

Visioning 2026 Education Dialogue Session 2 Minutes  
August 30, 2006 @ 7:00 pm

Attendees: Ashley Lutt, Colby Jenkins, Jim Honcik, Traci Nolte, Alfredo Ramirez, Efrain Mendoza, Bianca Ramirez, Nancy Sinclair, Dan Mauk

Facilitators: Sheila Tomjack, Norm Jedlicka, Jennifer Adams, Pam Carlson

Hands were given to the participants and each was asked the following questions:

Based on the key factors identified last time, and the “trendpacters” we have selected, what 3-ideas do you think will be important to NE Nebraska in 2026?

Based on the “Innovation Edge” Article what ideas may help NE Nebraska prepare for 2026?

Group identified the following ideas:

Educating the Labor/Workforce, interdependency, working together with others to obtain answers.

- a) 2<sup>nd</sup> language instruction introduced into the elementary level of education
- b) Midwestern culture is changing, community open to change, more accepting of changes
- c) Funding – more cost effective ways to educate the existing workforce to maintain skill levels
- d) Cultural diversity, expand foreign exchange program, taking advantage of diversity that already exist in the area
- e) Immigrants are more educated/have collegiate degrees/careers, they are here for a better life, language issues

Seamless/Continuous Education

- a) education based on the students potential, not age or class placement
- b) more hands on training/job shadowing (working with area business)
- c) retraining the aging population
- d) loss of skilled/unskilled labor force due to retirement
- e) more career awareness, jobs will become obsolete
- f) job shadow earlier (maybe junior high level) several opportunities not just one
- g) utilization of job fairs, show more diversity of careers in area that are available or will become available in a few years due to retirement
- h) re-evaluate grading system
- i) become the “Benchmark” / standard state wide/nationally
- j) motivate youth to look beyond what they know/ask questions

Aging Population

- a) motivate to continue all aspects of learning

