



FOUNDRY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

2025 Impact Report



TO THE MOON!



FOUNDRY

SUPPORT EDUCATE DEVELOP

Letter From Our Executive Director

Dear Foundry Friends and Supporters,

As we close out the first year of the Foundry Community Foundation's 2025-2027 Strategic Plan, I am proud to share this Impact Report and reflect on a year of meaningful momentum. Y1 of the plan was marked by progress across every initiative-progress made possible not by a single moment, but by years of consistent, thoughtful effort.



In 2025, the Foundry took an important step west. We secured funding to launch Intern Foundry Kearney, expanding our impact into Central Nebraska beginning in Spring 2026. This milestone allowed us to hire a Central Nebraska Program Coordinator and begin preparing for a pilot that will connect students, employers, and communities in powerful new ways.

Here in Lincoln, the Foundry's visibility and convening role continued to grow. We were honored to co-host Ignite Lincoln for the first time, bringing together partners committed to innovation and community impact. We also continued the tradition of the Nebraska Trailblazers Breakfast, which grew again in its second year-amplifying the voices of young professionals and strengthening connections between emerging talent and business leaders across our state.

This year also marked the launch of Foundry Spark Works, a new curriculum designed to support individuals and groups who feel called to make a difference in Nebraska and are seeking a viable, values-aligned pathway to do so. Spark Works reflects the Foundry's belief that passion, when paired with structure and support, can lead to sustainable impact.

Finally, the Foundry's organizational sustainability strengthened in meaningful ways. In 2025, we saw increased revenue across all fronts, including a 27% increase in grant funding, providing greater stability and positioning us well for continued growth and service.

None of this success was sudden. It was the result of doing many small things well over the last five years...building trust, strengthening partnerships, refining our programs, and staying grounded in our mission. That cumulative effort carried us through Y1 and positions us to enter Y2 with confidence.

As we look ahead to 2026, there is much to be excited about: the purchase of the building next door, continued growth of Intern Foundry, and deeper service to communities across Nebraska. Thank you for believing in the Foundry, investing in our work, and walking alongside us as we build what comes next. We are deeply grateful and energized for the journey ahead.

Dr. Julie Murray-Jensen
Executive Director



Foundry Community Board of Directors



Jay Wilkinson,
Board Chair



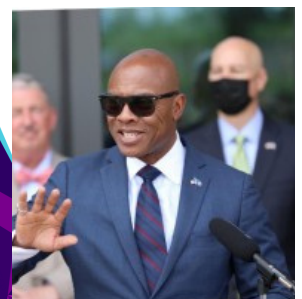
Randy Hawthorne



Tawnya Starr



Wendy Van



Anthony Goins

Impact By the Numbers

The Foundry Community continues to grow in service to Lincoln and Nebraska nonprofits, public sector organizations, and purpose-driven businesses! With 56 new organizations impacted in 2025 (a 22.5% increase from 2024 data) and 22 more members in action (a 14% increase from 2024 data), the Foundry better met its mission to support, educate, and develop organizations doing great community impact work in service to Nebraska.

Organizations Impacted

305

Nonprofits Served

61%

Members

180

Nebraska Counties Served

- Lancaster
- Douglas
- Phelps
- Buffalo
- Hall
- Dawson

Foundry Core Values

TRAILBLAZING
SPIRIT

CONSCIENTIOUS
SERVICE

PURPOSE
FOCUSED

NURTURING
PRESENCE

Peyton Schoone, Senior Intern Foundry Coordinator

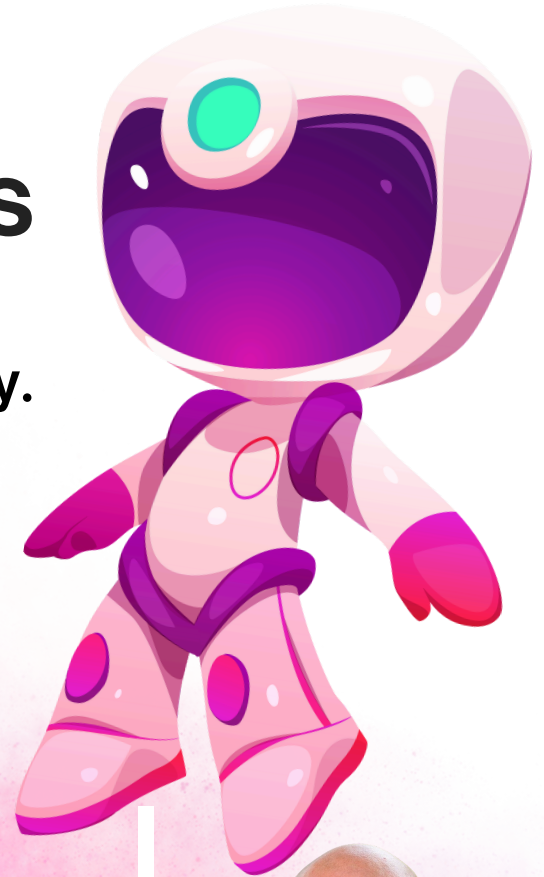
"The Foundry is a true connector, and its programs intentionally support organizations to empower resilience in times of uncertainty. Our purpose-driven nonprofit ecosystem is similar to the rural Nebraska ecosystem I grew up in, where the interconnectedness of the prairie is necessary for its sustainability."



Y1 Strategic Plan Accomplishments

2025 - To the Moon!

Embrace. Build. Go West. Solidify.



Go West: Intern
Foundry Kearney-
Funding Secured



2025 Grant Inflow:

27%

increase

2025 Ignite Lincoln:
Awarded

\$3,000+

to nonprofits

Build: Spark Works

"Spark Works was a valuable experience for our growing nonprofit. The curriculum was thorough, the facilitators generous, and the cohort engaged. The support that The Foundry offers nonprofits is invaluable."

-J. Woody, Nonpartisan Nebraska Board of Directors & Chairperson

**Embrace: Space
Expansion**

- \$20,000 Schemmer Architecture grant
- Increase sq. ft. by roughly 3,000 ft.

3



**Solidify:
Trailblazers II**

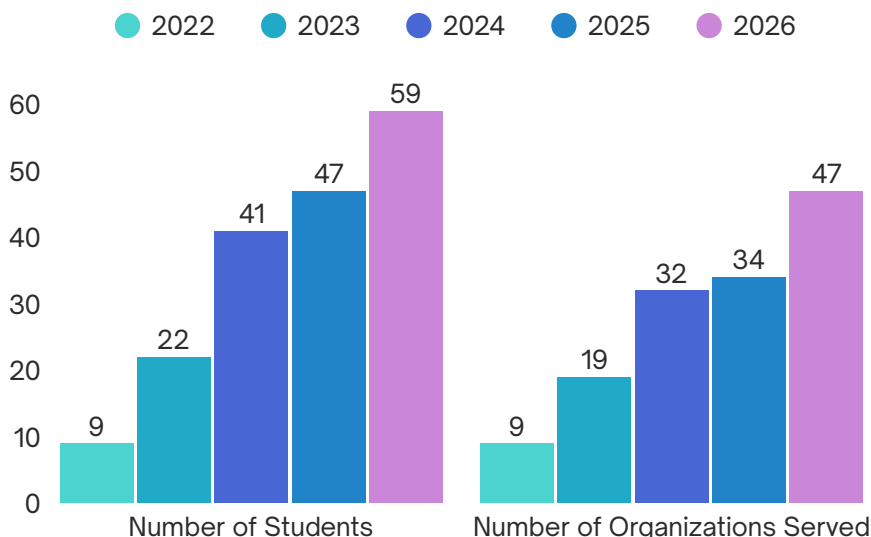
- 150 attendees
- 10 sponsors



Intern Foundry: Lincoln & Kearney

Intern Foundry (IF) is an intentionally designed partnership between the Foundry and Nebraska Universities' Honors Programs to address the “brain drain” in Nebraska by pairing the Universities' highest achieving students with meaningful work-based learning opportunities. IF supplied 40 interns and 7 coordinators in service to over 30 purpose-driven organizations across Nebraska in 2025. The launch of the IF-Kearney Pilot Program will increase impact in Spring 2026. IF’s sustainability is further supported by the awarded Healthy NE grant to be executed in 2026.

Program Growth & Community Impact



“Intern Foundry equipped me with education, professional leadership skills, and something even more valuable--a vision for Nebraska's future. I found my voice testifying before state legislators, built confidence mentoring peers, and discovered that staying in Nebraska isn't limiting; it's where I can lead the most meaningful change.”

-Livia Ziskey

Spring 2024 & Summer 2025
Intern Foundry Intern & Coordinator



Summer 2025 Interns
worked on STEM-
related projects



Intern Foundry Kearney
Pilot Cohort led by Cindy
Huyser, Central NE
Program Coordinator

A Look at What's Ahead...

2025-26 Spring IF Employers

In partnership with



Thank you employers!

Foundation
for Lincoln City Libraries

Linked ²
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LINCOLN
City Libraries



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Achievement™
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OUTNEBRASKA

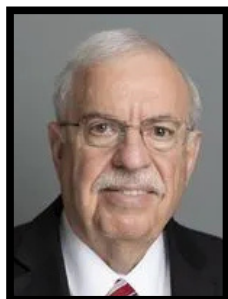
GLOBALTIES > NEBRASKA



BUFFALO COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Intern Foundry Advisory Board



John Albin



Barbara Bartle



Dr. Randy Bretz



Dr. Tamy Burnett



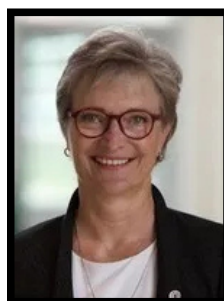
Carol Ernst



Dr. Kathy Farrell



Topher Hansen



Cathy Lang



John Miles



Dr. Marilyn Moore



Dr. Fred Ohles



Michelle Paulk



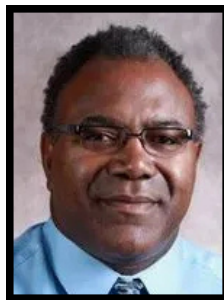
Chad Thies



Ana Lopez Shalla



Jill Smith



Dr. Jamie Williams



Dr. Patrice McMahon

Intern Foundry
Co Founder,
student-
centered
trailblazer

Intern Spotlight

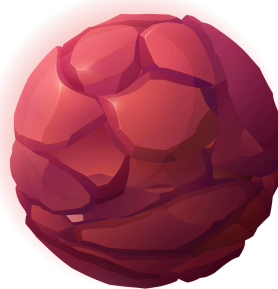
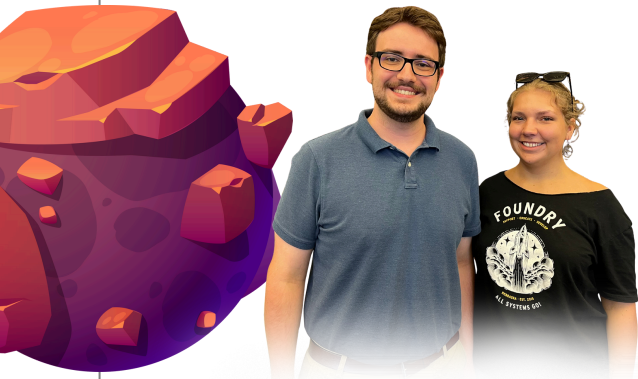
"The Intern Foundry Program profoundly shaped my professional journey because I developed transferable skills. Partnering with Honors creates an environment that fosters professional growth, individualized mentorship, and challenges students in rewarding ways."



Fatima Madero, Intern Foundry Coordinator

Base Camp Foundry

Base Camp Foundry served 15 nonprofits in 2025. The program created critical capacity, including grant writing and strategy, survey design, AI consultations, and marketing and website support. Base Camp not only met its goals but, more impressively, built a robust platform to help small nonprofits take the next step in their service.



640+

Project Hours Served

15

Nonprofits Served

Base Camp Developers Justin Fintel & Ruth Bailey

"Being part of Base Camp Foundry means working alongside the people who make Nebraska stronger. Some of the best parts of this work are listening, supporting, and collaborating in meaningful ways. The connections we've built are lasting, and they remind me that when we invest in the people doing good, we help entire communities thrive."

-Ruth Bailey, Base Camp Co-Developer

*One year of data is from October 2024 to October 2025.



Foundry Fiscal Sponsorships

The Foundry provides oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to Nebraska-based community projects that align with our mission. The Foundry Community has been operating as a fiscal sponsor since 2019 and currently sponsors four projects:

- Do More Good® Movement
- Imagine Omaha
- Omaha Comedy Festival
- Indigenous Foodways

See full descriptions at thefoundry.co.



Space Expansion

3,000+ sq. ft. purchased next door in 2025!

Each year, Schemmer Architecture selects a nonprofit to donate architectural and engineering design services through a program called Schemmer Gives Back, and the Foundry was thrilled to have been selected as the 2025 recipient. Construction is set to begin Winter 2026 with a projected completion date of Spring 2027.

"We're proud to be a nonprofit coworking and collaboration hub that offers more than desks and meeting rooms. Our member events create a place where ideas are exchanged freely, partnerships form naturally, and resources are leveraged more efficiently. Through this intentional community-building, we help our members stay inspired to do more good, together." - Alesha Skoda, Associate Director



Community Forum on Space Expansion



November Member Turkey Day Luncheon



Schemmer Architectural Meeting

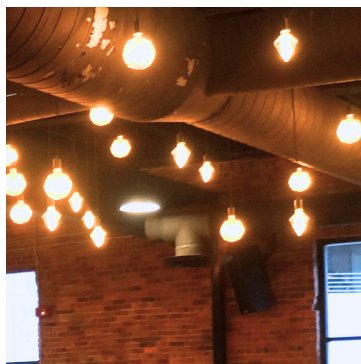


NEW!

Nebraska Trailblazers II

September's second annual Nebraska Trailblazers Breakfast elevated the powerful voices of Gen Z and connected the best and brightest student talent to business leaders in Lincoln and Nebraska. This was made possible by this year's sponsors: UBT (Core Sponsor), Ameritas (Presenting Sponsor), Assurity, Black Hill Energy, University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business, Firespring, FNBO, Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development, Olsson, and Pinnacle Bank (Table Sponsors). **Kearney Trailblazers I and Lincoln Trailblazers III coming September 2026!**

- 150+ Attendees
- 50% Students
- 10 Corporate Sponsors
- Keynote from an award-winning program chair



Every ticket purchased provided an additional student ticket.



Keynote: Dr. Sam Nelson
Topic: "The Entrepreneurial Mindset"

"Events like the Nebraska Trailblazers Breakfast turn 'Brain Drain' into 'Brain Gain'. I was proud to share my journey and be a part of this meaningful event."
-Dr. Sam Nelson



The event was emceed and planned by Livia Ziskey (left) and Peyton Schoone (right).

Thank You Funders & Sponsors!

To the Moon!



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DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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"The Foundry's growth is not about scale alone—it's about depth. By expanding talent, programs, and space in service of sustainability, the Foundry is building lasting capacity for nonprofits creating positive change throughout Nebraska."

— Jay Wilkinson, Foundry Community Board Chair

