

To: Interested Stakeholders
From: Cathie Petsch and Lea Ann Johnson
Re: Lincoln Community Learning Centers Initiative

November 2003 Update

- The Lincoln CLC initiative has been invited to join the Urban Community Schools Network. The seven other cities represented are Baltimore, Boston, Portland, Kansas City, MO; Indianapolis, Evansville, IN; and Chicago. The network will hold its first meeting in Chicago, January 21-23, 2004.
- City Council Member Patte Newman will represent Lincoln at the National League of Cities' Congress session titled, "Making the Link: Integrating Afterschool Initiatives into Education Reform" to be held in Nashville, TN, December 9-13, 2003. As a member of the CLC Leadership Council Patte will also participate in a panel discussion, "Collaborating for Student Success: Promising Approaches & Lessons Learned," which will highlight Lincoln's accomplishments in working to improve afterschool programs.
- With the help of Lincoln's CLC initiative, the Nebraska Children & Families Foundation has received a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to support the further development and operation of the Nebraska CLC Network. Nebraska will send a team to a convening of national networks for statewide afterschool programs in Raleigh-Durham, NC, February 10-12, 2004.
- After hearing a presentation by Bill Johnston and Cathie Petsch, the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Chamber Commerce passed the following resolution. "Now therefore, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce supports the Lincoln Community Learning Centers initiative that is currently serving students, families, and neighborhoods in 15 schools, and encourages both private and governmental entities to support the program. Furthermore, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce recognizes the CLC initiative as a positive challenge to all community stakeholders to be collaborative, and pledges the Chamber's support and partnership in the program's continued success."
- Each of the panels convened by the school board to provide input on the attributes needed by the next superintendent noted community school experience. Staff listed the need to approach students' learning holistically in its top five priorities. Parents requested experience with community learning centers. The community panel suggested someone with community focus who sees the schools as part of the community before and after the school day and for those who wish to serve the community. These groups will also participate in interviewing finalists.
- Web site pick of the month: <http://www.foundationforlps.org> Click on the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools' Fund-A-Need section which lists a category for donors to connect with Community Learning Centers student needs.