

Grant Enables HCED to Expand Staff, Services

Holt County Economic Development has had a lot to celebrate since its launch in 2007. New and expanded businesses have created or retained more than 100 full-time jobs. Now there is more good news.

HCED has received a three-year commitment totaling \$87,500 from the Rudolph R. Elis Donor-Advised Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation, to expand economic development services through out the county.

Funding will enable HCED to hire additional staff and provide training and programming for Holt County businesses.

Paige Pecena has been hired as the business development specialist. Pecena is a 2002 graduate of Plainview High School and a 2006 graduate of Wayne State College. Paige and her husband Kyle reside in O'Neill.

"The addition of Paige to our staff will enable us to provide timely, criti-

cal assistance to help our existing businesses grow, help with new job creation, and help transition existing businesses to new owners," said

Nicole Sedlacek, Director of Holt County Economic Development.

This grant will be matched two-to-one. The grant is being leveraged by existing community and county contributions and additional funding coming from local business and private sponsorships.

HCED and the Rudolph R. Elis Donor-Advised Fund are affiliated funds of the Nebraska Community Foundation, a 501(c)(3) corporation that serves communities across the state.

Rudolph Elis of Verdigre established his donor-advised fund in 2006.

He stipulated that, upon his death, earnings from the endowment would be used to support entrepreneurship and people attraction in O'Neill, Norfolk and their surrounding areas.

