



August 2016 | Member Newsletter

Phil Kozera

Letter from the Executive Director



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Many Exciting New Initiatives Are Taking Shape

As we see students reporting back to school, it reminds us how fortunate we are to have quality colleges and universities in our state. Our education systems, combined with the Nebraska work ethic, give our economy a strong foundation that many states can only envy.

"Our education systems, combined with the Nebraska work ethic, give our economy a strong foundation that many states can only envy."

I had the privilege this month to meet with UNMC leaders Dr. Dele Davis, Dr. Jim Turpin, Dr. Michael Dixon and others to discuss opportunities to strengthen the partnership between Nebraska's biotech industry and UNMC's graduate community. There were several exciting steps discussed and collectively we are enthusiastic about making strong connections between industry and education.

On the federal legislative front, I had the good fortune of joining the Monsanto tour with Congressman Smith at its Kearney corn-processing plant. During the tour Congressman Smith discussed the recent GMO Labeling bill that was passed. While not perfect, Congressman Smith noted that it served to block the precedent set by Vermont's law and commented that mandatory labeling impacts the poor by unnecessarily raising the cost of food. He added that the current trend of rejecting scientific advancements in agriculture poses great dangers to affordability and accessibility of food.

On the state level, there was a hearing with the Bioscience Steering Committee. This committee, under LB1093, is working on recommendations to help existing biotech companies expand and to grow commercial technologies developed at Nebraska universities. The overall goals are to create new jobs and new companies in our state.

Thank you to the following presenters: Rob Owen, Streck Inc.; Kyle Nixon, Novozymes; Kenny Soejoto, American Labs; Tyler Martin, Great Plains Biotechnology; Steve Bray, NatureWorks; Josh Johnson, Benchmark Biolabs; Brad Roth, NUtech Ventures; Michael Dixon, UNeMed Corporation; and Courtney Dentlinger, Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Please mark your calendars for Bioscience Week scheduled for October 3-7. It is shaping up to be an exciting week of activities. Lastly, we hope that you can join us for our next Bio & Beers scheduled for September 13 from 5 to 7:30 pm at Lazlo's in the Haymarket. We are very pleased to have Chancellor Ronnie Green speak with us. If you're interested in attending, please email pkozera@bionebraska.org.

Best regards,



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Upcoming Events



[Bio & Beers](#)

September 13
5:00pm to 7:30pm
Lazlo's Brewery & Grill
210 N. 7th Street
Lincoln, NE



[NASDA Conference](#)

September 21-24
Lincoln, NE



[I2SL Conference](#)

September 25-28
Kansas City, MO



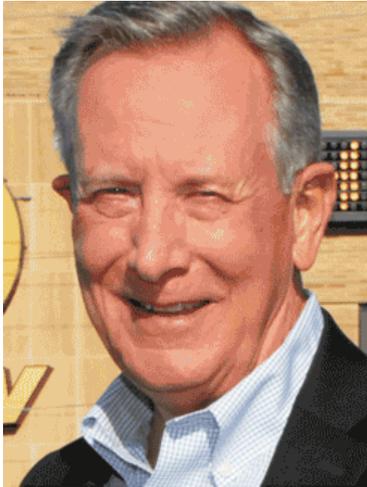
[Bioscience Week](#)

October 3-7, Celebrating Nebraska's Growing Life Sciences Industry

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Bioscience Member Spotlight



Ron Tillery is the Executive Director of Phelps County Development Corporation in Holdrege, NE.

Our spotlight is on Ron Tillery, Executive Director, Phelps County Development Corporation in Holdrege (PhelpsCountyNE.com). PCDC is our newest member of Bio Nebraska.

Q: First of all, thanks for joining Bio Nebraska. Please tell us a little bit about your county.

A: You're welcome. We are looking forward to meeting your members. Phelps County (Holdrege) is located in South Central Nebraska. It is hub for communities to the south and west, even reaching into the top-tier counties of Kansas. Fertile irrigated farm ground supports prosperous farming operations as well as numerous livestock operations.

"We are developing a 134-acre Business & Industry Park that will soon be available for occupancy. That will be a good fit for a range of businesses, including food processors, commodity processing or extraction."

Several ag services companies have sprung up as a result, with Holdrege now the headquarters for Landmark Implement (17 dealerships in Nebraska and Kansas), Ag West Commodities, Holdrege Irrigation and Central Valley Irrigation, Husker Irrigation and Wagner Irrigation. Holdrege is also the home of Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District, which manages Kingsley Dam, Lake McConaughy and its network of irrigation canals that delivers water throughout Central Nebraska.

Holdrege's largest employer is BD Manufacturing (Becton Dickinson), a manufacturer of insulin syringes that employs 650. Phelps Memorial Health Center is a growing regional health system that offers an impressive array of services ranging from oncology to comprehensive allergy treatments.

Q: Phelps County is our first county economic development corporation to join Bio Nebraska. What about life science is of interest to you?

A: Our agriculture foundation supports a range of existing bio/life science businesses and we see opportunities to grow. For example, Earth Science Laboratories produces non-chlorine fungicides and other treatments locally. Regional ethanol plants rely on inputs from our crop producers, so we are already part of an industrial bio supply chain, while research supported by PCDC helps to refine plant genetics in ag biotech. We hope to learn more through association with your members and by attending conferences and events sponsored by Bio Nebraska. Being a part of the organization will help us be better prepared to respond to emerging needs within the bio/life sciences industries.

Q: As you look at life sciences, what is your vision for that industry in your region?

A: We hope to see connections made between our commodity producers and life sciences but also demonstrate that we're a capable and attractive location for companies looking to grow.

Q: What is your ideal company to recruit? What assets do you have that will attract them?

A: Holdrege may appeal to companies that are in the supply chain for Becton Dickinson. Or, companies that require controlled delivery of specific commodity inputs. We are developing a 134-acre Business & Industry Park that will soon be available for occupancy. That will be a good fit for a range of businesses, including food processors, commodity processing or extraction. Phelps County Development Corporation has assistance programs available, including Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Local Option LB840 funds that can be deployed as low-interest loans, grants or workforce development training programs.

Q: Where are you at in the development in your new industry park?

A: The park is in the development stage. Entry and access roads will be on the 2017 construction schedule. Utilities are available at the perimeter with some slated for upgrades. We're in the process of providing marketing materials to site selection professionals and at upcoming trade shows. We will also take receipt of a targeted industries study this month that will help guide our recruitment efforts as well as the ultimate design of the park.

Q: Will agriculture bring more growth and prosperity to rural Nebraska communities?

A: Nebraska will be among those regions that are called upon to feed and heal the burgeoning global population over the next 50 years. The pace of change to respond to that challenge will accelerate in the next decade, placing greater demands on local communities to respond. Those that prepare now will be in a better position to capitalize on those opportunities. We will be called upon to do more with less.

Q: How can R&D in life sciences and advanced ag research help your community in particular?

A: I'd like to know how we can connect the intellectual power at the Innovation Campus with the established production infrastructure throughout Nebraska. There is so much untapped potential in our state. Innovation can be accelerated, I think, if we promote better flow of information between producers, researchers and industry.

Q: What are the biggest challenges that your community faces as it is looking to grow and diversify its economy?

A: Right now, we face the challenge of delivering a skilled workforce in the numbers required by industry. Population growth does not produce sufficient numbers of people so we must find strategies that help us grow. We're at full employment now, so that is a constraint on adding more jobs to the picture. Plus, affordable workforce housing is a challenge across the entire rural Nebraska region. Communities that address these challenges successfully will thrive. In Holdrege, we've prioritized housing development, targeting the workforce price point to bring commuters into the community. As we see success in that area, the overall workforce will grow, enabling us to attract diversified new businesses.

Thank you. We hope your team will share your view of opportunities with our members and make contact with those who are working on challenges your community is addressing.

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State News

OMAHA WORLD HERALD: GREEN PLAINS EXPANDS

Green Plains Inc. plans to increase its ethanol production by 20 percent, saying it is buying three plants from Spanish producer Abengoa to increase its access to growing export markets for the corn-based motor fuel. The Omaha-based ethanol producer said it is the successful bidder in bankruptcy proceedings for Abengoa plants in York, Nebraska; Mount Vernon, Indiana; and Madison, Illinois. The acquisitions, for \$237 million, will bring the employer of about 160 people in Omaha capacity of about 1.5 billion gallons per year in production.

LINCOLN CHAMBER BACKS SCC BOND ISSUE

The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to support the Southeast Community College Bond appearing on the November ballot. SCC President Dr. Paul Illich, will present to chamber members about the expansion plan and bond ballot issue Sept. 7 at the Country Club of Lincoln.

NEBRASKA CHAMBER HITTING THE ROAD THIS FALL

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry staff members are traveling across the state to present the organization's annual legislative forums in 28 communities. The forums allow the chamber to gather input from business leaders while staff provides summaries of recent state legislation and Nebraska's economic competitiveness.

UNMC SETS RECORD FOR RESEARCH

UNMC brought in a record total of \$115.1 million during the 2015-16 academic year. Jennifer Larsen, M.D., vice chancellor for research, said many factors contributed to the increase:

- New awards by early career scientists
- Greater recruitment to clinical trials
- Building new collaborative research partnerships
- Community support to build outstanding facilities
- Attracting Department of Defense research funding

UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., and Dr. Larsen see the new record as a jumping-off point for UNMC's next research goal of \$200 million.

UNEMED SIGNS DEAL ON DEVICE FOR CHEST TUBES

UNeMed Corporation signed a licensing agreement with Getinge Group for UNMC technology that will help health care providers detect pleural air leaks in patients with chest tubes. "The technology is perfect fit with our market leading chest drainage products and our mission to improve patient outcomes," said Jens Viebke, president of acute care therapies for Getinge.



Prem Paul speaks during a campus research meeting on Aug. 23, 2012.

PREM PAUL STEPS DOWN AS VICE CHANCELLOR

After 15 years of leadership at UNL, driving unprecedented growth in research, Prem Paul will step down as vice chancellor for research and economic development. Paul wrote in an Aug. 29 he would end his tenure as one of the university's top administrators, citing health reasons.

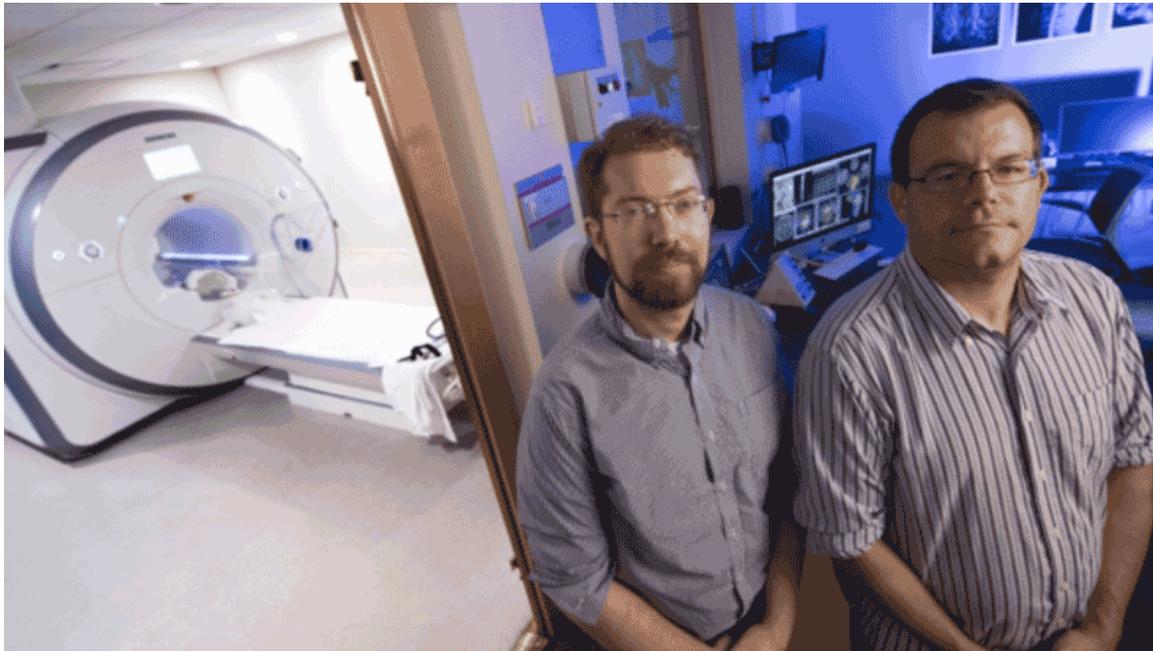
"Serving this university ... has been the highlight of my career," Paul wrote. "I am indebted to the many faculty members and staff who have made our research growth possible. It has been an honor to witness

your achievements and to watch you dream bigger. We are a strong research university on an impressive trajectory and I know that our best days lie ahead.”

Chancellor Ronnie Green, in a separate note to campus, wrote that Paul would return to the faculty as distinguished professor of veterinary medicine and biomedical sciences. Green named Steve Goddard interim vice chancellor for research and economic development, pending Regent approval.

JAPANESE TRADE ORGANIZATION LEADER TO SPEAK

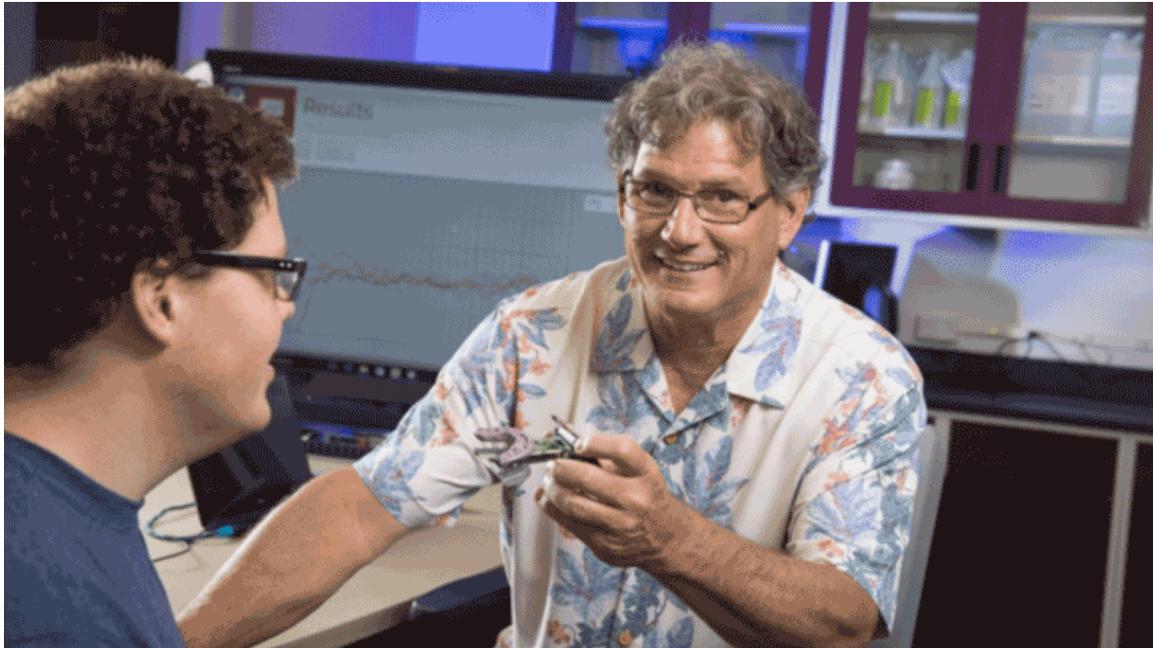
Hiroyuki Ishige, chairman and CEO of the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), will speak at NU on Sept. 13 as a guest of the developing Clayton K. Yeutter Institute of International Trade and Finance. Ishige will address Asia-Pacific economic integration and the role of the United States and Japan. The address will be at 3 p.m. at the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center, 2021 Transformation Drive.



Mike Dodd (right), associate professor of psychology, and Matt Johnson, assistant professor of psychology, will oversee Nebraska's part of a \$6 million cognitive neuroscience research project.

\$6M GRANT WILL BUILD NEUROSCIENCE BRAIN TRUST

NU psychologists help run a \$6 million National Science Foundation grant that will expand cognitive neuroscience research in the Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior and the department of psychology. The EPSCoR grant from the National Science Foundation's Experimental Program is a four-year, multi-institutional award.



New technology could help diagnose and treat nervous system conditions.

SYSTEM COULD HELP DIAGNOSE, TREAT BRAIN INJURIES

An NU researcher has developed a novel system to measure muscle forces in the face, mouth and fingers to help evaluate brain health. With a prototype soon to be piloted at Lincoln's Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, the system could inform the diagnosis and treatment of nervous system conditions ranging from stroke and traumatic brain injury to Parkinson's disease and autism. "This system provides a non-invasive method for systematically assessing how much function remains in these motor systems following insult to the brain," said Steve Barlow, the Corwin Moore Professor of special education and communication disorders.



From left, Amy Hornig, Pharm.D, president of the College of Pharmacy Alumni Association; Courtney Fletcher, Pharm.D., dean of the UNMC College of Pharmacy; Bill Scott; Ruth Scott; Hank Bounds, Ph.D., president of the University of Nebraska; Dianne Lozier; UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D.; Brian Hastings, NU Foundation CEO; and College of Pharmacy student Beau Ehlers cut the ribbon on the new UNMC Center for Drug Discovery

and Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education.

NEW PHARMACY CENTER OPENS AT UNMC

An overflow crowd celebrated the grand opening of the UNMC Center for Drug Discovery and Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education, which promises to change Nebraska, and through the scientific discovery produced within it, the world. The new facility will be home to UNMC College of Pharmacy administration and dean's suite; College of Pharmacy students and education programs; and lab space for world-leading research in infectious diseases. The \$35 million facility was built solely with private donations and will occupy 85,000 square feet and three floors.

"That is the vision our donors brought forth, and exactly the return on their investment they expect," said UNMC Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D. "Not just a magnificent building, but in our ability as an academic medical center to transform the world." Dianne Lozier, of the Lozier Foundation, was a principal donor along with her husband, Allan, as were Ruth Scott, another principal donor, with her husband, Bill.

"What a tremendous legacy," said NU President Hank Bounds, Ph.D. "What a gift to mankind."



National News

NOVOZYMES LISTED NO. 9 IN "CHANGING THE WORLD"

Fortune Magazine annually spotlights the world's top companies that address major social problems as a core part of their business strategy and innovation. The September issue of will be dedicated to the "Change the World" list. This follows other international rankings for Novozymes over the past year (Science Magazine Best Employer, Forbes Global Game Changers, Business Insider 100: The Creators).

PATENTS AND DRUG-PRICE REGULATION EXAMINED

Recently a paper by Cockburn, Lanjouw, and Schankerman, "Patent and the Global Diffusion of New Drugs," American Economic Review 106: 136-64 (2016), challenged conventional wisdom that patents impede and price regulations promote access to new drugs around the world, particularly in developing countries. The study evaluated the time to launch of 642 new drugs in 76 countries between 1983-2002. It showed that launch is delayed by price regulation, while longer and more extensive patent rights accelerate new drug launches.

BIOFUELS DIGEST: BREAKTHROUGH IN ALGAE PROCESSING

For algae to become a viable technology for producing foods, feed, chemicals or fuels, its price points must drop below \$2,000 per ton to the \$500 per ton levels of fuels today. Algae grows fast but is costly to separate from water. Centrifuges work but 1-2% algae concentrations require moving 50-100 tons of water. Open-pond algae developer Global Algae Innovations began offering for sale a membrane system that, at scale, can use just 1% of the energy needed to run a centrifuge. This may overcome a key technical problem.

ETHANOL PRODUCER MAGAZINE: BIOFUEL RFS IS 11!

Eleven years ago this August, the renewable fuel standard (RFS) was signed into law, ushering in a new era of rising energy security, cleaner air, and more affordable options at the pump. After more than a decade, the program continues to drive U.S. job creation and startling innovations in renewable energy, according to the nation's leading biofuel advocates.

BIOBASED NEWS SPOTLIGHTS VERDEZYNE

Verdezyne recently received the prestigious EPA 2016 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award. In a Q&A with Nebraskan Tom Beardslee, Ph.D., VP of R&D at Verdezyne, the graduate of UNL explains how the company translates synthetic biology into real industrial biotechnology solutions.

CALIF. GOVERNOR TO DECIDE ON RIGHT-TO-TRY BILL

The California Assembly on Tuesday approved a right-to-try bill that would give terminally ill patients access to drugs and medical devices that have not yet been approved by the FDA. Gov. Jerry Brown, who will decide whether to pass the bill, vetoed a similar measure last year.

CHINESE AG MINISTRY BACKS ADOPTION OF BIOTECH FOOD LABELING SYSTEM

The agriculture ministry in China said it would support a biotech food labeling system when it markets the first biotech soybean and corn within the next several years. The ministry said safety assessments show biotech foods are as safe as conventional foods, but it would support new laws and labeling to reassure

consumers.

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