

NEWS RELEASE

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Grow Sarpy Marks Progress, Sets Priorities at 2026 Annual Meeting

Sarpy County, NE – Grow Sarpy convened investors, elected officials, business leaders, and community partners for its 2026 Annual Meeting, highlighting recent economic development efforts and outlining priorities for the year ahead.

Devin Meisinger, Economic Development Manager with Omaha Public Power District and President of the Grow Sarpy Board of Directors, welcomed attendees and emphasized the importance of collaboration in shaping Sarpy County's future.

"Tonight was not just about reflecting on the past year," Meisinger said. "It was about recognizing how far we've come together and setting our sights on the opportunities ahead as we continue shaping a vibrant future for Sarpy County."

During the meeting, Grow Sarpy investors approved and installed the 2026 Board of Directors and recognized the 2025 Board for their service. The organization also honored outgoing Past President Jim Janicki for more than 10 years of leadership, including three years as Board President.

Grow Sarpy Executive Director Lisa Scheve shared highlights from the past year, including nearly 70 Business Retention and Expansion visits with local employers, continued engagement with site selectors and corporate headquarters, support for three business expansion projects, and the launch of Trades Day, a new workforce initiative connecting students with skilled trade careers.

"As Sarpy County continues to grow, success depends on being strategic, collaborative, and intentional," Scheve said. "Our focus remains on building certainty, readiness, and long-term competitiveness."

The evening concluded with the presentation of two annual awards recognizing excellence in economic development. Grow Sarpy presented the 2026 Business Progress Award to Hawkins Construction in recognition of the company's economic growth and community impact across Sarpy County. The 2026 Partner in Economic Development Award was presented to Ken Mar, Omaha Area Director of Habitat for Humanity of Omaha, honoring his longstanding support of job creation and investment efforts throughout Sarpy County.

For more information on Grow Sarpy's progress and upcoming initiatives, please refer to the organization's website: www.GrowSarpy.com.

(Photos attached)

*** For further interview opportunities, please reach out to Lisa Scheve (contact information listed above). ***

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About Grow Sarpy: Grow Sarpy (www.GrowSarpy.com) is a nonprofit business organization and is part of the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership. The mission of Grow Sarpy is to grow and diversify Sarpy County through recruitment, expansion, and development of industrial and service enterprises – creating new employment opportunities, capital investment, and an exceptional quality of life. Grow Sarpy is a proud partner of the Greater Omaha Chamber Economic Development Partnership. The Greater Omaha Chamber Economic Development Partnership (www.OmahaChamber.org/economic-development/) represents an eight-county area from two states (Nebraska and Iowa) that includes Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Mills, Otoe, Pottawattamie, Sarpy and Washington Counties. The regionalized partnership operates as a comprehensive resource, driving growth and championing collaboration.