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Rural Development Conference to be Held in North Platte

(LINCOLN, NEB.) April Kelly, is President of Gratitude Academy, LLC, dedicated to cultivating gratitude principles in a multitude of settings and will deliver the keynote address at the Governor's Conference on Rural Development at North Platte's Holiday Inn Express, April 18. Kelly is a networking expert who will share time-tested advice and practical tools that will help businesses and individuals build a strong brand and real networking connections that deliver results. She is the author of *Gratitude at Work*, is a Best Books Award finalist in the Business Management and Leadership category. Her latest book, *Spaghetti on the Wall, Branding and Networking Methods that Stick* will be available for purchase at the conference.

The conference theme "Partnering for Progress" unites the Nebraska Rural Development Commission, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and ServeNebraska, the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. The event will feature the Conference's three series of sessions – Strengthening Communities, Volunteerism & Community Engagement and Youth Entrepreneurship with a full day of workshops.

First Lady Sally Ganem will present the *First Lady's Outstanding Community Service Awards* and *Connecting Nebraska Awards* at the conference luncheon. The annual First Lady's awards recognize and celebrate the contribution made to Nebraska communities by youth, adult and groups who volunteer their time and demonstrate excellence. The Connecting Nebraska awards are presented by the Partnership for Rural Nebraska to individuals, businesses and collaborative partnerships that have significantly impacted their regions in the past year.

The conference is open to anyone. Registration is \$50. For conference and registration information visit: www.serve.nebraska.gov.

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