

**College of Public Affairs and Community Service  
Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service  
2002 Recipients**



**Edna Brooks-Pittman** has an extensive record in public service, which began with her volunteer efforts in Omaha's Prospect Hill Neighborhood Association and the Urban League Guild. Currently working as the director of the Department of Community Development in Toppenish, Washington, she serves on the board of the Yakima Valley Opportunities Industrial Center and is president of the Alaska, Oregon, Washington State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Ms. Brooks-Pittman earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO in 1986 and a master of public administration degree from UNO in 1989. After leaving Omaha in 1990, she was an organizer with the Janesville, Wisconsin Human Rights Task Force and the HealthNet Free Medical Clinic. She also served on the board of directors for the YWCA of Janesville, the League of Women Voters and United Way of Northern Rock County. After moving to Toppenish, she volunteered with the Toppenish Museum Building Committee and the Yakima County Juvenile Court Community Accountability Board. She has served as president of the Toppenish Rotary Club, Yakima Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity and the Toppenish Chamber of Commerce. She has three children and five grandchildren who live in Omaha.

**Tom Casady** is the chief of police in Lincoln, Nebraska, a position he has held since January 1994. Chief Casady began his law enforcement career as a Lincoln police officer in 1974. He served in the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office for seven years, first as chief deputy sheriff, then as the sheriff of Lancaster County from 1991 to 1994. He received a bachelor in criminal justice degree from UNO in 1976, and a master of arts degree in political science from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in 1983.

Chief Casady is active in a number of organizations, and is especially involved in the issues of domestic violence, child abuse and alcohol issues. He is the co-chair of NU Directions,

a campus community coalition to reduce high risk drinking by college students, and serves as a national spokesperson on this issue. Chief Casady has coordinated several police technology projects, including crime analysis and crime mapping technology. He has been a presenter at the International Crime Mapping Research Conferences each of the past three years.

**Timothy Dunning** was elected Douglas County sheriff in 1994 after serving 22 years with the Omaha Police Department. He was re-elected in 1998 and is currently seeking a third term this year. Sheriff Dunning obtained a bachelor of general studies degree from UNO in 1978 and a master of public administration degree from UNO in 1990. He has been an adjunct faculty member at Bellevue University since 1991.

Sheriff Dunning serves on numerous community boards, including the Omaha Community Partnership, the Safety and Health Council of Greater Omaha, the Douglas County Criminal Justice Management Council and Better Living Incorporated. Sheriff Dunning is also active in a number of professional organizations. He currently is president of the Nebraska Sheriff's Association, and is a member of the National Sheriff's Association as well as the Nebraska Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration.

**Robert Houston** began his public service career with the Nebraska Department of Corrections in 1974. He rose through the administrative ranks of four prisons, and was promoted from counselor to senior counselor, unit manager, unit administrator, associate warden, deputy warden, and warden. Mr. Houston is currently warden of the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility, the state's maximum security facility for serious and violent inmates convicted as adults.

Mr. Houston received his bachelor of science in criminal justice degree from UNO in 1974 and his master of criminal justice degree from UNO in 1981. He is board president of the Criminal Justice Fund of the University of Nebraska Foundation and is an adjunct instructor with the UNO Department of Criminal Justice. In April 1998, he was awarded an Outstanding Teaching Award from the UNO College of Continuing Studies. Mr. Houston audits prisons and jails from the American Correctional Association. He served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Institute of Corrections. He is past president of the Nebraska Correctional Association and the U.S. Deputy Wardens' Association.

**Julie Kalkowski** graduated in 1980 from Gustavus Adolphus College with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and criminal justice, and received a master of social work degree from UNO in 1989.

Social work runs in Ms. Kalkowski's family. Her father, Ken, and five of her six siblings work in the human service arena. Most of her professional career has been spent working in inner city areas. By listening to and working with people with limited resources, Ms. Kalkowski was able to create three innovative programs that gave people better choices. These programs -- the Microbusiness Development Program, Women Mean Business and the Individual Development Accounts Program -- provide the opportunity for low-income people to develop assets.

Currently, Ms. Kalkowski is director of community outreach for United Way of the Midlands. She has served on the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women, Nebraska's Affirmative Action Commission, Work Group for the Governor's Task Force on Welfare Reform, HOMES (Housing Opportunities through Many Efforts and Services, NEON--Nebraska Enterprise Opportunity Network; Task Force on City County Merger and the Neighborhood Center Advisory Board.

**Mark Martinez** received a Goodrich Scholarship in 1977. A graduate of Omaha South High School, Mr. Martinez played baseball at UNO from 1977 to 1981. He graduated in 1982 with a bachelor of science in criminal justice degree, and obtained a master of science degree in

criminal justice in 1993. He has served with the Omaha Police Department for 17 years and is currently a lieutenant with the Southeast Precinct. His community service activities include serving as a board member for St. Stanislaus Catholic Grade School and on the board of directors for the Chicano Awareness Center. He is on the Omaha South High School Curriculum Accreditation Advisory Committee and is a candidate for the Omaha Public School Board. Mr. Martinez is immediate past president of the Latino Police Officers Association. He and his wife, Cyndi have four children: Maria, Grace, Rebecca and Andrew.

**Tim Mathern** has been a state senator in North Dakota since 1986. He received a bachelor of arts degree from North Dakota State University in 1971 and a master of social work degree from UNO in 1980. In 2000, he received a master of public administration degree from Harvard University in Cambridge Mass.

Sen. Mathern is a member of the Judiciary Standards, Government and Veterans Affairs, Human Services, and Rules committees. He is chairman of the Budget Committee on Government Administration and a member of the Legislative Council. Sen. Mathern has received numerous community awards, including the 1995 Nano Nagle Award, the Prairie Peacemaker Award in 2000 and the Legislator of the Year award. He was a Bush Leadership Fellow from 1998 - 2000 and a Littaur Fellow of the Kennedy School of Government in 2000.

Sen. Mathern has a strong ties to community and family issues. He is the administrator of Nativity Church. He is president of Kaleidoscope, a new nonprofit organization establishing services for families and children dealing with special needs. He also serves as treasurer of Charism, a family resource center in the Community Homes neighborhood, a low income area of Fargo. Tim and his wife, Lorene, have four children.

**Jolene Mathison-Roberts** is owner, president and CEO of Hillcrest Health Systems, a long-term health care management, facilities development and consulting company. She is also the owner and developer of Hillcrest Health Plaza, a health care complex consisting of 120 skilled units, 32 Alzheimer's units, an outpatient rehabilitation clinic and a child development center, as well as Mable Rose Estates, an assisted living apartment facility for seniors.

Ms. Mathison-Roberts earned a bachelor of social work degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1981 and a master of social work degree with a specialization in gerontology from UNO in 1986. She currently serves on the board of directors of the Alzheimer's Association and the Nebraska Health Care Association, and is on the Independent Owners subcommittee of the American Health Care Association. She also served on the board of directors of both the Child Saving Institute and the Visiting Nurse Association.

**Reema Abou-Nasr Nabulsi** graduated with honors in 1992 with a bachelor of arts degree in biology from UNO. During her enrollment at UNO, she received a Goodrich Scholarship. One of her Goodrich faculty, Dr. Pam Smith, notes that Dr. Nabulsi was the "best writer in her English 116 and Humanities courses." Dr. Nabulsi received her medical degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1997. During her residency at Creighton University in 2000, she cared for patients at the Charles Drew Health Clinic in north Omaha and gave presentations on drug and alcohol prevention to youth. She now practices medicine at Creighton Family Health Care. Dr. Nabulsi is married to Ahmad Nabulsi and has two young daughters.

**Penny Parker** is the executive director of Camp Fire USA Midlands Council. For 30 years she has been professionally committed to child welfare issues. Her professional and volunteer involvements have included the Governor's Commission on Child Abuse/ Neglect, Nebraska Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Leadership Omaha and the Junior League. Ms. Parker was a YWCA Woman of Distinction in 1999 and Nebraska Social Worker of the Year in

1991. She holds a master of social work degree from UNO. She is a part-time instructor and a graduate practicum supervisor in the UNO School of Social Work.

**Carolyn K. Stitt** holds a master of social work degree from UNO. Ms. Stitt was one of the youngest persons ever named to head a Nebraska state agency and has been executive director of the State Foster Care Review Board since 1983. As executive director, she designed and implemented a model statewide tracking system for children in foster care, the highly regarded Nebraska review system, and the nationally recognized training system for the 350+ local citizen volunteers who serve on the 63 local foster care review boards across the state.

Ms. Stitt has facilitated, planned and coordinated numerous national and regional education seminars on foster care and child welfare. She has been instrumental in the passage of legislation on a state and national level, and has testified before Congress. Ms. Stitt has served on numerous national and state boards and committees, and was a recipient of the 1991 Meritorious Service to Children in America Award presented by the National Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the 1994 Soroptimist Woman of Distinction Award, the 1994 YWCA Tribute to Women Award and the 2000 Nebraska Association of School Psychologists "Outstanding Advocate Award." She was a co-recipient of the 2001 National Association of School Psychologists "Outstanding Advocate Award."

## 2002 Hubert Locke Distinguished Service Award



**Elaine Spire** is the first recipient of the Hubert Locke Award for Distinguished Service. A lifelong community volunteer, Mrs. Spire has served on the boards of numerous commissions, community organizations and foundations, including the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights, the Nebraska Humanities Foundation, the Appleseed Foundation and the Nebraska State Museum. Mrs. Spire also serves as a community representative on the board of the Senior Foundation and is its liaison to the Community Services Fund. Her community activities also include membership in the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL) Sage Program, UNL Faculty Women's Club, the Heritage League, Nebraska Legislative League, and the Lincoln Legal Auxiliary.

In 1995, Mrs. Spire established the Robert M. Spire Development Fund in memory of her late husband. The fund helps support CPACS students with outstanding academic potential and specific financial needs. Since its inception, more than 65 awards have been made to students for various purposes, including tuition, books, rent, and health care. In 2000, Mrs. Spire established the Robert M. Spire Chair in Music at UNO.