

**By Carolyn Lee**

***The Imperial Republican***

Enhancing leadership skills of individuals who will take our rural communities into the future will be the focus of the program “Leaders For a New Frontier,” to be held Feb. 2-4 at the Curtis Community Center.

Registration is due by Dec. 30.

This program is looking for enthusiastic individuals interested in strengthening their rural communities by stimulating creativity, wealth, education and business.

Speakers include Randy Vlasin of Personal Horizons Consulting, Phyllis Schoenholz and Kimberly Cook of the University of Nebraska Extension Office, and Dr. Randy Cantrell, Development Specialist with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Rural Initiative.

The speakers will provide individuals with skills, motivation and confidence to seek an active role in addressing current and future issues affecting their rural businesses and communities.

Interactive sessions will include:

Who Am I As A Leader—an in-depth look at self and how factors influence interactions with others;

Group Dynamics—attention given to diversity in personality traits, gender and cultural differences, generational differences and how differences can be strengths;

Introduction to Community—learn about community assets and discover techniques to help generate ideas, prioritize and make decisions to address or resolve community issues;

Influence of Demographic Trends—how demographic changes are effecting rural America, specifically Southwest Nebraska.

Registrations and the \$150 fee per participant can be mailed to Ann Burge, PO Box 720, Grant, Neb. 69140 or can be made by contacting Kimberly Cook at (308) 882-4731 or Randy Vlasin at (308) 882-6519.

The registration fee covers program materials and expenses and meal during the conference and lodging for two nights.

Employers are encouraged to take advantage of this educational program in community leadership and support their employees by providing the opportunity to attend.

The workshop is a cooperative effort between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Personal Horizons Consulting and the communities of Chase and Perkins Counties.

Leslie Carlholm, Community Development Director for the City of Imperial, said at least 20 people are needed to let the project progress. Seating is limited to the first 25 who register.