Planting Seeds of Partnership is a collaboration to create a statewide conference that highlights best practices, resources, and improves skills in reaching and working with migrant workers and their families.
MONDAY, APRIL 15
AT-A-GLANCE

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSION (Must pre-register)
8:30-5:00 .... Mental Health First Aid ................................................................. Room D

TUESDAY, APRIL 16
AT-A-GLANCE

8:30-8:45 ...... Welcome .................................................................................. Ballroom 1
8:45-10:00 ..... OPENING KEYNOTE, Jessica Castañeda, Consultant, Identification & Recruitment Rapid Response Consortium

**Change is Constant in Agriculture** ................................................................. Ballroom 1

10:10-11:10 ... WORKSHOP SESSION #1

- Overcoming Education Barriers for a Migrant Family ........................................ Room A
- Immigration Law Updates .............................................................................. Room D
- SNAP Outreach ............................................................................................... Room E
- Agricultural Trends in Nebraska .................................................................... Room F

11:15–12:15... WORKSHOP SESSION #2

- EL Basics ........................................................................................................ Room A
- Helping Undocumented Students .................................................................. Room D
- Saturday Program to Empower Migrant Families ......................................... Room E
- Farm Safety: Protecting Farmworkers and their Families from Worksite Hazards .......... Room F

12:20-1:50 ..... LUNCH & NDOL NEEDS ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY .................. Ballroom 1

2:00-3:00 ...... WORKSHOP SESSION #3

- Sexual Harassment in the Field .................................................................... Room A
- Our Journey to Meeting the Needs of 3-5 Year Olds ..................................... Room D
- Medicaid Enrollment ...................................................................................... Room E
- Services Provided to High School Students ................................................ Room F

3:05-4:05 ...... WORKSHOP SESSION #4

- Free Educational Resources for Migrant Education Programs ................ Room A
- Ever Changing Hats the Migrant Recruiter Must Wear!! .......................... Room D
- Employment Services in Nebraska ............................................................. Room E
- Funding for Educational and Occupational Training .................................. Room F

4:05-5:00 ...... NETWORKING SOCIAL ........................................................... Ballroom 1
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
AT-A-GLANCE

8:30 – 8:45 ..... Welcome ..................................................................................................................... Ballroom 1
8:45-10:00 ..... OPENING KEYNOTE, Glen Parks, Asst. Attorney General, State of Nebraska

Labor Trafficking in Nebraska: Defining, Detecting and Responding to this Threat ... Ballroom 1

10:10-11:25 ... PANEL SESSION

- STEM Opportunities for Migrant Students ................................................................. Room A
- Career Exploration for Migrant Students and Families .............................................. Room D
- Community, Connection, Coordination in Identifying and Recruiting Out of School Youth ...... Room E
- Employer Perspectives: H-2A Foreign Labor and Farm Labor Contractors ......................... Room F

11:30-12:10 ... LUNCH ................................................................................................................... Ballroom 1

12:15-1:30 ..... Vang, A Drama About Recent Immigrant Farmers .................................................... Ballroom 1

1:40-2:40 ...... WORKSHOP SESSION #5

- Working with Out of School Youth SLIFE(Youth with Limited Interrupted Education):
  ESL through Life Skills Lessons .......................................................... Room A
- Migrant & Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act ...................................................... Room D
- Supporting Diverse Migrant Families.................................................................................. Room E
- Protecting the Health and Safety of Farm Workers with Personal Protective Equipment
  From Head to Toe ........................................................................................................ Room F

2:45-3:45 ...... WORKSHOP SESSION #6

- Utilizing the NePAT & Early Childhood in MEP ................................................................. Room A
- H-2A Visa System .................................................................................................................. Room D
- Employment Services (ES) & Employment-Related Law Complaint System ..................... Room E
- Trauma and Mental Health Among Latina/o Youth ........................................................... Room F

3:50-4:30 ...... CLOSING SESSION: PARTNERSHIP NEXT STEPS ........................................ Ballroom 1

THURSDAY, APRIL 18
AT-A-GLANCE

8:30-12:00 ***Available for organizational/workgroup meetings. Check with your organization for specific start/end times.

- Nebraska Department of Labor: Agricultural Recruitment System ............................... Stateroom D
- Nebraska Migrant Education Program .............................................................................. Stateroom F
Mental Health First Aid (Health) ........................................................................................................... Room D
Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course that gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The evidence behind the program demonstrates that it does build mental health literacy, helping the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness.
* Lunch is own your own
Michelle Kohmetscher, Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor
Natalia Trinidad, Outreach Project Associate, UNMC Center for Reducing Health Disparities

Change is Constant in Agriculture ................................................................. Ballroom 1
For those of us who work in any way with those who work in agriculture it can be a whirlwind to keep up with all of the constant change. There are all sorts of internal and external factors that are directly impacting farm owners, agri-businesses, and the workers that work in farm related work across the country. In this presentation we will cover many of the current trends and impacts. These include tariffs, technology, international trade, robotics, farm increases and decreases in various sectors, specific Nebraska agriculture related trends, migration, labor issues, effects of consumer eating habits on ag industries and much more.
Jessica Castañeda, Consultant, Identification & Recruitment Rapid Response Consortium

Overcoming Education Barriers for A Migrant Family (Education) ......................... Room A
My family moved to Kearney, NE from Venezuela. Many things changed in our lives, we were confronted with many different challenges like learning a new language, learning a new school system, etc. Soon we were submerged in in a sea of obstacles with many challenges to achieve. We needed to learn to navigate through these rough waters that were unknown to us, but we are here now and willing to fight every morning to support our children’s education, to help them to reach their dreams.
Lisvey Rivera, Parent Advisory Council Member, Nebraska Migrant Education Program
Veronica Estevez, Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, Nebraska Migrant Education Program

Immigration Law Updates (Legal) ........................................................................... Room D
This presentation will cover how an individual can access help for their immigration legal matters through the Nebraska Immigration Legal Assistance Hotline (NILAH) and the services provided by Immigrant Legal Center (ILC) throughout the state of Nebraska. Additionally, the presenters will discuss recent hot topics in the world of immigration.
Tessa Copeland, Rural Capacity Building Attorney, Immigrant Legal Center
Joseline Reyna, Rural Capacity Building Paralegal, Immigrant Legal Center
SNAP Outreach (Health) .................................................................................................................. Room E
During this presentation, learn more about how SNAP Outreach provides SNAP education to individuals and communities and provides application assistance to eligible Nebraskans. SNAP offers another means of providing meals to individuals and families that struggle with hunger in our community. Discover ways your agency or group can partner with SNAP Outreach to provide access to food assistance to the farmworkers and families in your community. The SNAP Outreach Program in Nebraska is a cooperative effort through Food Bank of Lincoln and Food Bank for the Heartland (Omaha) and the Iowa Food Bank Association.

Jake Kampschneider, SNAP Partnership & Rural Outreach Coordinator, Food Bank for the Heartland

Agricultural Trends in Nebraska (Employment) ............................................................................ Room F
Come and learn more about Nebraska Agriculture Industries and the agriculture trends related to these specific industries. Included will be glimpses into the following- Poultry, Pork, Fruits and Vegetables, Dairies, Meat Processing and Labor. Nebraska has many promising increases in many ag sectors and challenges facing others. Come and learn how they are all interconnected.

Julane Hill, Coordinated School Health Director, Nebraska Department of Education
Jessica Castañeda, Consultant, Identification & Recruitment Rapid Response Consortium

WORKSHOP SESSION #2 | 11:15 – 12:15

EL Basics (Education) .................................................................................................................. Room A
Participants will identify the five stages of language acquisition, increase understanding of effective instructional EL strategies, and increase their understanding of the correlation of effective practices and student achievement

Jamie Garner, Director, Educational Service Unit 15, Migrant Education Program

Helping Undocumented Students (Legal) ..................................................................................... Room D
This presentation will cover information for undocumented individuals who want to attend college. It will give a brief overview of how one’s immigration status affects them in different situations, including how they can pay for college. Additionally, the presenters will include information on how someone can be an ally and assist these students.

Tessa Copeland, Rural Capacity Building Attorney, Immigrant Legal Center
Joseline Reyna, Rural Capacity Building Paralegal, Immigrant Legal Center

Saturday Program to Empower Migrant Families (Education) ................................................. Room E
Migrant families present unique challenges when planning and implementing family literacy programming. At Lincoln Public Schools, we worked with migrant families to determine their specific needs to develop a modified family literacy program on Saturdays that is tailored to their interests. This session will demonstrate how we planned and implemented the program, and what results we are showing within the first year.

Amanda Andersen, Family Literacy Instructor
Pablo Cervantes, Coordinator
Monic Asher, Family Literacy Coordinator, Lincoln Public Schools Migrant Education Program

Farm Safety: Protecting Farmworkers and Their Families from Worksite Hazards (Health) ........ Room F
This workshop will highlight the main worksite hazards for farmworkers and their families. Injury prevention methods and resources for educating farmworkers and their families will also be presented.

Aaron M. Yoder, Associate Professor, University of Nebraska Medical Center
**Nebraska Department of Labor Needs Assessment**

This group activity is an opportunity for conference participants to weigh in on what migrant and seasonal farmworkers in our state truly need, in terms of health, education, legal, and employment needs. Your input will be incorporated into the Agricultural Outreach Plan, located in Nebraska Workforce Development System’s Combined Plan for 2020-2024 and help shape the direction of Nebraska Department of Labor’s agricultural employer and farmworker outreach for the next four years. Your participation and ideas are invaluable to this process!

Andrea Curtis, Program Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Labor

**Sexual Harassment in the Field** (Legal)

This session will describe the Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission, what that agency does, and briefly how the NEOC conducts investigations of discrimination in employment. Discussion will then move to tips on how to properly watch for sexual harassment of employees, types of sexual harassment, and generally what to do to properly address reports of harassment so your business does not violate state law.

Ben Watson, Unit Director, Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission

**Our Journey to Meeting the Needs of 3-5 Year Olds** (Education)

Parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers and with this School Readiness Program, we want to help parents provide the foundations for their child’s success in school and life. We strive that our migrant preschool students and their families be emotionally and cognitively ready for school. Through a series of home visits, the PK-5 Migrant Education Facilitator and Migrant Community Liaison provide parents/guardians with the necessary tools to prepare their children with the basic skills needed for kindergarten. During this presentation, we will share our journey, guiding documents, data collection and analysis, and lessons learned.

Amanda Levos, Coordinator, Grand Island Public Schools Migrant Education Program
Annalien Gonzalez de la Vega, Liaison, Grand Island Public Schools Migrant Education Program

**Medicaid Enrollment** (Health)

This presentation will cover the basics of the Nebraska Medicaid program, including enrollment figures, eligibility guidelines, and services covered. Additionally, this presentation will summarize the Medicaid application process.

Drew Preston, Communications Coordinator, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
Lindsay Bockelmann, Social Services Supervisor, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

**Services Provided to High School Students** (Education)

We have worked in conjunction with the public schools over the last couple of years to increase services to high school students through Jr./Sr. night, essay writing events, one-on-one tutoring, grade monitoring, home visits, summer school, and credit recovery.

Kathleen Riley, Director, Head Start CFDP, Inc. Migrant Education Program
Holly Urrutia, Coordinator & Data Specialist, Head Start CFDP, Inc. Migrant Education Program
Claudia Bedlan, Parent Liaison, Head Start CFDP, Inc. Migrant Education Program
Norma Aguilar, Educational Liaison, Head Start CFDP, Inc. Migrant Education Program
Jody Stutzman, Regional Director Proteus Inc.
Free Educational Resources for Migrant Education Programs (Education) .................................................. Room A

Wouldn’t it be nice if there were free, standards-based math, reading, and writing resources to use with K-12 students? Guess what? There is! Attend this session to learn how to access these resources and more (including Out of School Youth)! I will walk you through signing up with web-based services, which was created to help migrant education programs across the country, plus a resource the Nebraska Department of Education subscribes to for educators in the whole state: TransACT Parent Notices. Bring your laptop!

Benjamin Zink, Education Specialist, Nebraska Department of Education, Migrant Education Program

Ever Changing Hats the Recruiter Must Wear!! (Education) ................................................................. Room D

What type of work do you think qualifies workers for the Migrant Education Program in Western Nebraska & what makes us different than other parts of the state? We will walk you through what qualifies and what doesn’t qualify in Western Nebraska and show you the many hats we have to wear and how it changes and how we approach each industry. We will provide tips and tricks when approaching employers in ranching, Feedlots (H2A workers), meat packing plants, and Western Sugar Coop.

Teresa Froman, Regional Recruiter, Educational Service Unit #13 Migrant Education Program
Perla Garza, Regional Recruiter, Educational Service Unit #13 Migrant Education Program
Jaymie Hilliard, Regional Recruiter, Educational Service Unit #13 Migrant Education Program

Employment Services in Nebraska (Employment) ................................................................. Room E

This presentation highlights the employment services offered at local job centers across the state.

Jennifer Andersen, Workforce Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Labor

Funding for Educational and Occupational Training (Employment) ........................................ Room F

This presentation will describe resources that are available for education or occupational training.

Andrew Hunziker, Outreach Services Manager, EducationQuest Foundation
Jody Stutzman, Regional Director, Proteus
Andrea Curtis, WP/NEres Program Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Labor
Wednesday, April 17, 2019

WELCOME | 8:30 – 8:45 | Ballroom 1

KEYNOTE | 8:45 – 10:00

Labor Trafficking in Nebraska: Defining, Detecting and Responding to this Threat ...............Ballroom 1

Could it be that today, right here in 2019 Nebraska, slavery exists in any form?! Glen Parks, coordinator of the statewide human trafficking task force, will outline the federal and state laws against forced labor, otherwise called labor trafficking. He will explain the dynamics that lead to it and how migrant workers are especially vulnerable. He will equip you to identify signs of labor trafficking and explain what happens after a tip is reported.

Glen Parks, Assistant Attorney General, Coordinator of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force

PANEL SESSION | 10:10 – 11:25

STEM Opportunities for Migrant Students (Education) ................................................................. Room A

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math programming is an effective and engaging way to make these academic subjects accessible to students. The Omaha Migrant Program is piloting a STEM Camp this Spring Break about life science entitled “Survival Island.” The students will create their own ecosystem and learn about other ecosystems in our area through field trips. The camp will utilize hands-on, EL-friendly methods to teach grade-level science standards while incorporating the Growth Mindset. ESU 1 and ESU 7 utilize Robotics Clubs through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Office and First Lego League to involve a diverse group of students in real-world problem solving while developing academic skills.

Vanessa Guarcas, Coordinator, ESU #1 Migrant Education Program
Rita Miller Migrant, Liaison Specialist Omaha Public Schools Migrant Education Program
Suzanne Hult, Coordinator Omaha Public Schools Migrant Education Program
Melinda Velicela, Education Liaison, ESU #7 Migrant Education Program

Career Exploration for Migrant Students and Families (Employment) ..................................... Room D

During this panel, learn about career exploration activities undertaken by migrant and seasonal farmworker serving partners, and walk away inspired to partner to create more career exploration opportunities for migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families.

Lori Marquez, Workforce Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Labor
Deb Sanne, Workforce Coordinator, Nebraska Department of Labor

Community, Connection, Coordination in Identifying and Recruiting Out of School Youth (Education) ................................................................................................................. Room E

Community, Connection, Coordination is key in developing and implementing an ID&R plan. Join us to review a working ID&R plan that includes coordination within the community.

Sue Henry, State Director, Nebraska Migrant Education Program, Nebraska Department of Education
Aida Evans, Recruiter, Head Start CFDP Inc., Migrant Education Program

Employer Perspectives: H-2A Foreign Labor and Farm Labor Contractors (Employment)...........Room F

An open forum among a panel of Nebraska agricultural employers and farm labor contractors to discuss their experiences with and advantages, successes and challenges of using the federal H-2A visa program to recruit non-immigrant or guest workers who come to the US for temporary or seasonal employment.

Kelly Jackson, Office Manager, Daniels Produce
Clayton Hensley, Recruiting Specialist, Central Valley Ag
Remington Seeds
VANG: A DRAMA ABOUT RECENT IMMIGRANT FARMERS | 12:15 – 1:30

Vang: A Drama about Recent Immigrant Farmers

A Hmong family who fled Communist bullets and wild tigers through the jungle of Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand. A Sudanese man who was thrown into prison in Ethiopia for helping the Lost Boys and left gasping for air through a crack under the door. A Mexican woman who taught herself English by looking up the profane words that were hurled at her during her first job while working in a meat packing plant. A Dutch boy who put the flag of the Netherlands through the paper shredder and declared, “I am an American.” These are some of the characters brought to life in Vang, a drama about recent immigrant farmers. Vang (meaning “garden” or “farm” in Hmong) captures the immigrants’ journeys to the U.S. and how they have made farming a sustainable way of life in America.

Vang is performed by actors Lindsay Bauer and Jordan Dornbierer, written by Iowa Poet Laureate Mary Swander, and features photographs by Pulitzer Prize winning photographer, Dennis Chamberlain.

Sponsored by: Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health and UNMC College of Public Health

WORKSHOP SESSION #5 | 1:40 – 2:40

Working with Out of School Youth SLIFE (Youth with Limited Interrupted Education):

ESL through Life Skills Lessons (Education) .................................................................................. Room A

Research indicates that SLIFE Youth learn best when curriculum is based on compelling life skills needs. This presentation will focus on an effective needs-based model of teaching. We will learn how to identify perceived needs and build needs-based learning lessons for OSY SLIFE. We will look at how OSY Life Skills lessons (available on GOSOSY website or others) can be adapted and expanded to maximize language learning.

Veronica Hill, OSY Teacher Trainer, Omaha Public School Migrant Education Program

Migrant & Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (Legal) .................................................. Room D

An overview of the Migrant & Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act (MSPA), which protects migrant and seasonal agricultural workers by establishing employment standards related to wages, housing, transportation, disclosures and recordkeeping. The MSPA also requires farm labor contractors to register with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

Megan Vesper, Wage and Hour Investigator, U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division

Supporting Diverse Families (Education) ...................................................................................... Room E

In this session, you will learn how to support diverse non-Latino students in high achievement, school readiness, and graduation. We will share strategies that have worked for us in engaging and involving diverse students into our Migrant Education programming.

Suzanne Hult, Coordinator, Omaha Public Schools Migrant Education Program
Jean Claude Ashimwe, Liaison, Omaha Public Schools Migrant Education Program
Leaston Moo, Liaison, Omaha Public Schools Migrant Education Program
Soe Ka Powlay, Liaison, Omaha Public Schools Migrant Education Program
Glenn Simonsen, Liaison, Omaha Public Schools Migrant Education Program

Protecting the Health and Safety of Farm Workers with Personal Protective Equipment From Head to Toe (Health) .................................................................................................................. Room F

This session will provide a hands-on opportunity to learn about what personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed to keep farm workers safe and healthy while working in a variety of environments. Participants will be trained on the proper use, fit, and care of PPE and economical choices of equipment will be discussed. Everyone will take home samples and educational materials.

Ellen Duysen, MPH, Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health
WORKSHOP SESSION #6 | 2:45 – 3:45

Utilizing the NePAT & Early Childhood in MEP (Education) ................................................................. Room A

In this presentation, we will provide a brief explanation of the NePAT assessment, develop a “FAQ” of common questions asked, and explain how the assessment is utilized in our projects. In addition, Omaha will list some resources we utilize in our family literacy program in order to meet the MPO on the NePAT. Both projects will discuss how they utilize the NePAT and the areas of Early Childhood.

Kathleen Riley Director, Head Start CFDP, Inc. Migrant Education Program
Suzanne Hult, Coordinator, Omaha Public Schools Migrant Education Program

H-2A Visa System (Legal) Room D

The H-2A Visa program has been growing exponentially around the country, and in Nebraska. We will discuss the basics of the programs and what rights the US workers and non-US workers have.

Katie Samples Dean, Staff Attorney, Agricultural Workers Rights Program, Legal Aid of Nebraska

Employment Services (ES) & Employment – Related Law Complaint System (Employment) ................................................................. Room E

An explanation of the federally mandated Monitor Advocate Complaint System that addresses farmworker complaints of violations of employment-related laws and Employment Services (ES) regulations. How the System handles formal complaints and Apparent Violations.

Omar Correa, State Monitor Advocate, MSFW State Monitor Advocate, Nebraska Department of Labor

Trauma and Mental Health Among Latina/o Youth (Health) ................................................................. Room F

The presentation will discuss common forms of traumatic and other stressful events experienced by Latina/o children and adolescents. The presentation will also address how mental health symptoms often appear after youth experience these kinds of events and considerations for working with youth from these backgrounds.

Dr. Trey Andrews, Assistant Professor, Latino Mental Health and Treatment Outcomes Lab, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

CLOSING SESSION | 3:50 – 4:30 | Ballroom 1

Partnership Next Steps

Thursday | April 18, 2019 | 8:30 – 12:00

Available for organizational/workgroup meetings. Check with your organization for specific start/end times.

Nebraska Department of Labor: Agricultural Recruitment System .......................................................... Stateroom D
Nebraska Migrant Education Program ........................................................................................................ Stateroom F
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