

# Team Buffalo



**Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision; the ability to direct individual accomplishment toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to achieve uncommon goals.**

Team Buffalo is a vibrant group working to assure a sound and prosperous economy. The team is made up of 15 organizations that are charged with the responsibility of working in their areas of economic development. Each team member is focused on the overall goal of improving Kearney/Buffalo County's economy but each concentrates on a specific facet of economic development and no one entity "owns" the term or intent. There is very little duplication of effort – just a well coordinated, organized and responsible team each contributing to the main objective – Kearney's economy.





## Buffalo County Economic Development Council

Founded in 1986, the Economic Development Council of Buffalo County - abbreviated sometimes to The Development Council - is an independent not-for-profit organization. Working confidentially, offering unbiased information on properties with no fee requirements to any party, we diligently attempt to provide timely and accurate data for projects in development.

The mission of the Council is to facilitate activities that contribute to the economic prosperity of Buffalo County and the surrounding area. Kearney is the dominant population center and much of the organization's work occurs there, yet many projects have been pursued in Buffalo County's towns, villages, and countryside.

Buffalo County Economic Development Council  
PO Box 607  
1002 2nd Avenue  
Kearney, Nebraska 68848  
(308) 237-9346  
[www.ci.kearney.ne.us](http://www.ci.kearney.ne.us)

## Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce



*"Together, positioning the Kearney Area for the future."*

The Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to serving its members. The Chamber takes a leadership role in improving the Kearney Area's quality of life. The Chamber does this through promotion and support of business and industry, education, agriculture, health care and other cultural and civic interests.

Through the promotion and support of these areas, the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce is positioning our community for a bright and prosperous future. We strive to administer programs and projects that benefit our area, not only now but also for years, decades and generations to come.

Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 607  
1002 2nd Avenue  
Kearney, Nebraska 68848  
(308) 237-3101  
[www.kearneycoc.org](http://www.kearneycoc.org)



## City of Kearney

The westward push of the railroad as the Civil War ended gave birth to many Nebraska communities, among them Kearney Junction. The name Kearney Junction was selected for several reasons. The "Junction" stemmed from the fact that the town was where the Burlington and Missouri made its junction with the tracks of the Union Pacific Railroad. The word "Kearney" was taken from Fort Kearny. The fort was named after Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny. Established in 1848, Fort Kearny offered protection to thousands of pioneers, Pony Express riders, and prospectors traveling west on the Oregon Trail. According to an 1849 War Department report, over 30,000 people bound for California, Oregon, and Utah passed through Fort Kearny during an 18-month period following the Gold Rush of 1849.

Today, Kearney is the county seat of Buffalo County. It is located on the north bank of the southernmost point of the Platte River where it dips in a great arc across Nebraska. Kearney is home to over 28,000 people who enjoy an enviable balance of urban amenities and small town quality of life. It's the home of the 6,500 students at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, two major hospitals, regional shopping and services, cultural and recreational attractions.

Five City Council Members are elected at-large. The City Council members elect one member to serve as Mayor/President of the Council. All City Council members are elected for 4 year overlapping terms

City of Kearney  
18 East 22nd Street  
PO Box 1180  
Kearney, Nebraska 68848  
(308) 233-3214  
[www.cityofkearney.org](http://www.cityofkearney.org)



## Buffalo County Government

Buffalo County is under the Supervisor-Township plan of County Government. The County is divided into seven districts. A person from each district is elected to serve on the County Board by the voters in that district. County Supervisors serve terms of four years each. A Supervisor may serve as many terms as he/she wishes. The terms are staggered.

A Supervisor must be a resident of the district they are elected to represent. If they should move away from their district during their term, they must resign their seat on the County Board. The supervisors for 2007 are: Ivan Klein, Horace Dannehl, Timothy Loewenstein, William McMullen, Sherry Morrow, Richard Pierce and Kent Greder.

Buffalo County Board of Supervisors  
PO Box 1270  
1512 Central Ave  
Kearney, NE 68848-1270;  
(308) 236-1224  
[www.buffalogov.org](http://www.buffalogov.org)



## Nebraska Public Power District

Nebraska Public Power District is Nebraska's largest electric utility, with a chartered territory including all or parts of 91 of Nebraska's 93 counties. It was formed on Jan. 1, 1970, when Consumers Public Power District, Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District (PVPPID) and Nebraska Public Power System merged to become Nebraska Public Power District. Merger properties also included assets formerly operated by Loup River Public Power District. NPPD is a public corporation and political subdivision of the state of Nebraska. The utility is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors, who are popularly elected from NPPD's chartered territory.

NPPD's revenue is mainly derived from wholesale power supply agreements with 52 towns and 24 rural public power districts and rural cooperatives that rely totally or partially on NPPD's electrical system. NPPD also serves about 80 communities at the retail level. Over 5,000 miles of transmission lines make up the NPPD electrical grid system, which delivers power to about one million Nebraskans. Because of our role as both a retail and wholesale provider, an estimated 1 million people in Nebraska depend on NPPD for electricity..

Nebraska Public Power District  
Economic Development Department  
PO Box 499  
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499  
(800) 282-6773  
econdev@nppd.com  
Economic Development Website: [sites.nppd.com](http://sites.nppd.com).



## NorthWestern Energy Company

NorthWestern Energy is a major, regional provider of natural gas and electricity and related services to approximately 628,500 customers in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. Our natural gas system includes approximately 7,800 miles of transmission and distribution pipelines and storage facilities serving 168 communities and surrounding rural areas in Montana, South Dakota and central Nebraska. NorthWestern Energy has approximately 1,350 full-time employees. The South Dakota and Nebraska energy operations provide electric and natural gas distribution services to approximately 59,000 electric customers and 83,500 natural gas customers in the eastern half of South Dakota and in four Nebraska municipalities.

Derek Pfeifer, Area Manager  
Northwestern Energy  
1023 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kearney, Nebraska 68847  
(308) 237-4123  
[www.northwesternenergy.com](http://www.northwesternenergy.com)



## Nebraska Department of Economic Development

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) is the official lead economic development agency for Nebraska. Created by the Legislature in 1967, DED's emphasis is growing and diversifying the state's "economic base," bringing new dollars into the state. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development Mission is: To provide quality leadership and services that enable Nebraska communities, businesses, and people to succeed in a global economy. We are here, equipped and ready, to assist you and your community in developing and capitalizing on economic development opportunities.

### **The Department's four operating divisions:**

#### **Business Development Division**

Provides assistance to communities with business and economic development programs, offers direct assistance to businesses, and represents statewide interests in retaining, expanding and recruiting businesses to the state.

#### **Community and Rural Development Division**

Provides technical and financial services through community-targeted programs and regional service delivery.

#### **Travel and Tourism Division**

Visit Nebraska! Travel and tourism is big business, and one of the most steadily expanding industries in the national and world economy.

#### **Division of Administration and Operations**

Provides support to the other three operating divisions, which offers cost-effective and efficient administrative, fiscal, human resources, marketing, and public information services. Department News

### **Nebraska Department of Economic Development**

301 Centennial Mall South

P.O. Box 94666

Lincoln, NE 68509-4666

(800) 426-6505 | Fax (402) 471-3778

[www.neded.org](http://www.neded.org)



## Nebraska Department of Labor

Nebraska Workforce Development - Department of Labor is organized into seven "Offices". The Commissioner of Labor is Chief Executive Officer of the Department, heads the Office of the Commissioner of Labor, and reports directly to the Governor of the State of Nebraska. The Commissioner of Labor serves as the State's Liaison for the Workforce Investment Act and Welfare to Work programs. Organizational units reporting directly to the Commissioner of Labor include

Workforce Development  
Nebraska Department of Labor  
124 West 46th Street #106  
Kearney, Nebraska 68847  
(308) 865-5404  
[www.dol.state.ne.us](http://www.dol.state.ne.us)



## Kearney's Visitor Bureau

Kearney is noted for its hospitality and its superior convention/tourism accommodations. Convention facilities in Kearney attract many businesses and organizations. The added service from local business owners and citizens make Kearney a perfect choice for your meeting, conference or family reunion. The Kearney Visitors Bureau is available to help coordinate specific information on meeting and lodging arrangements, entertainment attractions or shopping.

Kearney offers over 50 fine restaurants in the area from steak and seafood to Italian, Oriental and Mexican cuisine which can be an added feature for your gathering. The Visitors Bureau also maintains a complete list of speakers and entertainers available for conferences and meetings.

Kearney Visitor's  
Bureau  
1007 2nd Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-3178  
[www.visitkearney.org](http://www.visitkearney.org)

## Central Community College



**Central Community College** is a multi-campus community college serving a 25-county area in central Nebraska—approximately 14,000 square miles with a population of more than 300,000. CCC offers 33 career and technical education programs with a focus on degree, diploma and certificate programs requiring two years or less to complete. The college also offers an academic transfer program for students who want to complete the first two years of a bachelors degree before transferring to a 4-year college or university. In addition, the college offers classes in communities throughout its 25-county service area, online learning, and training and development for businesses, industries and other organizations.

Central administration is located in Grand Island. Three main campuses are located in Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings. Educational centers are located in Holdrege, Kearney and Lexington. Additionally, CCC uses a variety of distance learning techniques to provide educational services in some 90 communities in its service area.

Kearney Learning Center  
3519 2nd Avenue, St. A  
Kearney, NE 68847-2911  
(308) 338-4000 \* Fax (308) 338-4022  
[www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu)

## University of Nebraska Kearney Campus



The public, residential University of Nebraska at Kearney is an affordable, student-centered regional hub of intellectual, cultural and artistic excellence that has been a prominent part of Nebraska's higher education landscape for more than a century. As one of four campuses of the University of Nebraska, UNK offers access to all the opportunities and choices of a major public university. , with wide variety of programs that lead to exciting careers. A Nationally-renowned faculty, a rich and diverse campus life.

But what truly distinguishes UNK is its commitment to providing an outstanding education in a small and personal setting. It is a university that quickly transforms nearly 6,500 students from across the globe into a close-knit, supportive community of friends; it is a place they will forever call “home”.

University of Nebraska at Kearney  
905 West 25th Street  
Kearney NE 68849  
(308) 865-8441  
[www.unk.edu](http://www.unk.edu)



## Nebraska Business Development Center Kearney Campus

NBDC is a cooperative program of the U.S. Small Business Administration, the College of Business Administration of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska Kearney. Statewide, NBDC provides direct management and technical assistance to more than 2,000 businesses in Nebraska each year. Basic services are provided free of charge

Through 25 years of service to the business community in Nebraska and to higher education in Nebraska, the Nebraska Business Development Center has amassed thousands of small victories that together mean a better economy and a better life for all Nebraskans. Beginning with a focus on small businesses through the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Development Center program and expanding through technology training, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Procurement Technical Assistance Program, the Pollution Prevention Regional Information Center, Business Training, and other programs, NBDC has touched businesses and communities throughout Nebraska. It has assisted businesses through economic distress and expansion and has enhanced the skills of thousands of people working in those businesses.

Business Development Center  
University of Nebraska Kearney  
WSTC 135C  
Kearney, Nebraska 68849  
(308) 865-8344  
[www.unk.edu/acad/nbdc](http://www.unk.edu/acad/nbdc)



## Good Samaritan Health Care Systems

Good Samaritan Health Systems, which first opened its doors to the people of central Nebraska and northern Kansas in 1924, is a 287-bed regional referral center. A member of Catholic Health Initiatives, one of the largest Catholic health providers in the country, we seek to provide quality state-of-the-art specialty care in response to the needs of the more than 350,000 people we serve. The hospital is certified as a Trauma II Center. The mission of Good Samaritan Health Systems is to nurture the healing ministry of the Church by bringing it new life, energy and viability in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Fidelity to the Gospel urges us to emphasize human dignity and social justice as we move toward the creation of healthier communities. Good Samaritan Health Systems will continue to develop a regional healthcare system which improves health, extends the Catholic healthcare ministry, encourage local healthcare delivery, partners with physicians, manages cost, provides value, and promotes excellence in all we do.

Good Samaritan Health Systems  
Catholic Health Initiatives  
10 East 31st Street  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 865-7100



## South Central Economic Development District

The South Central Economic Development District is a consortium of twelve rural Nebraska counties who see improving rural economies as a regional rather than purely local issue. In addition to a large network of contacts at local, state and federal agencies, SCEDD can assist with a wide variety of projects and enterprises for communities, businesses and individuals. Projects in the region include: Improve rural access to technology; Bring new businesses to rural areas; Help retain and recruit young families; Help entrepreneurs get started in business; Increase housing opportunities; Improve community facilities; Make existing businesses stronger; Encourage tourism in the region.

South Central Economic Development District  
1320 Valerie Drive  
Holdrege, NE 68949  
(308) 995-3190  
[www.scedd.us](http://www.scedd.us)

### I-80 Nebraska Coalition

The I-80 Nebraska Coalition was organized in 2003 by local economic developers out of a recognized need to work together as a region. Made up of nine counties spanning 250 miles across central Nebraska, the Coalition represents a region with a population exceeding 230,000. The common thread linking these counties is the transportation lifeline known as Interstate 80.



One of the first projects the Coalition identified as a priority was conducting a regional labor availability analysis. With comparatively low unemployment rates, the purpose of this study was to prove the actual amount of available skilled laborers in the region. In cooperation with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the Coalition hired The Wadley-Donovan Group, a nationally recognized site selection firm, to conduct a Labor Market Assessment for the entire nine county region, three sub-regions, and all nine counties individually.



I-80 Nebraska Coalition  
PO Box 607  
Kearney, Nebraska 68848  
(308) 237-9346  
[www.i80nebraska.com](http://www.i80nebraska.com)





## Frontier Communications Systems

Frontier is one of the nation's largest independent telecommunications providers offering local, long distance, and Internet access services in 24 states and over 2.4 million access lines. With more than 100 years of telecommunications experience, we operate on a solid, time-tested foundation of communications and operational excellence with products and services you can always depend on for your home, your small or medium-sized business, or your global organization.

In addition to telephone services, Frontier also offers broad band Internet services and satellite television services. Access to long distance is through fiber optics main trunks and fiber optics systems around the community of Kearney.

Frontier Communications  
2302 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Kearney, Nebraska 68847  
(308) 237-3878  
[www.frontieronline.com](http://www.frontieronline.com)



## Kearney Hub

Founded in 1888, the Hub provides award-winning local news coverage for

south-central Nebraska and is the most efficient advertising vehicle for businesses to reach a market area that covers all or parts of 10 counties and more than 68,000 adults. Compelling news and advertising information results in high readership of the Hub, published afternoons Monday through Friday and Saturday morning.

In addition to the Hub newspaper and [kearneyhub.com](http://kearneyhub.com), our company also produces a number of successful marketing events, including Kidz Explore, a two-day expo for families that draws more than 8,000 people from throughout central Nebraska. We operate a central printing plant that produces 10 area weekly papers and a variety of other publications. We also produce a number of niche publications, including a glossy magazine, called Discover Kearney, which is published three times a year and provides entertainment and tourism information for visitors and newcomers.

Kearney Hub  
13 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 1988  
Kearney, Nebraska 68848  
(308) 237-2152  
[www.kearneyhub.com](http://www.kearneyhub.com)



## Cities of Gibbon & Ravenna



Located in Buffalo County in the center of Nebraska, Ravenna is a bustling community of 1,300 residents. Visitors arrive in Ravenna by turning north off scenic Highway 2 and then crossing an old fashioned overpass spanning the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad tracks. On the north side of the overpass is Ravenna's Grand Avenue. Located within 35 miles of both Grand Island and Kearney, Ravenna gives access to the many advantages and conveniences of a larger city, but still preserves small town life — truly a "Hometown Hideaway." For four days in June, Ravenna's business district is transformed into a carnival celebration of ANNEVAR-- Ravenna's party for central Nebraska. Mark your calendars for the 2008 Annevar celebration scheduled for June 19-22.

As of the census of 2000, there were 1,759 people, 641 households, and 464 families residing in the city. The population density was 2,096.9 people per square mile (808.5/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 668 housing units at an average density of 796.3/sq mi (307.0/km<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the city was 85.05%: White 0.17, African American, 0.74% Native American, 0.17% Asian, 12.51% from other races, and 1.36% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 20.98% of the population.

There were 641 households out of which 38.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 62.4% were married couples living together, 6.9% had a female householder with no husband present, and 27.5% were non-families. 24.3% of all households were made up of individuals and 12.3% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.70 and the average family size was 3.20.

In the city the population was spread out with 30.3% under the age of 18, 7.5% from 18 to 24, 28.1% from 25 to 44, 19.6% from 45 to 64, and 14.6% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 34 years. For every 100 females there were 96.3 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 97.1 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$34,955, and the median income for a family was \$42,688. Males had a median income of \$27,813 versus \$19,297 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$15,013.