Ann Burge, executive director of the Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corporation, recently graduated in the second class of management trainees.

Nebraska Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy presided over the graduation of the second class of the Nebraska Certified Public Manager® (CPM) Program on Dec. 4.

With this graduation, the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) School of Public Administration continues its tradition of providing management training for public and non-profit professionals across Nebraska.

The recent graduates include: the city administrator of Bridgeport, William Boyer; the executive director of the Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corporation, Ann Burge of Grant; Annette Doyle, the property and evidence manager for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office; the city clerk/treasurer of Nebraska City, Arnold Ehlers; Kyle Poppert, classification administrator for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services in Lincoln; and Glen Still, lieutenant, City of Fremont Police Department.

Each of the newly minted Certified Public Managers completed the yearlong program of 17 on-line and on-campus courses, and a major project designed to benefit their organization.

Poppert of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services developed a program to train inmates to industrial standards of wiring with fiber-optic and copper cabling so they would be employable when released. Two former inmates are already employed because of the program.

In addition, the program has saved tax dollars by using trained inmates instead of contractors for internal agency projects.

Boyer, city administrator for Bridgeport, developed a comprehensive performance management system for a city that helps supervisors set clear goals, evaluate performance against those goals and recommend salary adjustments based on the evaluations. This system has the potential to be a model for other cities and organizations.

Burge of the Southwest Nebraska Community Betterment Corporation developed a plan for a capital campaign for her nonprofit to diversify funding sources and make the organization more sustainable.

Ehlers, city clerk/treasurer of Nebraska City, worked with residents and city officials to develop a vision and mission for his city that can be used for short- and long-range planning.

Doyle, of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, developed and tested a plan to streamline a bar-coding system for safeguarding evidence received for storage and preservation, making it possible to handle a greatly increased workload without increasing staff.

Still, City of Fremont Police Department, developed a plan for proactively addressing nuisance properties in his city to improve health and safety and maintain property values.

Lt. Gov. Sheehy thanked the graduates for their service to their communities and the state. He also praised their initiative and commitment to learning and encouraged them to continue to seek opportunities to gain new skills and knowledge.

For detailed information on the program, visit www.unomaha.edu/cpm or contact Mary R. Hamilton at mary.hamilton@cox.net.