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“Courtney Dentlinger Hired as New Nebraska ED Director”

A new position with the same goal – growing Nebraska. Courtney Dentlinger will leave her position in Norfolk in January as the Director of the Norfolk Area Economic Development Council to take the helm of the Nebraska State Department of Economic Development as its Director. Governor Pete Ricketts personally called Dentlinger Monday evening to let her know she had been chosen for the position.



Although she'll be thinking from a broader scope of the entire state, Dentlinger said it's a move that allows her to continue to help grow Nebraska.

“I love Nebraska and when approached about applying for the position in Lincoln, I knew it would be a great opportunity to help my home state grow,” Dentlinger said from her current office in the City of Norfolk Administration Building.

Dentlinger has worked as the Norfolk Area Economic Development Director since 2012 when the City of Norfolk partnered with Madison County to set up a new structure for economic development. Funded by both entities, she led a new City division which works with other economic development partners to bring new businesses to the Norfolk

area and help existing businesses expand.

“It was a new position and Courtney did well in developing a program with willing partners of businesses and organizations that came together as a team to move the Norfolk area forward. She's leaving behind an excellent design of how economic development should work in a region with everyone having the same goal and going in the same direction,” said Shane Weidner, Norfolk City Administrator.

Mayor Sue Fuchtman said she was also confident that the mechanism for economic development in the Norfolk area would continue to be successful thanks to the work of Dentlinger, City and County elected officials, City staff and many entities in the area.

“Truly, economic development in any community is a team effort. Courtney led this effort well by establishing partnerships between people and organizations that all had the Norfolk area's best interests in mind,” Fuchtman said, “She'll be missed and we are thankful for her work building a solid base of economic development that will continue to grow.”

Russ Wilcox, chairman of the Norfolk Area Economic Development Council and Christian Ohl, Madison County Commissioner, echoed the Mayor's sentiments.

“Courtney has done a great job of developing a strong economic development team for the Norfolk area. I have no doubt that she will take the same energy and spirit for collaboration to her new position. While she will be missed, our job in replacing her will be much easier because of the heavy lifting she and her team have done,” Wilcox said.

“Courtney always displays excellence in leadership, preparation and communication. We're really going to miss her in the Norfolk area but we know that she'll continue that great economic development leadership at the state level,” said Ohl.

Dentlinger's first day on the job is January 11, 2016.

Among other accomplishments, during Dentlinger's tenure, the Economic Development Division:

- Initiated a comprehensive site identification analysis to determine the best parcels for future industrial development

- Partnered with the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce to establish a position solely dedicated to workforce retention and development to address the severe workforce shortage in the region

- Collaborated with 11 other service providers to form the Small Business Resource Team- a one top shop for small business owners and entrepreneurs