patel**

Senior Director  
Global Operations  
Neogen

**Dr. Todd Pester**

Vice President  
Corteva Agriscience

**Hon. Jim Pillen**

Governor  
State of Nebraska

**Dr. Santosh Pitla**

Professor  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Mr. Mike Pounds**

Analyst  
Kansas Adjutant General's Department

**Dr. Todd Pray**

Chief Strategic Partnerships Officer  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

**Dr. Arthur Ragauskas**

Acting Department Head  
UT-ORNL Governor's Chair  
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Ms. Sandra Reding**  
President  
Aksarben Foundation

**Mr. Ben Rhodes**  
Executive Director  
Nebraska Ethanol Board

**Mr. Joe Sanders**  
Executive Director  
Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute

**Ms. Megahn Schafer**  
Chief Strategy Officer  
Nebraska Farm Bureau

**Dr. Neal Schnoor**  
Chancellor  
University of Nebraska at Kearney

**Dr. Lisa Schulte Moore**  
Charles F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor  
Agricultural and Life Sciences, Natural  
Resource Ecology and Management  
Director  
Bioeconomy Institute  
Iowa State University

**Ms. Julie Shiller**  
Chief of Staff  
GSD

**Mr. Brad Stevens**  
State Director  
U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts

**Dr. Charles Stoltenow**  
Dean and Director  
Nebraska Extension  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**Dr. Mark Stone**  
Professor  
Former Department Head for Biosystems  
Engineering  
Former Head, Agricultural Intelligence Lab  
University of Nebraska–Lincoln

**Mr. Jim Stutelberg**  
CEO  
Primient

**Dr. Jason B. Thomas**  
CEO and Founder  
The Pennycress Compan

**Mr. Lee Tomlinson**  
City of Omaha

**Mr. Hunter Traynor**  
Executive Vice President  
Legislation and Policy  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce

**Mr. Craig Uden**  
Board President  
Nebraska Cattlemen

**Dr. Marty Vanier**  
Director  
National Agricultural Biosecurity Center  
Associate Director  
Biosecurity Research Institute  
Kansas State University

**Ms. Sherry Vinton**  
Director  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture

**Prof. Harkamal Walia**  
Professor  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Mr. Mark Warner**  
Co-Founder  
CTO  
Liberation Bioindustries

**Mr. Tim Weaver**  
Chief Strategy Officer  
Holganix

**Mrs. Barbara Weitz**  
Board of Regents  
District 8  
University of Nebraska

**Ms. Anna Wishart**  
Senior Director  
Public Affairs  
Monolith

**Dr. Michael Wolf**  
Senior Fellow  
U.S. Council on Competitiveness

**Dr. Roger Wyse**  
Managing Partner  
Manus Bio