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## Norfolk sets the bar with first Nebraska Diplomat's Regional Economic Celebration



On Thursday, June 1, a group of nearly 140 business leaders and economic developers from Northeast Nebraska gathered together to celebrate economic achievements, and discuss economic obstacles, in the first-ever regional economic celebration.

The day consisted of multiple sessions regarding housing, workforce, and regional industry/manufacturing. An overview of Stronger Economies Together (SET) was presented to show the importance of communities working as a team to promote economic development in Northeast Nebraska. Governor Pete Ricketts was in attendance and discussed recent economic success stories, including Nebraska's number one designation in the United States for economic development projects per capita in 2016 which resulted in receiving the Governor's Cup Award from Site Selection Magazine; while Courtney Dentlinger gave an update on economic development efforts at the state level. The event concluded with remarks from Jane McDaniel, President of the Nebraska Diplomats. Numerous tours were available for people to attend after.

"The Nebraska Diplomats," explained Candice Alder, Economic Development Coordinator for the City of Norfolk and contributing member of the event, "are a group of individuals who have a love for this state and work alongside economic developers to bring new businesses to Nebraska."

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*At the event, Governor Pete Ricketts addressed the economic success that Nebraska has encountered.*

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Northeast Nebraska Diplomat's Awards were presented to Cargill, Columbus, NE (Business of the Year) for their success in doubling their workforce; John F. Lohr (Diplomat of the Year) for his heavy involvement in civic activities; and Wayne, NE (Community of the Year) for their tireless efforts to work collaboratively on new housing development, capital improvements, business lending, and the redevelopment of the town after the EF4 tornado hit in 2013.