

2015 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report



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Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

Background

- Coordinating Commission is required by statute to provide an annual report evaluating progress made toward achieving **three key priorities**:
 1. Increase the number of students who enter postsecondary education in Nebraska (Section 1)
 2. Increase the percentage of students who persist and successfully complete a degree (Section 2)
 3. Reduce, eliminate, and then reverse the net out-migration of Nebraskans with high levels of educational attainment (Section 3)
- *Progress Report* is provided to the Governor, Legislature, the state's higher education institutions, the media, and other interested parties

Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

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Important Technical Notes

- Adjustments are occasionally made to improve data accuracy
 - e.g., Data sources may revise previous estimates
 - Therefore, it is generally advisable to reference the most current edition of this report
- Due to rounding...
 - Percentages may not sum to 100.0%
 - Totals may not equal the sum of their parts
- Throughout this presentation, you'll see a graphic like this in the lower left side of the screen. For more information about data presented on a particular slide, please refer to the corresponding page number in the *2015 Progress Report*.

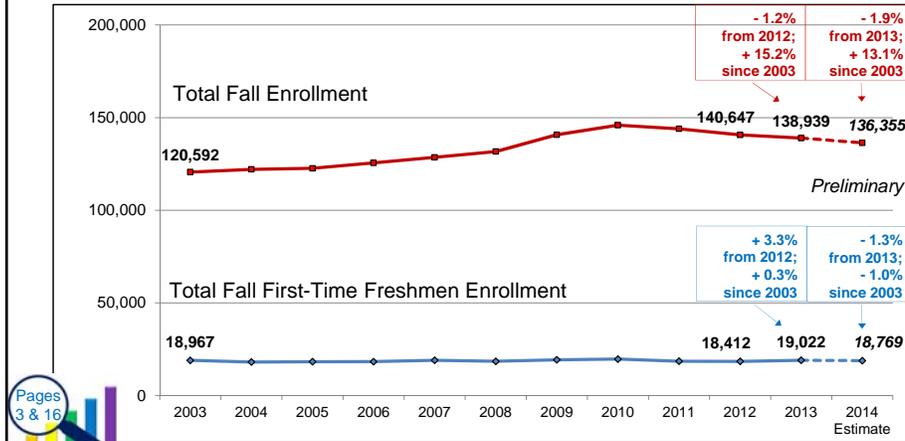


PRIORITY 1

INCREASE POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

Enrollment at Nebraska's Postsecondary Institutions

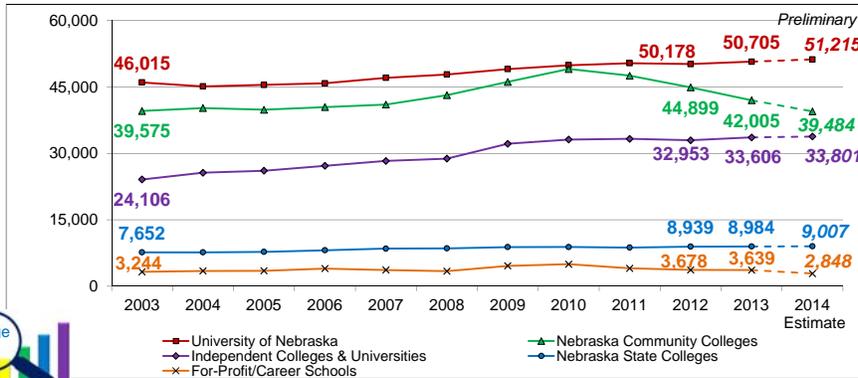
- While enrollment steadily increased between baseline (2003) and 2010, **total fall enrollment** has declined each of the last four years, a decline of **6.5%** since 2010
- In addition, **fall first-time freshmen enrollment** is down **4.7%** since 2010:



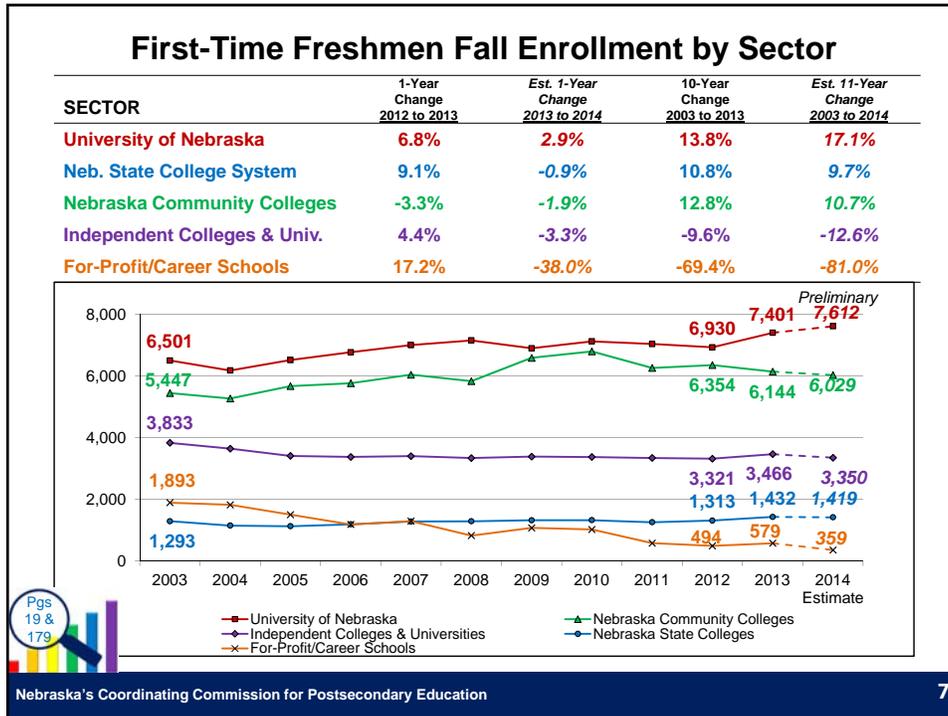
Pages 3 & 16

Total Fall Enrollment by Sector

SECTOR	1-Year Change 2012 to 2013	Est. 1-Year Change 2013 to 2014	10-Year Change 2003 to 2013	Est. 11-Year Change 2003 to 2014
University of Nebraska	1.1%	1.0%	10.2%	11.3%
Neb. State College System	0.5%	0.3%	17.4%	17.7%
Nebraska Community Colleges	-6.4%	-6.0%	6.1%	-0.2%
Independent Colleges & Univ.	2.0%	0.6%	39.4%	40.2%
For-Profit/Career Schools	-1.1%	-21.7%	12.2%	-12.2%



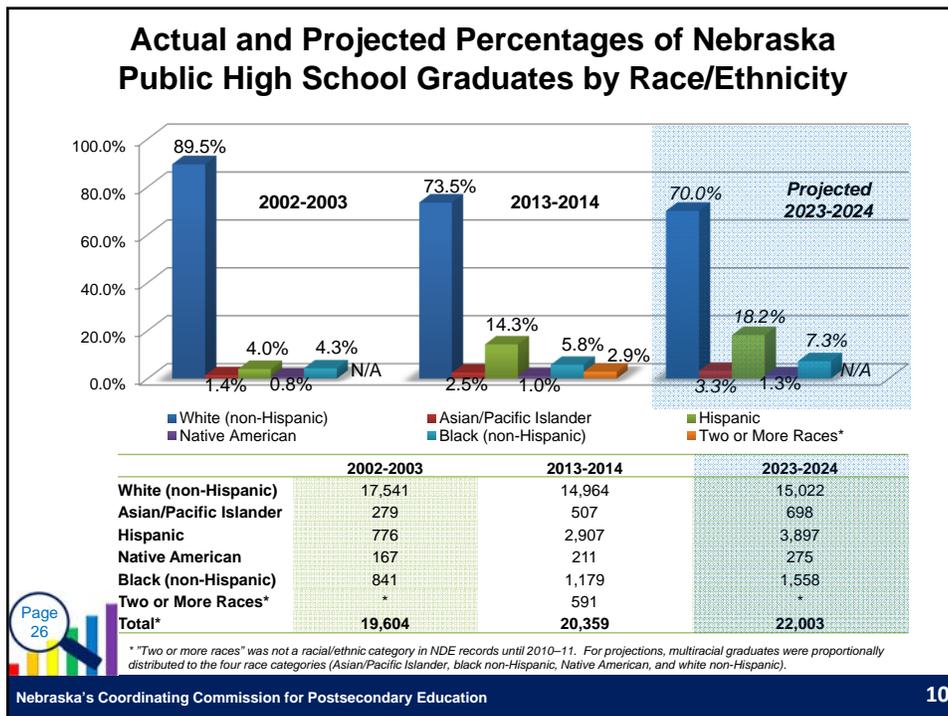
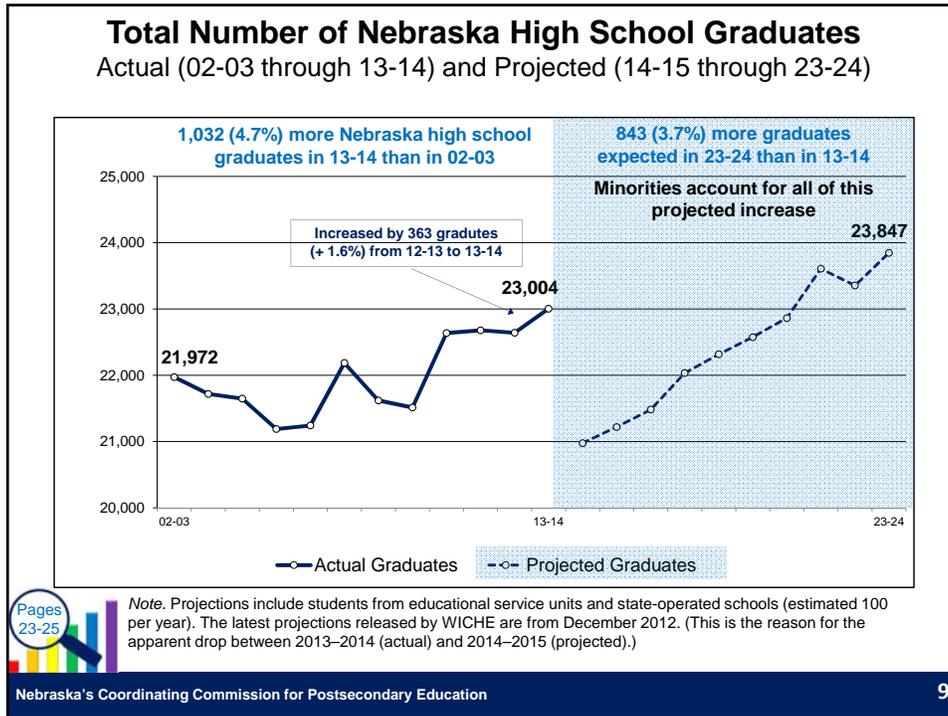
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High School Graduation Rates

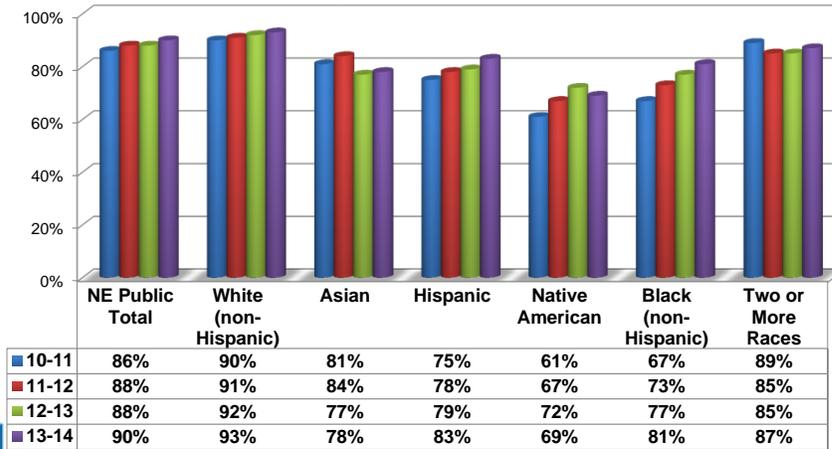
Section 1.1.a

Increase high school graduation rates, and in the process, increase the pool of high school students who could potentially attend college.



Nebraska Public High School Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity

- In 2013, Nebraska was ranked **2nd highest** in the nation among the rates reported by 49 states and the District of Columbia.
- (National data for 2014 is not yet available for state-to-state comparisons.)

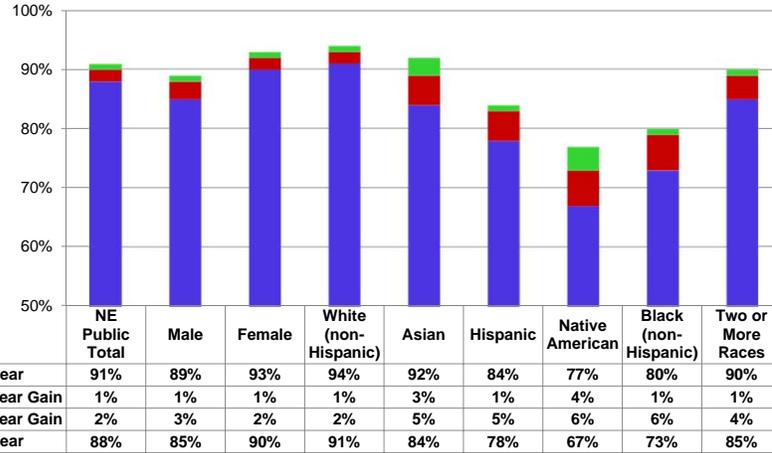


Note: Due to methodological changes by NDE, the 2011 cohort four-year graduation rate established a new baseline for comparisons.

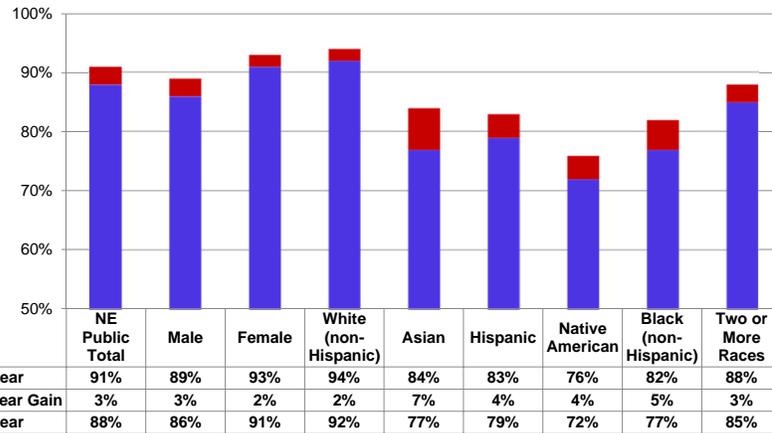
NEW for 2015: Nebraska Public High School Cohort Extended Graduation Rates by Gender and by Race/Ethnicity

- Extending cohort graduation rates to five and six years narrows the gender gap as well as the racial/ethnic gaps
 - As shown in the following slides, males are more likely than females to take longer to graduate from high school
 - Asian, Native American, and black non-Hispanic students are more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to take longer to graduate from high school

2011-12 Cohort



2012-13 Cohort



NEW for 2015:
**Nebraska Public High School
Additional Dropouts Data**

- Fall membership compared to dropouts for 7th – 12th graders by race/ethnicity and by gender
 - See pages 35-37
- State and district dropout rates for 7th – 12th graders
 - See pages 38 and 202

Preparation for College

Section 1.1.b

Increase the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who are adequately prepared to enroll in postsecondary education and proceed through degree completion.



SAT Reasoning Test™ and ACT Assessment

- In Nebraska, ACT is the predominant college entrance exam used to measure the extent to which Nebraska students are prepared for college
 - In 2014, 77.2% of high school graduates took the ACT Assessment
 - In comparison, only 3.4% of high school graduates took the SAT Reasoning Test™
- Therefore, this section focuses on the ACT Assessment
 - ACT Composite Scores:

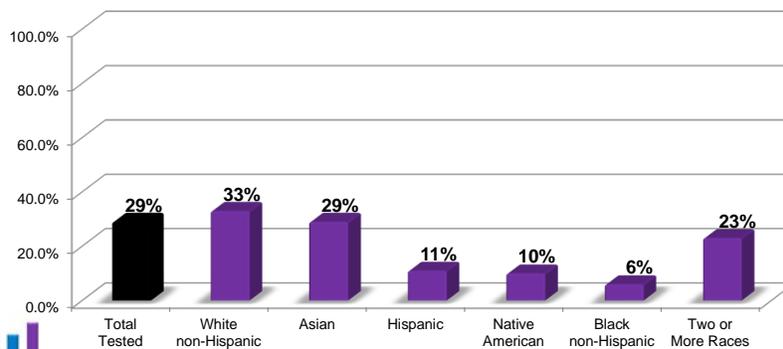
- 2004: Nebraska = 21.7 National = 20.9
- 2014: Nebraska = 21.7 National = 21.0



Percent of ACT-Tested Students Who Meet or Exceed ACT Benchmark Scores in All Four Areas

Nebraska High School Graduating Class of 2014

- **Only 29% are sufficiently prepared** to earn B's or C's in entry-level college courses in English, algebra, biology, social science
 - In comparison, at baseline (2004) 24% were sufficiently prepared
- Hispanics, Native Americans, and blacks (non-Hispanic) are less prepared for these courses than their white (non-Hispanic), Asian, or multiracial classmates



Note. Does not include Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders because of small cell counts.

College Continuation Rates

Section 1.1.c

Increase the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education.



Two Measures of Nebraska's College Continuation Rates

1. IPEDS
 - Collected every two years
 - Public and non-public high school graduates
 - First-time freshmen (FTF) who go to college in the fall or preceding summer following graduation from high school
 - Cannot be calculated for any subgroups (gender, race, etc.)
 - Can be used for state-to-state comparisons

2. National Student Clearinghouse
 - Since 2007–2008, calculated every year
 - Nebraska's public high school graduates
 - FTF who continue onto college in the summer, fall, winter, or spring term
 - Comparisons by gender and student income status can be calculated

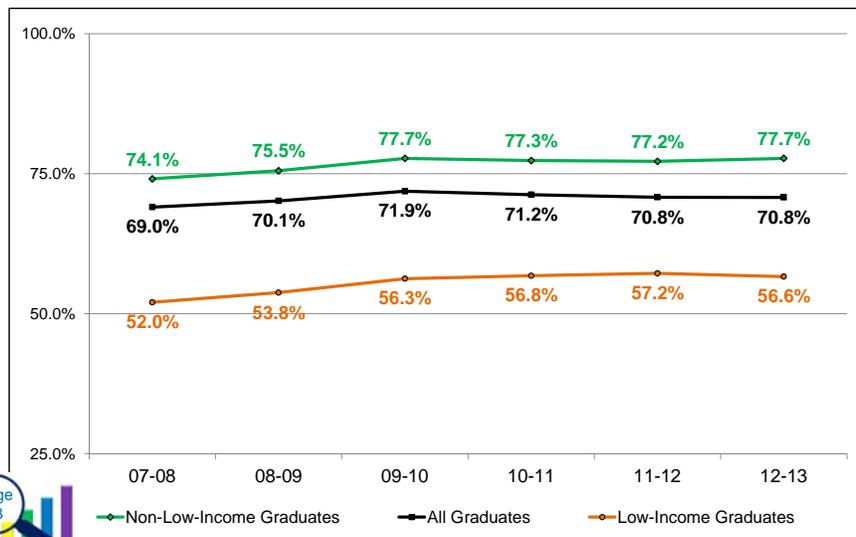


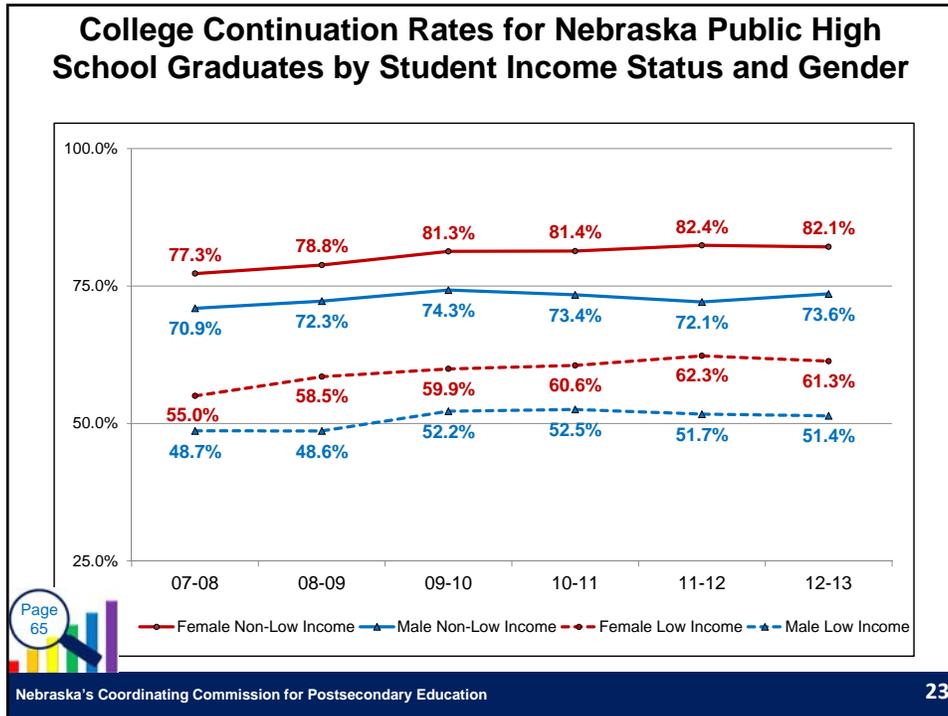
College Continuation Rates

- IPEDS (no update since the 2014 Progress Report)
 - Fall 2002 (baseline) = 63.5%
 - Fall 2012 = 65.8%
 - Ranked 7th highest nationally in fall 2010 (69.5%)
 - Latest data for national comparisons
- National Student Clearinghouse
 - Graduating class of 2007–2008 = 69.0%
 - Graduating class of 2012–2013 = 70.8%
- While Nebraska’s overall college-going rate has improved since baseline, rates are not consistent across all groups of students...



College Continuation Rates for Nebraska Public High School Graduates by Student Income Status





Nebraska High School Graduates Who Go to School in Nebraska

Section 1.2

Increase the proportion of Nebraska high school graduates who pursue their postsecondary education in Nebraska.

Note. The latest available data were collected in fall 2012 and compared to 2002 baseline data in the 2014 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report. Since data collected in fall 2014 will not be available until mid-2015, the analysis of data collected in fall 2012 is repeated in Section 1.2 of the 2015 report.

- Of Nebraska's high school graduates who go on to college, over 80% already go to college in Nebraska
 - Fall 2002 = 81.3%
 - Fall 2012 = 81.1%
- Consequently, it is difficult to increase Nebraska college enrollments only by increasing the percentage of Nebraska high school graduates who go to college in the state



Non-Nebraska FTF Who Enroll at Nebraska Colleges and Net Migration

Section 1.3

Increase the number of non-Nebraska high school graduates who pursue postsecondary education in Nebraska.

Note. The latest available data were collected in fall 2012 and compared to 2002 baseline data in the 2014 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report. Since data collected in fall 2014 will not be available until mid-2015, the analysis of data collected in fall 2012 is repeated in Section 1.3 of the 2015 report.



- Out-of-state and foreign first-time freshmen enrolled at Nebraska's colleges increased by 20.7% between fall 2002 and fall 2012:
 - Fall 2002 = 2,989
 - Fall 2012 = 3,609
- Looking at FTF who attend degree-granting institutions within 12 months of high school graduation:



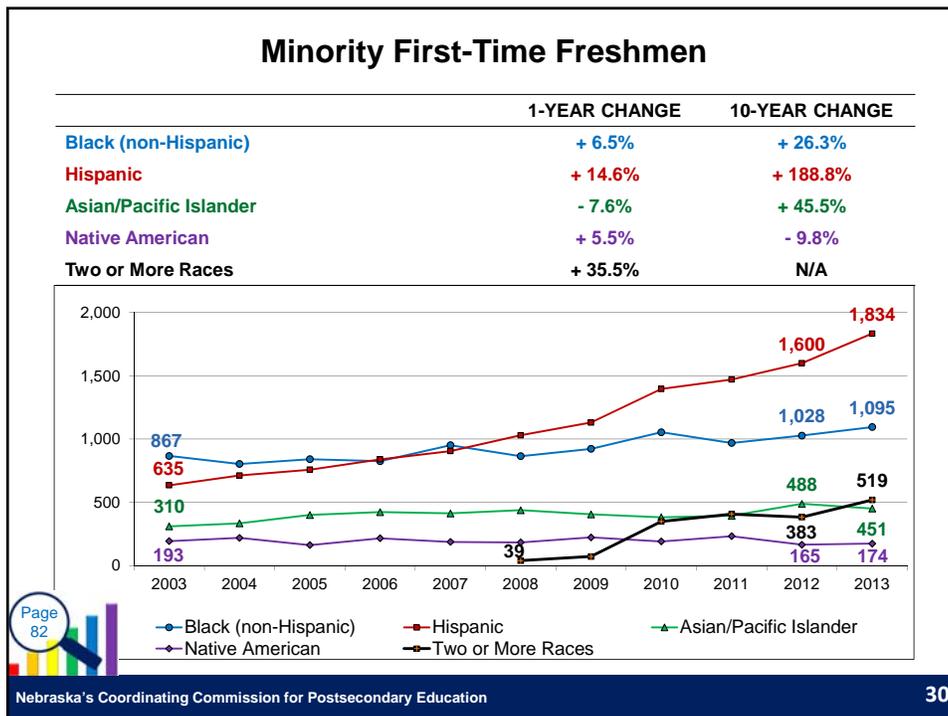
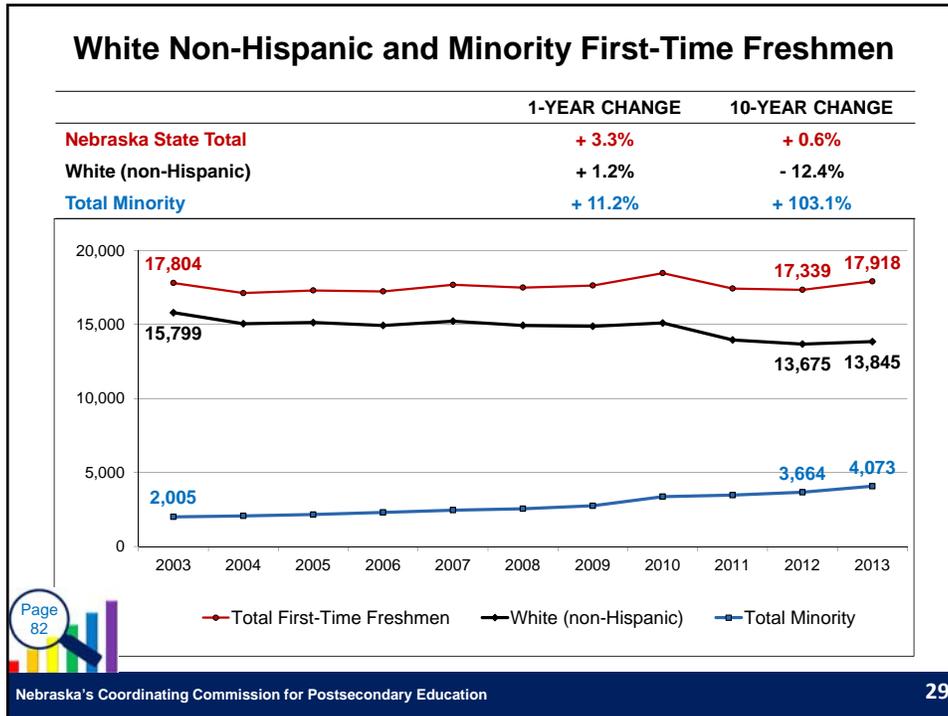
Pages
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Enrollment of First-Time Freshmen by Race/Ethnicity

Section 1.4

Increase the number and proportion of Nebraska postsecondary students who have been underrepresented in the state's higher education system.

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Financial Aid

Section 1.5

Increase need-based financial aid in order to improve access to higher education for Nebraskans with limited financial means.



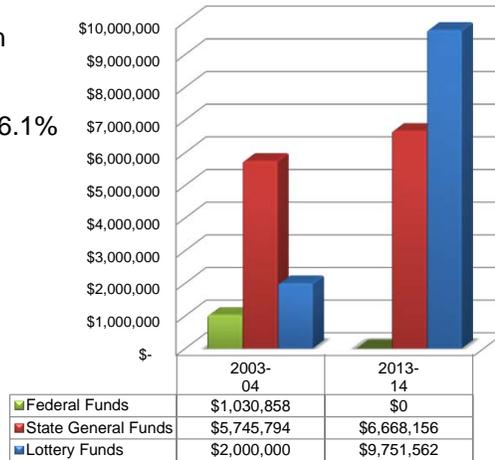
- To improve access to higher education, Nebraska has increased the amount of state funding for:
 - The Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG)
 - Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship

NOG Funding

Change in funding:

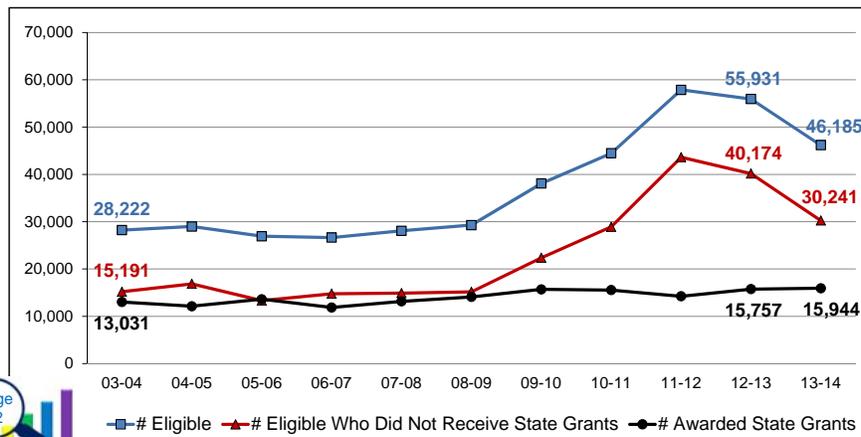
- Federal funding ceased in 2011-12
- State General Funds: + 16.1%
- Lottery Funds: + 387.6%
- **Total Funds: + 87.1%**

Total Funds: \$8.8M increased to \$16.4M



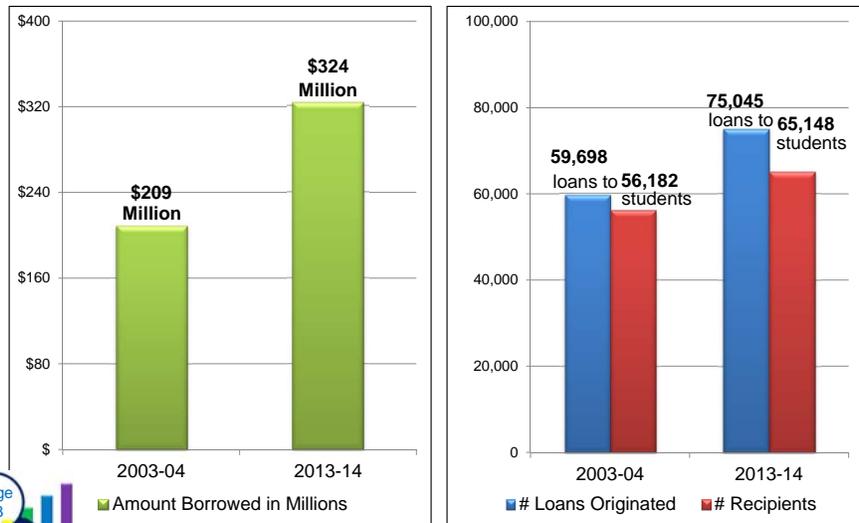
Number of Students Eligible to Receive Nebraska State Grants Compared to the Number of Students Awarded a State Grant 2003-04 through 2013-14

- In 2003-04, 46.2% of eligible students received a state grant
- By 2013-14, only 34.5% of eligible students received a state grant



- While Nebraska has increased the amount of state funds allocated for need-based financial aid:
 - State funding has not kept pace with the increasing number of students who are eligible for state grants
 - Student borrowing continues to increase

Level of Student Borrowing to Attend Nebraska's Public Colleges and Universities 2003-04 Compared to 2013-14



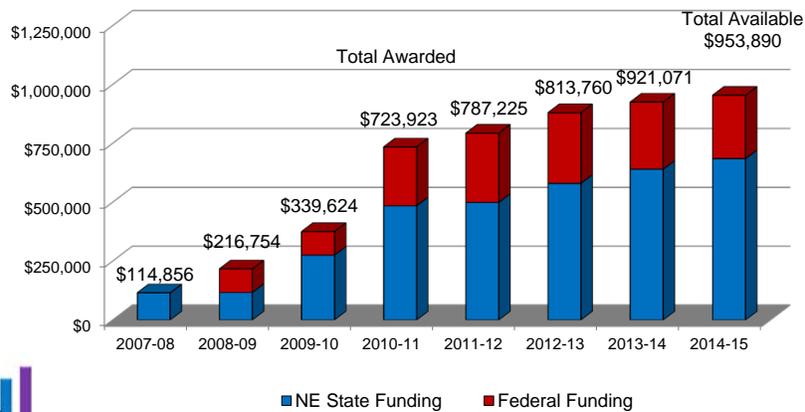
ACE and ACE Plus Scholarships

- Another approach to expanding access to higher education is through the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program, initiated in 2007–2008, and the ACE Plus Scholarship Program, which was introduced in 2011–2012
 - ACE Scholarships are awarded to eligible low-income Nebraska high school students who take college courses for credit while the students are in high school
 - ACE Plus Scholarships are available for eligible first and second year college students who received ACE scholarships during high school



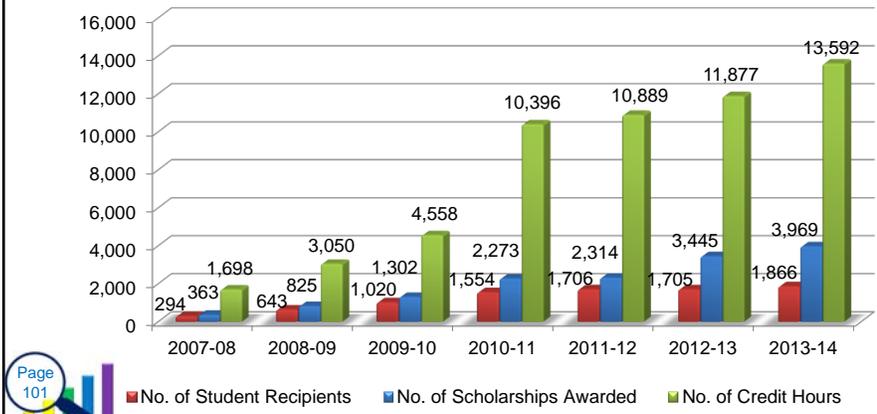
Growth of ACE Scholarship Program in Dollars Awarded

- Dollars awarded increased **702%**



Growth of ACE Scholarship Program in Student Recipients, ACE Scholarships, and Credit Hours

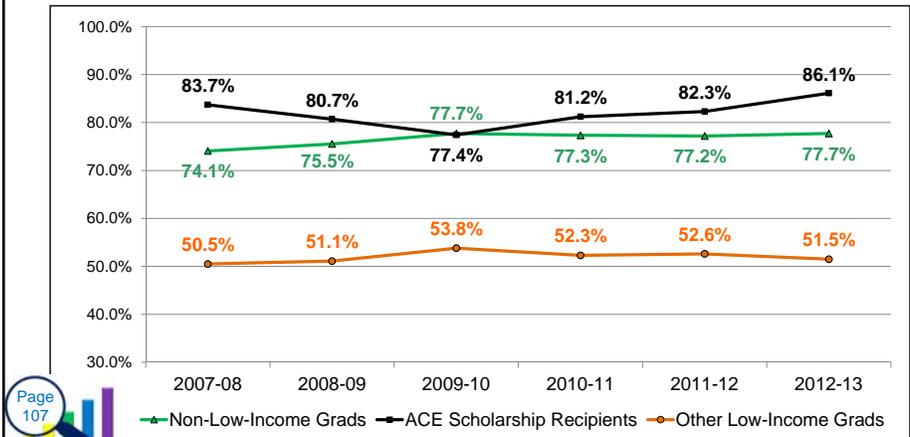
- Number of students has increased **535%**
- Number of scholarships has increased **993%**
- Number of credit hours has increased **700%**



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College Continuation Rates for ACE Scholarship Recipients and Other Graduates of Nebraska Public High Schools by Income Status

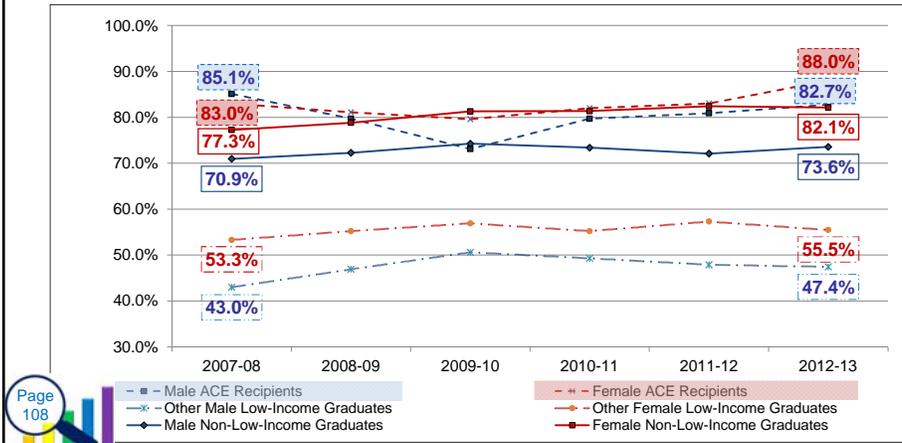
- ACE Scholarships enable low-income graduates to continue on to college at rates higher than, or about equal to, the college-going rates for their non-low-income classmates:



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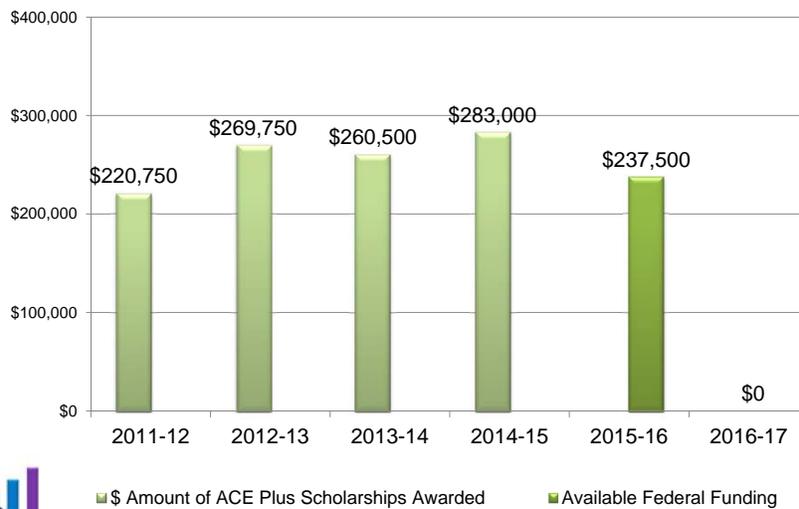
College Continuation Rates for ACE Scholarship Recipients and Other Graduates of Nebraska Public High Schools by Income Status

- The trend is even more evident when broken down by gender and income:

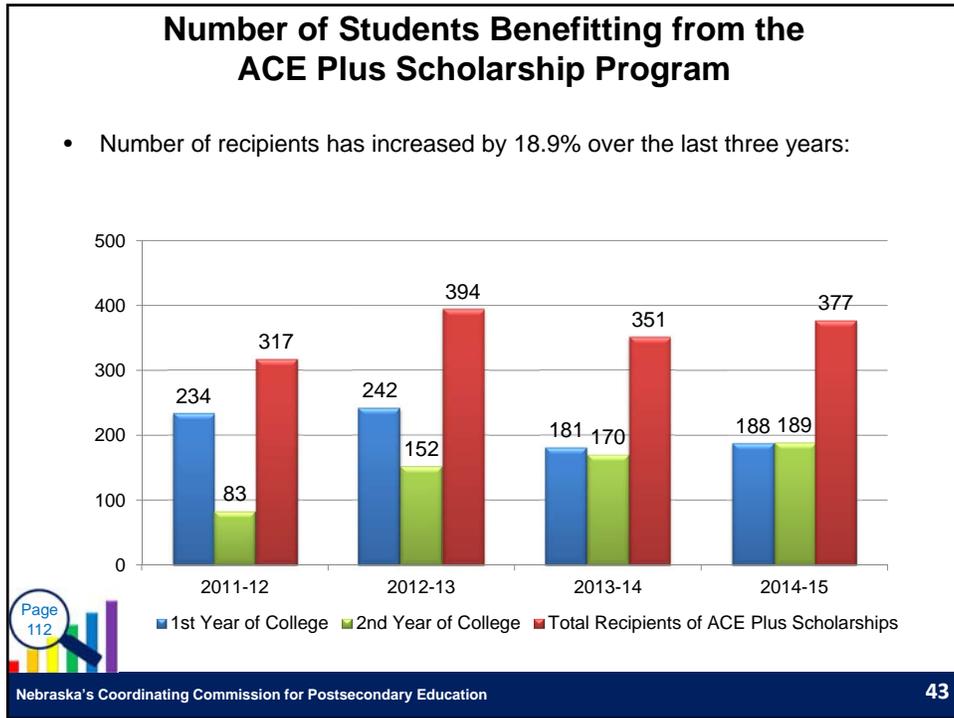


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Awarded and Available Funding for the ACE Plus Scholarship Program



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PRIORITY 2

INCREASE THE PERCENT OF STUDENTS WHO ENROLL AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A DEGREE

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Freshmen Retention Rates

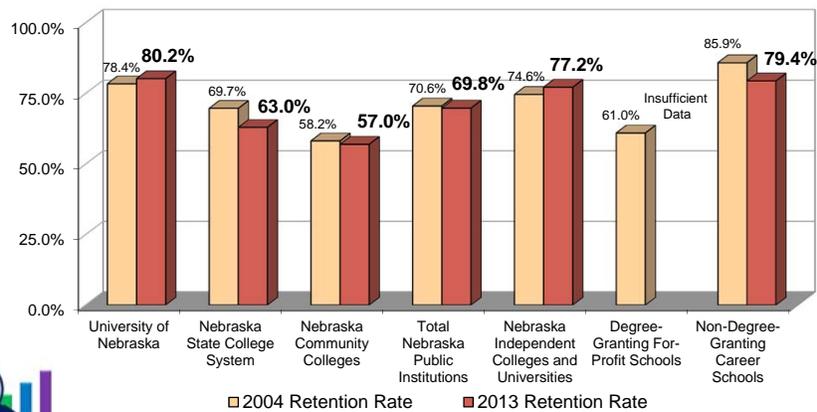
Section 2.1

Decrease the percentage of students who fail to persist beyond their first year(s) of enrollment.



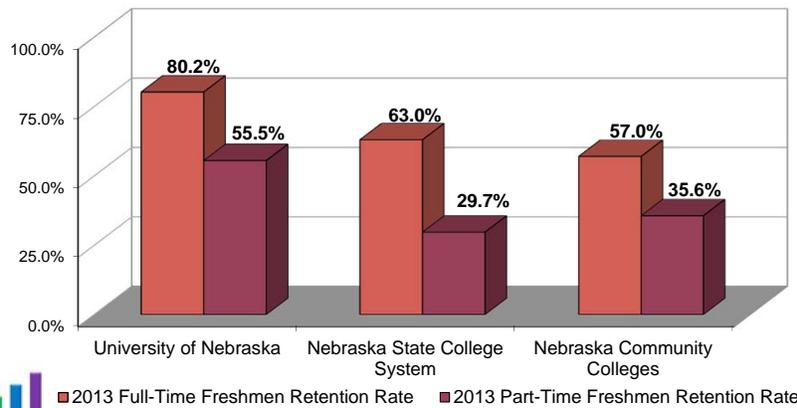
IPEDS Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen Retention Rates

- Overall retention rate in fall 2004 (excluding degree-granting for-profit schools) = 72.1%
- Overall retention rate in fall 2013 (excluding degree-granting for-profit schools) = 71.4%
- As shown below, retention rates have not improved significantly or consistently:



Full-Time and Part-Time First-Time Freshmen Retention Rates for Students in Nebraska's Public Colleges and Universities

- Students who start college full time are much more likely than part-time students to continue going to college beyond their freshmen year

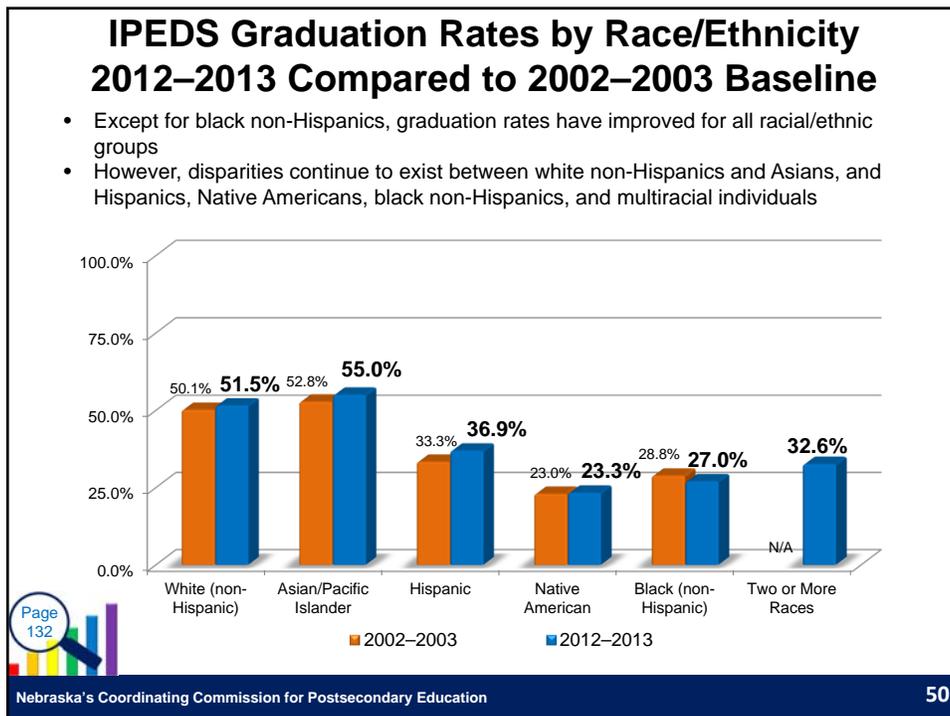
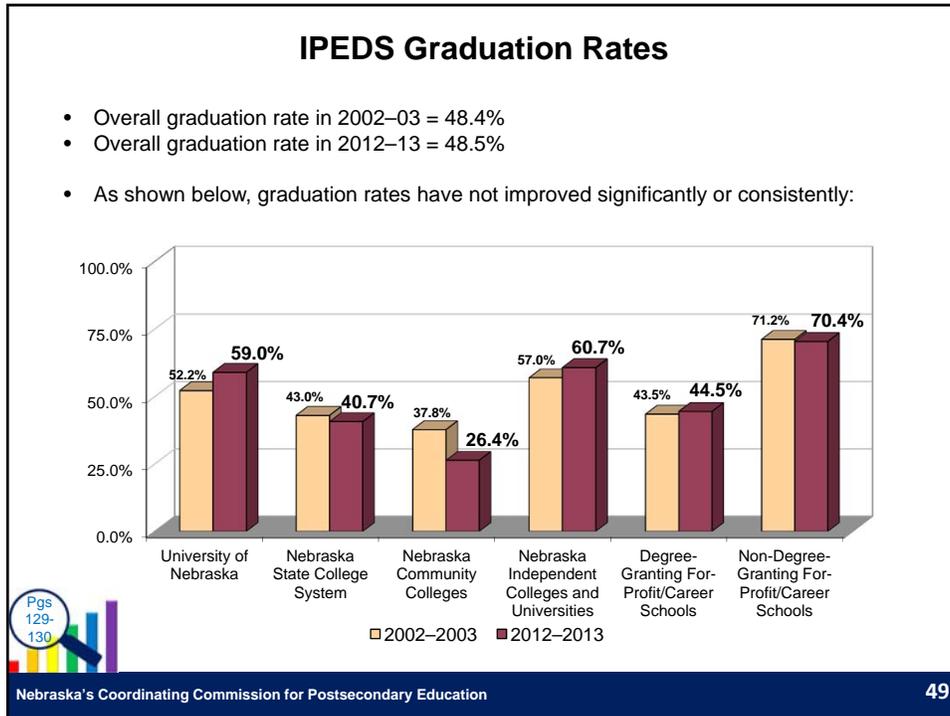


College Graduation and Transfer Rates

Section 2.2

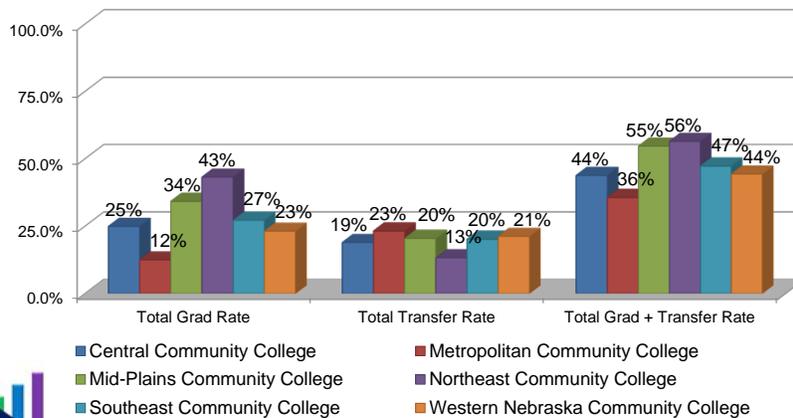
Increase the percentage of students who complete associate degrees within three years and baccalaureate degrees within six years.





Transfer Rates for Nebraska Community Colleges

- Transfer rates ranged from 13% at Northeast to 23% at Metro
- The rates produced by combining each institution's graduation rates and transfer rates ranged from 36% at Metro to 56% at Northeast



Graduation and Persistence Rates

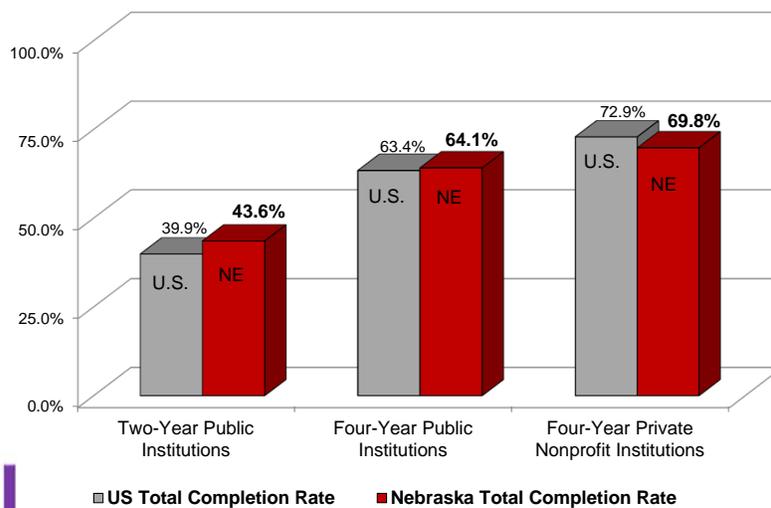
Section 2.3

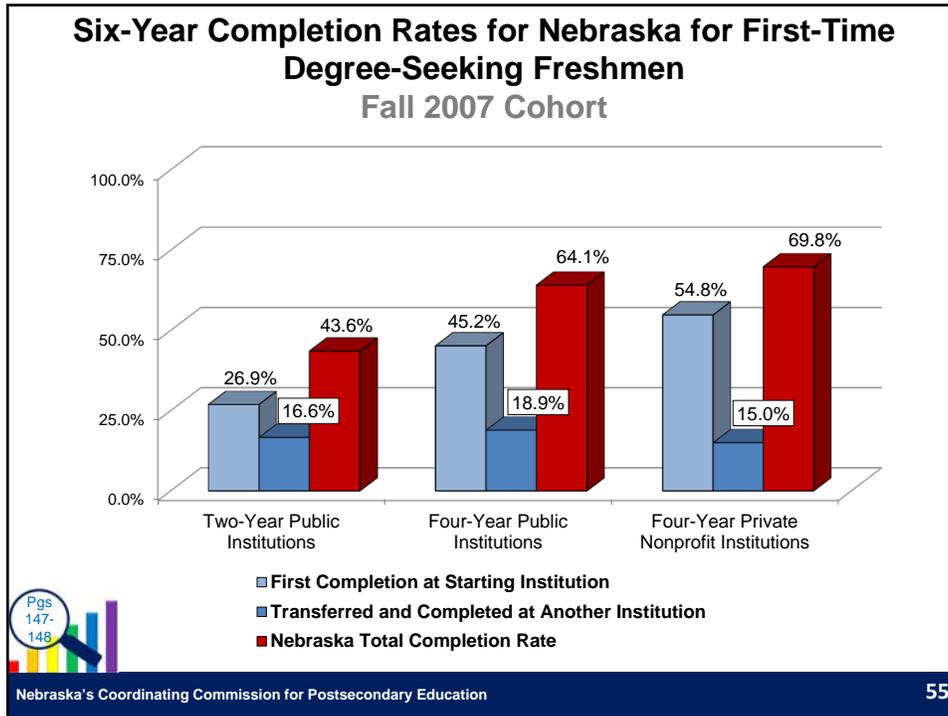
A recent study by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (*Completing College: A State-Level View of Student Attainment Rates*) provides important information about the completion and persistence rates of students who start college at Nebraska's public and independent institutions.

- IPEDS graduation rates are only for **first-time, full-time** students who graduate from the **same campus** where they began as first-time, full-time students
- In comparison, the NSC graduation rates are for **all first-time students**, regardless of full-time status, and they **include students who graduate from campuses other than the campus of initial enrollment**



Six-Year Total Completion Rates for Nebraska and the United States for First-Time Degree-Seeking Freshmen Fall 2007 Cohort





Completing College: A State-Level View of Student Attainment Rates Fall 2007 Summary

- Students are most likely to earn degrees or certificates if they:
 - Attend college full time
 - Start college at a four-year institution
 - Start college before they are 20 years old
- Students who enroll part-time are:
 - Less likely to persist in their studies
 - Less likely to earn degrees or certificates
 - More likely to drop out of college
- Importantly, for the Nebraska community colleges included in the study:
 - By May 31, 2013, 43.6% of students had completed degrees
 - 26.9% earned degrees at their starting institution
 - 5.2% at a different two-year school in U.S.
 - 11.5% at a four-year school in U.S.
 - And 16.2 % were still enrolled (at any institution)

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PRIORITY 3

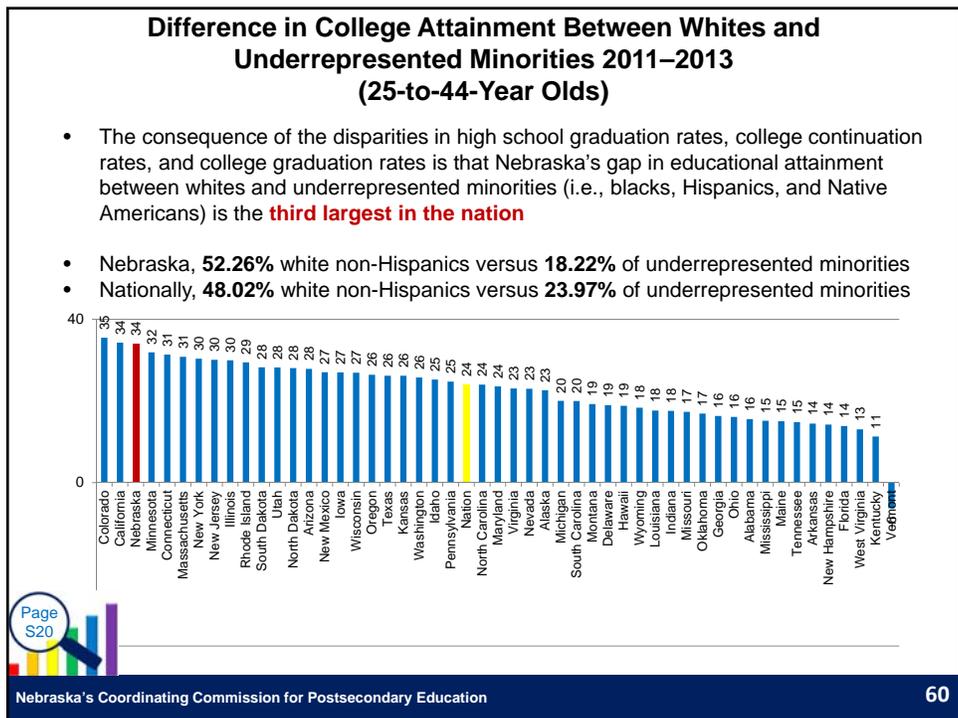
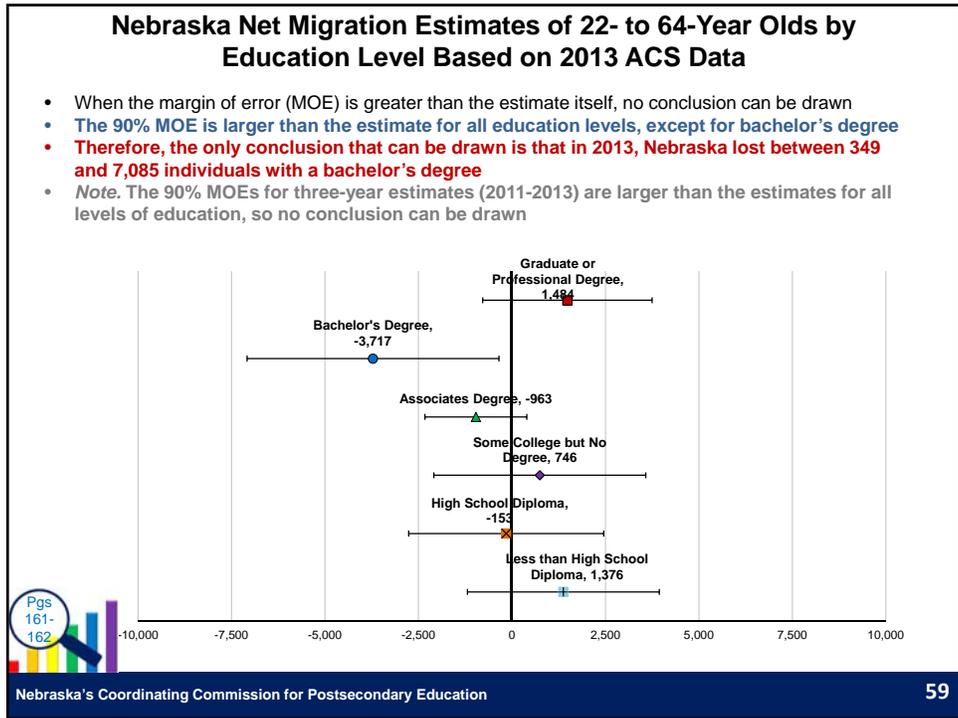
**REDUCE, ELIMINATE, AND THEN REVERSE THE
NET OUT-MIGRATION OF NEBRASKANS WITH
HIGH LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education

- Data are not sufficiently reliable to clearly conclude whether Nebraska is gaining or losing more working-age adults with college degrees than in the past
 - Data comes from the American Community Survey
 - Only about 500 people per year report moving into or out of Nebraska within the last year
 - Result is small sample sizes
 - And large margins of error

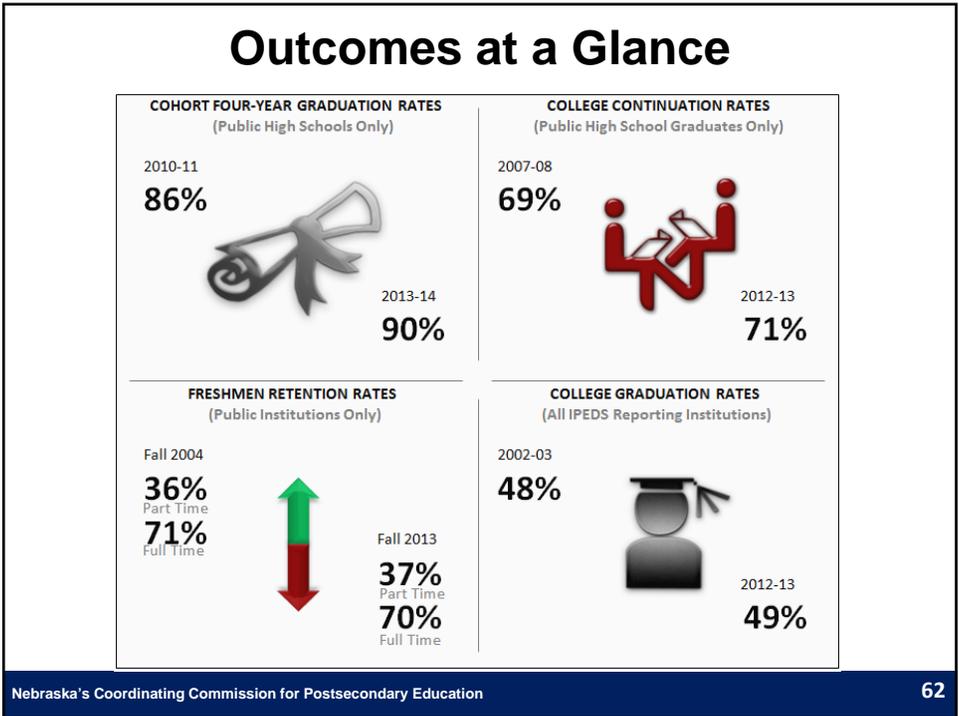
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CONCLUSION

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- Given the findings of the *2015 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report*, more work needs to be done in order for Nebraskans to enroll in college and complete degrees.
- So, what do we need to do?

- At the high school level:
 - Increase the percentage of students who stay in school and earn diplomas
 - Increase the percentage of students who are prepared academically for college and who take dual enrollment courses
 - For males, minorities, and low-income students especially, exert more effort to increase:
 - The percent who are prepared for college academically
 - The number who take dual enrollment courses
 - High school graduation rates, and
 - College-going rates

- At the postsecondary level:
 - Increase the percentage of high school graduates who go on to college, encouraging as many as possible to enroll full-time and not delay enrollment
 - Increase awareness of the range of higher education opportunities, especially at the community colleges
 - Reach out to adults with college credit but no earned certificates or degrees
 - Increase efforts to improve retention and persistence rates
 - Increase efforts to improve graduation rates for all students across all sectors of higher education in Nebraska, and especially:
 - At the community colleges
 - For minority students at all institutions

- At the state government level:
 - Continue to support and increase funding for the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program and the ACE program
 - Develop and build support for clear completion targets for Nebraska's public-funded colleges and universities
 - Initiate incentives for the state's public-funded colleges and universities to:
 - Improve graduation rates
 - Increase the number of degrees and certificates awarded

Questions?

For further information, please contact:

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The full report is available online at www.ccpe.ne.gov

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Data Sources

- ACT, Inc.
- College Examination Board
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
 - Maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education
- National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS)
- National Student Clearinghouse
- Nebraska Department of Education
- Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY
- U.S. Census Bureau
 - American Community Survey
 - Current Population Survey
- Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)
- Records maintained by the Commission
- Information received directly from Nebraska's postsecondary institutions

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