

# History

**NET today is the sum of more than 60 years of history – visions that have become reality through the hard work of hundreds of people.**

**This chronology shows the evolution of NET and the services that it provides. It also serves as testament to the vision of the people of Nebraska who made it possible.**

## Year By Year

### 1951

The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reserve UHF channel 18 for noncommercial educational use in Lincoln.

### 1953

The University created the position of director of television within the Department of Public Relations.

### 1954

Cornhusker Radio and Television Corporation, a subsidiary of Fetzer Broadcasting Company, acquired licenses to operate channels 10 and 12 in Lincoln. Company President John Fetzer offered the channel 12 license as a gift to the University, subject to FCC approval. Lincoln banker Byron J. Dunn was named trust officer to operate channel 12 on a noncommercial basis until the University could assume control of the station. The FCC approved the trust arrangement and changed the educational TV channel allocation for Lincoln from UHF channel 18 to VHF channel 12.

KUON-TV Channel 12 began operating November 1, using studios and equipment of KOLN-TV Channel 10, Lincoln. The station was on the air mornings only, Monday through Saturday.

### 1955

KUON-TV, in cooperation with the State Department of Education, the University of Nebraska and Lincoln area schools, began an extensive series of experimental instructional telecasts that spanned five years.

### 1956

The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska assumed control of the KUON-TV Channel 12 license.

The John E. Fetzer Foundation presented to the University a transmitter, transmission line, an antenna and studio equipment valued at \$135,000.

The Ford Foundation's Fund for Adult Education granted the station \$100,000 to buy equipment and assist with studio activation.

### 1957

KUON-TV Channel 12 began operating in the fall from renovated space in the University of Nebraska's Temple Building at 12th and R Streets in Lincoln. Nighttime broadcasts were added five times per week.

### 1959

University Television was recognized as a separate department of the University of Nebraska, reporting to the Office of the Chancellor.

### **1960**

Six Nebraska school districts were incorporated as the Nebraska Council for Educational Television to develop instructional television curriculum resources for use in their classrooms.

The Nebraska Council for Educational Television, Inc., petitioned the FCC to reserve channel 4 in Kearney, channel 3 in Bassett, channel 8 in Albion, channel 9 in North Platte and channel 13 in Alliance for noncommercial educational purposes.

### **1961**

The Nebraska Legislature adopted a resolution urging a study of the feasibility of a statewide educational television network. Governor Frank B. Morrison appointed the Nebraska State Committee on Educational Television to conduct the survey.

Five VHF channels – the largest number ever approved for use in one state – and three UHF channels were allocated by the FCC to the Nebraska Council for Educational Television, Inc.

### **1962**

The Great Plains Regional Instructional Television Library was established at the University of Nebraska as an experimental videotape exchange project under the National Defense Educational Act Title VII grants from the U.S. Office of Education.

The Nebraska State Committee on Educational Television completed its statewide educational television survey in December. The report detailed network feasibility and recommended its prompt activation.

### **1963**

The Unicameral enacted two bills implementing the recommendations of the statewide survey. One, the Nebraska Educational Television Act, created the Nebraska Educational Television Commission with responsibility to develop and administer a statewide network. The second bill appropriated \$600,000 to construct the first phase of the network. Funding was also provided through the federal Educational Television Facilities Act.

### **1964**

The University of Nebraska was awarded a \$309,583 grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare under the Educational Television Facilities Act for full-power activation of a KUON-TV transmitter at Mead.

### **1965**

The KUON-TV Channel 12 transmitter was moved from Lincoln to the University of Nebraska Field Laboratory at Mead. KUON-TV went on the air from its new location January 18.

Two additional stations were completed. KLNE-TV Channel 3, Lexington, began operation September 6. KYNE-TV Channel 26, Omaha, began broadcasting on October 19.

Federal grants totaling more than \$140,000 were received by the Commission to finance further network development.

The Nebraska Video Nursing Council (later redesignated the Nebraska Television Council for Nursing Education, Inc.) was organized to provide programs via the Nebraska Educational Television Network to nursing schools in Nebraska and western Iowa.

### **1966**

The Commission appointed a panel of citizens from throughout the state to serve as a Program Advisory Committee.

KTNE-TV Channel 13, Alliance, began operation September 7. KPNE-TV Channel 9, North Platte, went on the air five days later.

The Nebraska Educational Television Council for Higher Education (NETCHE) was incorporated in May as the nation's first statewide all-inclusive collegiate educational television organization. An initial federal grant of \$145,000 was awarded to NETCHE, Inc., to acquire television equipment for member colleges. (Subsequent yearly federal grants were awarded through 1973 for the development of college-level instructional television lessons.)

The Great Plains Regional Instructional Television Library changed its name to the Great Plains National Instructional Television Library (GPN) and became a self-supporting operation.

### **1967**

The Legislature approved two additional stations for the Network – one at Merriman and the other at Hastings. The 1967-69 biennial budget included \$250,000 to plan a telecommunications building to house all Lincoln-based educational television activities.

The Network grew to seven stations. KMNE-TV Channel 7, Bassett, began operation September 1. KXNE-TV Channel 19, Norfolk, went on the air in early November.

The Commission was awarded federal grants totaling nearly \$220,000 to help finance continued development of the statewide network.

### **1968**

The eighth and ninth stations of the statewide television network were activated. KHNE-TV Channel 29, Hastings, began transmission on November 18. KRNE-TV Channel 12, Merriman, began operation December 9. The first of the Network's translators was put into service on November 1 to serve the Fairbury area.

### **1969**

Network stations began offering broadcast service seven days a week beginning with the 1969-70 broadcast season.

The Nebraska Legislature passed measures authorizing construction of a telecommunications building.

Land at 1800 North 33rd Street in Lincoln was acquired as the site for the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center. The land was deeded from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) to the City of Lincoln. The Nebraska ETV Commission signed occupancy agreements with both the City and University.

A translator to serve the Beatrice area was activated October 14.

### **1970**

Ground was broken for the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center and construction began.

Translators to serve the communities of Chadron, Benkelman and McCook were activated.

### **1971**

Responsibility for elementary-secondary instructional television was vested by the Legislature in the State Department of Education, and the first appropriation for school television was provided.

The Commission received a \$209,973 matching fund grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare for the Network's Bassett station, KMNE-TV Channel 7. A second grant of \$223,622 was awarded for KXNE-TV Channel 19, Norfolk.

Nebraskans for Public Television, Inc. (NPTV), a nonprofit citizen support organization, was formally incorporated and a charter membership campaign began.

The "Program Previews" newsletter that had been sent to viewers was expanded to a magazine format program guide and renamed "Choice."

### **1972**

The Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center was dedicated June 4. Representatives of all national public television organizations attended.

On August 15, the Network assumed responsibility for feeding several hours of programming each week to more than 20 Central Educational Network stations in 12 Midwestern states.

### **1973**

The FCC approved the Nebraska ETV Commission's application to remotely control KXNE-TV Channel 19, Norfolk; KYNE-TV Channel 26, Omaha; and KHNE-TV Channel 29, Hastings.

### **1974**

The Nebraska Legislature approved a bill assuring a permanent Nebraska Heritage Television Library to preserve programs considered of unusual significance to Nebraskans.

A federal grant of \$165,000 was awarded to the Nebraska Educational Television Council for Higher Education, Inc. (NETCHE), to expand its activities and start a cooperative program of instructional improvement and development.

On October 1, KYNE-TV Channel 26, Omaha, began broadcasting selected programs from the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus. KYNE-TV temporarily broke away from the Nebraska ETV Network schedule while it "simulcast" these programs of interest specifically to the metropolitan Omaha audience.

The Commission approved a contract with Northwestern Bell Telephone Company to provide audio and video connections between the Mead transmitter and the KYNE-TV Channel 26 transmitter in Omaha. That link also provided two-way communication between the University of Nebraska College of Nursing at the Medical Center in Omaha and Lincoln campus classrooms.

GPN provided programming for a Satellite Technology Demonstration Project in the Rocky Mountain states – the first widespread use of a satellite-based telecommunications system for educational purposes.

### **1975**

The first statewide legislative hearing broadcast live on Nebraska television was held February 25 in the Network studios. The hearing featured the Nebraska Legislature's Judiciary Committee deliberations on correctional reforms.

The Commission received a \$25,000 grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to study the feasibility of a statewide public radio service in Nebraska.

## **1976**

The Network's first major program series to be produced for national distribution by the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) – a 20-program poetry series entitled “Anyone for Tennyson?” – premiered on 110 PBS stations. The series, coproduced with the New York-based Great Amwell Company, continued over three public television seasons for a total of 50 programs.

The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) announced a new corporate symbol on New Year's Day that was identical to the Nebraska ETV Network logo. Amidst extensive national press coverage, the Commission filed suit against NBC in February for trademark infringement. An out-of-court settlement accepted by the Commission gave the Network a color mobile unit and new equipment valued in excess of \$800,000 in exchange for discontinuing the use of the look-alike “N” logo. An additional cash settlement of \$55,000 reimbursed the Network for costs of designing a new logo, eliminating the old logo from all program content and other materials, legal fees and other related costs. A new Nebraska ETV Network logo was unveiled May 25.

A \$25,000 grant was announced in April from John E. Fetzer, chairman of the board of the Cornhusker Television Corporation, to enable Network participation in the proposed satellite interconnection system for the national distribution of public television programming. Later in the year, PBS selected Lincoln as a transmit and receive site for this satellite communications/program distribution system.

On August 18, the Commission recommended the phased development of a statewide public radio network.

Television translators were activated to serve the communities of Neligh, Trenton, Culbertson, Verdigre, Stratton and Decatur.

GPN passed the \$2 million mark in royalties paid to educational television production centers in the United States whose materials were distributed by GPN.

## **1977**

The Nebraska ETV Network began broadcasting Legislative committee hearings in addition to regular session coverage.

Network translators were activated to improve reception for the communities of Blair, Wauneta and Niobrara.

The Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium (NAPBC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the expression of the Native American heritage, established headquarters at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center.

## **1978**

The 14th Network translator was activated at Falls City. Land for a 15th translator was purchased at Pawnee City.

The 1,499-foot KTNE-TV Channel 13 tower near Alliance collapsed on February 6 during an ice storm. The Nebraska Legislature appropriated \$917,644 to build a new tower. Installation was completed by mid-October and full service restored to the Panhandle area on October 20.

In March, KUON-TV Channel 12, Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln received a CPB grant to investigate the potential of videodisc technology for instruction for the hearing-impaired. A second CPB grant in August funded an investigation and demonstration of videodisc technology for American instructional and public television.

The Nebraska ETV Network was linked to public television's new satellite program distribution system on April 27 when the newly constructed receive/transmit Earth station was activated.

The John E. Fetzer Nebraska Satellite Center was dedicated on June 16.

The U.S. Office of Education awarded a series of grants in November for a new transmitter and antenna for KYNE-TV Channel 26, increasing the coverage area in metropolitan Omaha.

The Nebraska Legislature renamed the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center the Terry M. Carpenter Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center in honor of the late state senator from Scottsbluff.

### **1979**

The 15th Network translator was installed to improve reception in the Pawnee City area.

NETCHE, Inc., became the official name of the consortium originally known as the Nebraska Educational Television Council for Higher Education.

The Videodisc Design/Production Group, formed at KUON-TV Channel 12, Lincoln, under a CPB grant project, presented four pilot instructional videodiscs – each geared toward a different educational level – at the National Association of Educational Broadcasters meeting in Chicago.

### **1980**

A 1,000-watt translator replaced the ten-watt translator that had served the Beatrice/Fairbury viewing area since 1969.

EduCable, a cable program service which included gavel-to-gavel coverage of state Legislature activities, was begun for Lincoln CableVision subscribers.

The Network initiated a satellite teleconferencing service in April 1980 with a national teleconference originated for the American Council on Education.

The first-of-its-kind national symposium on videodisc production was conducted October 8-10 at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center. Leading designers and producers from across the country made presentations to 160 participants.

“Life on the Mississippi,” coproduced by the Nebraska ETV Network and the Great Amwell Company, premiered nationally on PBS in November.

### **1981**

“Hidden Places: Where History Lives,” a three-part series produced by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of Television's Cultural Affairs Unit, premiered nationally on PBS.

The 14-year-old KXNE-TV Channel 19 transmitter serving Norfolk and northeast Nebraska was replaced. The project was funded in part by a \$250,000 grant from the federal Public Telecommunications Facilities Program.

### **1982**

Sunday morning broadcasts began for the first time on the Nebraska ETV Network with programs for children and for adults enrolled in college credit telecourses.

A \$450,000 grant from The Annenberg School of Communications and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting project initiated development of interactive videodisc lessons to provide an alternative to conventional college and university laboratory science instruction.

HI-VIS, a new statewide Hearing Impaired Video Information Service employing the line 21 communications technology, was officially dedicated September 21 by Governor Charles Thone as a cooperative project of the Nebraska Commission for the Hearing Impaired, the Nebraska ETV Commission and UNL Television.

### **1983**

The National Association of Public Television Stations presented a special award to the Nebraska Legislature for the 15th consecutive year of public television coverage of Unicameral sessions and hearings via the Nebraska ETV Network.

A second application of the line 21 communications technology, AGRI-VIS – the Agricultural Video Information Service – was officially dedicated on June 15 by Governor Robert Kerrey as a service for Nebraska farmers, ranchers and agribusiness representatives.

“Reading Rainbow,” a children’s reading series coproduced by GPN and public television station WNED-TV, Buffalo, New York, premiered nationally in July on PBS stations.

### **1984**

The Network began a new marketing service, offering for purchase videocassettes of programs produced by UNL Television.

The Network’s 16th translator was activated February 7 in Crawford to improve reception in that area.

A three-year, \$2 million Challenge Grant Campaign to ensure funding for Nebraska ETV Network television production equipment and programming was launched by the University of Nebraska Foundation, Nebraskans for Public Television and the Commission. The first \$500,000 was provided in a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In revised legislation introduced by State Senator Bill Harris, Lincoln, the 88th session of the Legislature changed the name of the Nebraska Educational Television Commission to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) Commission and expanded its responsibilities to include telecommunication technologies.

### **1985**

In February, the Network tested stereo sound, considered the most important technological advance in television broadcasting since color.

The Network received a Public Telecommunications Facilities Program grant of \$291,400 toward replacement of the KMNE-TV Channel 7 transmitter at Bassett.

### **1986**

The Network joined forces with the Nebraska Cooperative Extension Service to conduct AgReach ‘86, a month-long outreach project examining issues confronting farm and ranch families and rural communities.

Two colleges of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln joined the Division of Continuing Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Television and the NET Commission to inaugurate Nebraska CorpNet, a corporate training network for on-site delivery of college graduate and undergraduate courses and seminars to company worksites. Eight Omaha and Lincoln corporations were charter clients.

The Nebraska Legislature directed the NET Commission to establish and operate a statewide public and educational radio service, but provided no funding.

The Nebraskans for Public Television (NPTV) board of directors announced formation of an NPTV Trustees Council comprised of distinguished Nebraskans who have provided major support during the course of development of the statewide Nebraska ETV Network.

The Nebraska ETV Network joined with four other public television licensees to form the Public Television Outreach Alliance (PTOA) to produce national programming and outreach campaigns addressing important social issues.

The Public Radio Nebraska Foundation (PRNF), Inc., an outgrowth of a former Nebraskans for Public Radio group, was formally chartered to assist with planning and fundraising toward the phased development of a statewide public radio network.

The 1,524-foot tower for KMNE-TV Channel 7, Bassett, collapsed during a severe ice storm on December 2, leaving much of north-central Nebraska without a public television signal.

### **1987**

Governor Kay Orr approved emergency deficit funding legislation that appropriated nearly \$1.5 million to replace the Bassett tower. Temporary service to residents within a 32-mile radius of the Bassett transmitter was provided immediately. Full service was restored in October 1987 when the new tower was activated.

The successful conclusion of the three-year, \$2 million Nebraska ETV Network Challenge Grant Campaign was publicly announced January 14.

GPN completed its 25th year of operation and announced gross annual revenues topping \$1 million for each of the past 15 years. Royalty payments to producers of GPN-distributed materials totaled more than \$4 million.

### **1988**

The 25th anniversary of the passage of the Educational Television Act, which created the NET Commission and Nebraska Educational Television Network, was observed.

Funding totaling \$88,261 was appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature to plan a statewide public radio service.

A new Schools TeleLearning Service was developed jointly by the Nebraska Department of Education and the NET Commission.

A U.S. Department of Education Star Schools grant (\$546,609) was received by Nebraska. Nebraska's participation was a result of the new Schools TeleLearning Service agreement. Nebraska's initial satellite production was an interactive introductory Japanese language course. Four schools were selected to participate in the pilot project: Crawford, Medicine Valley-Curtis, Beaver City Schools and the Grand Island High School. In April, Nebraska had 24 schools with satellite capabilities in addition to three educational service units. A SERC (Satellite Education Resource Consortium) grant resulted in the construction of a Ku-band satellite uplink to be located at NETC.

Nebraska CorpNet, which provided closed circuit instructional courses to business work sites, grew to nine corporations participating in Omaha and five in Lincoln.

The Nebraska Public Radio Network Study Report, an overall plan for public radio development, was completed by Carr Communications and approved in October by the NET Commission.



Public radio station KUCV/90.9 FM MHz was relocated from Union College in Lincoln to the NET Center in July. The station transmitter and antenna were moved from Union College to a Hallam, Nebraska site. KUCV's studios were dedicated on October 10th. A Community Advisory Board was established for Station KUCV, Lincoln.

A premiere of "The Trial of Standing Bear," produced by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Television for broadcast by the Nebraska ETV Network, was held June 30. The first PBS nationwide distribution of the program was on July 4.

### **1989**

In April, Nebraska established satellite communication links with 24 schools and three Educational Service Units.

In June, KLNE-TV Channel 3, Lexington, KYNE-TV Channel 26, Omaha, KHNE-TV Channel 29, Hastings, and KUON-TV Channel 10, Lincoln, began transmitting in stereo.

Nebraska ETV broadcast special coverage of President George Bush's June visit to Lincoln.

A Public Television Facilities Program grant of \$660,738 was received from the U.S. Department of Commerce for four new radio transmitters.

### **1990**

"Profit the Earth," an hour-long documentary about creative solutions to environmental problems, was produced by UNL Television/Nebraska ETV Network as the cornerstone production for the Public Television Outreach Alliance 1990 year-long outreach campaign, "Operation Earth."

Following incorporation in Nebraska, a new Agricultural Satellite Corporation (AG\*SAT) began with 27 land grant university charter affiliates following an organizational meeting in November. Nebraska served as the satellite operations center and headquarters for AG\*SAT operations. AG\*SAT institutions shared resident instruction and cooperative extension and research programs.

On June 22, a formal dedication of NEB\*SAT, was held at Air Park West in Lincoln, with Governor Kay Orr, NET Commission members and NET administration attending.

The mobile television unit received by the Nebraska ETV Network as part of a 1976 legal settlement with the NBC was replaced. A new 45-foot mobile trailer housing remote production equipment was delivered in the spring, and \$832,393 worth of existing mobile unit production and control equipment was moved to the new trailer.

Public radio station KTNE/91.1 FM, Alliance, was dedicated May 3. KLNE/88.7 FM, Lexington, was dedicated May 4. KXNE/89.3 FM, Norfolk, was dedicated May 29. KHNE/89.1 FM, Hastings, was dedicated June 15.

### **1991**

Nebraska Public Radio Network station KPNE/91.7 FM, North Platte, was dedicated July 2, and KMNE/90.3 FM, Bassett, was dedicated July 3. KRNE/91.4 FM, Merriman, and KCNE/91.9 FM, Chadron, were both dedicated August 29.

Dedication of the entire Nebraska Public Radio Network (NPRN) was held October 8 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, as part of a program featuring a special concert by the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra. The concert was broadcast by NPRN and simulcast on Nebraska ETV.

A live, two-hour national radio broadcast of Garrison Keillor's "American Radio Company" program originated from Red Cloud, Nebraska, on December 7 commemorating Nebraska author Willa Cather's 116th birthday.

The Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Facilities Corporation was established to facilitate lease/purchase of the GTE SpaceNet 3 transponder.

The Legislature approved addition of a technical community college representative to the NET Commission effective July 1, 1991. Harold F. McClure of Kearney was appointed by Governor Ben Nelson.

"Reading Rainbow" was found to be the most used and viewed children's television program in the United States during the 1990-91 school year, according to a Corporation for Public Broadcasting study, "Study of School Use of Television and Video."

### **1992**

The Descriptive Video Service (DVS) began as a free service on some public television programs broadcast by the Nebraska ETV Network.

In July, television translator K08LN, UHF Channel 8, Harrison, was activated to serve the Harrison area.

GPN celebrated 30 years of operation in March.

National dedication ceremonies were held June 12 for AG\*SAT on the grounds east of the NET Center.

### **1993**

NAPBC's American Indian Radio on Satellite System received a three-year, \$460,000 grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to produce programming and coordinate efforts with the Native Canadian Broadcasters.

The 40th anniversary broadcast of public television's longest running continuing local series, "Backyard Farmer," aired in August.

NET's Closed Captioning Center completed its first real-time captioning contract, a three-part series for the University of Kentucky. "Big Red Play-by-Play" became the first live local television production to be live captioned for broadcast on Nebraska ETV.

Nebraskans for Public Television reported members from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Canada, as a result of the NEB\*SAT satellite distribution system.

"Statewide," the Network's weekly magazine series, was launched.

### **1994**

"Mysteries in the Dust," a production of University of Nebraska-Lincoln Television originally broadcast on the Nebraska ETV Network, was rebroadcast nationally as an episode of "NOVA," PBS' premier science series. "NOVA" re-titled the program, which is about the state's Ashfall Fossil Bed, "Buried in Ash."

NET General Manager Jack McBride was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees for the American Program Service (APS). APS is a national coalition of public television stations that acquires and distributes programs.

Governor Ben Nelson named McBride to the Nebraska Commission on Information Technology.

Control for transmitters for KUON-TV Channel 12 in Mead, KTNE-TV Channel 13 near Alliance and KLNE-TV Channel 9 near Lexington was transferred from the sites to Network headquarters in Lincoln.

### **1995**

"Fate of the Plains," an hour-long documentary about the economic and environmental limits of the Great Plains, premiered on Nebraska ETV. The program was later picked up and broadcast nationally by PBS.

Nebraska ETV began the transition to the digital era of television when it received a grant of three digital video production systems from Abekas Video Systems of Redwood City, California. The equipment was valued at \$250,000. NET also purchased two digital videocassette recorders (VCRs) to record images digitally.

The Public Television Facilities Program (PTFP) awarded \$70,810 to NET to replace translators at Pawnee City and Beatrice. The NET Commission matched the funds. Nebraska Public Radio Network received a \$15,750 grant from PTFP to replace its 15-year-old master control console and router switching system. The Public Radio Nebraska Foundation matched that grant.

NEB\*SAT reached a milestone August 23 when it aired the first voice-activated interactive class connecting classrooms in Lincoln, Kearney, Grand Island and Norfolk.

Nebraska Public Radio Network translators went into service at Harrison (89.5 MHz), Max (93.3 MHz) and Culbertson (92.7 MHz).

### **1996**

"In Search of the Real Jesse James," a documentary produced by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Television, premiered on the Discovery Channel. The broadcast marked the first time that a UNL-produced program premiered on commercial television before airing on Nebraska ETV or PBS.

"In Search of the Oregon Trail," a two-hour documentary co-produced by the Nebraska ETV Network and Oregon Public Broadcasting, premiered on PBS. The program was one of the 10 most-watched programs on PBS that year.

Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium, housed at NET headquarters, was re-named Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT).

Jack McBride retired after 43 years at the helm of Nebraska Educational Telecommunications. McBride was replaced by Rod Bates.

"Fate of the Plains," a documentary about the Great Plains originally produced by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Television for broadcast on Nebraska ETV, was rebroadcast nationally by PBS.

In one of the most far-reaching technological changes in its history, NET changed the way it transmitted signals to and received signals from its orbiting satellite transponder. The conversion allowed NET to "compress" the signals used to transmit Nebraska ETV, NPRN, EduCable and other educational telecommunications services via satellite and make room for additional transmission channels.

EduCable, the cable television service of Nebraska ETV, expanded its broadcast schedule to 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

## **1997**

The Mountain Time Zone delay center for the Nebraska ETV Network was eliminated.

Nebraska Public Radio began a weekly live remote series, "Live From The Mill."

"Around the World in 72 Days," a Nebraska ETV-produced biography of pioneer journalist Nellie Bly, premiered nationwide as an episode of "The American Experience."

## **1998**

"Reading Rainbow" won Daytime Emmy Awards in the categories of Outstanding Children's Series and Outstanding Live and Direct to Tape Sound Mixing.

## **1999**

On February 10 and 24, NET Online experimented with webcasting two Nebraska Women's basketball games live across the Internet.

The Nebraska Legislature pledged \$43.9 million in funding over ten years to cover the cost of replacing satellite transmission capacity, purchasing digital television transmission equipment and covering debt service.

In late December, NET received grants totaling \$786,656 from the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) to begin the transition to digital broadcasting by replacing or upgrading equipment used to produce and broadcast programs on Nebraska ETV and the NPRN.

## **2000**

Nebraska Public Radio began real-time audio streaming on NET Online and the NPRN celebrated its 10-year anniversary.

The Nebraska Legislature authorized an increase of ten compressed video channels on NEB\*SAT 3, bringing the total to 30 channels available for video and audio signals between origination and reception sites.

In October, EduCable, NET's cable television service, officially changed its name to NETV2.

## **2001**

NET partnered with UNL's Teacher College to jointly manage the newly established National Center for Information Technology in Education (NCITE).

The Media Division of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded NET a \$500,000 grant to fund a documentary on the life and career of early 20th century radical Emma Goldman. The NEH also awarded NET \$30,000 for research and initial development of a film biography of Nebraska writer Willa Cather.

The Nebraska Public Radio Network (NPRN) expanded its schedule to 24-hour broadcasting, launched its new website and changed the KUCV frequency from 90.9 FM to 91.1 FM.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) awarded NET a \$1.5 million grant to continue Nebraska ETV's technical transition to digital television. PTFP also gave NPRN a \$15,300 grant to upgrade equipment at its Chadron transmitter.

NET received a \$10,000 grant from the National Center for Outreach to support the scheduling of weekly Spanish language programming blocks on NETV2.

## **2002**

Nebraska ETV's productions "Monkey Trial" and "Polka Passion" were broadcast nationally as part of the PBS series "American Experience."

"Next Exit," a video journal about the unexpected in Nebraska, premiered as a regular series on Nebraska ETV.

NET received \$15 million from the Legislature to fund necessary renovations of the Terry M. Carpenter Center at 1800 North 33<sup>rd</sup> Street in Lincoln.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced a \$500,000 award to support NETV's production of a national TV biography of Nebraska writer Willa Cather.

The NET Commission received a \$1.6 million federal grant to assist the Nebraska ETV Network in its conversion to a digital signal.

## **2003**

NET launched a series of monthly programs and associated outreach activities addressing issues of importance to Nebraskans entitled "Nebraska Connects" and also aired a one-hour special, Frank Morrison and Bob Kerrey: A Conversation."

The Nebraska ETV production "Monkey Trial" won a 2003 George Foster Peabody Award.

"Backyard Farmer," the nation's longest-running, locally produced series, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On April 23, 2003, NET officially launched its digital broadcast service with four digital program services available over-the-air. Datacasting was also made possible via digital. The total project cost for NET's DTV conversion was estimated at \$44.3 million, which included \$30.7 million appropriated or reallocated by the State of Nebraska and \$4.5 million in grants from the federal government.

The final year of the Schools Telelearning Service (STS) concluded in May.

## **2004**

NET celebrated its 50-year anniversary (KUON-TV Channel 12 was launched November 1, 1954).

The broadcast day was reduced by one hour on the Nebraska ETV Network – to 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. – as a result of budget constraints.

The Nebraska ETV Network produced local documentaries "Solomon Butcher: Frontier Photographer," "Hear That Train A Comin'" and the "Lewis and Clark Concerto."

The NETV documentaries "Emma Goldman: An Exceedingly Dangerous Woman" and "NOVA: Ancient Refuge in the Holy Land" premiere nationally on PBS.

The Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission received two grants totaling \$272,440 to replace one transmitter and five translators in the statewide Nebraska ETV Network system.

## **2005**

The Nebraska Public Radio Network (NPRN) and the Nebraska ETV Network (NETV) were renamed NET Radio and NET Television. Nebraskans for Public Television (NPTV) and the Public Radio Nebraska Foundation (PRNF) were renamed the NET Foundation for Television and the NET Foundation for Radio.

NET Television produced local documentaries “Frontier University Dreams,” “Omaha’s First Families,” “Ted Kooser’s Poetic World” and “Charles Thone: A Conversation.”

NET completed its \$15 million building renovation.

“The Verge,” a new “crossover classical” music program, premiered on NET Radio.

NET Television’s “Willa Cather – The Road is All” premiered nationally on PBS as part of the “American Masters” series.

The 1,065-foot tower that provided television and radio service to south central Nebraska (NET Television KLNE Channel 3 and NET Radio Channel 88.7 FM) was destroyed when a single-engine airplane crashed into the tower.

## **2006**

NET Television’s programs “The Canteen Spirit” and “Buffett & Gates Go Back to School” premiered nationally on PBS.

NET Television produced local documentaries “Don’t Touch That Dial” and “The Creightons: Building the Dream.”

NET3 was re-launched as “Create,” a 24-hour-a-day how-to, travel and lifestyle channel.

The University of Nebraska Board of Regents approved the sale of the University’s share of “Reading Rainbow” to WNED in Buffalo, N.Y. The Board also approved the sale of GPN to Educate, Inc. Together the sales totaled \$3.5 million.

NET Radio’s weekly arts and humanities series “Live From The Mill Statewide” was renamed “Friday Live.”

NET Television and the University of Nebraska State Museum were awarded a \$1,168,014 grant from the National Science Foundation to produce “Antarctica’s Icy Secrets” as part of PBS’ “NOVA” series and for related community outreach activities.

## **2007**

NET Television’s documentaries “At Close Range with National Geographic” and “Most Honorable Son” aired nationally on PBS.

NET Television premiered local documentaries “Hard Times Swing,” “Afghan Journey,” “On the Frontline,” “The Price of Water,” “Saving Nebraska’s Treasures,” “Murder House,” “Nebraska Veterans Honor Roll,” “Dream Like a Champion,” “State of the Arts: A Nebraska Connects Special,” “Fighting for the Arts” and “Crane Song” (“Crane Song” later aired nationally on PBS).

NET Television and NET Radio aired specials “Meth in Nebraska” and “Drowning in Noise: A Nebraska Connects Special.”

NET Radio produced and aired the following local series/specials: “Great Plains, Great Books;” feature stories about Nebraska World War II veterans to complement PBS’ Ken Burns’ “The War” and the “Live Jazz Special with the Darryl White Group,” performed and broadcast live across the state.

NET completed construction of the KLNE tower near Holdrege, replacing the transmission tower that was destroyed in a November 2005 aviation accident.

## **2008**

NET Television began airing the PBS World channel on NET2, featuring documentaries, public affairs (including live coverage of the Nebraska Legislature) and news programs.

NET Television premiered the local documentaries “Beef State,” as well as “‘68: The Year Nebraska Mattered;” “Nebraska’s Senate Race: The Primary;” “Electing a President: Nebraska Voter Diaries” (as part of NET’s extensive web, Radio and Television “Campaign Connection” resources); “The Ethanol Maze;” “Your Kids Are Drinking” and “Your Verdict: Affirmative Action on Trial.”

NET received four grants totaling nearly \$100,000 to support outreach and community engagement.

Broadcast hours on NET Television were restored to operate daily from 6 a.m. to midnight CT.

NET1 and NET-HD unified program schedules, meaning more viewers were able to receive their favorite NET programs in high-definition.

The “Inspire Nebraska” theme line was incorporated in the NET logo in print and on-air media to precede the launch of the Foundations’ Inspire Nebraska Campaign.

NET Radio launched the series and website “Smart Investing,” offering information on investor protection.

The NET Television-produced segment “Clash of the Mammoths” aired nationally as part of “NOVA scienceNOW” in July.

In July NET’s founder, Jack McBride, died of complications related to surgery. McBride had served as NET General Manager from 1963 until his retirement in 1996.

NET launched NET Public Media, a new community partnership programming service.

## **2009**

All nine statewide transmitters officially completed the FCC-mandated switch from analog to digital transmission as of February 17, 2009. Viewers now have three over-the-air digital channels available – NET1/HD, NET2/PBS World and NET3/Create – offering a mix of programming to viewers previously unavailable with a single analog signal.

NET’s “Nebraska Capitol Live” provided live streaming on the web from 11 different government venues, including the main legislative chamber, seven committee hearing rooms and the Nebraska Supreme Court. Coverage online and on NET2 included the Unicameral’s Judiciary Committee hearing on the death penalty in January.

In 2009 NET Television produced several local programs, including “Ragtime Cabaret;” “Carl Sandburg: Prayers for the People;” “Homemade Astronaut: The Clay Anderson Story,” which debuted at the NET 2009 Governor’s Premiere event at the Strategic Air and Space Museum; “Walk Ons: Huskers’ Edge” and “The Recipe Box.”

NET Radio and NET Television aired a series of specials about the recession and its effects in Nebraska, including: “Smart Investing, Safe Investing,” “Nebraska’s Economy Update, radio call-in shows and “Nebraska’s Economy 2010” (in March 2010).

NET Radio aired a live call-in show in early September on the effects of the H1N1 flu virus on the rise across Nebraska.

NET Television's monthly series "Nebraska Stories," chronicling personal tales of contemporary and historical Nebraskans and Nebraska life, debuted in September.

Grants from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the U.S. Commerce Department were used to replace and upgrade the aging transmitters at KHNE/Hastings, KXNE/Norfolk, KTNE/Alliance and the KLNE/ Lexington, Holdrege and Kearney.

Former Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel was elected to a three-year term on the national PBS Board of Directors in November.

In November the NET Foundations launched the active phase of the Inspire Nebraska Campaign, which aimed to raise \$25 million in membership and planned gifts over five years.

## **2010**

In January, NET Radio kicked off its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with a live concert by Lincoln's Third Chair Chamber Players in Studio One (the concert was also broadcast live statewide).

In January, the National Endowment for the Humanities offered the NET Foundation for Television a half-million dollar grant to support humanities programming. NET was required to raise \$1.5 million in nonfederal contributions to receive the full award.

NET joined Harvest Public Media, a partnership funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and involving six Midwest public broadcasting stations to enhance radio, television and web coverage of food, fuel and fields (agriculture).

In May NET obtained the rights to broadcast and web stream the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) state championships, including volleyball, football, wrestling, boys and girls basketball and swimming and diving.

In July the NET Foundation for Television announced that it had received its largest gift ever, a \$1.5 million bequest.

In 2010 NET produced a number of local programs, including: "Jazz Cabaret," "loopdiver: The Journey of a Dance" and "Paths of the Displaced" (a co-production with Meadowlark Films and the UNL College of Journalism and Mass Communications), as well as NET News documentaries "Mind over Murder," "CSI on Trial" and "Nebraskans Before Battle: Soldiers and Families Prepare for War." NET News also produced a number of specials, including "Campaign Connection 2010," Legislative coverage and several specials that addressed Nebraska's budget concerns.

In December NET Television's production "Secrets Beneath the Ice" broadcast nationally as part of PBS' "NOVA" series.

## **2011**

NET News continued production of specials in 2011 with "Binge," "Home Fields: Digging into Local Food," "Nebraska's Budget: Moving Forward," "Nebraska's Talking Illegal Immigration," "Nebraska and the Big 10: Researching the Possibilities," "STRATCOM 9/11: A Different Doomsday," "Chronic Mental Illness and the Family" and "Gang Fight Nebraska." Also in 2011 NET co-produced (with George Washington University's Center for Innovative Media and Maryland Public Television) the national PBS special "Planet Forward: Energy Innovation."

In the spring of 2011 NET News launched its Signature Story initiative, producing a more in-depth story each weekday on a single issue important to Nebraskans. Signature Stories are presented on multiple media platforms, including NET Radio and NET's website.



In 2011 NET Television's major local documentary productions included: "Rosenblatt: The Final Inning," QUEST: Nebraska," "Standing Bear's Footsteps" and "My Dad's Illness."

NET Television launched the first episode in a brand-new series, "Nebraska Philanthropy: Investing in Our Future," spotlighting Nebraskans whose private contributions help promote and preserve "the good life" for future generations.

In addition to its regular gavel-to-gavel live Legislative coverage on NET Television's NET2 World (and highlights on NET Radio), NET News also launched "Capitol Conversations," a weekly web interview series. NET also began live streaming from 11 state government venues, including the main legislative chamber, seven committee hearing rooms, the Nebraska Supreme Court, the Nebraska Appellate Court and the Governor's Hearing Room.

In September NET honored Nebraska public broadcasting founding General Manager Jack G. McBride at a ceremony culminating in the renaming of NET's headquarters to the Terry M. Carpenter and Jack G. McBride Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center.

In September NET also partnered with Governor Dave Heineman, the University of Nebraska and the State Department of Education to create a virtual high school. NET will manage a digital library, which will include 16,000 resources accessible by teachers and students.

In November NET Radio's weekly program "Classics By Request" went on the road for the first time ever to produce a live show from Concordia University in Seward.

Also in November NET and the Omaha World Herald partnered to expand webcast coverage of the NSAA High School Sports Championships on NePrepZone, a statewide high school sports website.

In December Senator Chuck Hagel, his brother, Tom Hagel and NET General Manager Rod Bates donated archival film material from the NET production "Echoes of War" to the Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

## **2012**

In January NET Radio and KVNO Radio in Omaha announced a partnership to share select classical music programming. The partnership expanded the audience for KVNO Radio to cover the entire state of Nebraska and offered NET Radio a strong partner in the Omaha metropolitan area.

Also in January, NET Radio added the new program "Travel with Rick Steves." Steves also presented a free lecture to an audience of more than 900 at the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha in March.

In February NET moved from satellite to terrestrial distribution of its signal.

Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman addressed the national Public Media Summit of the Association of Public Television Stations in February 2012 in Arlington, Va. "I am very proud of what NET does for our state," Heineman said. "The respect, the admiration, how it brings us together."

Also in February NET Radio launched "Jazz Currents," airing Saturday evenings with host Tom Ineck.

In March PBS President Paula Kerger and PBS Foundations Board President Mary Bitterman visited NET. They met with staff in Lincoln, as well as with donors at a reception at the Stuhr Museum in Grand Island and viewed the Sandhill cranes at Rowe Sanctuary.

In April, State Senator Mike Flood introduced LR631, which recognized NET's history of legislative coverage. Speaker Flood praised NET for its "unwavering commitment to the coverage of legislative issues for 57 years" and recognized NET staff members from the floor of the Unicameral.

A new volunteer citizen advocacy group, Nebraskans for NET, was formed to help articulate the benefits Nebraskans enjoy from the statewide public broadcasting network and to inform state and federal decision makers about the positive impact NET provides Nebraskans.

In May, NPR's popular quiz show *Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me* was recorded before a sold-out audience at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln.

In June, the NET Foundation for Radio and NET Foundation for Television announced that the five-year \$25 million Inspire Nebraska campaign had exceeded its goals. During the campaign, NET membership revenue increased by 50 percent, total membership grew to nearly 25,000 and endowment funds increased to more than \$10 million.

NET launched its Virtual Learning Library, powered by PBS LearningMedia, in August to provide teachers, parents and students free access to more than 20,000 digital learning objects. This new website is part of a larger statewide educational initiative announced by Gov. Dave Heineman.

A four-part Public Media series focused on elder care issues covered dementia, health issues, financial planning, caregiver burdens, end-of-life arrangements and navigating Medicare.

A new content management system "CMS" website was launched for [net.Nebraska.org](http://net.Nebraska.org).

NET Television produced the following local documentaries in 2012: *Hearts of Zambia*, examining the effects of HIV/AIDS on the African nation and the role of UNL virologist Charles Wood; *Casting Call to Curtain Call*, a behind the scenes look at the Omaha Community Playhouse annual staging of *A Christmas Carol*; *Great Plains – America's Lingerin' Wild*, documenting what bits of wildness remains in the beautiful and fragile ecosystem of the Great Plains.

"Backyard Farmer," a co-production between NET Television and the University of Nebraska Extension, celebrated 60 years on the air in 2012. "Nebraska Stories" completed its 4<sup>th</sup> season.

NET News continued to produce specials in 2012, including: "Nebraska Child Welfare Reform," "Home School Nebraska," "Hispanic Hopes: The Heartland in Transition," and "Young and Overweight: Fighting Obesity in Nebraska." NET News also provided in-depth coverage of the XL Pipeline issue.

During the spring and fall of 2012, NET News kept Nebraskans informed on campaign news with "Campaign Connection 2012," a multi-platform initiative that included "Voter Voices," which encouraged Nebraskans to share their opinions on issues via video diaries at libraries statewide. NET aired the only free-access statewide live senate debate between Deb Fischer (R) and Bob Kerrey (D) from NET Studios Oct. 1. The debate was also carried live nationally on C-SPAN.

NET Sports produced the popular series *Big Red Wrap-Up* with analysis of the preceding week's Husker football game. The weekly guests included retiring NU Athletics Director Tom Osborne, and incoming AD Shawn Eichorst. A live program Oct. 2 at the Champions Club attracted more than 200 guests.

In 2012 NET Radio launched a free app for the Android, iPhone and iPad technologies, allowing users to listen live to NET Radio's two streams – news/classical and news/jazz – as well as other features.

NET Radio was granted a new signal, 88.9 FM, in the Falls City/Humboldt area after a full-power station went on the air at 91.7 FM, the same frequency as our lower powered translator in Falls City.

NET Television viewers across the state who receive broadcasts over-the-air via antenna, were able to watch their favorite programs an hour longer. Beginning in July, NET1, NET2 World, NET3 Create and NET-HD -- signed off at midnight in MT and at 1 a.m. in the Central time zone.

Ron Hull, NET senior adviser, received his second honorary degree from Chadron State College in December, 2012. He also delivered the commencement address. Earlier in the year, the University of Nebraska Press published Hull's memoir, *Back Stage: Stories from My Life in Public Television*.

## **2013**

NET Radio went on the road this year, originating a *Friday Live* in Kearney from the Merriman Arts Center in August, and hosting that evening a performance of the Nebraska Chamber Players with guest artist Nathan Pacheco. One highlight of the NET Radio year was the Oct. 19 production of *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor, live from the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln. A sold-out house enjoyed Keillor's take on Nebraska, on football and on the prairie skies.

NET Radio, and the entire NET organization, mourned the untimely deaths of two long-time NET Radio employees, Jerry Johnston, senior producer, and William Stibor, music director.

Original documentaries that debuted on NET Television included *Emery Blagdon and His Healing Machine*, about an unusual artist; *Nebraska's Capitol Masterpiece*, about the state capitol; a fifth season of *Nebraska Stories*, a video-magazine format program; *Remembered Voices*, which documents how contemporary students learn about the Holocaust using materials created by people incarcerated at the Terezin Concentration Camp during WWII; and *Ashfall Unearthed*, a music special about an original composition inspired by ancient fossils in northeastern Nebraska.

NET News documentaries included...*until he is dead*, which examined the history of the death penalty in Nebraska; *Devil Clouds: Tornadoes Strike Nebraska*, which told the story of the 1913 Easter tornadoes that killed 168 people statewide and caused millions of dollars of damage; *Changing Lands*, *Changing Hands*, which looked at the aging farm population and how the sale or inheritance of farms impacts the ag economy; and *Marijuana Crossroads*, which investigated the growing impact of Colorado's relaxed marijuana laws.

NET is leading the conversation titled "The State of Education in Nebraska," a two-year initiative with a goal of building awareness, stimulating conversation, affecting policy and engaging Nebraskans in supporting educational excellence for all Nebraska youth.

NET and partners Nebraska Shakespeare Company in Omaha and Flatwater Shakespeare in Lincoln teamed for several activities spun around the PBS series *Shakespeare Uncovered*.

NET Learning Services worked with schools in Auburn and Fremont on a *Ready to Learn* Initiative. Coordinated through the Nebraska Department of Education's Office of Early Childhood Education, Ready to Learn is directed toward at-risk pre-kindergarten children. It provides resources to improve reading and math literacy by using proven curricula built around PBS children's programming.

NET launched a new mobile app "Nebraska Capitol Live" in partnership with the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer for instant access to the Nebraska Legislature and 10 other state government venues.

NET's Interactive Media team, part of NET Learning Services, has developed a curriculum for students attending Paul Mitchell Schools of cosmetology. "N-Lighten Your Journey" has five modules to help students develop positive social-emotional skills. Susan Swearer, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor of educational psychology and an expert in anti-bullying efforts, developed the modules for Paul Mitchell Schools. It is the first social-emotional skills curriculum designed for staff and students in a higher education setting.

The NET Foundations hosted members-only learning events to view the annual sandhills crane migration in the Platte Valley, numerous activities based on the PBS program *Downton Abbey*, and a luncheon at Spring Creek Prairie.

NET Public Media was renamed NET Connects. This unit works in partnership with non-profit, educational, governmental, community service and other mission-oriented organizations to deliver new informational and educational programs to the citizens of Nebraska. Content developed by NET Connects is broadcast on NET2 World, including: *Now What?*, a continuing series about dementia and other issues faced by an aging population and their families.

On August 1, Mark Leonard joined NET as its general manager and CEO. With more than 30 years of experience in public broadcasting, Leonard came to Nebraska from Illinois Public Media, the public television and radio services of the University of Illinois. He succeeded Rod Bates who retired June 30 after 18 years as NET's leader. Leonard is the third general manager in the organization's 59-year history.

## **2014**

*Distrcted Drvng* premiered in February on NET Television. The documentary is a sobering look at the dangers of distracted driving, most commonly caused by texting or other activity, and what law enforcement, lawmakers, businesses, families and others are doing to address the problem and improve safety.

*Growing Up Gambling* premiered in May. With the ease of online gaming, are today's tech-savvy youth on a slippery slope to gambling addictions? The film features cutting-edge science on youth gaming/gambling addictions and tells the real-world story of a teen's downward spiral into online sports betting.

Longtime NET Radio personality Don Gill and NET Television producer Jim Carmichael passed away. Gill had been associated with NET for almost 30 years, including 23 as host of *Big Band Spotlight*. Carmichael had been with the network since 1985 and directed many sports broadcasts and *Backyard Farmer*.

More than 140 people attended a special screening of *Emery Blagdon and His Healing Machine* in North Platte in April. The event was hosted by NET Foundations and NebraskaLand National Bank.

Walkaround Bert and Ernie visited Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in April as part of the Nebraska Science Festival, and helped to break attendance records there.

Internationally known artists performed live during NET Radio's "Friday Live" special from the Lied Center for Performing Arts in May which also celebrated the Lied's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season.

NET's Ready to Learn Team provided family activities to enhance school readiness and offset learning gaps during John C. Fremont Days in Fremont.

NET's State of Education initiative produced programs that examined how to design the future of education; how to ensure that the state has systems in place to be sure students in challenging environments have access to the best teachers available; how challenges in public education are a shared responsibility for whole communities to solve; how teaching is more than classroom learning; and the changing roles for teachers.

NET Sports produced coverage of the Nebraska All-Star High School Basketball and Volleyball games.

NET partnered with the Omaha Children's Museum for a Dinosaur Train Classic in the Jurassic event. The day was devoted to dinosaurs and featured hands on activities, program screenings and a visit from the costumed character Buddy.

NET was one of 21 public television stations across the country to receive funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as part of a Ready To Learn initiative. NET worked with partners, including the Nebraska Department of Education, to improve math and literacy skills in Nebraska children ages 2-8.

The new NET Television production, *Nebraska Land & Sky*, premiered with breathtaking aerial views of Nebraska's unique landscape. To date, it is one of NET's most popular locally-produced documentaries.

The NET documentary *Generations of Nebraska Warriors* brought veterans of different conflicts together to share and reflect on the challenges of life after war.

*Big Red Wrap-Up* returned for another season of lively discussions about Husker football, recruiting, predications and smart game analysis.

NET renamed Studio 1 to honor Ron Hull's years of dedicated and professional service to NET and Nebraska. Hull is senior adviser to the NET and was one of the first employees ever hired.

Ron Hull was honored by the University of Nebraska with a Nebraska Builder Award.

Recorded in Omaha, the NET Learning Services show *Need to Succeed: Closing the Black Male Achievement Gap* focused on the challenges African American students, particularly boys, face as they navigate school. The program was screened during an *American Promise* filmmaker tour stop in the city.

To celebrate the network's 60th anniversary, NET hosted an Open House that included tours of the studios and remote truck, behind-the-scenes glimpses of NET produced programs and initiatives such as *Big Red Wrap-Up*, *Backyard Farmer* and the Platte Basin Time Lapse Project, as well as visits with on-air personalities and NET News reporters.

NET and the Nebraska State Fair partnered to live stream events from several locations at the fair. NET members and *Downton Abbey* fans heard the Right Honorable Countess of Carnavon (the real mistress of Downton Abbey) speak at an event during the Lauritzen Gardens Antique and Garden show in Omaha.

Ben Bohall joined NET Radio as host of *Morning Edition*.

The Harvest Public Media production *Tossed Out: Food Waste in America* took viewers behind the scenes to see where food waste happens and to meet people who are working to reverse the tide.

NET participated in American Graduate Day 2014, a Corporation for Public Broadcasting initiative including a live television event with national and local content, including several stories from Nebraska.

NET was honored with two 2014 Heartland Regional Emmy Awards – *Nebraska's Capitol Masterpiece* in the historical documentary category and *Nebraska Stories: Made by Hand* in the magazine program category.

More than 75 guests previewed the upcoming Husker season at the NET Sports Partners Club breakfast.

In association with the Nebraska Broadcasters Association, NET produced a gubernatorial debate featuring candidates Pete Ricketts and Chuck Hassebrook.

NET commemorated veterans and their military service at premiere screenings of the NET News documentary *Homecoming: The Impact on Nebraska Veterans* at events in Lincoln, Gretna and North Platte.

NET broadcast Nebraska matches against Ohio State, Northwestern and Maryland.

NET Radio celebrated fifty years of chamber music from the Sheldon Friends of Chamber music by broadcasting special concerts.

The Nebraska Broadcasters Association inducted former NET General Manager Rod Bates into the NBA Hall of Fame. NET Radio, NET Television and NET News productions won several award of excellence at the event.

The NET Sports production *Concussions: Heading for Change* examined brain injuries and the advanced research being conducted at the University of Nebraska Athletic Department in partnership with the on-campus research lab, the Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior (CB3).

NET's *Campaign Connection* provided multiplatform coverage of state races and ballot issues.

NET honored Hispanic Heritage Month with a series of programming to recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans in the U.S.

More than 1,250 people (parents, grandparents, caregivers and children) attended an NET Learning services technology experience workshop in Schuyler.

A father and son became the first to support NET by donating a vehicle to the new Car Donation program.

NET Sports broadcast the NSAA State High School Volleyball and NSAA State High School Football Championship games.

NET Radio broadcast the Governor's Lecture in the Humanities.

NET Television screened the first hour of season five of *Downton Abbey* at events in Lincoln, Omaha and Scottsbluff.

NET Sports broadcast the St. Cloud vs. Omaha Maverick Hockey game.

## **2015**

NET Television celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2015, as well as the public media organization's award-winning achievements, successful partnerships and growth from humble beginnings to an early pioneer in educational television.

NET Sports produced a *Big Red Wrap-Up Bowl Game Special* about the Husker's Holiday Bowl game against the University of Southern California. They also previewed the next season.

NET Sports provided live coverage of UNO Maverick hockey games against Denver and North Dakota.

NET premiered Season 5 of the popular *Downton Abbey* series.

A critical power amplifier tube prematurely failed at NET's KHNE (Hastings) television transmitter, forcing the network to operate in the area at only 10 percent of normal power for three weeks. The only replacement tube available in the entire world was shipped to NET from England. It cost more than \$45,000 and required specialized technical assistance for installation.

Beginning Jan. 7, NET continued the tradition of gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Nebraska Legislature.

American classical pianist Simone Dinnerstein and Pulitzer Prize winning composer William Bolcom performed during a broadcast of NET Radio's *Friday LIVE*.

NET broadcast the Michigan vs. Nebraska Women's Basketball game.

NET Ready To Learn and the Fremont Family Coalition challenged parents and caregivers to read 10,000 hours with children by April 17, 2015. A Family Fun Reading Night at Keene Memorial Library on March 5 in Fremont combined reading and learning.

NET and the Nature Conservancy premiered *EARTH A New Wild* at the NET Studios in Lincoln.

NET's *Big Red Wrap-Up* broadcast a Recruit Signing Day Special.

During February, NET celebrated the contributions of African Americans during Black History Month. NET Radio broadcast the series *African American Voices*, and NET Television aired a selection of television programs.

Irish singing sensation Celtic Thunder entertained 8,000 fans in Kearney and Omaha in February.

NET premiered season six of the popular series *Nebraska Stories*.

NET and its partner, Nebraska Loves Public Schools, cooperated on the *State of Education* initiative, and produced a program about poverty and education that aired on NET.

NET broadcast *NSAA High School Wrestling Championships*.

NET broadcast *Nebraska High School Bowling Championships* for both boys and girls.

NET broadcast *NSAA High School Swimming and Diving Championships*.

NET Radio and the Center for Great Plains Studies collaborated on *Lost Writers of the Plains*. The radio series, website and iBook were created so that listeners could discover Plains authors who achieved fame, but were lost to contemporary readers. The series began March and received praise from "Los Angeles Times" book critic David Ulin, who called the featured authors fascinating.

NET previewed the first hour of the Ken Burns' series *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies* at events during March in Grand Island, Lincoln, Norfolk and Omaha.

*NSAA High School Girls and Boys Basketball Championships* aired March 7 and 14 on NET.

NET premiered the newest season of the popular lawn and garden series *Backyard Farmer*.

NET screened *Last Days in Vietnam* at Lincoln High School and hosted a panel discussion about the program.

NET hosted a sneak peek of *Wolf Hall on Masterpiece*, as well as a panel discussing the history and fashion behind the series.

*Big Red Wrap-Up* co-host Adrian Fiala died in April. He was a color analyst for NET Sports football productions for 25 years, and spent 15 years talking about Nebraska football beside co-host Kevin Kugler.

NET invited members to experience the spectacle of Sandhill Cranes during a bus trip to Rowe Sanctuary in Gibbon.

In April, a Corporation for Public Broadcasting grant allowed the NET News journalism collaboration *Harvest Public Media* to expand from a radio-only series to a service that includes the production of video stories and in-depth programs. The videos are distributed online, on mobile platforms and via social media.

NET Foundations for Television and Radio hosted planned giving seminars in Lincoln and Omaha.

NET hosted several events in Kearney, including a screening of the NET documentary *Emery Blagdon & His Healing Machine*, a meet and greet event at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK). UNK was also the site for a broadcast of NET Radio's *Friday LIVE* arts and humanities series.

NET broadcast Nebraska baseball games on April 18 and May 9; and Creighton baseball on April 21, May 8 and 15.

NET broadcast the *Big Red Wrap-Up: Nebraska Football Spring Game Special* after NET Sports recorded the entire game for broadcast on a tape delay.

The *NSAA Speech Championships 2015: Best of the Best* aired on NET.

The KTNE/Alliance Channel 13 antenna fell from the tower, knocking out NET Television service to the counties of: Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff and Sioux. Service was partially restored to viewers in a 40-mile radius of the tower in early May.

Members of NET's Sports Partners Club enjoyed a tailgate party prior to the Minnesota vs. Nebraska baseball game.

A visit from two NPR representatives presenting a diversity workshop at NET resulted in national coverage of Lincoln in April. Two NPR stories featured the city's economic success and its reputation as an economic "utopia."

NET broadcast Nebraska Women's Softball on May 2.

The Class A and B *NSAA Girls and Boys Soccer Championships* aired on NET.

As part of Nebraska's Ready To Learn Initiative, the characters Peg and Cat from *Peg + Cat* toured several communities, partnering with local schools and community organizations during the "Week of the Young Child."

The May episode of NET's Nebraska Stories featured stories about the fall of Saigon; follow-up on the Wisner-Pilger twin tornado disaster; a man and his unicycle; a backstage look at a University of Nebraska-Lincoln opera production; and a look at unworldly natural sculptures in Toadstool Geological Park.



The June episode of *Nebraska Stories* featured a last-ditch Facebook plea that turned up a kidney donor for a Broken Bow man; a memorial in France that honors a Columbus native who designed WWII landing crafts; a Cirque de Soleil-inspired circus act by FreakWorks artists; and an Omaha native who voiced “Young Elsa” in the animated Disney blockbuster *Frozen*.

NET Radio began its year-long celebration of the network’s 25 year anniversary.

NET previewed the first episode of *Poldark on Masterpiece*. The hit series helped launch the *Masterpiece* series in the 1970s.

Time Warner Cable made NET’s three channels (NET, NET World and NET Create) available on the system’s digital tier beginning June 2, 2015. NET and NET World remained on channels 12 and 17, respectively.

NET News ended the 2015 legislative session with a program discussing how lawmakers balance competing needs such as improvements in health, human services and prisons, as well as demands for property tax reform.

NET Sports produced coverage of the 57th Annual Shrine Bowl live from Foster Field on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus.

NET hosted several events in Kearney, including a screening of *Emery Blagdon & His Healing Machine*, a broadcast of *Friday LIVE* and a town hall meeting with community leaders.

NET Radio’s *Friday LIVE* arts and entertainment show broadcast from the Johnny Carson Theater at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Members of Nebraska’s Legislative League toured the NET facilities with NET General Manager Mark Leonard.

Speakers from the November 2014 TEDxLincoln event were highlighted in an NET Television special.

The Omaha Press Club inducted NET founder and former general manager John “Jack” McBride into the organization’s Hall of Fame.

The popular PBS series *Antiques Roadshow* taped three episodes in Omaha as part of the show’s summer tour. More than 5,000 people brought items to the CenturyLink Center for appraisal.

The NET News special *Nebraska’s Death Penalty: What’s Next?* examined the historic repeal of the state’s death penalty and the resulting petition drive that would have voters decide the issue.

The July episode of NET’s *Nebraska Stories* revisited the largest steam locomotive in the world, tour the Nebraska Baseball Hall of fame, meet a former gang member now an emerging artist, take a look at how the Nebraska Army National Guard is using competition in training to save lives on the battlefield and go on an adventurous field trip to Wessels Living History Farm.

NET Radio’s *Friday Live* featured music and arts and humanities news July 10 in a live broadcast from the International Quilt Study Center & Museum at Quilt House on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s East Campus.

Eight-year-old Grace Brown was the Nebraska winner of the *Healthy Lunchtime Challenge*, a nationwide recipe contest for kids that promotes cooking and healthy eating. First Lady Michelle Obama, PBS flagship station WGBH Boston, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Agriculture were sponsoring partners.

NET thanked donors for their support of the *Omaha Gives* and *Give to Lincoln* online fundraising campaigns.

America's premier Independence Day celebration, *A Capitol Fourth 2015*, premiered on NET Television.

*Nebraska All-Star High School Basketball* (Boys & Girls) and *Nebraska All-Star High School Volleyball* aired on NET live from Lincoln's North Star High School.

The NET Foundation for Television received \$31,264 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the *Imagining the Platte* project. This was the second year of the award with a potential for third year funding totaling \$40,868.

NET Radio participated as the media sponsor of the 2015 Meadowlark Music Festival.

The Nebraska Legislature approved and Gov. Pete Ricketts signed a bill providing \$385,000 in state funding to cover the replacement and installation costs of NET's KTNE/Alliance television antenna, which serves viewers in the Nebraska Panhandle.

Former Husker Blake Lawrence previewed the 2015 football season and the new Nebraska coaching staff at the NET Sports Partners Club Breakfast on Aug. 22. Lawrence also shared information about his work on concussion prevention.

The NET Radio series *Voices of the Platte* examined how water intersects with the lives of farmers, scientists, teachers and professionals from across Nebraska.

The *Harvest Public Media* short series *My Farm Roots* returned to NET Radio in late July and August with a focus of farm kids. Listeners heard from country kids in Nebraska and surrounding states as they talked about what it's like to grow up on a farm.

PBS Kids co-host Mr. Steve had entire families up and dancing and babies bouncing to the beat during packed concerts in Omaha and Lincoln that drew close to 1,000 people on July 25.

The August episode of *Nebraska Stories* premiered on NET Television with highlights of the best segments from season six.

NET screened two documentaries that commemorate the lives of Japanese families at the Midwest Theater in Scottsbluff on Aug. 2. The NET and Independent Television Service co-production, *Most Honorable Son* was one of the featured films.

The new NET Television special *Discovering Nebraska* brought the state's natural beauty and culture to life. Segments included a visit to Happy Jack Peak and Chalk Mine in Scotia; Wessels Living History Farm near York; a look at the Winnebago Tribe's strong heritage; Five Rock Amphitheater in Gering; and the TK-Starlite Drive-In and Theater in Neligh.

*State of Education: Charter Schools – Consider the Alternative* examined publicly funded charter schools. NET and Nebraska Loves Public Schools are partners in *The State of Education* series.

Families and children played the live action game, Schuyler Scramble, during a night of fun, learning and food at the Schuyler Elementary School on Aug. 20. The NET Learning Services family event was part of the PBS grant funded program, Kart Kingdom. It included the *Schuyler Scramble* game, presented by NET Kids and Play Their Way. NET Learning Services partnered with more than ten community organizations to make the family friendly event possible. The event was free and open to the public.

*Big Red Wrap-Up* began its 27th season on NET Television. As the most interactive Husker football show in the state, each episode of *Big Red Wrap-up* is packed with inside information, highlights, game analysis and recruiting news.

During the Nebraska State Fair in Grand Island, NET showcased education during the Nebraska's Largest Classroom learning tour; videotaped a special episode of *Backyard Farmer*; and welcomed *Big Red Wrap-Up* fans with signed posters. NET also offered an online stream of livestock activities from the Five Points Arena and the swine barn.

Celtic Thunder's Neil Byrne and Ryan Kelly performed their unique blend of Irish music at NET on Sept. 9.

Sept. 20, *State of Education: Education Reform* examined the pros and cons of Nebraska reforming its education system.

The NET Television documentary *Yours, Willa Cather*, introduced the fascinating and vulnerable woman whose personal letters survived – tucked away in drawers and trunks – although most believed they had been destroyed. The program featured companion NET Radio essays as well as digital assets including a website and iBook, as well as a book club. *Yours, Willa Cather* was funded in part by Humanities Nebraska, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the NET Foundation for Television

During a series of special events in Norfolk, NET Radio's *Friday LIVE* explored the local arts and entertainment scene; NET Television hosted a screening and panel discussion about *Yours, Willa Cather*; and NET leadership met with community leaders to hear about their accomplishments and concerns.

PBS President Paula Kerger was in Nebraska Sept. 24 – 25. She spoke to NET staff and a small number of members at events in Lincoln. In Omaha, she spoke to more than 75 women in leadership positions who were invited to be part of the first partnership event between NET and ICAN (Institute for Career Advancement Needs). Kerger also visited Lewis & Clark Middle School in Omaha to see work by students taking part in the *PBS NewsHour* Student Reporting Labs program. The initiative gives middle and high school students the chance to shoot videos on local and national issues and possibly see their work appear on air.

While in Nebraska, Kerger was interviewed by NET General Manager and CEO Mark Leonard. The two discussed NET, PBS and the future of television in *NET Celebrates 60 Years: A Conversation with PBS President Paula Kerger*.

Pat Leach, director of Lincoln City Libraries since 2008, began hosting NET Radio's book review series *All About Books* on Oct. 1.

During Hispanic Heritage Month in October, NET celebrated with a lineup of programming that examined the cultural contributions and fascinating heritage of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

NET Sports broadcast four Nebraska Volleyball games in October: Michigan (Oct. 10), Minnesota (Oct. 23), Rutgers (Oct. 30) and Maryland (Oct. 31).

NET's Ready To Learn team hosted free early childhood educator's workshops as part of NET's Community Engagement Tour connected to the television series, *The State of Education in Nebraska*. Workshops were held in Chadron, Kimball, Schuyler, O'Neill, Valentine, Cody-Kilgore and Auburn.

*Choice Cuts: Meat in America* offered reports from several locations, including Lexington, Neb., where

new immigrants play an important role in the meat packing industry. The television documentary and associated radio series was a production of NET and *Harvest Public Media*.

The NET Foundations for Television and Radio hosted estate planning seminars in Omaha and Lincoln in October.

NET aired the fourth annual *American Graduate Day*, highlighting community leaders, educators and youth around the country making a difference in helping students stay on track and graduate high school.

NET offers special programming and resources in honor of Native American Heritage Month during November.

Work continued to restore full public television coverage to over-the-air viewers in the KTNE/Alliance signal area. NET programming became available on Dish, Channel 13.

NET Sports produced live game coverage of the Omaha Maverick Hockey game against Minnesota-Duluth.

All classes were featured when *NSAA State High School Volleyball Championships* and *NSAA State High School Football Championships* aired on NET in November.

In honor of Veteran's Day, NET broadcast a selection of programs about war, veterans and veteran's issues.

NET Sports broadcast the Nebraska volleyball game against Illinois on Nov. 25.

Fourteen-year-old musical prodigy and PBS favorite Ethan Bortnick gave an intimate concert in at NET for about 180 fans who pledged their support to the network.

An *Indie Lens Pop-Up* event on Dec. 13 at the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln offered an advance screening of *Autism in Love*. The film features four adults at different places on the autism spectrum who share their personal lives as they navigate dating and romantic relationships.

NET premiered the first hour of the first episode of the final season of *Downton Abbey* at events in Grand Island, Scottsbluff, Kearney, Omaha and Lincoln.

NET Sports carried live coverage of Nebraska games in the NCAA Volleyball Tournament.

Both the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission (NETC) and the University of Nebraska Board of Regents voted unanimously not to enter any of the nine NET Television channels into the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Incentive Spectrum Auction.

Continuing a long-standing tradition, NET Radio broadcast the *Governor's Lecture in the Humanities* in December. Humanities Nebraska collaborated with former Nebraska governor Ben Nelson to establish the Governor's Lecture in the Humanities, an annual event to demonstrate the importance of the humanities in public life.

NET Radio provided a selection of holiday music and special concerts during December.

NET Television celebrated the holiday season with PBS Kids and other special holiday-themed programming.

As lawmakers searched for a formula to lower property taxes without harming education, NET News produced the documentary *Nebraska's Schools: A Taxing Dilemma*.

Produced by NET, *A Virtual Tour of the Nebraska State Capitol* is accessible online and via tablet devices, providing instant access to the building that serves as the heart of our government and an architectural treasure of history. Visitors to the site can also get an online view of the Governor's Mansion. The virtual tour and curriculum website primarily targets K-12 students and their teachers who cannot visit the capitol due to distance or cost. In addition, the tour appeals to those interested in the building's architecture, as well as people born in Nebraska, but living elsewhere.

A new member benefit became available to those who support NET at the \$60 level and above. NET Passport provides on-demand access to a rich library of more than 900 hours of public television programming. Members can watch even more episodes of their favorite shows anytime, anywhere.

## **2016**

NET Sports produced a *Big Red Wrap-Up Bowl Game Special* about the Husker's bowl game against UCLA. They also previewed the next season.

NET Sports provided live coverage of UNO Maverick hockey games against Denver and Miami (OH).

NET premiered the sixth and final season of the popular *Downton Abbey* series.

Beginning Jan. 6, NET continued the tradition of gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Nebraska Legislature.

The new 13-week season of the popular *Nebraska Stories* series premiered on Jan. 7 with smart storytelling and a bit of the unexpected as it explored who we are and how we live in our great state.

NET broadcast the Illinois vs. Nebraska Women's Basketball game on Jan. 10.

A special series of programs airing on Jan. 11 explored autism and examined how therapy can help children and families cope with this puzzling disorder.

NET News provided live coverage of President Barack Obama's visit to Omaha on Jan. 13.

NET will provide live coverage of Gov. Pete Ricketts 2016 State of the State Address to members of the Nebraska Legislature on Jan. 14.

Wes Moore, the executive producer and host of the PBS program series *Coming Back with Wes Moore* spoke at the E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues on Jan. 19 at the Lied Center for Performing Arts in Lincoln.

*Indie Lens Pop-Up*, the free neighborhood screening series from NET and *Independent Lens* continued in January with *In Football We Trust* at the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln.

NET presented coverage of the Nebraska Women's Gymnastics match against the University of Michigan on Jan. 29.

During February, NET presented *Homeless in Nebraska*, an initiative that included a radio news series, a television program called *Educating the Homeless in Nebraska* and community outreach. NET was creating awareness about the issue of homelessness in our state and how the situation can affect children their entire school careers.

*Big Red Wrap-Up* presented a recruiting special on Feb. 4.

NET's popular *Nebraska Stories* series continued with new episodes in February.

NET broadcast *NSAA High School Wrestling Championships* on Feb. 20.

NET broadcast *Nebraska High School Bowling Championships* for both boys and girls.

NET broadcast *NSAA High School Swimming and Diving Championships* on Feb. 27.

The Platte Basin Timelapse project launched LEARN, a series of educational multimedia stories focused on the Platte River Basin. Featuring engaging photographs, videos, graphics and interactive games, the series highlights the work of Nebraska environmentalists, scientists, researchers and conservationists.

Feb. 5 through April 23, NET's Platte Basin Timelapse Project was part of KANEKO's spring 2016 exhibit, WATER, which explored the concepts of water quality and sustainability. KANEKO is a creative art space in Omaha.

NET launched the newest PBS Kids series *READY JET GO!* on Feb. 15. The series takes kids on a learning journey into outer space to explore the solar system and our planet while learning about friendship and teamwork along the way.

NET Sports provided live coverage of UNO Maverick hockey games against Western Michigan on Feb. 13.

During February, Black History Month, NET Television and Radio broadcast programming that commemorated the achievements of African-Americans in the U.S.

The February issue of NET's *INSIDE NET* member publication/program guide included a survey for members to complete.

On Feb. 4, NET provided live coverage of the Nebraska Legislature's Revenue Committee Hearing on LB 958, a bill proposing changes provisions relating to budgets, the valuation of agricultural land and levy limitations.

On Feb. 9, NET provided live coverage of the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee hearing, which includes LB 959, a bill relating to school funding, budgets and levy authority.

A performance by Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra of a Joseph Boulogne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges' composition aired nationally on the popular "Performance Today" public radio show on Feb. 19 on NET Radio.

In remembrance of "To Kill a Mockingbird" author Harper Lee, NET aired *American Masters: Harper Lee* on Feb. 21.

A free neighborhood screening Feb. 21 from NET and Independent Lens of the film *The Black Panthers: Vanguard of the Revolution*, encouraged community-driven conversation about the Civil Rights Movement. The event was held at the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln.

The NET production *Bago Boys* chronicled the long road to Winnebago High School's first state basketball championship since 1940. It also tells the story of challenges players faced on and off the court.

*NSAA High School Girls and Boys Basketball Championships* aired March 5 and 12 on NET.

The program *Quilts of Valor II* profiled the Quilts of Valor Foundation and the 60,000 quilts it has awarded to wounded veterans, including some from Nebraska.

The new NET Television program, *Sacred Places of Nebraska* took viewers across the state to explore the places Nebraskans find sacred and why.

In March, *Choice Cuts: Meat in America*, the new television documentary and radio series from NET and Harvest Public Media explored what it will take to keep pace with the global demand for meat, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing U.S. and Nebraska producers.

NET Radio aired *Lost Writers of the Plains* stories March 21-25. The broadcasts were in conjunction with a *Nebraska Stories* segment about the series and the promising writers lost to history.

NET's popular *Nebraska Stories* series continued with new episodes in March.

NET honored Women's History Month with special programming to celebrate women's contributions to history, culture and society.

More than 2,500 NET members were watching PBS favorites on NET Passport.

NET previewed parts of the three Omaha episodes of *Antiques Roadshow* at an event at Kaneko in Omaha on April 6. Executive Producer Marsha Bemko met with donors and viewers and offered behind-the-scenes details about the show and Omaha appraisals.

NET premiered the three *Antiques Roadshow: Omaha* shows on April 18 & 25, and May 2.

NET's production, *Behind-the-Scenes at Antiques Roadshow Omaha* gave viewers a backstage pass to the show.

In cooperation with the University of Nebraska, NET provided live television coverage of *Rising to New Heights: University of Nebraska Investiture Ceremony* for Hank M. Bounds as he was installed as the institution's seventh president.

NET premiered the newest season of the popular lawn and garden series *Backyard Farmer*.

NET participated in Lincoln Earth Day on April 23 with Curious George and PBS Kids resources and activities.

NET broadcast Nebraska baseball games on April 2 & 9; and Creighton baseball on April 26.

NET broadcast the *Big Red Wrap-Up: Nebraska Football Spring Game Special* after NET Sports recorded the entire game for broadcast on a tape delay.

NET hosted Estate Planning Seminars in Lincoln and Norfolk.

As part of an Indie Lens Pop-Up event, NET, ITVS and Independent Lens presented the film *Peace Officer* April 17 at the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln. A community discussion included representatives from law enforcement and the American Civil Liberties Union.

NET invited families for sensory-friendly play, along with iPad-based activities and giveaways on April 9 at the Edgerton Explorit Center in Aurora. Along with a sensory-friendly screening of an episode of the PBS Kids series *Dinosaur Train*, parents and children enjoyed play in special "quiet areas" for those who needed a sensory break.

NET Sports broadcast Nebraska Softball on April 30.

The *NSAA Speech Championships 2015: Best of the Best* aired on NET on April 30.

Two Nebraska high school students were winners of PBS LearningMedia's and Stand Up To Cancer's Emperor Science Award program. Terese Navarra of Papillion, a junior at Bellevue West High School, and Natalie Schieuer of Walton, a junior at Pius X High School in Lincoln were chosen from nearly 1,200 applications. The two students are interested in pursuing a career in science research. The Harvest Public Media production *Feasting on Fuel* investigated the amount of energy it takes to grow, transport, process and prepare food.

NET Radio hosted a Friday LIVE event featuring music from the German quartet Salut Salon and Israeli mandolin player Avi Avital on April 29. The event was broadcast live from the Ron Hull Studio at NET in Lincoln and was open to the public.

NET, the Nebraska Chamber Players and Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra joined together for a special concert event on May 1.

A story following faith, morality and gun violence was at the heart of NET's Indie Lens Pop-Up film and discussion series for May. Presented by NET, Independent Television Service and Independent Lens *The Armor of Light* was shown May 15 at the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln.

In May, more than 3,500 NET members are watching their favorite programs on NET Passport.

NET broadcast Creighton Baseball on May 7 and Nebraska Baseball on May 11 & 14.

The Class A and B *NSAA Girls and Boys Soccer Championships* aired on NET on May 16 & 17.

*Kearney Goes to War: Remembering the Homefront* tells the story of the Kearney Army Airfield during World War II, as well as the history of the base and the community's contributions to the war effort.

NET participated in online giving campaigns in North Platte, Omaha and Lincoln.

NET broadcast the National Memorial Day Concert on May 29, paying tribute to the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform, their families and all those who have given their lives for this country.

Installation of the new KTNE/Alliance antenna began at the end of May and was completed in June. The new antenna brought viewers and listeners in Nebraska's Panhandle full NET television and radio coverage.

On June 4, NET Sports produced coverage of the Shrine Bowl live from Foster Field on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus.

NET examined Nebraska's prison system in the new special *Nebraska Prison Reform* premiering on June 16.

Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Heavican gave an award to NET for providing live streaming of Nebraska courts since 2008.

NET planned a summer *On the Road with NET* road trip to North Platte, Gering, Scottsbluff, Alliance, Chadron and Valentine. The trip included live radio broadcasts, a *Backyard Farmer* show, kids events, talks with NET leadership and screenings of our popular *Nebraska Stories* series.

NET broadcast highlights of *Re:Think – TEDxLincoln 2015*. Lincoln residents spoke at the event about topics related to education and the education crisis in our country.



Andrew Easton of Omaha Westside High School was named one of 52 Lead Digital Innovators from a pool of talented and innovative educators across the U.S. and its territories. The program recognizes tech-savvy K-12 educators who are serving as leaders in the education technology space and incorporating digital media in their classrooms.

NET collaborated on a pilot project with Lakeview Elementary School in Lincoln. Students received books that had been translated into five languages spoken by ESL learners at the school – Kurdish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Spanish and Albanian.

University of Nebraska–Lincoln College of Journalism & Mass Communications professor Matt Waite and student Tony Papousek partnered with NET to take viewers in to a Nebraska sale barn. The 360-degree video of the Beatrice 77 sale barn during a live auction was the first of its kind for NET.

Installation of the new KTNE/Alliance antenna was completed in late June, bringing back full NET television and radio coverage in Nebraska's Panhandle. Service was disrupted in April 2015 when the 100-foot, 10-ton antenna fell off NET's KTNE/Alliance tower.

Eleven-year-old Lauren Hinrichs of Elkhorn created "Tasty Veggie Tacos" that were the winning Nebraska entry in the Healthy Lunchtime Challenge, a nationwide recipe contest for kids that promotes cooking and healthy eating as part of the First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative.

NET Sports broadcast television coverage and streamed All-Star Basketball, Volleyball and Softball games, featuring the best high school athletes in Nebraska.

In the NET News special *Nebraska Prison Reform*, a panel of experts discussed the current state of Nebraska's prisons, efforts to improve them and future prospects.

NET taped an episode of Backyard Farmer at the Union Plaza Amphitheater in Lincoln and broadcast it the next day (July 7). The event was free and open to the public.

PBS and NPR teamed up for coverage of the Republican and Democratic National Conventions in July.

NET Sports hosted a Sports Partners Breakfast that featured Husker analyst Sean Callahan and others discussing the upcoming season and players, and a tour of NET's remote production truck.

NET Radio added two new weekend programs in August 2016 – *The Moth Radio Hour* which offers intriguing live storytelling and *Ask Me Another* featuring trivia, puzzles and word games.

NET Sports premiered *Nebraska Volleyball Championship: Destination Omaha* which captured the commitment and dedication it took for the Huskers to build a championship team – one that was crowned National Champion in front of its home-state crowd.

*Big Red Wrap-Up* premiered on NET World on Aug. 30.

Omaha-area residents were invited to NET's On the Road events, which included a PBS KIDS event at the W. Dale Clark (Main) Library on Sept. 17 and a live broadcast of *Big Red Wrap-Up* on Sept. 20 in the Durham Museum's Swanson Gallery.

Norfolk-area residents were invited to NET's On the Road events, which included a sneak preview of the newest NET documentary, *Paleo Sleuths*, at the Elkhorn Valley Museum on Sept. 14 and a PBS KIDS event at the Norfolk Public Library on Sept. 15.

Columbus-area residents were invited to NET's On the Road events, which included a *Nebraska Stories* screening on Sept. 14 at the Columbus Art Gallery and a PBS KIDS event on Sept. 15 and the Columbus Public Library. Columbus and surrounding area residents also joined NET leadership for an informal community discussion at Traditions Inn.

The Nebraska State Fair and NET cooperated to offer a live online stream of livestock competitions.

NET carried live coverage of Nebraska Volleyball – Gonzaga on Sept. 16 and Creighton on Sept. 17.

In September, NET News broadcast *Classroom Conversations: Nebraska's Death Penalty Vote* which explored how advocates from each side of the death penalty debate answered student questions about the issue.

The journalism collaboration Harvest Public Media produced *Watching Our Water: The Challenge to Keep It Clean*, following water as it flowed from Denver through Nebraska farms and on to an Omaha laboratory.

During the week of Sept. 12-17, NET presented Spotlight Education, a look at America's students and new models of learning for our education system. The week concluded with the *American Graduate Day* broadcast. NET broadcast three Stories of Champions about TeamMates founders Tom and Nancy Osborne; Nikki Siegel, director of street outreach for the BAY; and Tony Raimondo, Sr., founder of Dream It. Do It.

In October, PBS and NPR provided television and radio coverage of one vice-presidential and two presidential debates.

New York Times columnist and NPR analyst David Brooks was the speaker at the E. N. Thompson Forum on World Issues on Oct. 4 in Lincoln. Books discussed the 2016 presidential election.

Omaha artist Therman Statom was featured on an episode of the series *Craft in America*. Statom is a sculptor, glass artist and painter whose works have been displayed at many locations in Omaha.

Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice Mike Heavican expressed the court's appreciation for NET's work to provide live streaming of court proceedings. Heavican presented NET with a special award and toured the facility.

NET Sports broadcast Nebraska Volleyball matches on Oct. 1, Oct. 7 and Oct. 29.

NET offered the free booklet *A Personal and Charitable Financial Record* as part of National Estate Planning Awareness Week.

As part of a weekly science segment, *PBS NewsHour* broadcast a segment from the Harvest Public Media program *Watching Our Water: The Challenge to Keep It Clean*.

*Best of Enemies* kicked-off the 2016-17 Indie Lens Pop-Up film season at the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln and the Midwest Theatre in Scottsbluff. Screenings and community discussions were held at both locations in October.

NET Senior Advisor Ron Hull, who helped establish Nebraska's Public Broadcasting System station in the 1950s, received the state's highest tourism. The Nebraska Tourism Commission awarded Hull its 2016 Henry Fonda Award for his leadership, vision and dedication to the tourism industry.

NET premiered *Medicine Woman* in November, 2016. The documentary explored the life of Susan La Fleshe Picotte, America's first Native American doctor, as well as other modern day medicine women from the Omaha, Lakota and Navajo tribes.

Also in November, *Paleo Sleuths*, took viewers on a fossil safari to a prehistoric world when mammals ruled supreme. In the new documentary, paleontologists unearthed fossils showing how America's wildlife evolved as climate transformed the Great Plains landscape from hot, wet forests to Ice Age grasslands.

As part of the *Paleo Sleuths* documentary, an interactive website extends learning. The site describes prehistoric mammals using pictures, charts and diagrams and cutting-edge technology turns full-sized fossils into 3-D models of both large and small creatures.

In November, NET honored the brave services of our men and women in uniform with a selection of programs about war, veterans and veteran's issues.

As part of Campaign Connection 2016, NET provided election results on Nov. 8, including coverage of a measure asking Nebraska voters whether they wanted to repeal or maintain a law that eliminated the state's death penalty. NET coordinated with NET and PBS coverage.

NET Sports broadcast Nebraska Volleyball matches on Nov. 9 and Nov. 29, as well as Maverick Hockey on Nov. 18.

NET broadcast action from all classes during the NSAA State High School Volleyball Championships on Nov. 12 and the NSAA State High School Football Championships on Nov. 21 and 22.

NET carried live coverage of the Huskers in action at the NCAA Volleyball Tournament on Dec. 2 & 3.

*Meet the Patels* was the December film for the 2016-17 Indie Lens Pop-Up film season at the Sheldon Museum of Art in Lincoln, the Midwest Theatre in Scottsbluff and the West Point Community Theater in West Point. Screenings and community discussions were held at all three locations.

NET Television and Radio offered a selection of holiday music during December.

NET News presented *Nebraska Mental Health: Who's Responding* which explored how police are handling the role of being mental health first responders, and how communities are trying to better manage these situations.

*Storm of the Century: The Blizzard of '49* looked back at a series of winter storms that dropped more than 100 inches of snow on parts of Nebraska, Colorado, South Dakota and Wyoming.

NET Sports broadcast the Nebraska vs. Creighton Women's Basketball game on Dec. 18.

## **2017**

The new NET documentary *Sold for Sex: Trafficking in Nebraska* premiered on Jan. 5, revealing an ugly industry whose victims are mostly female and often children.

NET continued the tradition of gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Nebraska Legislature and provided live coverage of Gov. Pete Ricketts 2017 State of the State address.

The new season of *Nebraska Stories* premiered on Jan. 12 with smart storytelling and a bit of the unexpected as it explored who we are and how we live in our great state. It continued in February, March and April.

PBS premiered the new MASTERPIECE drama *Victoria* on Jan. 15.

In celebration of Nebraska's Sesquicentennial, NET began airing important programs from its archives and created *Nebraska 150 History Moments* that highlight the state's history, culture, people and geography, plus creations unique to Nebraska.

NET Sports provided live coverage of UNO Maverick hockey games against North Dakota and Miami (OH).

NET Sports produced special *Big Red Wrap-Up* episodes for the bowl game and recruit signing.

During January and February, NET hosted PBS KIDS family learning events with Daniel Tiger in Lincoln, Beatrice, Seward and Schuyler.

*Indie Lens Pop-Up*, the free neighborhood screening series from NET and *Independent Lens* continued in February with screenings of *The Bad Kids* in Scottsbluff, Lincoln and West Point.

In February, NET broadcast *NSAA High School Wrestling Championships*, *Nebraska High School Bowling Championships* for both boys and girls and *NSAA High School Swimming and Diving Championships*.

NET Sports provided live coverage of a UNO Maverick hockey game against Western Michigan.

NET's *Sold for Sex: Survivor Stories* followed three women who were victims of sex trafficking.

During February, Black History Month, NET Television and Radio broadcast programming that commemorated the achievements of African-Americans in the U.S.

*Kaneko's Monumental Risk* profiled Omaha artist Jun Kaneko and his larger-than-life ceramic sculptures.

On March 1, NET launched its new fourth television channel, NET PBS KIDS. The channel builds on NET's educational mission, offering every child, especially those at risk, high-quality programs on a convenient 24/7 schedule.

NET and more than 100 supporting partners officially launched Nebraska Virtual Capitol on March 1. The interactive website is a resource for students and visitors of all ages to discover more about Nebraska and learn about the history, arts and architecture of the Capitol and the Governor's residence.

In March, NET premiered *Painting Nebraska's Legacy* featuring paintings from all 93 Nebraska counties by Nebraska artist Todd A. Williams.

In March, NET also premiered *Patchwork on the Plains: Nebraska's Barn Quilt Culture*.

*NSAA High School Girls and Boys Basketball Championships* aired March 4 and 11 on NET.

The program *Quilts of Valor II* profiled the Quilts of Valor Foundation and the 60,000 quilts it has awarded to wounded veterans, including some from Nebraska.

*Indie Lens Pop-Up*, the free neighborhood screening series from NET and *Independent Lens* continued in March with screenings of *Newton* in Scottsbluff, Lincoln and West Point.

Cox Communications added a high-definition broadcast of NET's WORLD Channel to its line-up.

In April, NET News premiered the new series *Speaking of Nebraska*, offering fact-based reporting and thought-provoking interviews on topics important to our citizens – education, the economy, agriculture, health care, prison reform, immigration and economic development. The series continued through June 11.

NET featured Nebraska's best high school orators in the *NSAA Speech Championships: Best of the Best*.

NET Sports aired Nebraska and Creighton baseball games in April and May.

NET Sports broadcast the entire Husker Spring Game as part of a special *Big Red Wrap-Up* episode.

The NET News special *After Ebola: Nebraska and the Next Pandemic* premiered in April with an examination of preparedness and planning for a potential pandemic.

*Backyard Farmer* premiered in April, celebrating 65 seasons of providing lawn and garden advice to Nebraskans.

NET provided a live video web stream of the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission's hearing to decide the renewal of liquor licenses in the Nebraska-South Dakota border village of Whiteclay, Neb.

As part of its *Indie Lens Pop-Up* community film series, NET and ITVS presented interactive screening of *National Bird* at [netNebraska.org/ovee](http://netNebraska.org/ovee). The film was shown simultaneously at sites in Lincoln, Scottsbluff and West Point.

In April, NET's KYNE (Channel 26) broadcast tower that stood near UNO's College of Public Affairs and Community Service building was dismantled and relocated to space on the KETV tower near Crown Point Avenue in Omaha.

NET planned a spring *On the Road with NET* road trip to Hastings, Holdrege, Minden and McCook. The trip included live radio broadcasts, a *Backyard Farmer* show, PBS KIDS events, Town Talks with NET leadership and a *Generation Listen* event for young professionals. *(Some events were cancelled due to weather.)*

The Class A and B *NSAA Boys Soccer Championships* aired on NET in May. *(The NSAA Girls Soccer Championship games were webcast due to weather and rescheduling issues.)*

In May, NET participated in online giving campaigns in North Platte, Omaha and Lincoln.

Cox Communications added NET's newest 24/7 channel, NET PBS KIDS, to its line-up.

To celebrate "Endangered Species Awareness Day," guests at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium attended a special sneak preview of the new PBS program RARE, featuring the work of Nebraska's Joel Sartore to photograph the world's animals.

In June, NET Sports produced coverage of the Nebraska Shrine Bowl live from the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus.

NET planned a one-day *On the Road with NET* road trip to Seward in June. The trip included a live radio broadcast, a PBS KIDS event, and a Town Talk with NET leadership.

*Backyard Farmer* celebrated its 65th "birthday" with a live taping at the Backyard Farmer Garden on UNL's East Campus.

The new program *Protecting Senior and Vulnerable Nebraskans from Fraud, Abuse and Exploitation* offered essential information for Nebraskans to address financial exploitation among the elderly and vulnerable.