WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of Nebraska to recognize the significant role that advances in fundamental science and engineering knowledge have as a source of economic growth, job expansion and improvements in our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the industrial, educational, and governmental sectors of the State to continue forging partnerships that will promote innovations and attract science-based activities to our State; and

WHEREAS, there exists a State Policy on Science and Technology dated May 15, 1995, setting forth a vision, goals, and strategies for our State,

NOW, THEREFORE, I Dave Heineman, as Governor of the State of Nebraska, do hereby affirm and support said Policy and do hereby adopt the same and charge the Department of Economic Development, with assistance of other entities that endorse said Policy, to continue to coordinate the responsive development of partnerships that will further the strengths and capabilities of the State of Nebraska in science and technology.

DATED this 29th day of September, 2006

Dave Heineman, Governor
Science & Technology

A State Policy

Recommended by
May 9, 1995

Task Force on Nebraska Science and Technology Planning

Approved by
May 15, 1995

E. Benjamin Nelson, Governor
Date
**Vision**

The State of Nebraska recognizes the increasingly important role that science and technology is playing in the state’s economic development and the quality of lives of its citizens. In order for the State to be a leader in economic development, to nurture globally competitive industries, and to improve the lives of its citizens, the industrial, educational, and governmental sectors of the State must strive to enhance science and technology in Nebraska. This can be accomplished by forging new partnerships among all three of these sectors. These partnerships will assure that there will be more scientific and technological innovation, improved productivity, new and better jobs, and more ability to adapt to rapid technological change in Nebraska.

**Policy**

Therefore, it is the policy of the State of Nebraska to develop further its existing and emerging strengths and capabilities in science and technology through cooperative activities among private industry, education, and government. These activities will result in the development and commercialization of new technologies, and will ultimately result in growth of the science and technology component of Nebraska’s Gross State Product.

**Goals**

- utilize partnerships among government, educational entities, and the industrial sector to increase global competitiveness, enhance research and development capabilities, increase education of technical personnel, and accelerate technology transfer.
- promote increased productivity of the science and technology based economic sector through use of new technologies.
- amplify innovative research leading to new products and new markets.
- improve the business environment for retaining and attracting science and technology-based activity by assessing strengths and building on existing economic opportunities and by creating new opportunities that will generate new jobs and greater economic benefits for Nebraska.
Strategies

- create a framework within which industry, government and education can jointly identify initiatives pursuant to the vision and goals stated above.
- identify and empower a leadership entity to advocate the development of science and technology (see recommendation below).
- assess state strengths and potential in science and technology in government, industry, and education and eliminate barriers to further development of science and technology in Nebraska.
- develop an educational and marketing strategy to promote science and technology and its value to the state.
- initiate a process that accelerates commercialization of new technologies and demonstrates associated education and training activities via a pilot project.

Recommendation

- the Governor of Nebraska should establish an organizational and communications structure that will promote the responsive development of the partnerships identified in the goals above.

Endorsements

This state policy document has been reviewed and endorsed by:

- Nebraska EPSCoR Committee, Robert Allington, Chairman
- Nebraska Industrial Competitiveness Alliance, Tony Raimondo, Chairman
- Department of Economic Development, Maxine Moul, Director
- Nebraska Technology Development Corporation, Donald Helmuth, President
- Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Richard Gady, Chairman

For additional information regarding the Task Force on Nebraska Science and Technology Planning, please contact one of its co-facilitators: Royce Ballinger, Nebraska EPSCoR (402-472-8946; FAX: 8948); or Jack Ruff, Nebraska Department of Economic Development (402-471-3769; FAX: 3778).
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