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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 **November 15**. Applicants are notified of their acceptance by **December 1**. Classes start in January of the following year.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION Application form and requirements, expectations of participants and costs: <a href="https://www.waterleadersacademy.org">www.waterleadersacademy.org</a> or call Lee Orton, 402.476.0162.

"Newfound confidence allows alumni to become more aware of their leadership skills and how to use them"... Nebraska Water Leaders Academy, evaluation report.

## 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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Diamond Plastics Corporation

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- Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District
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The Academy is funded through a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Trust is funded by proceeds from the

Nebraska Lottery and has awarded more than \$245 million to conservation projects in Nebraska since 1992.







**Nebraska State Irrigation** Association and The Water Futures Partnership-Nebraska, RIPS - WATER POLICA 501 (c) 3 organization OMPAC 1233 Lincoln Mall, Suite 201 VATER LAW · COMPALINCOIN, NEA68508 SHIP · FIELD Nebraska State Irrigation Association ATER LEADERS









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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 is comprised of transformational leadership, leading innovation, civic capacity, conflict management, personal empowerment and motivation.

Natural Resources Track Discuss water laws and the history of water compacts, decrees 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 a tour of urban water projects in Omaha are examples of hands-on experiences that the Academy offers.

**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. You will be given insights in working together, examining important issues and developing innovative approaches to problem solving.

### WHAT GRADUATES SAY:

"It's one thing to read about the diversity of water resources in Nebraska. Experiencing that diversity is a whole other level. It allows an individual to truly gain an appreciation of the resources Nebraska has, the challenges it faces, and what is truly required to address those challenges.

Adam Rupe, Natural Resources Specialist, JEO Consulting Group, Academy Class V

"When individuals are well-versed in solving problems, the investment in that individual goes further than when funds go to a specific project. Their abilities to make better decisions benefit the entire state. Many of the graduates have the confidence to run for office, serve on boards in their communities and become better citizens of Nebraska."

Brad Dunbar, Nebraska Natural Resource Commission, Academy Class I

My work has been impacted directly by my Academy experience...working with others, we were able to develop a plan that addresses surface water and groundwater issues and made it a national success for other states to follow."

Laura Johnson, Water Quality Planning Unit, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Academy Class V





