



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA  
**METROPOLITAN OMAHA EDUCATIONAL CONSORTIUM**  
MEETING OUR EDUCATION COMMITMENTS

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**Terry Haack takes on Role of MOEC Executive Director**  
by Zoe Euteneuer

Raised in a family of educators, Dr. Terry Haack followed this career path and became a high school physical education and science teacher. In his decades of work as an educator, he rose through the ranks and worked as an assistant principal and principal. He then spent 19 years as superintendent of the Bennington Public Schools before his retirement at the end of the 2022-2023 academic year.

However, instead of taking it easy, Haack has stepped into the role as MOEC's new executive director. He brings an impressive resume to this leadership role, including the title of Superintendent of the Year.

***“Nobody wins an award alone,”  
Haack says.***

“There were a lot of great people... It is a recognition of what Bennington Public Schools has accomplished over the years. This means you had to have school board members work in collaboration with the administration, and obviously, you had to have great teachers helping a very supportive community achieve at a high rate. I attribute that to a lot of people collaborating and working hand in hand.



His experience as a leader and collaborator fits well into his executive director position. No stranger to MOEC, Haack has been a part of the organization since 2007 as a member of the steering committee, which has developed many initiatives to benefit students.

***“I have seen and been a part of the history of many of the initiatives, work groups, and task forces that are a part of MOEC as they have developed, and as they have worked for the betterment of education,”  
Haack says.***

However, despite his previous work with MOEC, Haack notes that his role is very different than his previous experience. As

superintendent, Haack was responsible for over 4,000 students, 8 different schools, and nearly 500 employees. At MOEC, he serves in more of a facilitator/guidance role.

“With well over 100,000 students and a multitude of buildings within those 12 school districts and having three employees,” he says, “there is less of a day-to-day operational responsibility and more of a collegial collaborative responsibility.”

Now with less of a directorial role, Haack stresses the importance of collaborating with those in MOEC and the communities that fit within its guidance.

“The collective impact benefits the whole metropolitan area,” Haack says, “and to a certain extent, the state – state of Nebraska and the state of Iowa. If we can collaborate, it shows the ability for others to collaborate.”

Haack says this type of collaborative work can benefit issues such as student attendance, teacher retention and other common problems found in education. Reaching out and learning from one another how to tackle these prominent issues found in every district can result in finding the best ways to solve these problems together.

“So, if we talk about similarities with some of our concerns such as attendance, “ he says, “we can take

bits and pieces of that, better our own entity and better the metropolitan area.”

Haack hopes to guide MOEC to solve issues across the metro for the betterment of education. His leadership should guide MOEC to heighten each community's value and the importance of education.

“There are certainly a lot of environmental and life circumstances that will either support or maybe become a simple barrier or a door that needs to be opened,” Haack says.

***“Education is the key to opening many of those doors.”***

Education is something that rarely dissipates. -- “You may be a great athlete, but over time, those skills may be diminished. You may be good and great at something, but your ability to read, write, calculate, your ability to communicate with others, collaborate or work with others tend not to dissipate. They only strengthen with that scaffolding of education.”

When Haack is not collaborating with his fellow educators in MOEC, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, especially his grandchildren. He and his wife, Theresa, love to garden, walk their dog, Ruby and visit with family and friends. An avid sports fan, he enjoys fishing and hunting when time allows.