

NAS History

The Academy was first organized in Omaha in 1880, with 75 charter members. The Union Pacific Railroad, which supported the programs to make Nebraska the educational and cultural center of the West, was instrumental in the establishment of the Academy; fifteen of the charter members were associated with the Railroad. Union Pacific provided office space and meeting rooms, and also issued rail passes to high-school and college science teachers and others interested in science, so that they could attend Academy meetings in Omaha. Samuel Aughey, first professor of science at the University of Nebraska and first Director of the University Museum, was the Academy's first president. Among other prominent charter members were Lawrence Bruner, Leavitt Burnham, H. S. Kaley, R.R. Livingston, H.H. Nicholson, and C.D. Wilber.

The Academy was reorganized in Lincoln in 1890-91. Some of the illustrious scholars who were Academy leaders during and following this reorganization were E. H. Barbour, C. E. Bessey, J. S. Kingsley, Roscoe Pound, and G. K. Swezey. In 1895, ecological and environmental studies were begun at the University of Nebraska, and various Academy members were pioneers in these studies, which were especially important during and after the droughts of the 1890s and 1930s. Ecology and environment continue to be emphasized in the Academy's programs.

The Academy was incorporated in 1950 as a non-profit educational organization [Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3)]. In 2005 the Academy was re-classified as a 501 (c) (3) Private Foundation. Donations are tax deductible. The Academy is not a state agency, and is not sponsored by a particular university, college, or other Nebraska educational organization.

NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

PRESIDENTS FROM 1880 TO THE PRESENT

Samuel Aughey, Geology-Biology, UN–Lincoln	1880-1885
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Charles E. Bessey (Lincoln), Lawrence Bruner (Lincoln) and Hudson H. Nicholson (Peru kept the Academy active from 1885 to 1891, with monthly meetings chaired by Bessey and Bruner. Bessey had organized the Iowa Academy of Sciences in 1875 and was president of that organization from 1875 until 1884 when he became a faculty member of the University of Nebraska.

J. Sterling Kingsley, Zoology, Lincoln	1891-1892
Charles E. Bessey, Botany, UN–Lincoln	1892-1895
Alvin W. Norton, Psychology, Peru	1895-1896
Erwin H. Barbour, Geology, UN–Lincoln	1896-1897
Alexander S. von Mansfelde, Medicine, Ashland, M.D.	1897-1898
H. B. Ward, Zoology, Lincoln (Univ. of Illinois)	1898-1899
Goodwin D. Swezey, Biology/Astronomy, UN–Lincoln	1899-1900
Harold Gifford, Medicine, Omaha Medical College	1900-1901
R. Ellery Davis, Mathematics, UN–Lincoln	1901-1902
Charles Fordyce, Biology, Lincoln	1902-1903

Lawrence Bruner, Entomology, UN–Lincoln	1903-1904
Henry B. Duncanson, Biology, Peru Normal	1904-1905
Robert H. Wolcott, Zoology, UN–Lincoln	1905-1906
S. R. Towne, Medicine, Brandeis Bldg., Omaha	1906-1907
F. E. Clements, Botany, UN–Lincoln	1907-1908
Albert F. Tyler, Entomology, Creighton–Bellevue	1908-1909
George E. Condra, Geology, UN–Lincoln	1909-1911
George A. Loveland, Meteorology, UN–Lincoln	1911-1912
Clarence J. Elmore, Biology, Grand Island	1912-1913
John C. Jensen, Physics, Wesleyan–Lincoln	1913-1914
Charles E. Bessey, Botany, UN–Lincoln	1914-1915
Lawrence Bruner, Entomology, UN–Lincoln	1915-1916
Raymond J. Pool, Botany, UN–Lincoln	1916-1917
F. C. Jean, Botany, Peru State Teachers	1917-1918
David D. Whitney, Zoology, UN–Lincoln	1918-1919
C. O. Carlson, Biology, Doane–Crete	1919-1920
Elda R. Walker, Botany, UN–Lincoln	1920-1921
John C. Jensen, Physics, Wesleyan–Lincoln	1921-1922
Harold G. Deming, Chemistry, UN–Lincoln	1922-1923
H. von W. Schulte, Medicine, Creighton–Omaha	1923-1924
Paul B. Sears, Botany, UN–Lincoln	1924-1925
Joseph A. Moss, Chemistry, Cotner College–Bethany	1925-1926
George L. Peltier, Botany, UN–Lincoln	1926-1927
D. W. Crouse, Mathematics, Fremont	1927-1928
William C. Brenke, Mathematics, UN–Lincoln	1928-1929
Arthur E. Holch, Biology, Peru Normal	1929-1930
Henry H. Marvin, Physics, UN–Lincoln	1930-1931
Victor E. Levine, Medicine, Creighton–Omaha	1931-1932
Fred W. Upton, Chemistry, UN–Lincoln	1932-1933
E. Russel Wightman, Mathematics, Doane–Crete	1933-1934
Nels A. Bengston, Geography, UN–Lincoln	1934-1935
Claude J. Shirk, Botany, UN–Lincoln	1935-1936
John E. Weaver, Botany/Biology, UN–Lincoln	1936-1937
Harry R. James, Zoology/Physics, Hastings College	1937-1938
Alvin L. Lugin, Geology, UN–Lincoln	1938-1939
V. Calvon McKim, Geography, Chadron State	1939-1940
Morton P. Brunig, Engineering, UN–Lincoln	1940-1941
L. N. Garlough, University of Omaha	1941-1942
Harold W. Manter, Zoology, UN–Lincoln	1942-1943
Gilbert C. Lueninghoener, Geology, Midland	1943-1944
Carl E. Georgi, Bacteriology, UN–Lincoln	1944-1945
John S. Latta, Anatomy, UNMC–Omaha	1945-1946
Walter F. Wieland, Engineering, UN–Lincoln	1946-1947
Donald M. Pace, Physiology, UN–Lincoln	1947-1948
Victor E. Levine, Medicine, Creighton–Omaha	1948-1949
Frank L. Duley, Agronomy, UN–Lincoln	1949-1950
Otis Wade, Zoology, UN–Lincoln	1950-1951
Samuel B. Shively, Botany, Wesleyan–Lincoln	1951-1952

W. Winfield Ray, Botany, UN–Lincoln	1952-1953
I. L. Hathaway, Agriculture, UN–Lincoln	1953-1954
Henry M. Cox, Mathematics, UN–Lincoln	1954-1955
Paul J. Stageman, Chemistry, University of Omaha	1955-1956
Robert G. Bowman, Geograpy, UN–Lincoln	1956-1957
Walter R. French, Jr., Physics, Wesleyan–Lincoln	1957-1958
Harold F. Rhoades, Agronomy, UN–Lincoln	1958-1959
Carl T. Brandhorst, Biology, Concordia–Seward	1959-1960
James A. Rutledge, Science Education, UN–Lincoln	1960-1961
John G. McMillan, Physics, University of Omaha	1961-1962
Lloyd G. Tanner, Geology/Paleontology, UN–Lincoln	1962-1963
Walter G. Elwell, Physics, University of Omaha	1963-1964
Walter E. Mientka, Mathematics, UN–Lincoln	1964-1965
John C. W. Bliese, Biology, Kearney State	1965-1966
C. Bertrand Schultz, Geology/Paleontology, UN–Lincoln	1966-1967
William M. Barrows, Physics, Doane–Crete	1967-1968
Robert B. Nelson, Geology, UN–Lincoln	1968-1969
Nicholas Dietz, Jr., Biochemistry, Creighton–Omaha	1969-1970
Paul H. Laursen, Chemistry, Wesleyan–Lincoln	1970-1971
C. Robert Keppel, UN–Omaha	1971-1972
Dwight D. Miller, Zoology, UN–Lincoln	1972-1973
Larrie E. Stone, Biology, Dana–Blair	1973-1974
Theodore J. Urban, Dentistry, Creighton–Omaha	1974-1975
Clyde C. Sachtleben, Physics, Hastings College	1975-1976
T. Mylan Stout, Geology/Paleontology, UN–Lincoln	1976-1977
Laddie J. Bicap, Biology, Kearney State	1977-1978
Claire M. Oswald, Biology, College of St. Mary–Omaha	1978-1979
Robert C. Sutherland, Biology (Botany), Wayne State	1979-1980
Rosalind Morris, Agronomy, UN–Lincoln	1980-1981
Carl Throckmorton, Physics, Hastings College	1981-1982
Thomas B. Bragg, Biology, UN–Omaha	1982-1983
Ronald R. Weedon, Biology, Chadron State	1983-1984
Carroll L. Moore, Physics, Wesleyan–Lincoln	1984-1985
Marvin E. Glasser, Physics, Kearney State	1985-1986
Donald E. Shult, Physics, UN–Omaha	1986-1987
Dale D. Rathe, Science, Lincoln Public Schools	1987-1988
John F. Hertner, Biology, Kearney State	1988-1989
David M. Sutherland, Biology, UN–Omaha	1989-1990
Jack L. Swanson, Chemistry, Chadron State, Chadron	1990-1991
Francis A. Haskins, Agronomy, UNL, Lincoln	1991-1992
James E. Platz, Biology, Creighton–Omaha	1992-1993
M. Lois Veath, Science, Chadron State, Chadron	1993-1994
George H. Coleman, Chemistry, Wesleyan, Lincoln	1994-1995
Steve Rothenberger, Biology, UN at Kearney	1995-1996
Robert Curtright, Chemistry, Lincoln Public Schools	1996-1997
James McGahan, Chemistry, Grand Island Public Schools	1997-1998
David T. Lewis, Agronomy, UNL, Lincoln	1998-1999
Ed Brogie, Laurel School, Laurel	1999-2000

Dan Howell, Chemistry, Wesleyan, Lincoln	2000-2001
Robert Reeder, Chemistry, Concordia, Seward	2001-2002
Mary Ettel, Chemistry, Wayne State, Wayne	2002-2003
Aurietha Hoelsing, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha	2003-2004
George Veomett, Biology, UNL, Lincoln	2004-2005
Julia Polak, Exeter Public Schools, Exeter	2005-2006
Bruce Chase, Biology, UNO, Omaha	2006-2007
Jim Rynearson, Lincoln Public Schools, Lincoln	2007-2008
Rod Diercks, Education, Doane College, Crete	2008-2009
Jim Wood, Chemistry, UNO, Omaha	2009-2010
Chris Schaben, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha	2010-2011
Russ Soucek, Environmental Sciences, Doane College, Crete	2011-2012
Ross Dinwiddie, Central City High School, Central City	2012-2013
David Peitz, Wayne State College, Wayne	2013-2014
Dan Sitzman, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha	2014-2015
Martin Hulce, Creighton University, Omaha	2015-2016
Randy Lienemann, Hildreth, NE	2016-2017
Karin van Dijk, UNL, Lincoln	2017-2018
Todd Young, Wayne State College, Wayne	2018-2019
Doug Golick, UNL, Lincoln	2019-2020
Sally Harms, Wayne State College, Wayne	2020-2021
David Harwood, UNL, Lincoln	2021-2022
Julie Shaffer, UNK, Kearney	2022-2023
Annemarie Shibata, Creighton University, Omaha	2023-2024