

JANUARY 2025

# WAYFINDER

*A Message from the Director:*

## Talent Ambassadors Boost NDOT's Hiring Success

Nebraska is experiencing record-low unemployment, but the NDOT hired over 840 new employees last year. In fact, over the past two years, we've increased our new hires by 15%. This means that we are doing something right. One of the ways we've achieved this is by active engagement and targeted recruitment through our Talent Ambassadors.

We have over 300 teammates who go above and beyond the call of duty to positively represent every aspect of our agency to the public and to potential hires. They attend dozens of college career fairs, visit schools, partner with other agencies like the Department of Labor and the Department of Correctional Services, host hiring events, conduct mock interviews and even offer students tours and opportunities to shadow in our Divisions and Districts. Our Talent Ambassadors are out in our state showcasing the incredible work being done by each of you every day.

We have always been our own greatest advocates—you are the ones who live the NDOT experience every day, and you are the ones we rely on to make a difference in your communities. If this message speaks to you, I strongly encourage you to consider becoming a Talent Ambassador. In 2024, our Talent Team and Ambassadors participated in nearly 50 community events in addition to the career events listed above, including parades, touch-a-trucks and trunk-or-treats. These events offer opportunities to partner with communities, and the connections made are a powerful reminder of the value of our work.

Whether it's sharing your story, referring a friend or attending recruitment events, there are many ways to get involved. To learn more about becoming a Talent Ambassador, contact Heather Vieth at [heather.vieth@nebraska.gov](mailto:heather.vieth@nebraska.gov).



## FEBRUARY

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2/9  | Super Bowl LIX – Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk |
| 2/17 | President's Day - NDOT Closed                    |

## SAFETY UPDATE

**Stay Steady this Winter** - Ice in the winter can create slick surfaces outside and indoors. Wear footwear with good traction, like boots, and change to dress shoes inside if needed. Stay alert for icy and wet spots.

## IT UPDATE

Are you trying to **manage data lists or reports** on your computer and looking for a better way to manage and share the data? The Business Intelligence Solution Center can help with answers.

[Click here to create a ticket.](#)

## HR UPDATE

Employees and (your spouse) must complete an annual physical with your Health Provider/Physician by the March 31, 2025, deadline.

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

# NDOT Celebrates Snow Fighters Appreciation Week

NDOT and the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) honored our Snow Fighters during Snow Fighter Recognition Week, January 12-18. Governor Pillen signed a proclamation highlighting your critical role in clearing roads during winter storms. Lt. Governor Joe Kelly joined NDOT and NSP to spotlight the planning and monitoring systems that support your efforts to work safely and efficiently. Safety is at the heart of everything we do, and each storm is a testament to your dedication and tireless work to keep Nebraskans safe on the roads.



Lt. Governor Joe Kelly joined NDOT and NSP to recognize Snow Fighters Appreciation Week.

## Aviation Youth Art Contest “Women with Wings”

The NDOT Aeronautics Division received nearly 64 submissions for the 2025 Aviation Youth Art Contest. This year’s theme, “Women with Wings,” celebrates the remarkable contributions of women who have shaped aviation through their achievements, creativity and determination. Open to youth ages 6-17, the contest showcased incredible talent from across Nebraska. A panel of judges selected the winners. The top three in each age group will advance to represent Nebraska in the national competition in Washington, D.C.



**1st Place**  
**Kiersten Hans (age 14)**

*Shown are the top winners in  
the Senior Category, ages 14-17.*



**3rd Place**  
**Jenna Deden (age 16)**



**2nd Place**  
**Addison vonRantzell (age 16)**

## NDOT Presents at ACEC Conference

NDOT attended the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) conference in Lincoln, where we highlighted the work of our eight districts and shared the challenges faced, along with the strategies used to overcome them.

Director Kramer moderated an informal conversation on key issues such as highway safety, winter operations and project programming. Drew Wilson (D7), Mark Kovar (D8), Brandon Varilek (D1) and Doug Hoevet (D5) shared their perspectives on these topics, individual challenges they face and illustrated some of the differences across Nebraska.

At NDOT, highway safety advancements through technology and equipment remains a priority and we appreciate ACEC for providing a platform to share our message with consulting partners.