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State Records Board awards \$222,000 in grants

LINCOLN – The Nebraska State Records Board has awarded \$222,000 in grants to 11 governmental entities for development of projects to improve online access, according to Secretary of State John Gale, board chairperson.

Among the grants is one for \$6,000 to Arthur County to develop a county website. The western Nebraska county with a population of 460 is the state's smallest county.

"While the amount of money is small, the Arthur County grant is noteworthy because it will significantly help the county in numerous ways and shows the Record Board's strong commitment to help develop rural Nebraska," Gale said.

A unique feature of the Arthur County project is that high school and college students will help create and maintain the website.

The Records Board awarded eight grants for geographic information system (GIS) projects. The GIS grants included: Buffalo County, \$25,000; Cherry County, \$25,000; Keith County, \$25,000; Kimball County, \$23,000; Madison County, \$17,500; Pawnee County, \$25,000; Perkins County, \$12,500; and the state of Nebraska, \$25,000.

A GIS is designed to store, analyze, manage and present all types of geographically referenced data.

The other two grants awarded were \$16,000 to Alliance to update and put its city code online and \$22,011 to the Nebraska Real Estate Commission for an improved online license renewal system.

The Records Board oversees Nebraska.gov, the state's official website. The grant program is funded by a portion of the board's share of fees received from Nebraska.gov, and no state tax funds are used for the grants.

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