

# NEBRASKA WATER LEADERS ACADEMY

## 2023 Academy FACT SHEET

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The mission of the Nebraska Water Leaders Academy is to provide learning opportunities that focus on cooperative approaches to solving Nebraska's water issues.

## NEBRASKA WATER LEADERS ACADEMY

Since 2009, men and women from every corner of Nebraska, and some of the neighboring states 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 resources issues in Nebraska.

The academy is structured around two learning tracks--leadership and 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 comprises transformational leadership, leading innovation, civic capacity, conflict management, personal empowerment and motivation.

**RESOURCE TRACK** - At each Academy session, experts explain the history of water compacts, decrees and regulations. Sessions focus on water policy, research and economic value of our important river basins and underground 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 at four sessions.

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 \$328 million to Conservation projects in Nebraska since 1992.



Water leaders tour at the MUD Platte West Treatment Plant in Omaha.



Academy at the diversion canal near Scottsbluff.



Experts on water compacts and the complexity of water issues use the Whalen Diversion Dam on the Nebraska-Wyoming border as an example of inter-state cooperation.

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The Nebraska  
Environmental Trust

preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations

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

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

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** - About application requirements, expectations of participation and costs: [www.waterleadersacademy.org](http://www.waterleadersacademy.org) or call Lee Orton, 402.476.0162.

## Major River Basins of Nebraska



### WHAT GRADUATES SAY:

*The great speakers and instructors helped to explain how all the pieces fit together.*

Randy Hartmann, Class II  
Farm Manager & Sales Agent  
Grand Island

*The Academy was a personally and professionally transformative experience for me. The blend of technical information, leadership training and group discussion was excellent.*

Patrick McNamara, PhD, Class III  
Visiting Professor  
University of Nebraska Omaha

*At its roots, the Academy is a gathering of those who have limited knowledge of both water resource issues and leadership, knowing that after spending a year together, everyone will not only learn from the instructors, but from each other.*

Paul Woodward, Class III  
Water Resources Engineer  
Omaha



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**Committed to protecting Nebraska resources - the Nebraska way**