## Welcome to NDE!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Department/Office</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathryn Lanning</td>
<td>Admin. Associate III</td>
<td>NSOB - Fin &amp; Org Srv.</td>
<td>04/25/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeneta Smith</td>
<td>VR Associate</td>
<td>VR - Lincoln</td>
<td>4/25/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kor Tot</td>
<td>IT Appl. Dev. Senior</td>
<td>NSOB - DRE Team</td>
<td>04/25/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sara Hulac</td>
<td>Legal Counsel II</td>
<td>NSOB - Gen. Counsel’s Ofc.</td>
<td>05/02/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeannie Nickels</td>
<td>Office Assoc. IV</td>
<td>NSOB - DRE Team</td>
<td>05/02/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Flemming</td>
<td>Program Specialist II</td>
<td>NSOB - Early Childhood</td>
<td>05/09/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clarice Fredenburg</td>
<td>Program Associate II</td>
<td>DDS</td>
<td>05/09/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to NDE!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Started</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erica Arter</td>
<td>Program Specialist II</td>
<td>NSOB – Fed. Programs</td>
<td>05/16/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Brichacek</td>
<td>VR Associate</td>
<td>VR – Lincoln</td>
<td>05/16/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Nash</td>
<td>Program Specialist II</td>
<td>Omaha – ECTC</td>
<td>05/31/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zara Sanayan</td>
<td>VR Service Specialist</td>
<td>VR – Omaha</td>
<td>05/31/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krystl Knabe</td>
<td>Education Specialist III</td>
<td>NSOB – Teaching &amp; Learning</td>
<td>06/01/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sita Reddy</td>
<td>IT Data/Database Analyst</td>
<td>NSOB – DRE Team</td>
<td>06/01/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robyn Gonzales</td>
<td>Program Specialist III</td>
<td>NSOB – Special Ed.</td>
<td>06/09/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Walz</td>
<td>VR Service Specialist</td>
<td>VR – North Platte</td>
<td>06/13/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treldon Jones</td>
<td>VR Service Specialist</td>
<td>VR - Keamey</td>
<td>Started 06/13/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Muthersbaugh</td>
<td>Clerk Professional Practices</td>
<td>NSOB - PPC</td>
<td>Started 06/15/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Manley</td>
<td>Office Associate IV</td>
<td>NSOB - StatewideAssessment</td>
<td>Started 06/16/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crissa Burchfield</td>
<td>VR Service Specialist</td>
<td>VR - Grand Island</td>
<td>Started 06/20/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justine Yeo</td>
<td>Program Specialist II</td>
<td>NSOB - DRE Team</td>
<td>Started 06/20/2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
College Coursework Request Update

NDE supports continuing education for employees in two primary ways: (1) allowing employees to take postsecondary coursework during work time, and (2) reimbursement for job-related postsecondary coursework taken by the employee on non-work time. Approval of college coursework requests must be granted by the immediate supervisor, Leadership Council Member/Team Leader (or Commissioner’s designee), and the Deputy Commissioner. Availability of funding and workload demands are pivotal in the consideration of such requests.

The college coursework request form has been updated. Clarification relating to postsecondary credit hours being awarded on a semester basis has been added.

- General Guidance - [Continuing Education](#)
- NDE College Coursework Request Form

Ombudsman Program

Please help me congratulate Donna Hoffman and Lindsay Brown as they have been selected to serve as NDE Ombudsman.

Donna Hoffman  
(402)471-4811  
Donna.hoffman@nebraska.gov

Lindsay Brown  
402-594-4952  
Lindsay.brown@nebraska.gov

The Ombudsman program is a program that was designed to provide assistance to any staff member or team in resolving work-related problems. Two NDE staff members, appointed by the Commissioner, serve in the role of NDE Ombudsman.

An ombudsman can:
- Listen to staff concerns about work-related problems,
- Help staff understand their rights and responsibilities, as well as their options,
- Service as a source of information about grievance procedures or services provided by the bargaining unit (NAPE or Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and
- Recommend strategies to assist in resolving conflicts.

Any employee can reach out to our [NDE Ombudsman](#) for assistance.

A special thank you to Victoria Rasmussen and Jill Hunzeker for serving in this capacity previously.
Employee and Manager of the Year

Congratulations, the following NDE Staff members who were selected as the 2016 Manager and Employee of the Year and Honorable Mention Manager and Employee of the Year. The Manager and Employee of the year will be further recognized by the Governor in October with an awards ceremony at the State Capital.

**Click on this link to read more about their BIOS.**

| Mark Schultz | Mark Schultz  
Manager of the Year  
2016 |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Freida Lange | Freida Lange  
Honorable Mention  
Manager of the Year  
2016 |
| Judy Vohland | Judy Vohland  
Employee of the Year  
2016 |
| Lindsay Brown | Lindsay Brown  
Honorable Mention  
Employee of the Year  
2016 |
Wellness Champion - Welcome Aboard!

Please help me welcome Krista Holley, VR - Rehabilitation Specialist (VR- Omaha West), to the NDE Wellness Champion Team. Krista joined our NDE Wellness Champion team effective in June!

“The goal of a Wellness Champion is to serve as a resource to the State of Nebraska Employee Wellness Program to build a culture of health. This is accomplished by communicating wellness options programs to fellow co-workers, expanding opportunities for wellness education or active participation within agencies across the State, and providing constructive feedback to the Wellness Coordinator. What Wellness Champions have in common is their belief or passion for the wellness program and its mission and goals. Wellness Champions serve as an important direct link between the wellness program and their agency or department.”

To learn more about Employee Wellness - Click Here.