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BUFFALO COUNTY EDC BECOMES CERTIFIED BY STATE CERTIFICATION AWARDED BY THE NEBRASKA DIPLOMATS

FOR RELEASE May 5, 2008: The Buffalo County Economic Development Council (BCED) received the Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community designation today from the Nebraska Diplomats. Sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats, the program is one of a few nationwide that recognizes communities for being prepared for economic development. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) administers the application process which was begun in 2006. Kearney joins other Nebraska ED Certified Communities that includes Auburn, Cozad, Fremont, Geneva, Gothenburg, Grand Island, Holdrege, Lexington, Nebraska City, Norfolk, North Platte, Ogallala, Ord, Scottsbluff, Sidney, South Sioux City and Wayne.

“The work of the Buffalo County EDC depends heavily on our partners and allies such as the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the NPPD Economic Development Department” said Dale Pohlmann, chair of the board of directors of BCED. “Our receiving this certification assures our partners and allies that we are professional in our work and they can depend upon us with confidence” Pohlmann concluded.

The application toward certification was started in 2006 and was largely completed in 2007 by Nikki Masek, Business Development Specialist with the Development Council. Assisting Masek was Candy Kuntz at Miller & Associates, Rick Nelsen of the NPPD economic development department and Linda Black of NDED.

“We are proud of the Development Council for achieving this distinction” said Stan Clouse, mayor of Kearney. “While the certification is traditionally award to the city, we receive it on behalf of our

partners at the county as well because the Development Council serves both the city and county” said Clouse.

Representing Buffalo County and Kearney, the Buffalo County Economic Development Council (BCED) has been in existence for 22 years and provides economic and industrial development services for existing and new primary employers. The program is funded, in part, by the City of Kearney, Buffalo County and a growing list of businesses in Kearney and Buffalo County. More information, including existing buildings and land sites, can be found at www.ci.kearney.ne.us.

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