

SEPTEMBER 2024

WAYFINDER

A Message from the Director:

Investing in Nebraska's Future

The recent signing ceremony for the Good Life, Great Journey Scholarship program marked a significant step forward in strengthening Nebraska's workforce by awarding scholarships to four Nebraska students pursuing degrees in Information Technology, design, diesel mechanics and electrical fields. This initiative, a collaborative effort between NDOT, the Pillen Administration and industry leaders, aims to encourage careers in STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) and Trades – fields essential to our state's growth.

The Scholarship Program provides students pursuing approved technical degrees at Nebraska community colleges with up to 100% coverage for tuition, books, fees, tools, housing and a paid internship with NDOT. This comprehensive support not only helps recipients gain hands-on experience but also opens doors for full-time employment with NDOT upon graduation. By investing in future transportation professionals, the program supports educational aspirations and equips students with the skills needed for vital roles. Aligned with NDOT's mission to enhance road safety and efficiency, the program ensures Nebraska's infrastructure benefits from skilled and innovative workers.

State of Nebraska is further investing in trades by providing tuition assistance to full-time state employees in their respective fields, as well as 100% tuition reimbursement for family members attending community college. Additionally, NDOT recently joined AASHTO's STEM Outreach Solutions program, which engages K-12 students in real-world problem-solving and introduces them to transportation careers early on.

Talk to your friends, family and community members about these opportunities and help NDOT build a stronger, safer Nebraska.

Applications for the Good Life, Great Journey Scholarship for the 2025 spring semester are open until October 15, 2024. For more information, visit dot.nebraska.gov/about/scholarship-program.

Looking ahead...



OCTOBER

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|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 13 - 19 | Teen Driver Safety Week |
| 14 | Columbus Day – NDOT Closed |
| 21 - 25 | National School Bus Safety Week |
| 30 | Buckle Up Phone Down Day |
| 31 | Halloween |

SAFETY UPDATE

As fall approaches, projects wind down, and weather changes can slow work, adding cleanup tasks in work zones and yards. Use downtime to tidy up and prep for winter, focusing on house-keeping to reduce slips, trips and falls from equipment.

HR UPDATE

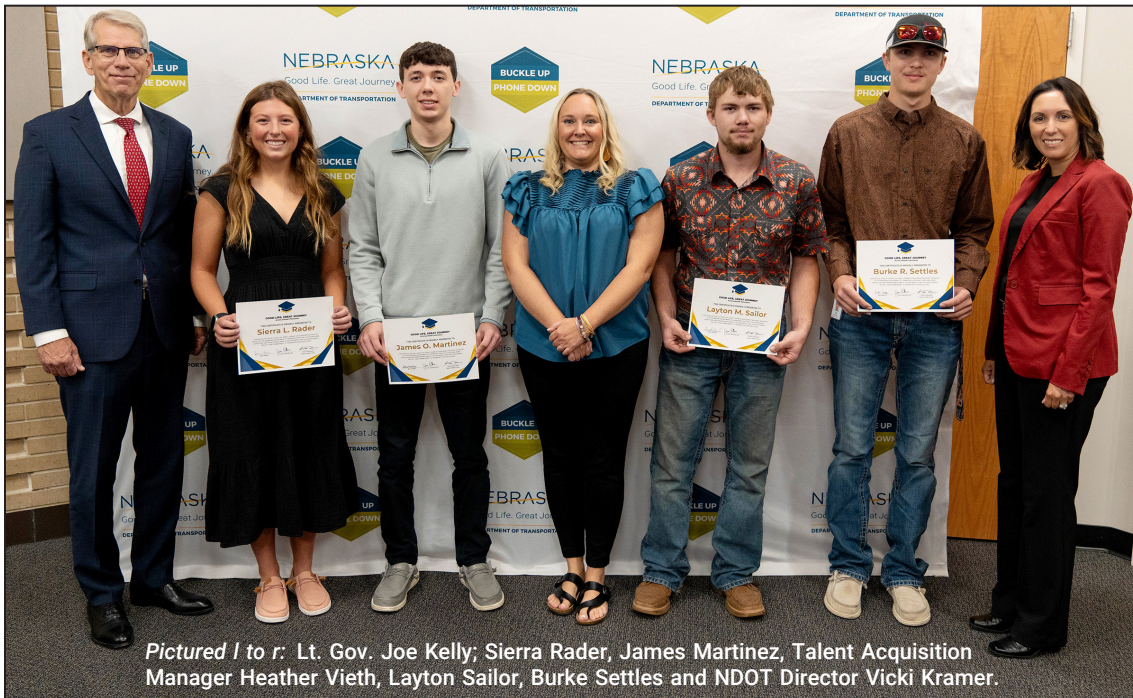
LinkedIn Learning Tip - If you're having trouble accessing a LinkedIn Learning course, try signing out of your personal LinkedIn account in your browser, then relaunch the course in Workday. This should connect to your NDOT account and resolve the issue.

IT UPDATE

If you need to reset your password for the Payroll & Financial Center (PFC/Enterprise One), find the solution [here](#).

We'd like to hear from you. If you have an update to share, please send it to [ndot.wayfinder@nebraska.gov](mailto:wayfinder@nebraska.gov) for consideration.

Good Life, Great Journey Scholarship Program Signing Event Held Sept. 20th



Pictured l to r: Lt. Gov. Joe Kelly; Sierra Rader, James Martinez, Talent Acquisition Manager Heather Vieth, Layton Sailor, Burke Settles and NDOT Director Vicki Kramer.

NDOT, in partnership with the Pellen administration and industry leaders in construction and engineering, hosted a signing ceremony at the NDOT Headquarters Auditorium to honor the four inaugural recipients of the Good Life, Great Journey Scholarship. This event celebrated the current NDOT scholarship recipients and highlighted efforts within the transportation industry to encourage more Nebraskans to pursue careers in STEM and skilled trades.

NDOT Hosted National Seat Check Saturday Event

The nationwide event highlighted the importance of properly securing children and child safety seats in vehicles. NDOT's Highway Safety Office partnered with 21 locations across Nebraska to offer free car seat checks. *Pictured l to r:* Dean Scott, NHTSA-Region 7; Lt. Gov. Joe Kelly; Vicki Kramer, NDOT Director; Janel Binder, Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department; Michon Morrow, Lincoln Police Chief; Dave Engler, Lincoln Fire Chief.



NDOT Operations Division Hosted Annual Maintenance Conference in Kearney

This year's conference opened with 11-year-old, Ivy Erickson, singing the National Anthem. Attendees discussed safety, field best practices, agency updates and viewed new equipment showcases from various vendors. A conference highlight was the Fireside Chat with Director Kramer and four long-time NDOT employees, who shared their career journeys and paths to leadership within the Department.



Pictured l to r: Mick Syslo, Deputy Director-Operations; Jim Laughlin, Dist. 2 Operations & Maintenance Mgr.; Mark Kovar, Dist. 8 Engineer; Cindy Jelinek, Dist. 4 Hwy. Maintenance Supt.; Vicki Kramer, NDOT Director.

