

November 27, 2017

TO: Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commissioners

Enclosed for your review are the minutes of Meeting #456, reports and a preliminary agenda for our Thursday, December 7, 2017 Commission public meeting.

The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. at NET, 1800 N. 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1st Floor Board Room.

We look forward to meeting with you on the 7th.

Note: The Finance Committee (Ken Bird, Marilyn Hadley, Patty Kircher, Fred Ohles, Clay Smith) will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the 1st Floor Conference Room. The Executive Committee will meet in the 1st Floor Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

Mark Leonard
Secretary

MEETING #457

NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Nebraska Telecommunications Center

1800 N. 33rd Street

Lincoln, NE

December 7, 2017

10:30 A.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

I. COMMISSION CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Minutes of Meeting #456

II. COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. *June 30, 2017 BKD Audit Report – Randy Hansen*
2. *Approve 1st Quarter Budget Report – Randy Hansen*
3. *Appoint Nominating Committee (Fred Ohles)*

III. COMMISSION INFORMATION AGENDA

1 General Manager's Report

- Update from GM Planning Meeting
 - Update on ATSC 3.0 Planning
 - Education Committee visit to NET
2. NET Education Update – Debbie Hamlett
 3. NET Engineering Report – Ling Ling Sun
 4. NET Broadcast Production, Radio & Television Programming – Nancy Finken
 - Programming & Production Report
 - Video Preview of "Follow the Water"
 5. NET Digital & Multimedia – Chad Davis

IV. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

- February 15 - (Videoconference Meeting)
- June 29 – NET (Commission & Foundation Meetings)
- August 23 – NET
- December 6 – NET

Minutes of Meeting #456

**Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center
1800 N. 33rd Street
Lincoln, NE
August 24, 2017**

PRESENT: Commissioner Matt Blomstedt
Commissioner Stan Carpenter
Commissioner Marilyn Hadley
Commissioner Patricia Kircher
Commissioner Fred Ohles (Chair)
Commissioner Jackie Ostrowicki
Commissioner Randy Schmailzl
Commissioner Clay Smith

ABSENT: Commissioner Ken Bird
Commissioner Lisa May
Commissioner Darlene Starman

Advance notice of the public meeting was sent to Nebraska news media by means of a news release forwarded from the Commission office with Agenda posted in the NET lobby and on the state and NET websites. LB898 (related to Open Meetings Act) is also posted in the NET Boardroom on the first floor.

Chair Fred Ohles called the meeting #456 to order at 10:34 a.m.

Following the call of the roll, it was determined that a duly constituted quorum of Commissioners to be present.

The Chair called for public comment. There was none.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Chair requested approval of the minutes of meeting #455 as held on June 30, 2017. It was moved by Stan Carpenter to approve the minutes of meeting #455 as presented. Voting aye: Commissioners Blomstedt, Carpenter, Hadley, Kircher, Ohles, Ostrowicki, Schmailzl, Smith. Opposed: None. Absent: Commissioners Bird, May, and Starman.

COMMISSION ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

4th Quarter Budget Report

AGM-Administration & Finance Randy Hansen presented the Fiscal Year 2017 Commission Operating Budget ending June 30, 2017 for both Television and Radio Divisions. This was the end of the biennium budget. It was moved by Clay Smith and seconded by Marilyn Hadley to approve the June 30, 2017 Budget Report. Roll call was recorded as follows. Aye: Blomstedt,

Carpenter, Hadley, Kircher, Ohles, Ostrowicki, Schmailzl, Smith. Opposed: None. Absent: Bird, May and Starman. The Finance Committee met prior to the full Commission meeting to review the report in greater detail.

Television Equipment List for FY 2018

Ling Ling Sun presented the television equipment list for FY 2018. The current equipment is being maintained well, but with technology advancing, the ultimate goal is to use a single broadcast and control monitoring system for all NET technical systems. Competitive bidding will be utilized in the search for a new system.

It was moved by Matt Blomstedt and seconded by Clay Smith to approve the Television Equipment List for FY 2018. Roll call was recorded as follows. Aye: Blomstedt, Carpenter, Hadley, Kircher, Ohles, Ostrowicki, Schmailzl, Smith. Opposed: None. Absent: Bird, May, and Starman.

COMMISSION INFORMATION AGENDA

General Manager's Report

Mark Leonard reported that the television production and radio teams took home three gold awards, three silver awards and one bronze award in radio and three silver awards in television at the Nebraska Broadcasters Association 2017 Pinnacle Awards Banquet last week.

The Heartland Emmy's were held in Denver in July. *Paleo Sleuths* and *Nebraska Volleyball Championship: Destination Omaha* both won awards.

There are no significant updates to federal funding. The House appropriation recommendations were to fully fund the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The Vietnam War, a film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novik will air on September 17th. *Nebraska Stories: Vietnam* is a local companion piece to this series and will include testimonials from Vietnam vets.

NET provided live coverage of the Keystone Pipeline hearings in August. These were available to view on NET World, on-line and through a podcast that NET News produced.

Hank Bounds, President of the University of Nebraska system, was at NET this morning taping an introduction to Backyard Farmer for the State Fair remote to celebrate Backyard Farmer's 65th anniversary.

Chair Dr. Fred Ohles recognized Gary Targoff for his seven years of service to NET. Gary will retire August 31, 2017.

NET Education Update

AGM-Education Gary Targoff gave the Education update. He reported over 1200 parents and children attended a Wild Kratts learning event at the Riverside Discovery Center in Scottsbluff.

Kids learning activities and staffing support to PBS Ready-Jet-Go production crew took place on Monday, August 21 at the Eclipse Event at Homestead National Monument.

Vietnam War screenings have been scheduled throughout the state for audiences to take part in the national conversation about what happened during the Vietnam War. The series will air on September 17th.

A Slam Poetry event is being organized with Chris Maly, a Lincoln High School English/Theatre teacher. High school slam poets will be partnered with Vietnam combat veterans to develop performance poetry pieces examining the impact of the War. A \$5,000 grant from the Lincoln Community Foundation will help support this project.

Gary shared the preparations he's made for his retirement and transitioning his duties to Debbie Hamlett.

Gary thanked the Commission and the University for the opportunity to serve NET. He said NET is filled with individuals committed to its success.

NET Engineering Report

Ling Ling Sun presented the Engineering Department's report. NET has received channel reassignment from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as a result of the Spectrum Incentive Auction and subsequent spectrum repacking. T-mobile was the winning spectrum auction bidder and they will be moving quickly. NET Falls City TV translator will need to be displaced to a new RF channel before November 27, 2017 to maintain NET's uninterrupted services.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in collaboration with the FCC, will conduct a nationwide test of the EAS on September 27 at 2:20 p.m. EST. The Engineering Department is preparing for this.

Mark Leonard spoke about a proposal from Microsoft Whitespace to allow unused TV channels in different markets to be repurposed for Wi-Fi in rural areas. He and the Nebraska Broadcasters Association President met with the Governor to brief him on this proposal. He said management is closely monitoring this situation and working with the Governor's office and state senators.

NET Broadcast Production, Radio & Television Programming

Nancy Finken presented the Broadcast Content and Programming Report. Nebraska Stories did a call-out to different communities to share their experiences from watching the eclipse on Monday, August 21. The Nebraska Stories Facebook page shows over 350 posts from across the state. These experiences will be collected and augmented with more from Nancy's team.

Nebraska Stories has produced a half-hour special related to the Vietnam special. Nancy previewed a clip from this special.

Big Red Wrap Up debuts next week. Backyard Farmer is at the State Fair and the season will end at Nebraska City's Kimmel Orchard. Big Red Wrap Up will be at the Cube in the Railyard on September 12th at 7:00 p.m.

NET Digital & Multimedia Report

Chad Davis gave the Digital & Multimedia Report. The Digital and Production team have been experimenting with 360 digital storytelling. They used this on August 21 during the eclipse. He also reported that at the time of the Commission meeting, there have been 330,000 views from the video shot at Carhenge. (It has since crested 1.3 million views.)

COMMISSION STRATEGIC AGENDA

There were no strategic items.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Review Proposed 2018 Meeting Dates

The meeting dates of February 15, 2018, June 29, 2018, August 23, 2018 and December 6, 2018 were proposed and reviewed.

Next meeting is December 7, 2017.

There being no further business, Meeting #456 was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Leonard

NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Television Division
September 30, 2017

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	\$Diff	%Diff	Prior Year YTD	PY \$DiffA	PY %Diff
TELEVISION DIVISION							
Personnel Expenses	217,000	226,315	9,315	4%	222,496	3,819	2%
Insurance	38,000	25,197	(12,803)	-34%	36,429	(11,232)	-31%
TOTAL TELEVISION DIVISION	255,000	251,513	(3,487)	-1%	258,926	(7,413)	-3%
GENERAL MANAGEMENT							
Personnel Expenses	26,750	26,722	(28)	0%	26,262	460	2%
Other Operational Expense	3,250	1,577	(1,673)	-51%	3,892	(2,315)	-59%
TOTAL GENERAL MANAGEMENT	30,000	28,299	(1,701)	-6%	30,154	(1,855)	-6%
ADMIN & FINANCE							
Personnel Expenses	60,325	60,978	653	1%	63,534	(2,556)	-4%
Memberships	52,000	54,053	2,053	4%	51,963	2,090	4%
Utilities	126,250	118,049	(8,201)	-6%	118,000	48	0%
Communication Expense	16,900	14,741	(2,159)	-13%	22,351	(7,610)	-34%
Professional Fees	14,000	10,562	(3,438)	-25%	10,679	(117)	-1%
Insurance	11,000	4,953	(6,047)	-55%	7,636	(2,683)	-35%
Other Operational Expense	14,503	13,787	(716)	-5%	14,744	(957)	-6%
UNLT&COMM Contract Serv	46,350	45,984	(366)	-1%	44,385	1,599	4%
TOTAL ADMIN & FINANCE	341,328	323,107	(18,221)	-5%	333,292	(10,184)	-3%
PROGRAMMING							
Personnel Expenses	9,300	9,254	(46)	0%	9,338	(84)	-1%
PBS Member Dues & Fees	240,000	240,000	0	0%	240,000	0	0%
Program Acquisition & Fees	67,500	41,169	(26,331)	-39%	61,267	(20,098)	-33%
Other Operational Expense	1,600	800	(800)	-50%	1,400	(600)	-43%
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	318,400	291,222	(27,178)	-9%	312,004	(20,782)	-7%
PRODUCTION							
Personnel Expenses	85,950	81,945	(4,005)	-5%	84,779	(2,834)	-3%
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	32,550	33,680	1,130	3%	36,036	(2,356)	-7%
Other Operational Expense	21,300	19,757	(1,543)	-7%	18,553	1,204	6%
UNLT Production Services	115,000	118,500	3,500	3%	123,000	(4,500)	-4%
UNLT&COMM Contract Serv	285,975	298,971	12,996	5%	327,358	(28,386)	-9%
TOTAL PRODUCTION	540,775	552,853	12,078	2%	589,725	(36,872)	-6%

NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Television Division
September 30, 2017

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	\$Diff	%Diff	Prior Year YTD	PY \$DiffA	PY %Diff
ENGINEERING							
Personnel Expenses	445,125	451,629	6,504	1%	451,337	293	0%
Utilities	107,250	107,087	(163)	0%	115,600	(8,513)	-7%
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	91,800	24,252	(67,548)	-74%	107,154	(82,902)	-77%
Communication Expense	92,150	83,957	(8,193)	-9%	78,097	5,860	8%
Other Operational Expense	53,200	46,790	(6,410)	-12%	24,463	22,327	91%
Travel & Registrations	31,050	21,861	(9,189)	-30%	20,094	1,768	9%
TOTAL ENGINEERING	820,575	735,577	(84,998)	-10%	796,744	(61,167)	-8%
COMMUNICATION SRVS							
Other Contracted Srvs	30,500	39,872	9,372	31%	38,166	1,706	4%
Other Operational Expense	4,200	5,106	906	22%	1,084	4,022	371%
TOTAL COMMUNICATION SRVS	34,700	44,978	10,278	30%	39,250	5,728	15%
MGMT INFO SERVICES							
Personnel Expenses	0	0	0	0%	8,468	(8,468)	-100%
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	143,300	83,264	(60,036)	-42%	149,202	(65,938)	-44%
Other Operational Expense	9,900	2,495	(7,405)	-75%	3,909	(1,414)	-36%
TOTAL MGMT INFO SERVICES	153,200	85,759	(67,441)	-44%	161,578	(75,820)	-47%
MEDIA MANAGEMENT							
Personnel Expenses	41,250	41,587	337	1%	54,297	(12,710)	-23%
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	30,625	20,473	(10,152)	-33%	29,321	(8,848)	-30%
Other Operational Expense	1,175	89	(1,086)	-92%	262	(173)	-66%
TOTAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT	73,050	62,149	(10,901)	-15%	83,880	(21,731)	-26%
BUILDING MAINTENANCE							
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	59,200	56,016	(3,184)	-5%	94,146	(38,130)	-41%
Other Operational Expense	2,475	252	(2,223)	-90%	717	(465)	-65%
UNLT&COMM Contract Serv	24,450	26,175	1,725	7%	23,004	3,171	14%
TOTAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE	86,125	82,442	(3,683)	-4%	117,866	(35,424)	-30%
CAPITAL PURCHASE							
Capital Expense	200,000	54,550	(145,450)	-73%	314,910	(260,360)	-83%
Total Capital Purchase	200,000	54,550	(145,450)	-73%	314,910	(260,360)	-83%
TOTAL TELEVISION DIVISION	2,853,153	2,512,448	(340,705)	-12%	3,038,330	(525,882)	-17%

NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
RADIO DIVISION
 September 30, 2017

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	\$Diff	%Diff	Prior Year YTD	PY \$DiffA	PY %Diff
RADIO DIVISION							
Personnel Expenses	4,375	5,088	713	16%	8,754	(3,666)	-42%
Insurance	1,900	1,120	(780)	-41%	1,656	(536)	-32%
TOTAL RADIO DIVISION	6,275	6,207	(68)	-1%	10,410	(4,202)	-40%
GENERAL MANAGEMENT							
Personnel Expenses	-	7,271	7,271	100%	24,010	(16,740)	-70%
Communication Expense	1,325	1,500	175	13%	1,399	101	7%
Other Operational Expense	25	-	(25)	-100%	35	(35)	-100%
TOTAL GENERAL MANAGEMENT	1,350	8,771	7,421	550%	25,445	(16,675)	-66%
ADMIN & FINANCE							
Other Operational Expense	2,365	1,415	(950)	-40%	1,437	(22)	-2%
TOTAL ADMIN & FINANCE	2,365	1,415	(950)	-40%	1,437	(22)	-2%
PROGRAMMING							
Personnel Expenses	12,000	11,971	(29)	0%	12,037	(66)	-1%
Other Operational Expense	1,950	4,659	2,709	139%	3,120	1,539	49%
UNLT&COMM Contract Serv	10,500	13,529	3,029	29%	-	13,529	100%
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	24,450	30,159	5,709	23%	15,157	15,002	99%
ENGINEERING							
Utilities	32,500	33,752	1,252	4%	34,640	(888)	-3%
Maintenance & Repair & Supplies	9,775	1,585	(8,190)	-84%	2,281	(696)	-31%
Equip/Building/Tower Rent	6,000	5,623	(377)	-6%	5,515	108	2%
Other Operational Expense	725	173	(552)	-76%	240	(68)	-28%
TOTAL ENGINEERING	49,000	41,132	(7,868)	-16%	42,675	(1,543)	-4%
COMMUNICATION SRVC							
Other Operational Expense	500	-	(500)	-100%	85	(85)	-100%
TOTAL COMMUNICATION SRVC	500	-	(500)	-100%	85	(85)	-100%
CAPITAL PURCHASE							
Capital Purchase	13,000	-	(13,000)	-100%	-	-	0%
TOTAL CAPITAL PURCHASE	13,000	-	(13,000)	-100%	-	-	0%
TOTAL RADIO DIVISION	96,940	87,685	(9,255)	-10%	95,210	(7,525)	-8%

PROPOSED COMMISSION ACTION

DATE: December 7, 2017

SUBJECT: BKD LLP Independent Auditors' Report for June 30, 2017

EXPLANATION:

BKD performed the audit of the combined statements for the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission Facilities Corporation and the NET Foundation for Radio. The period included in the audit was the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. A copy of the report and the related management letter is included for your review.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission accept and place on file the BKD report on the Commission's combined financial statements and related management letter for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.

EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT REPORT December 2017

Vietnam War Screenings

A total of 10 communities participated in 27 screenings, with a total audience of 3,035.

- Lincoln - Vietnam Veteran Reunion/two screenings/ 125 and 89
- Lincoln – Nebraska Historical Museum Lunch and Learn/ 4 screenings/32, 25, 33, and 22
- Omaha- UNO – Mammel Hall/ 168
- Falls City – Fall City Library and Arts Center/73
- Grand Island – The Grand Theatre/ 272
- Scottsbluff – Midwest Theatre/ 131
- Fremont- Midland University/ 117
- Ogallala – Prairie Theatre/ 2 screenings – 117/84
- North Platte – North Platte Community College - 123
- Norfolk High school – 9 classes – 1,382
- Norfolk Johnny Carson Theatre (general public) – 84
- North Platte – Prairie Arts Center – 71
- Hastings – Super Screen Theater/Hastings Museum – 87

In each community, NET held a screening of the Vietnam War Preview, a veteran's panel discussion and a KIA roll call of the soldiers from that community, asking audience members to read the names. There were a number of very moving moments. Many of those reading the names had known the man whose name they were reading and it was very special.

In each community, the panel was facilitated by either Dr. Marty Ramirez or Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado. Dr. Ramirez, is a retired Counseling Psychologist, having worked at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for 38 years. He is a Vietnam Veteran and a recipient of the Purple Heart. Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, a Navy veteran, teaches at UNO, is a Vietnam scholar and was one of the coordinators of UNO's Lesson and Legacy's Vietnam Summit in 2016.

The project was fortunate to have amazing partner and funder support. The lead partner was the Daughters of the American Revolution who organized all the panels and assisted with promotion. Additional partners and funders included: Humanities Nebraska, Nebraska Library Commission, Gold Star Families, Veterans Memorial Garden Committee, National Veterans Tribute Network, AARP and Nebraska Medicine.

Vietnam Poetry Slam Project

One of the most common obstacles to healing after trauma is an unwillingness to talk about the experience. This is especially true in the veteran community, where pressure to be strong and resilient can be intense. As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War many Vietnam combat veterans still find it difficult to share their experiences.

CBS News, National Security Correspondent

- David Martin, Vietnam Veteran,

Project Theme: Lessons I want to pass on.

Project Goal: To examine the impact of the Vietnam War on the men and women who experienced it as combat soldiers. Veterans will share their stories of survival, filling in the story for students beyond what is found in their school textbooks.

Project Process:

The Vietnam Poetry Project paired ten award-winning high school poets from Lincoln High School from varying backgrounds and ethnicities with ten Vietnam Combat Veterans also of varying military service backgrounds and ethnicities.

To date:

All ten pairings of veterans and students have been made. Eight of the Veterans have met with their students and their stories have been recorded. The stories of the final two will be recorded in December.

Outcome:

The final project will include a video of the veteran/student conversations combined with a performance piece to be performed in January. These videos will live online.

Lincoln High School English/Theatre teacher, Mr. Chris Maly is collaborating with NET Community Engagement to execute the project. Maly believes that in a world that is increasingly digital and increasingly fast paced, "young people are losing a bit of human connection. But by sitting across from someone and you can see the pain of their memories, it becomes very real." Maly will act as director of the performance pieces. The presentation of linked Vietnam stories is inspired by "The Things They Carried," by Tim O'Brien.

Project Partners:

Lincoln Public Schools – The first run of the performance will be in the Lincoln High School auditorium. There will be no expense for the use of the auditorium and technical production needs.

Patriotic Productions – Patriotic Productions will host an exhibit of their "Remembering the Fallen" Wall at Lincoln High the week leading up to the performances.

The Daughters of the American Revolution – hosting a reception following the performances.

Funder: This project was funded in part by Lincoln Community Foundation as part of their Veteran's Support Initiative.

NET received an \$8,000 grant to partner with P.O.V. to show film in North Omaha

NET Community Engagement has been a partner with the Omaha African-American Male Achievement Collaborative since 2013. When POV approached NET to take part in *Our America: Documentary in Dialogue Series*, this was a natural fit.

NET along with producing partner the Omaha Empowerment Network, decided to use the film as the foundation and focus of the first annual "Salute to Excellence" celebration and combine it with the North Omaha, "Cradle to Career" 10th annual "State of Education in North Omaha" Summit.

Mr. Robert Henderson, one of the principal characters in the film, was the keynote speaker for the event.

The summit was held November 11th at North High Magnet School, with approximately 374 in attendance. Attendees included students, parents, elected officials, community leaders, college students, Omaha Public School (OPS) educators and city policymakers.

Traditionally, this event does not draw a large number of attendees. The event organizers attributed the numbers to the screening of the film, the appearance of Mr. Henderson and the "Salute to Excellence" celebration following the film. Event organizers also provided transportation to attendees as well as childcare.

Following presentations on the scorecard, successes, gaps and next steps for North Omaha Schools, lunch was served and the film was shown.

Following the film Mr. Henderson fielded questions from students, parents and educators. One particular poignant question came from a grandmother who was in attendance with her grandson who was being honored as a "Salute to Excellence" recipient. She asked Mr. Henderson how he found his passion. He attributed much of his success to his grandmother in guiding his path. He provided some additional insight to the question and followed-up with the family once the event was over. Mr. Henderson spent over 90 minutes after the event talking to teachers, parents and students.

Following Mr. Henderson's presentation, young men earning a 3.5+ GPA were honored. Each young man received a certificate, and a cinch sack with the NET, POV and Revive logo, and an NET embossed notepad. Mr. Henderson congratulated each of the young men and took a picture with each.

The promotion for the event was in partnership with NET, the Empowerment Network and Revive Magazine. The event was promoted in the Omaha Star – Nebraska's only Black weekly newspaper, and on radio station 101.3 FM in Omaha.

2018 Indie Lens Pop-Up Community Film descriptions and schedule

The coming year brings a change in venue from the Sheldon Art Gallery to the Nebraska Union Auditorium on the campus of UNL. Students will receive credit when they attend a screening and discussion. Several UNL departments are helping to promote the series. This series will also be a part of the Husker dialogue series on campus to promote discussion around issues of diversity. NET will also be in Omaha for the first time at the new Union for Contemporary Art Black Box Theatre. Partners include the African American Empowerment Network.

***I Am Not Your Negro* *January* By Raoul Peck**

One of the most acclaimed films of the year and an Oscar nominee for Best Documentary, *I Am Not Your Negro* envisions the book James Baldwin never finished. The result is a radical, up-to-the-minute examination of race in America, using Baldwin's original words, spoken by Samuel L. Jackson, and with a flood of rich archival material.

***Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities* *February* By Stanley Nelson and Marco Williams**

Tell Them We Are Rising explores the pivotal role historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have played over the course of 150 years in American history, culture, and identity. This film reveals the rich history

of HBCUs and the power of higher education to transform lives and advance civil rights and equality in the face of injustice.

Dolores
By Peter Bratt

March

With intimate and unprecedented access, Peter Bratt's *Dolores* tells the story of Dolores Huerta, among the most important, yet least-known, activists in American history. Co-founder of the first farmworkers union with Cesar Chavez, she tirelessly led the fight for racial and labor justice, becoming one of the most defiant feminists of the 20th century.

Look & See: Wendell Berry's Kentucky
By Laura Dunn

April

Look & See: Wendell Berry's Kentucky is a portrait of the changing landscapes and shifting values of rural America in the era of industrial agriculture, as seen through the mind's eye of award-winning writer and farmer Wendell Berry, back home in his native Henry County, Kentucky.

Served Like a Girl
By Lysa Heslov

May

Served Like a Girl provides a candid look at a shared sisterhood to help the rising number of homeless women veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and suffer from PTSD, sexual abuse, and other traumas. By entering into the "Ms. Veteran America" competition, these amazing ladies unexpectedly come full circle in a quest for healing and hope.

Education – NET KIDS

Events:

On the Road with NET (September) Daniel Tigers Neighborhood / King for a Day screening and activities in:

Crete - Doane College - 80+ people attended
Nebraska City Public Library - 175+ people attended
Beatrice Public Library - 75+ people attended

NET Movies and More:

We currently have 12 libraries/theaters screening "Once Upon a Sesame Street Christmas". NET will select one location to attend with giveaways.

Ponca Library	Clarks Library	Nelson Library
Battle Creek Library	Seward Theatre	Clay Center Library
Arapahoe Library	Central City Theatre	Walthill Library
Beatrice Library	Culbertson Library	Nebraska City Library

NET Head Start Curriculum:

- Utilizes the new PBS 4-part learning format: Watch, Play, Explore, and Share
 - Watch – Videos, Books
 - Play – Apps, Games
 - Explore – Hands on activities
 - Share – Resource for parents to extend the learning at home (take home books would be great)
- Each Character Kit contains 10 days' worth of educational lesson plans based on a Head Start half-day program. The goal is to have 18 separate Character Kits to allow daily learning in a 180-day school year. Each kit is themed after a PBS Kids show, and will have a specific emphasis on science, literacy, and math according to the show theme, but all kits will include components of each as well as other areas of learning (large STEAM focus).
- Provided in 2 formats
 - Physical Kit with loaded iPad's and printed materials (On-loan request required)
 - E-version available on website for free and available to everyone. Homeschool parents, classrooms, daycares, etc. with existing tablets could access materials through the website.
- Aligned with the Gold Standards that the Nebraska Department of Education uses for Preschool curriculum.
- The Share portion of the lesson plans introduces a family engagement piece. This will serve as "homework." The child's caregivers will receive a handout that explains what was learned in the classroom that day with opportunities to expand this learning through a combination of suggested activities, conversation questions, and crafts to get the whole family learning together.

The first kit will be based on the program **Ready Jet Go!** and will contain videos, apps, books, and classroom activities focused on Astronomy and Space. A "before and after" assessment piece is in the works for children who are non-readers/writers. NET will pilot this program in December on-site. Testing and off-site pilots will move to three Title I elementary schools in the Lincoln area before making the program available statewide.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hamlett, Asst. GM Development/Marketing
(Interim, Education)

NET Engineering Report

November 17, 2017

Network Operations and Distribution

- **Master Control:**
Completed a major Imagine Motion software platform upgrade. One of four (4) Versio “channel-in-a-box” failed the weekend of October 30, 2017. N+1 redundancy Versio is in operation. The failed unit is under manufacturer warranty replacement.
- **BXF Upgrade:**
The Broadcast Exchange Format (BXF) upgrade is completed. BXF is enabled on all NET channels.
- **National EAS test:**
A mandatory nationwide EAS Test was conducted on September 27, 2017 at 2:20 p.m. Eastern time. All NET stations successfully relayed the test. EAS test related filings were completed as requested.

Network Transmission

- **Terrestrial Circuits:**
KUON, KXNE, KPNE all have experienced unusually high errors. KUON has been on the Over-the-Air backup system for most of October and ending November 2, 2017.
- **KHNE:**
KHNE-TV had several off-air outages caused by High Power Amplifier (HPA) faults on Saturday, September 30, 2017. Service was restored the next day.

National Tower Controls replaced missing and broken TV transmission line hanger springs on October 2, 2017.

We have begun project planning for KHNE-TV transmitter replacement.

- **KPNE:**
National Tower Controls completed repairs to FM antenna heaters and the fall-restraint system on October 11, 2017. The new air conditioning equipment installation was completed on October 26, 2017.
- **KYNE:**
KYNE has experienced generator load issues. Researching and testing is in progress.

- KUCV FM:
Project planning has begun for KUCV FM transmission line replacement.
- TV Translators:
 - K08LN-D Harrison, K06KR-D Crawford:
Doug Vernier from V-Soft was contacted and we are working with him to come up with a solution to resolve the translator coverage issues. We are waiting on the OCIO tower study to review our options.
 - K10JW-D Verdigre:
The translator was hit by lightning on September 18, 2017. The lightning damage was repaired on September 26, 2017.
 - K33AC Pawnee City:
The translator was hit by lightning on October 2, 2017. The lightning damage was repaired on October 3, 2017.
 - K44FN Culbertson:
The translator suffered a failed processor board on October 3, 2017. The board was repaired and service was restored on October 6, 2017.
- The FCC will open the TV Modification Application Window for Non-Repacked Stations. Engineering is conducting research on NET TV transmitters for power increase possibilities. The window will be from November 28 through December 7.

Government Services

- Capital Equipment Refresh Project:
We completed the installation of new Imagine Selenio encoders for Legislature live streaming needs. On-site commissioning and training was completed the week of November 13, 2017. We will maintain a parallel operation for live streaming events until the new system gets fully tested.

Capital Equipment Purchase

- We have started purchasing equipment from the previously identified 800K list. We conducted a Request for Information (RFI) on the NET Network Monitoring and Control System and have received eight industry responses. We are currently evaluating those responses.

Falls City TV Translator (K46FG-D) Displacement Project

November 17, 2017

As a result of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Spectrum Incentive Auction and subsequent repacking, TV Translator and Low Power Television (LPTV) stations will be displaced from channels 38-51. Winning spectrum auction bidder T-Mobile has decided to deploy its newly acquired 600 MHz spectrum quickly in the PEA #317 market on November 27, 2017. Consequently, NET Falls City TV translator will need to be displaced to a new RF channel before **November 27, 2017** to maintain NET's uninterrupted services.

On June 26, 2017, PBS was awarded a grant from T-Mobile to provide funding to enable public television translators to move to new displacement channels. Starting **August 1, 2017**, PBS began accepting applications from Qualified Translators Licensees who have received 120-day Commencement of Operations Letters from a winning spectrum auction bidder.

NET Engineering has been actively responding and working on Falls City TV translator displacement. Below is the displacement project timeline and anticipated next steps:

- **July 31, 2017** – NET received a T-Mobile 120-Day Commencement of Operations letter. This letter triggered a 120-day period which ends 11/27/2017.
- **August 3, 2017** – NET received PBS Translator Relocation Grant Application Instructions.
- **August 4, 2017** – Displacement notice/waiver of displacement freeze/Legal STA submitted for filing.
- **August 8, 2017** – Received notice that documents were accepted with the FCC (status: pending).
- **August 21, 2017** – FCC assigned a temporary call sign for Falls City TV Translator - K25OF-D (Channel 25). Engineering started the procurement process on TV translator and antenna.
- **November 2, 2017** – Filed T-Mobile grant application with PBS.
- **November 6, 2017** – Received Antenna
- **November 16, 2017** – Tower crew is scheduled for antenna installation, weather permitting. The Scope of Work includes taking down top mount CH 46 antenna and installing CH25 side mount antenna.
- **Next steps** – Working with vendor Comark on TV translator delivery date, installation and proof of performance.

Respectfully submitted,

Ling Ling Sun
Assistant GM, Technology/CTO

Broadcast Content and Programming Report

November 2017

Nancy Finken, AGM Broadcast Production & Programming

with contributions from Joe Turco and Dennis Kellogg

Vietnam

Ken Burns' (and Lynn Novick) 18-hour blockbuster "The Vietnam War" led the new fall season on NET Television with a premiere on September 17.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the war, NET also produced a special Nebraska Stories episode featuring several stories that showed the impact of the war on Nebraska. "Nebraska Stories: Vietnam" follows Nebraska veterans who take a one-day honor flight trip to Washington D.C. to visit their memorial including reflections from the only female veteran on that trip; the story of Norfolk native Claude Van Andel whose death inspired the Vietnam Memorial Wall; the story of a Vietnamese family who fled Vietnam and settled in Lincoln; and a veteran turned anti-war activist/social justice advocate who spent much of his career in Nebraska fighting for the rights of the disenfranchised. NET producers worked with a UNL graduate music student Wataru Niimori who composed original music for this special episode of Nebraska Stories. PBS will feature content from our "Nebraska Stories Vietnam War" special in a national pledge program, which will air on November 26 at 6:30 p.m. on NET World and December 2 at 1:00 p.m. on NET World.

Also part of NET's Vietnam coverage, the news team produced a number of Signature Stories examining the Vietnamese community in Nebraska; war protests on the UNL campus; FBI monitoring of students; and recollections of a Vietnam War veteran.

Eclipse

NET captured the excitement before, during, and after the historic solar eclipse with pre-event news coverage, a live day-of radio programming from Beatrice, a call-out for viewers to share their photos and videos for an upcoming "Nebraska Stories" episode garnering over 200 images posted by people all over Nebraska; and a 360-degree video from NET News at Carhenge that went viral with more than one-million views to date on NET's social media and digital platforms.

NET Radio Highlights

Brandon McDermott is the new local host and reporter replacing Ben Bohall. Brandon hosts "Morning Edition" and is a general assignment reporter. Brandon comes to NET from KVNO in Omaha.

Bruce Wallace joins the NET Radio announcing staff as an on-call temporary. Bruce will work Monday nights and will fill in for our permanent staff when they're away. Bruce has worked at

radio stations in Omaha and Chicago and brings a strong knowledge of classical music and public radio in general to the NET team.

“Friday Live” was broadcast from Doane University on September 8 in Whitcomb Lee Conservatory as part of *On the Road* with NET. The standing-room-only crowd enjoyed watching the live radio production which included performances by jazz singer and Doane faculty member Jackie Allen; Doane theater students; and the Doane Choir.

In October, we invited the “Friday Live” audience to NET for a show set in the Ron Hull Studio featuring live music performances from UNL Jazz Ensemble; Lincoln Choral Artists; Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra; Drew Duncan; and Lincoln Early Music Consort.

A recording of the annual Governor’s Lecture in the Humanities was broadcast Nov. 3 at 6:30 pm. This year’s address was given by Pulitzer Prize winning writer T.J. Stiles.

“Nebraska Concerts” classical series is broadcast Sundays at 1:00 pm and this season, jazz concerts are featured on Saturday nights at 7:00 pm. Among the recent and upcoming performances are concerts by Nebraska Jazz Orchestra; Nebraska Brass; Omaha Symphonic Chorus; Omaha Symphony; Lincoln’s Symphony Orchestra; Nebraska Chamber Players; Dover String Quartet; WynSync; and faculty recitals from UNL.

National Distribution

Medicine Woman

“Medicine Woman,” which was distributed last year by PBS (PBS Plus) streamed for free in November on PBS Online in honor of Native American Heritage Month. After the free streaming period is over, the film will be available on Passport.

NETA, National Educational Telecommunications Association is a professional association that serves public television licensees and educational entities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Among their services is program distribution. NET works with NETA to distribute local programs to NETA stations across the country. Local productions being offered nationally are:

- “The Land Will Outlive Us All,” a music performance documentary featuring singer songwriter Susan Werner’s Nebraska tour.
- “After Ebola: Nebraska and the Next Pandemic,” the story of how UNMC’s biocontainment unit handled the Ebola crisis of 2014.
- “Drugged Driving,” explores issues related to safety, health, and law enforcement when people are impaired by illegal and prescription drugs.
- “Blackjack Pershing Love and War,” a biography of the man who led U.S. forces during WWI and who received his law degree at UNL, while also leading the ROTC program. (Producer Barney McCoy, UNL College of Journalism)

Local Television Production

Drugged Driving

Drugged Driving, a new NET documentary that explores issues related to safety, health, and enforcement of driving under the influence of illegal and prescription drugs premiered on NET October 24th. The program featured stories with two anonymous drivers recovering from addictions to illegal drugs and prescription medications, as well as former Husker football athlete Ricky Simmons, who served time in prison for drug addictions before becoming a certified drug counselor.

Follow the Water

Editing is in full swing on a new documentary for summer 2018. "Follow the Water" follows conservation photographer Mike Forsberg and filmmaker Pete Stegen on a 55-day 1300-mile trek of the Platte River Basin from the snowmelt in Wyoming to the mouth of the Platte where it flows into the Missouri. They traveled on foot, on bikes, and in a canoe down the river. Friends came and went along the way. Their goal was simple. As Mike Forsberg says, "I want us to know where our water comes from." Mike and Pete's journey forms the narrative thread for "Follow the Water," a documentary told in mixed media—iPhone footage, go pro cameras, aerials and high resolution cameras. As Mike and Pete follow the water, they check on special cameras— more than 60 time-lapse cameras placed along the Platte Basin watershed, each one taking a picture every hour of daylight, every day, 365 days a year. Mike Forsberg co-founded the Platte Basin Timelapse project five years ago along with filmmaker Michael Farrell. The timelapse images put a watershed in motion, which intersects and informs what Mike and Pete call their "Braided Journey."

Growing Old Gambling

Editing is nearing completion on the NET Television original public health documentary, "Growing Old Gambling." The program focuses on the baby boomers that are losing control of their financial and physical health by gambling. The documentary features personal stories of seniors caught in the grip of out-of-control gambling. The half-hour program will air in February of 2018.

Nebraska Stories Series

The 9th season of Nebraska Stories premieres January 11, 2018 and features thirteen 30-minute episodes. Once again, new episodes will air Thursdays at 8pm CT (rebroadcast Mondays at 8pm on NET.) The Nebraska Stories Facebook page is nearing 10,000 friends and is NET's second fastest growing page. Engagement continues to be very active and positive, including this review recently posted on the Nebraska Stories page, "One of the best shows on #PBS #NEBRASKASTORIES. Always learning something new, about Nebraska and her people!"

Big Red Wrap-up Series

NET's weekly Big Red Wrap-up series continues to be Nebraska's statewide resource for the most informed discussion on events developing around the Nebraska football program. One in every 18 Nebraskans travel to Memorial Stadium to watch the Cornhuskers play, while thousands more watch from home. After the game, Nebraskans turn to Big Red Wrap-up on

Tuesday nights to hear the latest Husker news and join in the dialogue about the triumphs and controversies surrounding Husker football. We are fortunate to have national sportscaster Kevin Kugler continue to collaborate with NET Sports. Viewers interact live with Kevin via phone, text, social media and email. Kevin is joined regularly by former huskers Blake Lawrence, Damon Benning and recruiting expert Sean Callahan. On Tuesday, November 7th Big Red Wrap-up presented a live interview with new Nebraska Athletic Director, Bill Moos.

Nebraska Volleyball

Expectations were not high for John Cook's 2017 young Husker volleyball team, but they are well on their way to winning another Big Ten championship. The Huskers are 9-1 in the conference with wins over five Big Ten rivals ranked. Nebraska is undefeated on NET! NET broadcast seven games, including Rutgers on Sunday, November 12 at 2 PM and Iowa on November 25 at 7 PM. Nebraska has earned the No. 2 spot in the NCAA Volleyball Selection Committee's initial top 10 for the 2017 season. If their winning streak continues, they are in a great place to host an NCAA 1st & 2nd Round Regional in Lincoln on December 1st & 2nd.

Omaha Maverick Hockey

UNO Hockey opened its first season under new Coach Mike Gabinet and started their season with a series split against NCAA hockey power #8 Notre Dame. The Mavs return five of their top seven scorers from last season. We look forward to a great season of UNO Hockey live on NET. NET Sports will present three UNO Hockey match-ups live from Baxter Arena in Omaha. Two of the NET telecasts will also appear on FOX College Network.

Minnesota-Duluth vs Omaha Hockey – Friday Dec. 8 at 7 pm on NET World

Miami vs Omaha Hockey– Friday, Jan. 12th at 7 pm on NET

Western Michigan vs Omaha Hockey – Friday, Jan. 26th at 7 pm on NET

High School Championships

A full schedule of NSAA Volleyball Championship telecasts began in November. All six of the NSAA State Volleyball Championships were presented on Saturday, November 11th. Matches began at 9:00 AM and continued until 9 PM on NET with Larry Puntaney and Kathi Wiesskamp calling the action throughout the day.

The sports producing team is currently in pre-production, preparing game highlights and segments for the NSAA Football Championships live from Memorial Stadium. Coverage of all six Championships began on Monday, November 20th and continued on Tuesday, November 21st. Games began at 10:30 AM and continued until 10:30 PM each day. The NET production team provided the creative and technical expertise to present the television broadcasts, as well as a separate production for the HuskerVision screens in Memorial Stadium. Our on-air broadcast team featured Larry Puntaney as play-by-play and Damon Benning and Matt Davison as color analysts. HuskerOnline reporter Sean Callahan, offered an up-close perspective on the sidelines.

Beginning this year, the High School Bowling Championships are moving to December, 2017. All events of Boys and Girls Bowling Championships will be recorded on Sunday, December 10th at the Lincoln Sun Valley Lanes, edited into two broadcasts on NET. The Boys Bowling Championship airs Saturday, December 16th at 9:00-11:00 AM and the Girls Bowling Championship airs Sunday, December 17th 9:00-11:00 AM on NET.

NET News

The news teams is preparing for the return of “Speaking of Nebraska,” in mid-February, an eight-part series that loosely follows the last two months of the Nebraska Legislative calendar. In its second season “SON” will explore news topics through long-form studio and on-site interviews with newsmakers on a variety of topics which may include guns, affordable housing, the Farm Bill, the Nebraska economy and jobs.

The variety of stories covered by the news team continues to meet the diverse needs of our state. Among the topics are: the shortage of substitute teachers in parts of Nebraska; an update on the 9-1-1 enhanced system; how judges decide whether to place young offenders in juvenile or adult court; the impact of pesticide drift on pollinators; how Latino youth try to adapt to a new culture while keeping their roots; the demand for high tech jobs; Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos’ visit; the impact on Sidney in lieu of Cabela’s merger with Bass Pro Shops; the future of White Clay after its liquor stores closed; the Sheldon Museum’s vast art collection; the history of the Nebraska State Fair; the art of storytelling; and research on Native American storytelling.

NET News teamed with the Nebraska Broadcasters Association to present a statewide professional development webinar “Cameras in Nebraska Trial Courts—Six Months Following Implementation.” The webinar included a panel of judges and journalists to discuss cameras in the courtroom.

Bill Kelly also moderated workshops on news reporting in juvenile courts. The workshops were presented by the Nebraska State Bar Foundation’s Bench Media Committee held in Omaha and North Platte. For his longtime work covering the courts and helping with the implementation of cameras into Nebraska’s trial courts, the Nebraska Broadcasters Association honored Bill and several others with its prestigious Chairman’s Award.

NET News social media channels have shown growth in followers and engagement. Facebook has about 5000 likes and Twitter has 6300 followers.

NET’s new podcast “The PlainStory” has distributed 11 episodes since its premiere in June 2017. Ariana Brocious produces and hosts the podcast, which focuses on “exploring the heartland one story at a time.” The ten episodes have been played more than 2,000 times and have resulted in more than 2,500 page views to the website. The latest episodes have focused on our love of trees, art on the prairie, farming on the Great Plains, the deep ties among Plains African-American families, the power of storytelling and our relationship with the land. The biweekly podcasts for this pilot project are available on our website at <http://plainstorypodcast.org/> and from podcast distributors such as iTunes.

TO: NETC Commissioners
FR: Chad Davis, AGM Digital
RE: Q417 Report – December 2017

Projects Currently in R&D include:

- Android App Extension
 - Extension of NET's Android app to include Chromecast, Android Auto and Google Home
- Amazon Alexa development
 - Creating "skills" and "invocations" for NET's Alexa experience
- *Watershed*
 - A 360-video series about living and thinking at watershed scale
- Virtual Centennial Mall (w.t.) (Pilot Phase)
 - In collaboration with CoJMC, piloting a VR-based tour of the P-R blocks of Centennial Mall
- Virtual Ashfall (w.t.)
 - Awaiting green-light from Morrill Hall on developing VR and AR experiences featuring the dig barn at Ashfall

Projects In Production include:

- 360 Video Productions
 - *Dyad: A Union of Salp'uri and Bach* – performance video blending traditional Korean dance with music by Bach; features two UNL professors, Hyeyung Yoon and Hye-Won Hwang
 - *Chiara Plays Debussy By Heart* – a performance that puts you inside the quartet as they play Debussy
 - *Rare Nebraska* – a look at three unique Nebraska habitats; possible pilot for future digital-first series
- Nebraska Studies website
 - completion for testing in January; launching in June
- *From Seed to Harvest*
 - beginning post production on the creation of agricultural learning objects for release in August 2018; precursor to an NET food initiative

Recently Completed Projects Include

- *Total Eclipse of the Heartland* – 360 video documenting this summer's total solar eclipse across Nebraska
- *Prairie Fire: Controlling Invasive Species* – 360 video showing how one rancher in the Sandhills uses fire to control eastern red cedar on his rangelands
- *Chant* – a 360 performance by seminarians in Denton, NE, captured during Vespers; done in conjunction with News for a piece to air on the PBS Newshour
- Apple CarPlay Experience – control the NET app from your dash via CarPlay
- NET Android app – brought this into code-parity with our iOS app

For Immediate Release

NET Commission's December Meeting Scheduled

LINCOLN, Neb. (November 27, 2017) -- The Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission (NETC) will conduct its meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2017 beginning at 10:30 a.m. CT at the Terry M. Carpenter & Jack G. McBride Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln.

The Commissioners are scheduled to vote on approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, held on August 24, 2017. In other activity, Commissioners will hear reports from NET Content, NET Education, NET Engineering and NET Digital and Multimedia.

The Commission meeting agenda is available for inspection during business hours at the Terry M. Carpenter & Jack G. McBride Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, in Lincoln.

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