



LB 1106 Testimony
Carna Pfeil, Interim Executive Director
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- In 2011, the Legislature passed LB 637, part of which called on the Coordinating Commission to conduct a study on the need for uniform policies and practices regarding career academies and dual enrollment. As part of that study, we discovered that at least 6,000 Nebraska high school students were participating in career academies at the time – a number that surely has increased during the past two years. We also discovered that, on a national level, there is extensive data that proves the effectiveness of career academies in improving students' academic performance, preparing them for postsecondary education, and boosting their earning potential after high school. There is similar data that proves the effectiveness of dual enrollment, which is a key component of career academies.
- LB 1106 takes an important step in supporting student participation in dual-enrollment courses as part of career academies. One barrier to participation is cost, and this legislation addresses that issue.
- As you know, the Coordinating Commission currently administers the Access College Early scholarship program, which pays tuition and mandatory fees for qualified, low-income high school students to enroll in college courses from Nebraska colleges or universities, either through dual-enrollment or early enrollment agreements with these institutions. Many of these ACE scholarship recipients use that funding to pay for dual-enrollment courses that are part of a career academy.
- The Commission supports the goal of LB 1106 to increase funding for dual-enrollment students beyond the ACE program. We also support policy that would create a separate scholarship fund for career academy dual-enrollment courses.

- We also support the amendment to this bill introduced by Senator McGill. It adds clarity to the role of the Coordinating Commission. We still have questions about details of how this new program would be administered. However, we are confident we could effectively administer such a program, as we have successfully administered the ACE program the past 7 years.
- If you choose to move forward with this bill, we do ask that you consider one addition. On page 3, line 24, we ask that the Coordinating Commission also be granted authority to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations.
- We realize you will be examining how the State of Nebraska helps students pay for postsecondary education, including dual enrollment. As part of that visioning process, we think it is a good idea to consider a program such as the one proposed in LB 1106.