



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. Richard Baier
President and CEO
Nebraska Bankers Association

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

Ms. Courtney Dentlinger
Vice President
Customer Services and External Affairs
Chief Communications Officer
Nebraska Public Power District

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

Mr. Richard Evans
Executive Director
National Strategic Research Institute

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

Mr. Brian Hastings
President and CEO
University of Nebraska Foundation

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

Ms. 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 Company

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