

**(Use Library Letterhead)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*[Insert the date this release is mailed or delivered.]*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

*[Insert the name of the library contact person.]*

*[Insert the phone numbers(s) for the contact person.]*

*[Insert the e-mail address for the contact person.]*

**[INSERT name of your library] Invites [INSERT name of your community] Residents to Use Library Makerspace**

*[your Town, State] [your library name]* Library is collaborating with the *Library Innovation Studios: Transforming Rural Communities* project to host a rotating Makerspace in the library. This learning environment will provide the opportunity for adults and young people to access technology and stimulate creativity, innovation, and the exchange of ideas to facilitate entrepreneurship, skill development, and local economic development. *[Community Name]* is partnering with the Nebraska Library Commission, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Innovation Studio, Nebraska Extension, and Regional Library Systems to help enable collaborative community development efforts that bring together local libraries, extension educators, 4-H youth development specialists, business leaders, development professionals and volunteers, community organizations, educators, and other community stakeholders to take charge of the community they want to build—and to experiment with using a library Makerspace to help build it. A National Leadership Grant of \$530,732 awarded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to the Nebraska Library Commission supports this partnership effort.

**Use one or more of these quotes:**

“This partnership demonstrates how our Nebraska communities can use technology and education to empower community residents to create, learn, and invent,” said Governor Ricketts when launching the project this fall. “By expanding the skills of the workforce in our communities, supporting entrepreneurs, and encouraging lifelong learning, this partnership reinforces our vibrant business climate and supports community development.”

“Nebraska’s public libraries are the natural gathering points for people to come together to share materials, knowledge, and experiences,” said Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner. “Whether the materials and tools are high tech or low tech, digital or analog, art or science, the focus is to create, invent, tinker, explore, and discover using the tools, materials, and knowledge available. Libraries have always been dedicated to community partnership, collaboration, and the free exchange of ideas—Makerspaces are the next step in that progression.”

“UNL and Nebraska Innovation Studio are extremely excited to be partnering with the Nebraska Library Commission and libraries across the State of Nebraska to help bring hands-on learning experiences to Nebraskans of all ages,” said UNL Nebraska Innovation Studio Founder Shane Farritor. “I think it is very important to provide the opportunity to be creative and this partnership is going to create new opportunities.”

Add a quote from the local librarian...something like this:

“The Library Innovation Studio is an exciting addition to our community. We will provide free access to high tech equipment, along with training for many levels of users. For example, those seeking new skills, thinking about starting a business, or experimenting with an idea can experiment and learn here. Over the next several weeks, many training sessions will be offered in the library,” said [*Insert local librarian name*].

If an Open House or Learning Night is scheduled...include something like this:

Join the [*your library name*] and, our partners the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, in celebrating the launch of our Library Innovation Studio. Our **launch/open house/learning night event** on [*DATE, TIME*] at [*ADDRESS*] is a wonderful way for everyone in our community to check out our library Makerspace.

[*Library Name*] Library Innovation Studio will receive equipment during a [eighteen, nineteen or twenty-week] hosting period, including components from the following:

- Digital fabrication (3D printer, laser cutter, vinyl cutter, CNC router)
- Electronics (prototype kits, microcontrollers, robotics)
- Textiles (heat press, embroidery/sewing machine)
- Digital media creation (filmmaking/digital photography)
- Music technology
- Specialized software, button maker, laminator & basic hand tools

As Nebraska’s state library agency, the **Nebraska Library Commission** is an advocate for the library and information needs of all Nebraskans. The mission of the Library Commission is statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services—“bringing together people and information.” The most up-to-date

news releases from the Nebraska Library Commission are always available on the Library Commission website, [nlc.nebraska.gov](http://nlc.nebraska.gov) (search on News Releases).

The **Nebraska Innovation Studio** (NIS)—the UNL Makerspace—is the creative and collaborative hub of UNL’s Nebraska Innovation Campus, where Makers and builders team up to conceptualize, prototype, and iterate projects that solve problems and influence change. The primary focus is on creativity, interdisciplinary collaboration, entrepreneurship, and education.

**Nebraska Extension** is one of three components of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s land-grant mission. It is a dynamic educational organization that puts research to work in local communities, businesses, and individuals’ lives. Extension professionals are recognized for subject matter competence, excellent teaching skills, and community presence. They live and work in Nebraska communities across the state and engage with local and state partners in educational program delivery to address critical issues identified by constituents.

**Nebraska’s Regional Library Systems** are four nonprofit corporations governed by boards representative of libraries and citizens in the region. Systems provide access to improved library services by facilitating cooperation among all types of libraries and media centers within the counties included in each System area.

The **Institute of Museum and Library Services** is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Our mission has been to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. For the past twenty years, our grant making, policy development, and research has helped libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. (Grant #LG-95-17-0046-17)

**Local Partners:**

The initial local library partners that will host one of the four rotating Makerspaces are:

- Ainsworth Public Library
- Ashland Public Library
- Bridgeport Public Library
- Broken Bow Public Library
- Central City Public Library
- Crete Public Library
- Geneva Public Library
- Loup City Public Library
- Nebraska City, Morton-James Public Library
- Neligh Public Library
- Norfolk Public Library
- North Platte Public Library

Plattsmouth Public Library  
Ravenna Public Library  
Scottsbluff, Lied Scottsbluff Public Library  
South Sioux City Public Library  
Wayne Public Library

Thirteen additional libraries will be selected in 2018 (deadline to submit is May 18, 2018) to host Makerspaces in 2019/20. This project began July 1, 2017 and will conclude June 30, 2020. For more information about the project or equipment that will be featured in the rotating Makerspaces, see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/grants/InnovationStudios>.

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**Note to Editor:** Interview Opportunities: *[name, title]* is available for interviews and to provide additional information about the grant and the new computers. Please contact *[name]* at *[telephone number]* or *[e-mail address]* to arrange. Photo Opportunities: There will be excellent photo opportunities of customers using the equipment and participating in the workshops.