

Visioning 2026 Global Economy/Internet  
8/21/06 – 5:30 pm

Attendees: Betty Froehlich, Mary Plettner, Julee Pfeil, Nancy Scheer, Don Polodna, Dick Johnson, Diane Becker, Lee Sherry, Norm Sherry, Roger Nadrchal, Justin Reise, Robert Arkfeld, Michelle Grimes, Larry Wenzel, Gregg Hanson, Sheila Tomjack, Virgil Froehlich

Facilitators: Mark Hall, Jennifer Adams, Pam Carlson

The group was given an explanation of the goal of a dialogue session, that there is no set agenda, not wrong answers, just a desire for dialogue on future trends for technology, global economy and the internet.

A handout of icebreaker questions were distributed to the group and everyone was asked to review and discuss the issues posed.

The group identified the following key factors of global economy, internet and technology trends for future research and dialogue at the next meeting set for Monday, August 28, 2006, at the City Council Chamber 309 Madison Ave. starting at 5:30pm:

Communications (GPS systems, network/internet, telecommunications, automobile services)/Privacy issues

Generational differences/Age related dynamics (where are the youth today compared to their parents/grandparents)

Relationships/Community Building (getting along, what “common goods” means)

Educate ourselves and continue to learn

Attract a diversity of people to or back to our area

Jobs (availability and types)

Variety of Entertainment/Activities

Raw Materials (price of electricity, labor force, cost of living)

Speed of Change/Time (priorities, management, choices)

Reaching the bottom 10% (educational reference on how if you can bring up the bottom 10% of the class you raise the standard for the whole class/school)

Healthy lifestyle

Impact of technology (health, relationships, lifestyle)

Success (how we define and measure it)

Connection/Connectivity (internet, global economy, after the internet)

Living opportunities downtown

Visioning 2026 Technology Group

Session two

8/28/06 5:30 pm

The group of participants divided into 3-smaller groups and was asked to answer the following two questions:

Based on the key factors identified last time, and the “trendpacters” we have selected, what 3-ideas do you think will be important to NE Nebraska in 2026?

Based on the “Innovation Edge” Article what ideas may help NE Nebraska prepare for 2026?

Group 1 identified the following ideas:

- 1) Demographics – older – culture changes –higher education (bring in professionals)
- 2) Technology – how to train the older generations and service their health needs (Wellness, preventive and insurance)
- 3) Education – must be adaptable to handle changes, NECC continue to be flexible ie. Detailing center classes and creating new jobs such as golf course maintenance

Group 2 identified the following ideas:

- 1) Economic Development – “capture” the youth, use community college demographic data
- 2) Incentives – Taxes for out of state vs metro, offer internships to retain graduates
- 3) Communication – education, distance learning
- 4) Problem solving, skills (new)
- 5) Support the older generation, keep them a vital part of the workforce.

Group 3 identified the following ideas:

- 1) Education – reaching the bottom 10%, as well as the top 10%, alternate education/online classrooms, seamless and/or continuous education.
- 2) Jobs – availability and types, Diversity, pressure on the youth to decide career choice at too young an age, multiple career changes throughout lifetime, jobs becoming obsolete or creation of new job/skills, technology/robotics
- 3) Connectivity/connections (internet-global economy) including communication such as GPS Systems, network/internet.
- 4) Continue educating our youth and current workforce, create new educational possibilities at NECC such as; expanding the nursing program to a 4-year bachelor's degree program in conjunction with UNMC, continue to utilize the economic development partnership with the college including new campus at S. Sioux City, Create incentives for Master's level education.

Group agreed that the focus should center on:

- 1) Education/Continuing Education
- 2) Demographics

Things to consider are the areas of drug abuse (Meth) and the special needs child population due to the drug abuse during pregnancy.