



BOARD OF REGENTS AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Academic Affairs

June 18, 2026

AGENDA ITEM: Proposal to establish the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute at the University of Nebraska.

☐ **Review** ☒ **Review + Action** ☐ **Action** ☐ **Discussion**

☐ *This is a report required by Regents' Policy.*

PRESENTERS: David S. Jackson, Provost

PURPOSE & KEY POINTS

The University of Nebraska proposes to establish a formal Artificial Intelligence (AI) Institute to enhance and advance AI research, teaching, and public engagement across all four NU campuses: UNK, UNL, UNMC, and UNO. The Institute will focus on areas where Nebraska is already strong: agriculture and food systems, healthcare, engineering, rural and urban development, business, law, education, the humanities and arts, and national security. It will connect foundational, applied, theoretical, and cultural research with real-world needs and circumstances, prepare students and workers for AI-enabled careers, and help communities use AI safely and effectively. Through partnerships with industry, government, non-profits, and communities, the Institute will serve society, grow Nebraska's economy, and help future generations thrive in the AI era. As part of the University's "Odyssey to Extraordinary" strategic plan, the AI Institute will position NU to compete nationally in AI. The University of Nebraska Artificial Intelligence Institute aims to be a nationally recognized, system-wide hub for responsible, safe, and human-centered artificial intelligence. No new state resources will be needed to support this institute.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 2.11 of the Bylaws of the Board of Regents provides that multi-departmental centers for research, teaching, and/or service require approval by the Board of Regents. Section 2.11 further states this applies not only to "centers" but also to all such entities such as those characterized as "bureaus," "institutes," or designations other than colleges or schools.

RECOMMENDATION

The President recommends approval.