

**Business Administration****\$378 Million in Nebraska in 2007  
NBDC's big impact**

Helping small businesses has become big business for one of UNO's biggest stars — the Nebraska Business Development Center.

Founded in 1977 and one of only five original small business development centers partially funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration, NBDC has from its start been a leader in Nebraska and the nation.

In its inaugural year, NBDC conducted more small company consultations than any other university in the nation. Today, NBDC offers more programs than any other Small Business Development Center and it continues to expand.

In February, NBDC received funding to run the Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange. "Important because we are the clearinghouse for all of the pollution prevention resource information cen-

ters in the United States," says Bob Bernier, NBDC state director and assistant dean of UNO's College of Business Administration.

NBDC provides management and technical assistance to businesses throughout Nebraska. The center's boost to Nebraska's economy is staggering — more than \$378 million in 2007

alone. Economic impact was determined by measuring NBDC assistance in capital access, sales and marketing, and in operational savings. The \$378 million was calculated by adding increased sales and operational savings, investments in businesses, and the value of jobs created. Bernier emphasized that the figure does not include

continued sales and future process savings by client companies.

NBDC in 2007 also:

- Served 1,954 Nebraska businesses in 189 Nebraska communities and trained 3,616 Nebraska workers.
- Packaged 176 successful loan applications totaling \$35.3 million. These

**10 big years**

From 1997-2006 NBDC served an average of 1,570 clients per year, those coming from 435 Nebraska communities. In those 10 years NBDC totaled:

- \$441 million in business investment (loans and equity);
- \$364 million in increased sales or in cost savings on sales;
- 29,432 jobs created/saved.

small businesses made their own equity investments of \$4.8 million for a total capital investment by NBDC entrepreneurs of \$40 million.

These businesses generated sales of \$57.3 million and created or saved 540 jobs.

• Helped 423 small businesses learn how to obtain government contracts and assisted them in obtaining \$93.9 million in government contracts. These contracts created or retained 1,878 jobs.

• Provided process analysis and

improvement assistance to help Nebraska manufacturers reduce process costs by \$56.5 million. These same manufacturers invested \$12.3 million in their operations. They created or saved 223 jobs.

Expansion has come regularly for NBDC. In 1982 it added its Management and Technology Training program. In 1996 it added its Procurement Technical Assistance program with funding from the Defense Logistics Agency and its Manufacturing Extension Program with funding from the National Institute of Standards and Technology through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. With funding from the Environmental Protection Agency NBDC also operates the Pollution Prevention Resource Information Center. No other university in the country offers all four programs.

NBDC offices are located in Omaha, Lincoln, Wayne, Kearney, North Platte, Scottsbluff and Chadron.

**CBA welcomes new faculty**

**Patti Meglich:** Joining the management department as an assistant professor, Patti Meglich (at left in photo) has had a distinguished corporate career as an HR director for a multi-site manufacturing firm serving the automotive industry. Meglich focused on acquisition integration and employee career development. Her research interests include workplace harassment and creating a respectful workplace.

She received her undergraduate degree from Bowling Green State University, her master's from Cleveland State University and her Ph.D from Kent State University.

**Jennifer Blaskovich:** Previously a faculty member at Saint Louis University, Jennifer Blaskovich (right) joins the accounting department as an assistant professor. Before teaching, Blaskovich worked as a senior auditor, senior financial analyst and controller. Her primary research interests include behavioral judgment and decision-making issues, focusing on accounting information systems and auditing.

She received her undergraduate degree from Northwest Missouri State University, her master's degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and her Ph.D from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

