



P.O. Box 95005, Lincoln, NE 68509-5005 • 140 N. 8th St., Suite 300, Lincoln, NE 68508
Telephone: 402/471-2847 • Fax: 402/471-2886 • www.ccpe.state.ne.us
Marshall A. Hill, Ph.D., Executive Director

*Promoting high quality, ready access, and efficient use of resources
in Nebraska higher education.*

LB 372 Testimony
Marshall A. Hill, Executive Director
Feb. 7, 2011

- LB 372 would allow the University of Nebraska to offer an expanded number of certificate programs, providing they are approved by the Coordinating Commission and primarily consist of courses above associate-level. Also under this bill, community colleges would be solely responsible for offering certificates comprised of courses at the associate-degree level or below. This reflects the current practice of community colleges.
- Current statutes effectively do not allow any public institution to offer an undergraduate certificate above the associate level.
- This bill amends slightly the role and mission statutes for both the University of Nebraska and the state's community colleges.
- Any change in role and mission statutes requires a recommendation from the Coordinating Commission. At its January 20, 2011 meeting, the Commission voted to recommend to the Legislature that the role and mission statements be amended as indicated in this bill.
- LB 372 also eliminates uncommon terminology. ("certificates-in-course")
- In helping to craft this bill, Commission staff consulted extensively with the University of Nebraska Central Administration and representatives from the community colleges.
- There was a minor error made by bill drafting, which we have discussed with Senator Adams' staff.

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