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# Leaders Interviewed



**Josie Abboud**  
Service Executive  
Methodist Hospital

**Scot Adams**  
Executive Director  
Catholic Charities

**Pat Allgeier**  
Chief Nurse Executive  
Boys Town National Research Hospital

**Cindy Alloway**  
CEO  
Alegent Lakeside

**Deb Bass**  
President & CEO  
Bass & Associates

**Nancy Belck**  
Chancellor  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

**Jerry Bexten**  
Principal  
Central High School

**Ron Blumkin**  
President  
Nebraska Furniture Mart

**Del Bomberger**  
Executive Director  
The Stephen Center

**Edson (Ted) Bridges III**  
President & Chief Inv. Officer  
Bridges Investment Fund, Inc.

**Paul Bryant**  
Executive Director  
Wesley House

**Linda Burkle**  
Executive Director  
Salvation Army

**Brad Burwell**  
President  
Vintage Financial Group

**Pamela Carlson**  
Director Inpatient Care  
Children's Hospital

**David Catalan**  
Executive Director  
Nonprofit Association of the Midlands

**John Christensen**  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

**Tony Connelly**  
Principal  
Jesuit Middle School

**Sr. Norita Cooney**  
Senior Vice President  
Mission Services

**Chuck Cooper**  
CEO  
Special Olympics NE, Inc.

**Norma Deeb**  
Principal  
Springville Elementary School

**Kate Dodge**  
President  
National Equity, Inc.

**Rex Fisher**  
Nebr. State President  
Qwest

**Glenn Fosdick**  
COO  
Nebraska Medical Center

**Renee Franklin**  
Executive Director  
Social Settlement Assoc. of Omaha

**John M. Fraser**  
President  
Methodist Hospital

**Ruth Freed**  
VP Patient Care Serv.  
Methodist Health System

**John Furstenberg**  
President  
Omaha Home for Boys

**John Gottschalk**  
Chairman, President & CEO  
Omaha World-Herald

**Marcia Harman**  
Vice President  
Harman Appliance Sales, Inc.

**Peg Harriott**  
Executive Director  
YWCA

**Howard Hawks**

CEO  
Tenaska

**Ruth Henrichs**

Executive Director  
Lutheran Family Services

**Diane Huffer**

VP - Product  
FDR

**Teresa Hunter**

Executive Director  
Family Housing Advisory Services

**Laurie Jasa**

Principal  
Kiewit Middle School

**Amanda Jedlicka**

Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity

**Sandy Jensen Kostos**

President  
OPS Board

**Dr. Rick Kolowski**

Principal  
Millard West High School

**Renee Kerberg**

Principal  
Buffett Middle School

**Betsy Kish**

Principal  
Marian High School

**Todd Landry**

CEO  
Child Savings Institute

**Anita Larsen**

Director of Nursing  
Creighton Univ. Health System

**Pat Lenaghan**

Nurse Consultant  
Nebr. Medical Center

**Steve Long**

President  
Methodist Health System

**Allan Lozier**

CEO  
Lozier Corporation

**Keith Lutz**

Superintendent  
Millard Public Schools

**John Mackiel**

Superintendent  
Omaha Public Schools

**Nancy Mammel**

Mammel Family Foundation

**Steve Martin**

President & CEO  
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of NE

**Dr. Harold Maurer**

Chancellor  
University of Nebraska Medical Ctr

**JoAnn McDowell**

President  
Metropolitan Community College

**Mike McLarney**

Executive Director  
United Way of the Midlands

**Denise McNitt**

Director of Nursing  
Immanuel Hospital

**Sue Morris**

Heritage Services

**Jim Mounce**

Chairman, President & CEO  
Woodmen of the World

**Janelle Mullen**

Assistant Supr.  
Omaha Public Schools

**Lance Munger**

Managing Partner  
Deloitte & Touche

**Bernice Nared**

Principal  
Northwest High School

**Kevin Nokels**

CEO  
Midlands Community Hospital

**Nancy Oberst**

Principal  
Liberty Elementary School

**Penny Parker**

Executive Director  
Camp Fire USA

**Ron Parks**

President  
Millard Manufacturing Corp

**Dave Peters**

Principal  
St. Stephen the Martyr School

**Kathy Peterson**

Principal  
Fontenelle Grade School

**Bonnie Pryor**

Principal  
St. Cecilia's Elementary

**Lisa Roskens**

President & CEO  
Burlington Capital Group, LLC

**Connie Ryan**

President  
Streck Laboratories

**Barbara Schaefer**

Senior VP - HR  
Union Pacific Railroad

**John Schlegel (Fr)**

President  
Creighton University

**Wayne Sensor**

CEO  
Alegent Health System

**Andrea Skolkin**

Executive Director  
OneWorld Community Health Centers, Inc.

**Maryanne Stevens**

President  
College of Saint Mary

**Karen Sweeney**

Director of Nursing  
Alegent Lakeside

**Mary Kay Thalken**

Interim VP, COO  
Bergan Mercy Medical Center

**Pete Tulipana**

Executive Director  
Heartland Family Services

**Rebecca Valdez**

Executive Director  
Chicano Awareness Center

**Pam Watanabe-Gerdes**

Tender Heart Treasures, Inc.

**Wally Weitz**

President  
Weitz & Company

**Gail Werner Robertson**

President & CEO  
GWR Wealth Management

**Mike Yanney**

Chairman  
Burlington Capital Group, LLC

**Jim Young**

President & COO  
Union Pacific Railroad

**Tracy Zaiss**

President  
Zaiss & Co.

**Lyn Ziegenbein**

Executive Director  
Peter Kiewit Foundation

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## Leaders' Suggestions for Network Participation

In interviews, leaders from each industry sector offered suggestions for women interested in networking.



### Business

- "I'd caution women about viewing networking as a gender based activity. Build a broad base of networks and use them as productively as you can."
- "Aksarben-they are very involved in the community. You need to get involved with those that might further your career."
- "I think professional organizations are excellent for building networks, for example Lion's Club or Jaycees."
- "I personally went to male-dominated networks such as the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Omaha, Goodwill and Heartland Family Services. I've served on a number of boards and just got involved. Through these organizations you make contacts, help with their fundraisers. But it takes time and you have to do your part."
- "I belong to a Christian Women's Business network. We are able to share and support each other in our different businesses. This gives me the chance to learn more about their businesses. It is a network that works because we trust one another to maintain confidentiality."
- "Don't seek to meet people to figure out how to use them to your advantage but rather to enrich each other. Decide what things you care about, get involved, and then the networking is on a genuine basis. They are better if they are not in the same industry."
- "Network nationally and network for recruitment."
- Young Presidents Organization

## Education

- "Networking with business partnerships, community organizations, and parents are helpful in education leadership."
- "Be on a committee. When you branch outside your profession, you meet people that are as passionate about their professions as you are."
- "I belong to suburban schools' organization, professional organizations and community groups like Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce."
- "I try to go to the National Conference of Secondary Principals when resources (time and money) allow."
- "There are all kinds of organizations, The Women's Fund, The Omaha Network. You want to network within and outside education."
- American Council on Education
- Nebraska Women in Higher Education Leadership
- Nebraska School Board Association.
- American Association of State Colleges and Universities
- "I would suggest getting involved with the Metro Reading Council....GOARC adds a dimension of learning about special needs.
- "It is important to become involved in leadership within networks. As you get to higher levels of leadership, benefits tend to gravitate from discipline-based networks to broader based networks."
- "A person cannot have enough networks."
- "I think it is important for women to join a variety of networks as time allows. I would encourage them to be active within these organizations. They should be involved and offer input to test their leadership."
- "Joining community organizations allow us to be the voice of education on other civic boards, churches, etc."
- "Part of the commitment to a leadership role is to connect with other people in the community. If you are not interested in external networking, you should reconsider your goal."

## Health Care

- "CNO Group...networking is invaluable. I couldn't do without it as it is as important as a textbook both internally and externally."
- "Leadership Omaha. This opened a lot of doors to me. Health care can be pretty narrow and Leadership Omaha showed me that other disciplines networked across disciplines."
- "In large organizations, networking is most often accomplished through working on various multidisciplinary committees. They enable you to broaden your responsibility and influence-thus increase your ability to be a change agent within the organization."
- "I think learning from other entities is good, for example Disney for customer service skills. I think it is important for women to get to know other women leaders in any area."
- "Women's networks need to be within and outside of health care. Health care can be rather paternalistic given its history. Women need to have women experts they can tap."
- American College of Health Executives
- "For women it is important to be both involved in women focused groups for support and learning from other professional women but not limited to those."

## Not-For-Profit

- "Networks are critical for collaboration and joint grant-writing, advocacy and public policy work, support from other executive directors in the non-profit industry."
- "We need to make time for networks...we need to get out there-attend meetings and learn about the people in the community. We cannot do this job in a vacuum."
- "Critical in our world. I do mine through the Metropolitan Continuum of Care because it meets each month and involves all homeless providers, task forces, and government-related agencies on homelessness."
- CAFCON
- NAM
- United Way