



Buffett  
Early Childhood  
Institute

*at the University of Nebraska*

# Educator Voice is “No Small Matter”

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Start early. Start well.



# Rules of Interaction

# Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission

Every child in **Nebraska** will have access to a **highly qualified, well supported** early care and education professional, in whichever setting the family chooses.

**39**

leaders from systems in the  
public and private sectors



**8**

professional  
preparation  
and learning

**11**

local community

**9**

early care and  
education

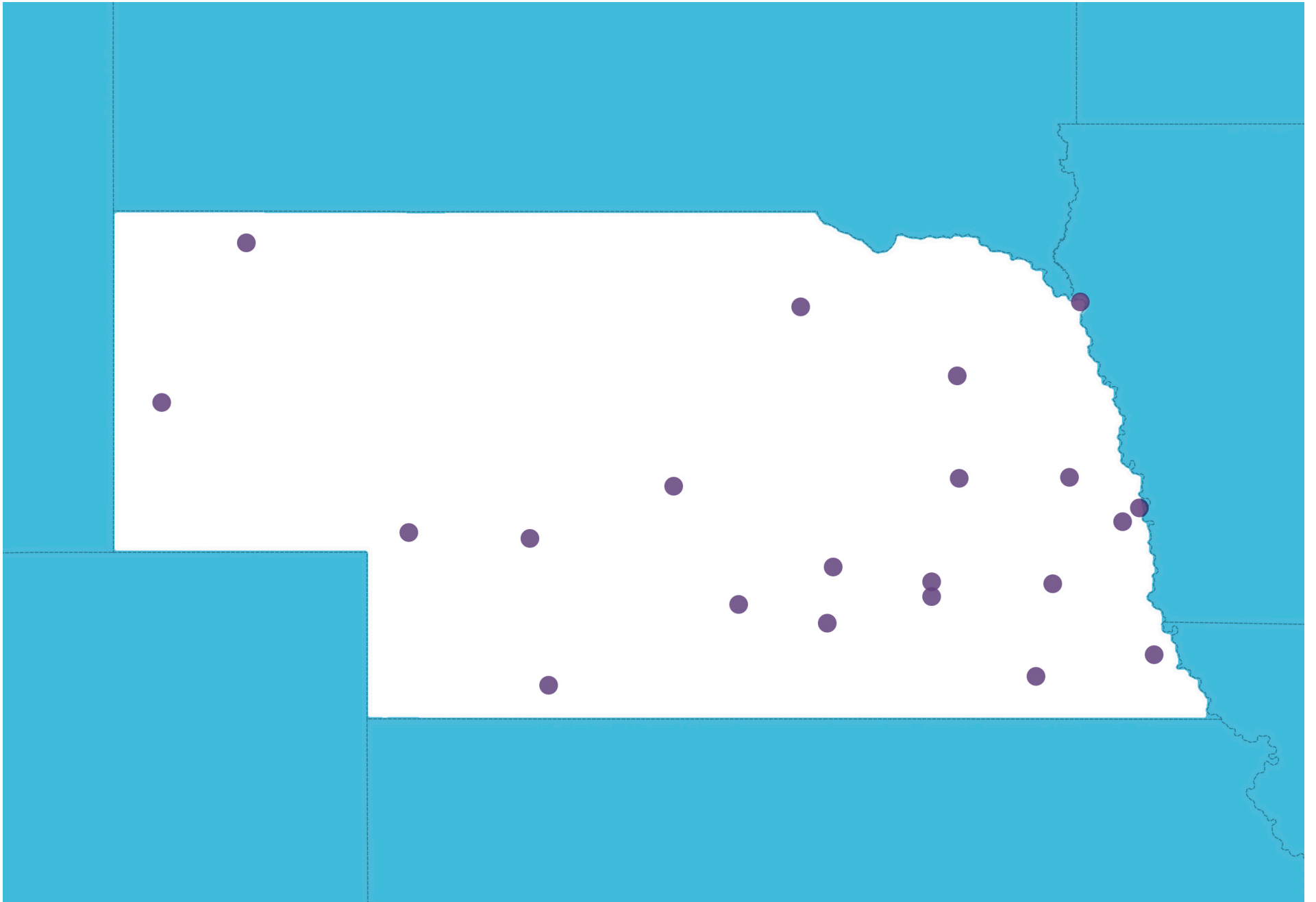
**11**

policy and  
regulation



A graphic consisting of two overlapping orange circles on a blue background. The text "Professional Identity" is centered within the intersection of the circles.

# Professional Identity



**26** screenings

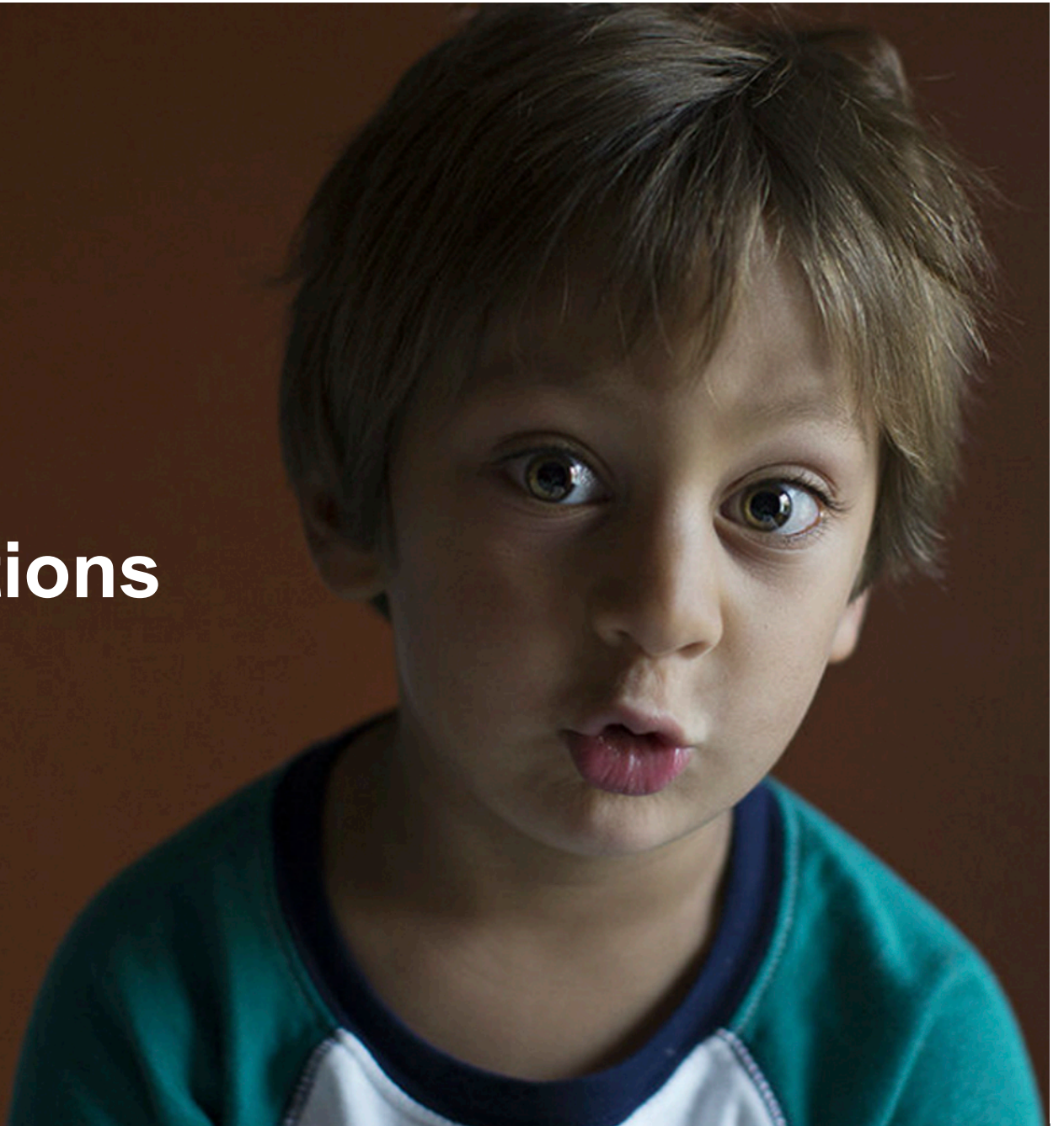
**1400** participants

**175** communities represented

# Film



# Initial Reactions



**Why It Worked:**

**A Community Based Effort**







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**neaeyc**

Nebraska Association for the  
Education of Young Children

“My ex-husband says you have a degree now, you could be making more money. You know, you’re not making enough money to provide for your family like you need to be. Why are you doing this? I do this because I’m passionate about it. I do it because I believe in what I do and because I feel like I can make a difference somewhere. This is somewhere that I can actually contribute something to society and make a difference with what I do. So, my passion is what keeps me where I am.” (Fremont)



# Qualifications

- Relationship building with children and families
- Continuum of child development
- Social emotional skills
- Access to high quality professional development
- Disposition

“I have more financial arguments with my husband about the amount of money I spend on my own students than I think any other financial argument we have”. (Kearney)

“In order to keep it [liability insurance] from going up even further...I had to sign a waiver that I would not have any water activities. It’s either that or I have to start charging my parents more...in order to make up for what I’m going to be spending for liability...” (Fremont)

“I’m still trying to finish just my associate’s degree because I’ve had to stop going to school and get multiple jobs, or get a different job that pays more and then come back to the profession that I love, because yeah, I can’t afford to do student loans because I won’t be able to afford to pay them off.” (York)



“I don’t know so much that society on the outside doesn’t value what we do as they truly honestly don’t understand all the moving parts.” (Omaha)

# The Next Steps:

- Community Screenings
- Call to Action Report
- Building Public Will
- Continued opportunity to engage the early childhood educator community

**35** screenings

**Nearly 2000** participants

State Board of Education members

NE Department of Education

Health and Human Services

K-12 School Districts

Community Screenings


County Fair

Higher Education classes

Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders

Business Leaders

**200** communities represented



**How can you be more intentional to prioritize educator voices?**

# Questions?

