



**LB 1103 Testimony**  
**Carna Pfeil, Interim Executive Director**  
Feb. 10, 2014

- First, I applaud Sen. Sullivan and the entire Education Committee for introducing this bill. Hopefully this process leads to a shared vision for education in Nebraska, which we all can agree is crucial to our success as a state moving forward. I hope the actions outlined in this bill also can result in a long-term benchmark to help guide our State Senators in the future, particularly as the makeup of our Legislature changes more frequently than in the past.
- The Coordinating Commission looks forward to participating in this process, particularly in light of our duties as assigned by the State. The Nebraska Constitution and statutes assign the Coordinating Commission the responsibility for comprehensive planning for postsecondary education in Nebraska. The Commission approved the state's first *Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education* in 1992.
- Since then, it has undergone several revisions to keep it current and relevant to the state's higher education environment. In 1999, the Legislature directed the Commission to review and revise the *Comprehensive Plan*, in collaboration with higher education governing boards. The ensuing process in 1999 and 2000 included many joint meetings with members of governing boards and their representatives. The process also included focus groups on higher education issues held in communities throughout the state, as well as meetings, surveys and other communications with the state's higher education leaders and stakeholders.
- This collaborative process resulted in a widely shared vision of what postsecondary education can and should become in the future, as well as mutually agreed upon major statewide goals that could bring about the vision's accomplishment. The purpose of the *Comprehensive Plan* is to provide direction for the future of higher education in Nebraska. It identifies goals that will lead to an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive and coordinated higher education network throughout the state. The Coordinating Commission uses the *Comprehensive Plan* to facilitate most of its statutory decision-making processes.

- I have provided you a copy of the Executive Summary of the *Comprehensive Plan*. We believe this may be helpful as you begin the “visioning” process outlined in this bill.
- The Coordinating Commission will certainly need to revise the *Comprehensive Plan* in conjunction with this process. We look forward to working with this committee and the entire Legislature as part of that process.