



Welcome to NDE!



Dr. Deb Frison
Deputy Commissioner
NSOB – Commissioner’s Ofc.
Started 07/31/2015



Maria Tapia
Office Associate
VR- Norfolk
Started 08/03/2015



John Mlinar
Program Associate IV
NSOB – Teacher Cert.
Started 08/10/2015



Julie Jones
Admin. Associate III
NSOB – VR
Started 08/11/2015



Brooke David
Education Specialist II
NSOB – Federal Programs
Started 08/12/2015



Chad Miles
IT Infrast. Tech
NSOB – VR
Started 08/24/2015



Brenda Horak
VR Associate
VR – Grand Island
Started 08/24/2015



Rose Krause
VR Associate
VR – Grand Island
Started 08/24/2015



Welcome to NDE!



Katie Graham
Program Specialist III
NSOB – Curr. & Instr.
Started 09/01/2015



Ryan Foor
Educ. Specialist IV
NSOB – Curr. & Instr.
Started 09/01/2015



Donya Topp
VR Service Specialist
VR – Norfolk
Started 09/01/2015



Jen Smith
VR Service Specialist
VR – Scottsbluff
Started 09/08/2015



Staci Bowers
VR Service Specialist
VR – Scottsbluff
Started 09/08/2015

We Are Glad You Are
Here!

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NDE – Employee Enrichment Training

The Nebraska Department of Education has teamed up with multiple vendors to offer employee enrichment events and training sessions throughout the remainder of the year. These NDE enrichment events and training sessions will be held in the State Board room and will be broadcast via Adobe Connect so that employees in satellite offices may participate. Employees must register in the Employee Development Center to attend. The two sessions that are available for employees to participate in are:

September 9/24/2015 9:30 AM

Topic: Health Fitness - Women's Health Taking Care of You

October 10/23/2015 9:30 AM

Topic: Deer Oaks EAP – Power of Attorney & Advance Directives

Detailed registration instructions can be found on our new [NDE – Employee Enrichment Training Events](#) webpage. We hope to see you at one of the classes!

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Meet Dr. Deborah Frison, New Deputy Commissioner of Education



Dr. Deborah Frison is a veteran Nebraska educator with 38 years of teaching and administrative experience within the Omaha Public Schools. She has served as principal of Burke High School in Omaha for 7 years until she retired in 2015. In late August 2015, she began serving as the Deputy Commissioner of Education for School Improvement and Support at the Nebraska Department of Education.

Dr. Frison received her doctorate degree in Educational Administration from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln/Omaha in 2000. She holds a Master's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

She has received numerous honors and awards including Nebraska Wesleyan University's Outstanding Music Alumni Award presented in October 2014 and the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association Outstanding Administrator Award in 2013. Dr. Frison was awarded an Honorary Doctorate, in Pedagogy from Nebraska Wesleyan University in May of 2015. Under her leadership, Burke High School was recognized by the Omaha Public Schools with a Gold Award for Excellence in Improvement in 2012 and was nationally recognized by the Southern Regional Education Board in 2011 as one of 17 *Outstanding High Schools That Work*.

Dr. Frison served on the Nebraska Wesleyan University Board of Governors from August 2010 to 2012 before accepting an appointment from former Governor Dave Heineman in June 2012 as Commissioner on the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, a seat she holds until January 2018. She has also served as a board member of the Visiting Nurse Association and enjoys playing golf, visiting with friends, and of course, spending time with her family and friends.

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NDE Wellness Champions Activities

Congratulations to the NDE Wellness Champions and the Ne. Dept. of Education! On Friday, September 11th our Agency received the Agency Wellness Culture Award presented by the Governor of the State of Nebraska, Pete Ricketts, the Dept. of Administrative Services - Wellness and Benefits Team, and Health Fitness.

The Nebraska Department of Education was honored for, "taken our approach towards building a culture of wellness to a new level. During that past year, seven new Wellness Champions have joined an outstanding duo of existing Wellness Champions. This network of Champions now represents 5 of the satellite Vocational Rehabilitation offices across the state, central operations at NSOB and Human Resources. The team is now working together to administer mini-challenges, promote awareness campaigns, and provide wellness education opportunities for their employees across the State using their technology resources."



NDE Wellness Champions Activities: Cont'd

Congratulations NDE Wellness Champions Team – Job Well Done!

Representing our Agency to receive the award were, Dr. Scott Swisher, Joel Scherling Administrator of HR, and our Wellness Champion team members. Our members include Deirdre Smith, Debe Dockhorn, Shauna Groenwold, Sue Gilleland, Laura Keck, Aimee Navas, Julie Shively, Angie Gangwish, and Shawn Newill.

Also, we had a great turnout for the Agency Wide Healthy Food Day. To view [recipes](#) and [photos](#) please view our webpage. We also had over 40 employees participate in the Rethink Your Drink Quarterly Challenge. Congratulations to the winners of the ReThink Your Drink Challenge – Elizabeth London (Lincoln VR), Camelia Osei (Grand Island VR), Deb Ottemann (Kearney VR) and Beth Zillig (NSOB). Thanks to all who participated and provided feedback!

Visit our new [NDE Wellness & Champions](#) website for activities and information regarding special events, news, and photos!

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State of Nebraska – Charitable Giving Campaign

We are awaiting the official Team Results and closeout numbers but want to take the time to [thank everyone](#) who participated and helped in the planning efforts of the [Nebraska Charitable Giving Campaign Challenge – Cycle of Giving](#).

A special shout out to the NDE Planning Team: Pat Bracken, Leslie Galloway, Peg Kirby, and Sue Martin; to the volunteers, the resident dessert bakers, and those who donated books.

Melody Hobson was crowned “Queen of the Penny” from our Penny War Challenge and our donations were transferred to the Charitable Giving Campaign – Charity Child Advocacy Center. We raised over \$300, on this activity alone.

Click this link to view the [2015 Charitable Giving Photos and Activities](#) (PowerPoint)

A quick note from our Tour De Four Captain - “Dear [Team4 - Tour de Four](#): Everybody give yourself a great big hand!!! Thanks for everything you have done this past month to garner participation in the Charitable Giving Campaign..... No doubt about it, when you look at the green bicycle on the map, Team Tour de Four did an outstanding job!” - Rhonda Lahm Team 4 Tour De Four Captain.

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