



News Release



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(HOLDREGE, Neb.) - Rochelle Jurgens, controller and finance manager at The Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, is among the members of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry's new Leadership Nebraska class.

The Chamber announced the new members of Class XIII in a news release on Thursday. Leadership Nebraska was founded in 2006 to identify current and emerging leaders throughout the state, enhance their leadership skills and deepen their knowledge of the challenges and opportunities facing Nebraska. Participants have been selected from all across the state and possess varied backgrounds and diverse talents. All candidates have demonstrated an abiding interest in Nebraska and its future.

At CNPPID, Jurgens supervises all accounting functions and manages the District's finances. She is also co-owner, with husband Gary, of Holdrege Soft Water. She is a graduate of Holdrege High School and the University of Nebraska-Kearney with a degree in accounting. She also earned a Master's Degree in business administration from UNK.

In the community, Jurgens has been active in the Trinity Evangelical Free Church, is a member of the Phelps County Development Corporation's watchdog committee, and is a past member of the Holdrege Ambassadors and the Holdrege Day Camp board of directors. The Jurgens are the parents of two sons, Alex of Austin, Tex., and Taylor of Kansas City, Mo.

The LEAD program consists of six sessions covering a broad range of key Nebraska issues including economic development, health care, education, agriculture, government and policy development. Due to restrictions associated with Covid-19, the start date for Class XIII has been delayed, with orientation beginning in September and sessions concluding in April, 2021.

Bryan Slone, president of the Nebraska Chamber, said: "Nebraska faces complex challenges in this new economy. Now, more than ever, we need well-informed, connected leaders who are ready to serve their fellow Nebraskans."

Listed below are the 28 other Nebraskans selected to participate in Leadership Nebraska's Class XIII, along with the class member's employer.

ALLIANCE: Mara Anderson, Alliance Recreation Center

BLAIR: Jordan Rishel, Washington County Chamber of Commerce; Matthew Reed, Great Plains Communication

COLUMBUS: Heidi Elliot, Nebraska Public Power District

ELKHORN: Jessica Colo, OCI Insurance & Financial Services

GERING: Renae Jimenez, City of Gering

GRAND ISLAND: Lori Schuppan, Chief Industries, Inc.

KEARNEY: Brenda Jensen, City of Kearney; Kelly Kreger, On Point Construction Management; Lisa Tschauner, University of Nebraska at Kearney

LINCOLN: Macala Carter, Great Western Bank; Ben Martens, U.S. Bank; Nate HcHargue, State Farm; Bridgett Petzoldt, Black Hills Energy

NELIGH: Lauren Sheridan-Simonsen, City of Neligh Economic Development

NORFOLK: Dr. Tracy Kruse, Northeast Community College

NORTH PLATTE: Chance Schilling, First National Bank of Omaha

OMAHA: Brook Aken, Omaha Public Power District; Britton Gabel, Omaha Public Power District; Julie Klug, Aksarben Foundation; Megan Murray, Metropolitan Utilities District; Jennifer Olds, Peter Kiewit Foundation; Sarah Sjolie, The Wellbeing Partners; Carole Swanson, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Nebraska

O'NEILL: David Chochon, Great Plains State Bank

SCOTTSBLUFF: Douglas Mader, Western Nebraska Community College

WISNER: Kevin Black, Pinnacle Bank

YORK: Edward Tjaden, City of York Police Department

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