The Bottom Line

First Five Nebraska Staff and Bureau of Business Research Principal Investigators

Jason Prokop

Director | First Five Nebraska

Jason Prokop oversees First Five Nebraska's policy and communications work. He was previously the external affairs manager at the Nebraska Department of Transportation where he helped grow relationships with elected officials, local governments, community organizations and citizens. A Crete native, Jason returned home after spending several years in Washington, D.C., serving in senior positions for U.S. Senator Ben Nelson, including as legislative director and a senior policy advisor. He was chief of staff to the CEO at the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Jason received a Bachelor of Science from Nebraska Wesleyan University, in Political Science and Communication Studies.

Mike Feeken

Strategic Partnerships Advisor | First Five Nebraska

Mike Feeken joined First Five Nebraska after spending more than 14 years as an economic development director where he managed and coordinated retention, attraction and expansion efforts of the St. Paul, Nebraska business community. He has served in numerous local, regional and statewide organizations including Nebraska Economic Development Association (NEDA), South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD), Rotary and Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership (CNCAP). Mike received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Production from Hastings College.

Elizabeth Everett

Deputy Director & Public Policy Manager | First Five Nebraska

Elizabeth Everett leads First Five Nebraska's policy team and the organization's efforts to promote early childhood as a key economic development principle. Previously, she lived in Washington, D.C. and worked for Senator John McCain in his personal office and on the Senate Armed Services Committee. Elizabeth worked on several key pieces of legislation, including the annual National Defense Authorization Act, the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act and the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act. She is very active in the community, serving as executive VP for the Junior League of Lincoln, on the board of directors for both Friends of the Lied and Civic Nebraska, and as a member of the Leadership Nebraska Advisory Council. Elizabeth holds a MBA from George Washington University and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Vanderbilt University.

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Dr. Eric Thompson

Principal Investigator
Bureau of Business Research

Dr. Eric Thompson is the director of the Bureau of Business Research and the K.H. Nelson Professor of Economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has conducted a broad group of economic studies including impact studies of Nebraska agriculture, the Nebraska child care industry, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium and the UNL Athletic Department. Dr. Thompson also works on demographic projections, and analyses of economic development programs for Nebraska. Dr. Thompson's research has received support from the U.S. Department of Labor, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as local and State of Nebraska agencies. Dr. Thompson received his Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1992. His research fields include regional economics, economic forecasting and state and local economic development. His research has been published in Regional Science and Urban Economics, the Journal of Regional Science, the American Journal of Agricultural Economics, the Journal of Cultural Economics and the Economic Review of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

Dr. David Rosenbaum

Principal Investigator
Bureau of Business Research

Dr. David Rosenbaum is a professor of economics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and associate director of the Bureau of Business Research. Dr. Rosenbaum has been involved in a number of research projects involving analyses of public and private investments, including:

- A cost-effectiveness analysis of new paradigms in helping families in crisis;
- A cost-benefit analysis of investments in early childhood education;
- A cost-benefit analysis of a single number information and referral network.

In addition, he served as economic consultant to the Nebraska Public Service Commission where he conducted extensive research and testified several times about a variety of telecommunications issues. Dr. Rosenbaum earned his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1985. He has authored several economic analysis reports, as well as more than 30 articles published in a variety of professional journals.

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301 South 13th Street | Suite #600 | Lincoln, NE 68508
P: 402 261 9671| FirstFiveNebraska.org

University of Nebraska Lincoln

Bureau of Business Research
1400 R Street | Lincoln, NE 68588
P: 402 472 9992| business.unl.edu