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Scholarly Engagement & Research Partnerships at UNO: Nebraska Benefits

Craig S. Maher, Director of the Nebraska State & Local Finance Lab | Jerry Deichert, Director of the Center for Public Affairs Research, College of Public Affairs & Community Service, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE 68182

ABSTRACT
How do you bring to life a College’s mission that includes helping the community solve important problems?

TWO ENTITIES = ONE PARTNERSHIP

NEBRASKA STATE & LOCAL FINANCE LAB
- Provides new opportunities for other skilled researchers to engage in Nebraska public finance and economic development projects.
- Serves as a conduit for developing relationships with state authorities.

CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH (CPAR)
- Serves as a research and community outreach unit.
- Excites collaboration between state and local government throughout the region.
- Helps economic development groups or nonprofit organizations better analyze its data.

COLLABORATION OUTCOMES
- The Lab has produced 3 reports and 1 academic publication (under review).
- Information shared with organizations in Nebraska counties, municipalities and single-purpose districts.
- Has been contacted by local media to comment on budgeting matters.
- Recent meeting with the Director of the Nebraska Counties Association for outreach/training efforts.
- Presented to the Nebraska State Legislative Planning Committee.
- Working with CPAR Partners on data visualization projects.

THE COLLABORATION
The Lab obtained local finance data and worked with CPAR on supplementing those data with U.S. Census data.

Finance Lab established in 2015, funded by Dean, CPACS
Lab received an Urban Research Grant from CPACS

Community Engagement

Nebraska State & Local Finance Lab
Center for Public Affairs Research

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