



**NEBRASKA'S**  
COORDINATING COMMISSION  
FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

## **Potential State Programs to Encourage Postsecondary Attainment and Workforce Development**

- ACE Tech Plus: Provide a tuition and fee scholarship to ACE scholarship recipients pursuing a certificate, diploma, or associate's degree full-time at a community college or NCTA in a high-need technical field who, while in high school, completed at least nine college credit hours of career and technical education. To receive a scholarship, students would be required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- With the advent of statewide ACT testing of all juniors, launch a program patterned on Tennessee SAILS, which uses ACT scores to identify students who would likely be placed into developmental math or English at a community college and provides the instruction necessary to avoid developmental education placement during the students' senior year in high school.
- Create a program patterned on the Dakota Builds (SD), ArFuture (AR), and MnSCU Two-Year Occupational Grant programs (MN), which pay tuition and fees for students pursuing associate's degrees in high-need fields after taking into account other sources of financial aid. The South Dakota and Arkansas programs require a commitment to work in-state for several years.
- Community College Gap Assistance Program: Extend the Gap program, which pays for costs of non-credit training in high-need fields at community colleges, to certificates and diplomas in high-need fields at community colleges. Indiana recently launched this program, called the "Indiana Workforce Ready Grant," to address workforce shortages and the financial needs of adult students pursuing certificates, diplomas, and related workforce credentials.
- Create a Reconnect Program based on similar programs in Tennessee and Indiana that pay tuition and fees, after other student aid is applied, to help adults who have some college credit but no credential complete a certificate, diploma, or associate's degree.
- For recent graduates remaining in Nebraska, create tax credits for individuals for student loan payments or tax credits for employers who make student loan payments on behalf of employees who are recent graduates. Maine, through its Opportunity Maine Tax Credit program, provides refundable and/or non-refundable tax credits depending on degree level and program.