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OPINION

On
Terry
Editor

LIBRARY MAKERSPACES

These Centers Spark Creativity

A funny word, "makerspace" — has emerged in recent years, but it has serious meaning for the modern economy and local communities.

In a makerspace, a person uses ingenuity, draws on technology, works with others and hones technical or artistic skills to create something. The options are nearly countless, including mechanical or electrical concoctions, computer and software projects, artistic designs, toys, sculptures — or nearly anything else the creative mind can envision.

In the process, a person can not only build technical and artistic abilities but also learn how to organize a project, think creatively, develop collaborative skills and build self-confidence. For many, the makerspace experience can awaken an entrepreneurial sensibility.

Makerspaces are popping up across Nebraska. It's encouraging to see a new project in which Nebraska organizations have joined together to support makerspaces. Gov. Pete Ricketts last week announced that these creative spaces will be available at 18 Nebraska libraries this year, funded by a \$530,732 federal grant. The project will be expanded to 12 additional libraries next year.

Partners for the project are the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and its makerspace known as the Nebraska Innovation Studio, plus Nebraska Extension, Nebraska's regional library systems and local public libraries.

Promoting makerspaces is good for young people and for Nebraska, sowing seeds of creativity and personal growth important for the state's future.



THE PUBLIC PU

DACA is good for Nebraska

It is a noble act for some Omaha City Council members to support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which will help the young immigrants in Nebraska ("City Council to consider pro-DACA resolution," World-Herald). Years ago, I was involved in advocating for state legislation that provided in-state tuition for undocumented students.

There are areas where Nebraska is on the front of other states. It is good to see the local police departments not only providing water for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. As a taxpayer, it is...