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# Nebraska Water Leaders Academy

*Photo courtesy of Jason Orton.*

**SCHOLARSHIPS** A limited number of need-based scholarships are available. To request a scholarship, contact Lee Orton, 402.476.0162.

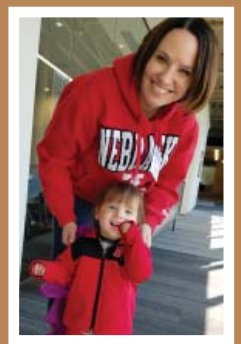
**WHEN TO APPLY** Applications can be submitted at any time. Deadline for submission is **Dec. 1**. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by **Dec. 15**. Classes start in January of the following year.

All applications and tuition payments are accepted at www.waterleadersacademy.org.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** Find the application form, requirements, expectations of participants and costs at: www.waterleadersacademy.org or call Lee Orton, 402.476.0162.

## Staying in touch

***Each year, alumni of the Academy organize an event that brings together all classes for educational and family-oriented activities.***



**ACADEMY SPONSORS** Cost of tuition is kept to a minimum through continued support by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, Diamond Plastics Corporation, and more than 25 other supporters. Additional support is provided by the Water Futures Partnership-Nebraska, a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt corporation.

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- Gering Ft. Laramie Irrigation District
- Michael Jess, Water Resources Engineer
- Tom Knutson, Water Management Solutions
- North Loup Public Power & Irrigation District
- Lee and Rita Orton
- Roric Paulman, Paulman Farms
- Twin Loups Irrigation District

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- North Platte Natural Resources District
- Sargent Irrigation District
- Simmons Olsen Law Firm
- Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District

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## A project of:

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**1233 Lincoln Mall, Suite 201**
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Nebraska State Irrigation Association
WATER LEADERS ACADEMY

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**NEBRASKA WATER LEADERS** Since 2009, men and women from every corner of Nebraska have met in a year-long program to learn the principles of transformational leadership and about the vital role of rivers, streams and aquifers in Nebraska. The mission of the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy is to provide learning opportunities that focus on cooperative approaches to solving Nebraska's water issues.

**CONSIDER THIS YOUR INVITATION** to join a unique experience that will allow you to change and grow as a leader and progress in your knowledge of water and natural resource issues in Nebraska.

**THE EXPERIENCE** The Academy offers six, 1.5 day sessions throughout the year at locations across the state. The Academy is structured around two learning tracks—leadership and natural resources.

**Leadership Track** University of Nebraska tenured professors and other experts have joined the Academy to share proven concepts and practical applications of leadership principals. The Academy's leadership track covers transformational leadership, leading innovation, civic capacity, conflict management, personal empowerment and motivation.

**Natural Resources Track** Discuss water laws, the history of water compacts, decrees, political structures and regulations. Sessions focus on water quantity and quality, water policy, research and the economic value of our river basins and aquifers. The goal is to gain a basic understanding of Nebraska's natural resources and water issues.

This track includes classroom presentations and field trips.

**FACULTY** Academy instructors come from varied backgrounds and are experts in fields such as: leadership, policy making, regulation, politics, natural resources districts, irrigation and power districts, federal programs and more.

**FIELD TRIPS** A float trip on the Niobrara, a tour of water projects in the Panhandle and urban water projects in Omaha are examples of hands-on experiences offered by the Academy.

**TEAM PROJECTS** As part of a group, each participant is required to produce a final project about a natural resource-related topic developed from their Academy experience. This opportunity provides insights in working together, examining important issues and developing innovative approaches to problem solving.

*WHAT SUPPORTERS SAY:*

*The Nebraska Water Leaders Academy is comparable to the LEAD program and it's equally as important for the state. We must continue to invest in men and women who are well-informed to be part of the decision-making process in issues that affect the entire state.*

*The most wonderful thing about the Academy is that the future of water and natural resources will be in the hands of those who may not have the history, but they will have the education they need to be successful. The Academy provides a network where people from across the state are able to work together to solve problems.*

*It's a huge, huge deal. People who love this state will have the tools they need to pull together and dwell on solutions.*

Roric Paulman, Paulman Farms, Sutherland, Nebraska

*The Water Leaders Academy was one of the best educational opportunities I have experienced. Not only did WLA expand my knowledge of water issues in Nebraska, but also expanded my network of water professionals. I use the knowledge gained from WLA frequently in my career as a water resources engineer.*

Mike Placke, PE, Water Resources Engineer, Olsson Associates, Lincoln, NE