

## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### **Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute Graduate from Southwest Nebraska**



McCook – Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) congratulates Heidi Wheeler, Emergency Response Coordinator from Imperial on her recent graduation from the seventh class of the Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute.

Heidi was highly active in this year-long program designed to build and enhance leadership skills for established and emerging leaders in the region's public health systems. Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute

is a professional development program of the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health.

Heidi's class included 19 graduates from public and private organizations that work to improve the health and well-being of people and communities in Nebraska and Iowa. Since 2005, the institute has trained 135 people who serve the states of Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota.

"I developed relationships with a variety of professionals, but most importantly learned about how I operate with peers and volunteers," shared Wheeler. "I plan to utilize these enhanced leadership skills to further emergency planning for our eight-county district. This was an awesome experience and I am so thankful for the opportunity to take part in this program."

The Leadership Institute is supported by funds from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Health Professions, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, the Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center at the University of Iowa, and the UNMC College of Public Health.

For more information on the Great Plains Public Health Leadership Institute, contact Kathleen Brandert at (402) 552-7256, or [kbrandert@unmc.edu](mailto:kbrandert@unmc.edu). SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, McCook – one block north of Arby's. Information may be found at our web site [www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov) or call at 308-345-4223. You can also follow us on Facebook & Twitter.

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