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# MINUTES

## COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

December 3, 2015

The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel  
Lincoln, Nebraska

Public notice of this meeting was given by posting notice on the Commission's website; posting notice on the State of Nebraska's online public meeting calendar; e-mailing news media; and keeping a current copy of the agenda in the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education's office, listing the date, time, and location of the meeting.

*Public notice of meeting*

### NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON DECEMBER 3, 2015. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 12:30 P.M.

AN AGENDA IS MAINTAINED IN THE COMMISSION OFFICE, 140 N. 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 300, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

CAROL ZINK, CHAIR

*Meeting called to order at 9:40 a.m.*

### CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Carol Zink called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m., noting that the Commissioners had a joint breakfast earlier this morning with the Nebraska State Board of Education.

Chair Zink welcomed back Commissioner Warner after a brief absence and commented that she is pictured on the cover and is featured in *Siouxland Magazine*.

Chair Zink asked for introductions.

### Commissioners Present

Colleen Adam  
Dr. John Bernthal  
Dr. Deborah Frison  
Dr. Ron Hunter  
Mary Lauritzen  
Dwayne Probyn

Eric Seacrest  
Dr. Joyce Simmons  
Lori Warner  
W. Scott Wilson  
Carol Zink

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### Commission Staff Present

Dr. Michael Baumgartner  
Dr. Kathleen Fimple  
Jill Heese  
Jason Keese

J. Ritchie Morrow  
Helen Pope  
Gary Timm  
Mike Wernhoff

*Chair Zink presents Commissioner Seacrest with resolution*

### CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Zink read and presented a framed resolution to confer on Commissioner Eric Seacrest the title of Honorable Commissioner Emeritus of Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Commissioner Seacrest has served on the Commission for over 29 years. After the Commission meeting there will be a retirement luncheon honoring Commissioner Seacrest.

*Dr. Baumgartner reports on out-of-service area authorization*

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Michael Baumgartner, Executive Director, reported that the following out-of-service area application has been authorized:

1. Offered by Mid-Plains Community College  
Traditional delivery at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, NE
  - Paramedic program (13 courses for 42 credit hours)  
1/18/16 – March 2017

*Dr. Baumgartner discusses previous budget recommendations review*

Dr. Baumgartner reported on unfinished business from last fall's budget recommendations. The University of Nebraska's 2015-2017 budget request included facility operation and maintenance funding for projects for which the University did not request funds when previously reviewed. The attorney general reviewed the statute and a previous informal opinion and determined that the Commission's process was correct. The institutions have one opportunity to make the determination to seek or not seek Commission review. If they choose not to seek review, they must wait 10 years after building completion to make a request. We have informed the University staff of the attorney general's decision.

*Dr. Baumgartner talks about attending MHEC Annual Commission meeting in November*

Dr. Baumgartner and Chair Zink attended the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) Annual Commission Meeting November 16-17 in Chicago. Much of the meeting was spent on accreditation issues. Dr. Barbara Gellman-Danley, president of the Higher Learning Commission, was a guest presenter during MHEC's policy forum on accreditation. She addressed the roles of boards, campuses, and legislatures; pressing questions; and the future of accreditation. A panel of MHEC commissioners and one guest presenter shared their experiences on accreditation. Dr. Baumgartner mentioned that one of the other topics that is related to this is the MHEC review of the faculty qualifications policy of the Higher Learning Commission.

*Dr. Baumgartner speaks about upcoming Legislative session*

Dr. Baumgartner said preparations for the 2016 Legislative session have begun. Recently he and Jason Keese, Public Information and Special

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Projects Coordinator, have been meeting with senators. The Legislative session begins January 6 and ends April 20, 2016. There are a number of ongoing bills of interest to the Commission that we will be tracking.

*Dr. Fimple reports on NC-SARA meeting*

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, to discuss the National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) meeting that she attended earlier this week. Dr. Fimple reported that the NC-SARA board of directors and coordinators from each state that deals with the SARA initiative were brought together for the meeting. The initiative has been very successful, with 36 states and 528 institutions participating and \$1.9 million in revenue collected since its inception two years ago.

*Minutes of October 15, 2015  
Commission meeting approved*

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15, 2015, COMMISSION MEETING**

**Commissioner Adam moved that the October 15, 2015, minutes be approved. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with all Commissioners present voting yes. The motion carried.**

*Public Comment on Matters of  
General Concern*

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN**

There was no testimony on Matters of General Concern.

**Chair Zink closed the public hearing on Matters of General Concern.**

*Public Hearing on Academic  
Programs Committee Items*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Dr. David Jackson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Nebraska, came forward to answer any questions the Commissioners might have on the University of Nebraska's new instructional program proposals.

*Dr. David Jackson, University of  
Nebraska*

*Dr. Ronald Rosati, NCTA – Curtis*

Dr. Ronald Rosati, Dean, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture – Curtis, introduced himself and briefly spoke on the two NCTA programs: Agricultural Welding and Agricultural Chemical Application. He offered to answer questions regarding these program proposals.

*Dr. A. Ross Taylor, University of  
Nebraska at Kearney*

Dr. A. Ross Taylor, Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, discussed his support of the Software Quality Assurance program proposal.

*Dr. Dan Monaghan, University of  
Nebraska Medical Center*

Dr. Dan Monaghan, Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, gave a brief overview of the Biomedical Sciences program proposal and stated he will be available to answer questions from the Commissioners.

**Chair Zink closed the public hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items.**

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## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Probyn, Committee Chair, acknowledged Commissioners and staff who participated in the Academic Programs committee conference call.

*Nebraska College of Technical  
Agriculture*

*Commissioner Probyn presents the  
program*

### **Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture – Proposal for a New Instructional Program– Agricultural Chemical Application (undergraduate certificate)**

Commissioner Probyn presented the program proposal, noting the program would be offered at Curtis, and that NCTA is developing a partnership to offer the certificate to York High School students as dual credit in cooperation with Central Valley Agriculture Co-op. Commissioner Probyn stated the level of technology is noteworthy, and current NCTA students have expressed an interest for this program.

*Nebraska College of Technical  
Agriculture – Agricultural Chemical  
Application (undergraduate  
certificate) approved*

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Agricultural Chemical Application (undergraduate certificate). A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Nebraska College of Technical  
Agriculture*

*Commissioner Probyn and Dr.  
Fimple present the program*

### **Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Agricultural Welding (undergraduate certificate)**

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal. Commissioner Probyn stated this program differentiates agricultural welding from traditional welding. Dr. Baumgartner added there are more welding jobs available in Nebraska than are reflected in labor statistics reports.

*Nebraska College of Technical  
Agriculture – Agricultural Welding  
(undergraduate certificate) approved*

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Agricultural Welding (undergraduate certificate). A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska Medical  
Center*

*Commissioner Probyn and Dr.  
Fimple present the program*

### **University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Instructional Program– Biomedical Sciences (interdisciplinary PhD)**

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal. Dr. Fimple commented that the goals UNMC stated were clearly identified in the proposal and summarizes well the need for the program.

*University of Nebraska Medical  
Center – Biomedical Sciences  
(interdisciplinary PhD) approved*

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Biomedical Sciences (interdisciplinary PhD). A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

*University of Nebraska at Kearney*

*Commissioner Probyn and Dr.  
Fimple present the program*

### **University of Nebraska at Kearney – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Software Quality Assurance (undergraduate certificate)**

Commissioner Probyn and Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal. Dr. Fimple pointed out that the target populations for this proposal are working professionals in related areas with no experience in the field, working

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*Dr. A. Ross Taylor, University of  
Nebraska at Kearney*

*University of Nebraska at Kearney –  
Software Quality Assurance  
(undergraduate certificate) approved*

*Existing Program Review*

professionals with some experience in software quality assurance, and existing students who might benefit from the program in their current program of study. Dr. Taylor spoke briefly about the need and demand for the program and answered questions from the Commissioners.

**Commissioner Probyn, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Software Quality Assurance (undergraduate certificate). A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners present voted yes. The motion carried.**

**Existing Program Review**

Commissioner Probyn presented the Existing Program Review approved by the Executive Director.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Educational Administration – MA, MEd, 6 year certificate, EdD

Special Education – MA, MEd

Autism Spectrum Disorders & Severe Disabilities – graduate certificate

Early Childhood – graduate certificate

Intellectual Sensory & Developmental Disabilities – graduate certificate

Speech Language Pathology & Audiology – BA, BS, MS

Speech-Language Pathologist – BSEH

Audiology and Hearing Science – AuD

Special Education & Communication Disorders – EdS

Teaching of Writing – graduate certificate

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Educational Administration – MAE, EdS

Special Education – BAE, MAE

Communication Disorders – BSE

Speech Pathology – MSE

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Special Education – MS, MA

Speech-Language Pathology – BSED, MS

Educational Leadership – MS, EdS, EdD

Chadron State College

Educational Administration – MEd

Special Education – BSE

Wayne State College

School Administration – MSE, EdS

Special Education – BS, BS

*Multi-State Collaborative on Military  
Credit*

*Dr. Fimple reports on MCMC  
meeting*

**Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC)**

Dr. Fimple reported that on November 19 a meeting of interested parties from across the state was held at Central Community College in Grand Island to discuss Nebraska's participation in the Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit to assist veterans, military personnel and their families

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*MCMC report continued*

with their transition to higher education. A Lumina Foundation grant to the Midwest Higher Education Compact is funding this 13-state project, and they require a mission and vision statement along with objectives and strategies. The vision of the plan is to recognize the value of the training and experience that military students bring to campus. She noted the Nebraska project plan is in its infancy, but the goal of the meeting was to get input on what we need to do as a state. Dr. Fimple provided a list of meeting participants, an overview of the meeting, project plan, and plans for future MCMC efforts.

**Report on name changes, deletions, reasonable and moderate extensions, and other institutional activities relating to existing programs**

*Reasonable and Moderate Extension*

**A. Reasonable and Moderate Extension**

CCC – Reimbursement Specialist within Health Information Management (diploma)

*Discontinued Program*

**B. Discontinued Program**

UNO – Early Childhood Auditory Oral Education for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (graduate certificate)

*Name Change*

**C. Name Change**

NU – Nebraska Advanced Biomedical Technology and Discovery Institute (NABID) to *UNeTech with the tagline: Nebraska's Biomedical Technology Institute*

Chair Zink called for a break at 11:10 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:20 a.m.

*Public Hearing on Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee Items*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE ITEMS**

There was no testimony on Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee Items.

**Chair Zink closed the public hearing on Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee Items.**

*Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs Inflationary Adjustment*

*Mike Wernhoff presents the proposal*

**BUDGET, CONSTRUCTION, AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Simmons, Committee Chair, acknowledged Commissioners and staff who participated in the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid committee conference call.

**Facility Operating and Maintenance Costs Inflationary Adjustment**

Mike Wernhoff, Facilities Officer, reported that the Commission has two triggers for review of capital construction projects: \$2 million in tax funds used for construction or acquisition of a facility, or at least \$85,000 in tax funds in a fiscal year as determined by the institution for facilities



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operations and maintenance (O&M). The first trigger is not subject to adjustment for inflation. The second is adjustable for inflation over a two-year cycle, which we have completed. Over the past six years inflation on the \$85,000 threshold has increased 3.7 percent. It is recommended that the facility O&M costs threshold for review be adjusted to \$90,000/year for the next biennial period of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2017.

*Facility Operating and Maintenance  
Costs Inflationary Adjustment  
approved*

**Commissioner Simmons, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the biennial inflationary adjustment to the statutory threshold for an incremental increase in facility operating and maintenance costs. A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Access College Early Scholarship  
AY 2014-2015 Year-End Report*

**Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2014-2015 Year-End Report**

*J. Ritchie Morrow presents the ACE  
report*

J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, presented the year-end report on the Access College Early Scholarship. He noted a revision was made to the number of recipients for 2010-11 and 2011-12 on page 2 of the report. A revised page was distributed to Commissioners. He noted the ACE program has received good support from the Legislature, as seen in the growth of the amount awarded. Students find out about the scholarship from counselors or teachers at their school. He stated this report goes out to the high schools and a contact person that he works with at each college. Commissioner Simmons noted this report will be voted on since it is submitted to the Legislature.

*Commissioner Simmons speaks on  
the ACE report*

**Commissioner Simmons, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship AY 2014-2015 Year-End report. A roll call vote was taken. All 11 Commissioners voted yes. The motion carried.**

*Access College Early Scholarship  
AY 2014-2015 Year-End Report  
approved*

**Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) AY 2014-2015 Year-End Report**

*Nebraska Opportunity Grant AY  
2014-2015 Year-End Report*

Mr. Morrow presented the NOG report, noting the number of Pell Grant students that attend participating institutions is tracked. The majority of those students attend the community colleges, which has been the trend over the years. The students' unmet need for low-income Pell Grant students is also tracked, which comes close to \$230 million. This is the amount the student has to come up with to attend college after financial aid. Mr. Morrow reviewed the NOG process and how institutions are notified. In 2014-2015, \$16,455,722 was awarded, with 15,943 students receiving the funds. The average grant awarded was \$1,032.13. Mr. Morrow answered Commissioners' questions.

*Mr. Morrow presents the NOG report*

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*Public Hearing on Planning and  
Consumer Information Committee  
Items*

## **PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE ITEMS**

There was no testimony on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items.

**Chair Zink closed the public hearing on Planning and Consumer Information Committee Items.**

*Commissioner Lauritzen discusses  
NECC Advisory Committee 2014  
Graduate Employment Report*

## **PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Lauritzen, Committee Chair, stated that she serves on the Northeast Community College Advisory Committee and distributed the Graduate Employment Report 2014 to the Commissioners. Data collected in the report are from the graduating classes during the 2013-2014 academic year.

*2015 Factual Look at Higher  
Education in Nebraska – Enrollment*

*Jill Heese presents the Factual Look  
report*

## **2015 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Enrollment**

Commissioner Lauritzen introduced Jill Heese, Research Coordinator, who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the enrollment section of the *2015 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska*. Ms. Heese stated that the Coordinating Commission is required by statute to report IPEDS data. The *Factual Look* is used by institutional researchers, Legislative staff and Commission staff, and is currently an online publication. Between 2004 and 2014, total fall enrollment increased 12.0%. Fall enrollments increased within the University of Nebraska (13.5%), the Nebraska State College System (17.7%), and the independent sector (32.0%) but decreased within the community college sector (-1.9%) and the for-profit/career school sector (-7.9%). While undergraduate enrollments increased 6.5%, graduate enrollments increased 45.4%. Ms. Heese answered questions from the Commissioners.

*Next Commission Meeting  
January 21, 2016*

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Commission meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2016, at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska.

*Commissioner Frison announces  
opportunity to attend event at White  
House*

## **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Frison commented that she is excited to be representing the Commissioner of Education at an event at the White House in Washington, D.C. on Monday, December 7, 2016.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Zink adjourned the meeting at 12:25 p.m.



## Second Quarter Report as of December 31, 2015

	<i>2015-2016 Appropriations</i>	<i>2015-16 Current Expenditures</i>	<i>Balance Remaining</i>	<i>% of Budget Expended Time Elapsed 50.41%</i>
<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>				
Permanent Salaries	\$873,086	\$422,776	\$450,310	48.4%
Temporary Salaries				
Overtime				
Subtotal	\$873,086	\$422,776	\$450,310	48.4%
PSL	\$873,086			
Benefits	\$249,483	\$118,760	\$130,723	47.6%
Subtotal	\$1,122,569	\$541,536	\$581,033	48.2%
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
Postage	\$3,149	\$795	\$2,354	25.2%
Communication	\$15,270	\$5,861	\$9,409	38.4%
Freight	\$200	\$0	\$200	0.0%
Data Processing	\$22,553	\$5,237	\$17,316	23.2%
Publication & Printing	\$18,679	\$5,235	\$13,444	28.0%
Awards Expense	\$600	\$370	\$230	61.7%
Dues & Subscriptions	\$6,000	\$1,045	\$4,955	17.4%
MHEC Dues	\$115,000	\$115,000	\$0	100.0%
Conference Registration Fees	\$10,000	\$1,325	\$8,675	13.3%
Electricity	\$5,243	\$1,360	\$3,883	25.9%
Rent Expense	\$49,788	\$23,616	\$26,172	47.4%
Repair & Maintenance	\$5,624	\$4,711	\$913	83.8%
Office Supplies	\$3,590	\$1,095	\$2,495	30.5%
Non-Capitalized Equipment	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	0.0%
Food Expenses	\$5,000	\$2,255	\$2,745	45.1%
Education Supplies	\$1,000	\$255	\$745	25.5%
Account & Auditing Services	\$4,113	\$4,068	\$45	98.9%
Purchasing Assessment	\$224	\$224	\$0	100.0%
HRMS Assessment	\$729	\$729	\$0	100.0%
Other Cont. Srvs & Travel Exp.	\$7,676	\$1,000	\$6,676	13.0%
Other	\$1,132	\$352	\$780	31.1%
Subtotal	\$277,570	\$174,533	\$103,037	62.9%
<b>STAFF TRAVEL</b>				
Board & Lodging	\$8,052	\$4,014	\$4,038	49.9%
Commercial Transportation	\$6,000	\$372	\$5,628	6.2%
State-Owned Transportation	\$4,834	\$1,765	\$3,069	36.5%
Mileage	\$3,000	\$1,053	\$1,947	35.1%
Other	\$600	\$201	\$399	33.5%
Subtotal	\$22,486	\$7,405	\$15,081	32.9%
<b>COMMISSIONER TRAVEL</b>				
Board & Lodging	\$3,000	\$778	\$2,222	25.9%
Commercial Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Mileage	\$12,000	\$3,035	\$8,965	25.3%
Other	\$200	\$84	\$116	42.0%
Subtotal	\$15,200	\$3,897	\$11,303	25.6%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$1,437,825	\$727,371	\$710,454	50.6%
General Fund	\$1,396,802	\$724,835	\$671,967	
Cash Fund	\$35,000	\$2,536	\$32,464	
Federal Fund	\$6,023	\$0	\$6,023	
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	\$1,437,825	\$727,371	\$710,454	



## Second Quarter Report as of December 31, 2015

### Oral Health Training

	<i>2015-2016 Appropriations</i>	<i>2015-16 Current Expenditures</i>	<i>Balance Remaining</i>	<i>% of Budget Expended Time Elapsed 50.41%</i>
<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>				
Permanent Salaries	\$10,000	\$2,618	\$7,382	26.2%
Subtotal	\$10,000	\$2,618	\$7,382	26.2%
PSL	\$12,500			
Benefits	\$4,133	\$804	\$3,329	19.5%
Subtotal	\$14,133	\$3,422	\$10,711	24.2%
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
Conference Registration Fees	\$200	\$195	\$5	97.5%
Other Cont. Srvs & Travel Exp.	\$8,000,000	\$0	\$8,000,000	0.0%
Other	\$2,542	\$0	\$2,542	0.0%
Subtotal	\$8,002,742	\$195	\$8,002,547	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$8,016,875	\$3,617	\$8,013,258	0.0%
Cash Fund	\$8,016,875	\$3,617	\$8,013,258	
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	\$8,016,875	\$3,617	\$8,013,258	

### Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program (NOG)

	<i>2015-2016 Appropriations</i>	<i>2015-16 Current Expenditures</i>	<i>Balance Remaining</i>	<i>% of Budget Expended Time Elapsed 50.41%</i>
<b>GOVERNMENT AID</b>				
Other Government Aid	\$16,868,156	\$6,138,642	\$10,729,514	36.4%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$16,868,156	\$6,138,642	\$10,729,514	36.4%
General Fund	\$6,868,156	\$3,434,078	\$3,434,078	
Cash Fund	\$10,000,000	\$2,704,564	\$7,295,436	
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	\$16,868,156	\$6,138,642	\$10,729,514	

### Access College Early Scholarship (ACE)

	<i>2015-2016 Appropriations</i>	<i>2015-16 Current Expenditures</i>	<i>Balance Remaining</i>	<i>% of Budget Expended Time Elapsed 50.41%</i>
<b>GOVERNMENT AID</b>				
Other Government Aid	\$796,798	\$266,885	\$529,913	33.5%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	\$796,798	\$266,885	\$529,913	33.5%
General Fund	\$736,798	\$217,150	\$519,648	
Federal Fund	\$60,000	\$49,735	\$10,265	
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	\$796,798	\$266,885	\$529,913	

# ACE Plus Scholarship

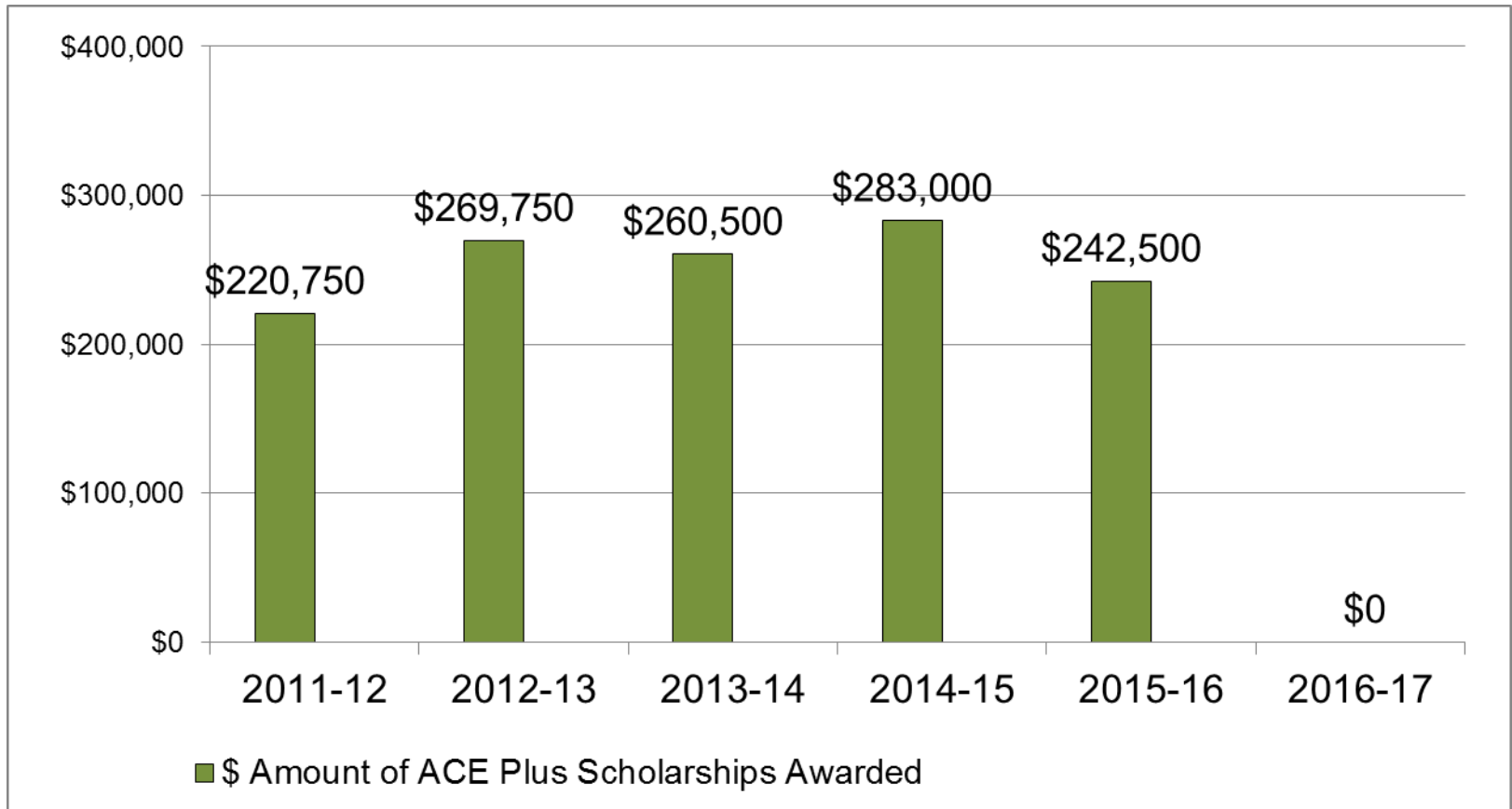
2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014,  
2014-2015, 2015-2016



# Scholarship Overview

- AY2011-12 was the first year operating the scholarship program
- Awards this year were made beginning in June 2015 for the 2015-2016 academic year, the fifth year of the program
- Solely funded by the federal CACG
  - This was the last year of ACE Plus due to the discontinuation of CACG

# CACG Funding of the Program



# Awards

For AY2011-2012

- First-year student award = \$500
- Second-year student award = \$1,250

For next four academic years

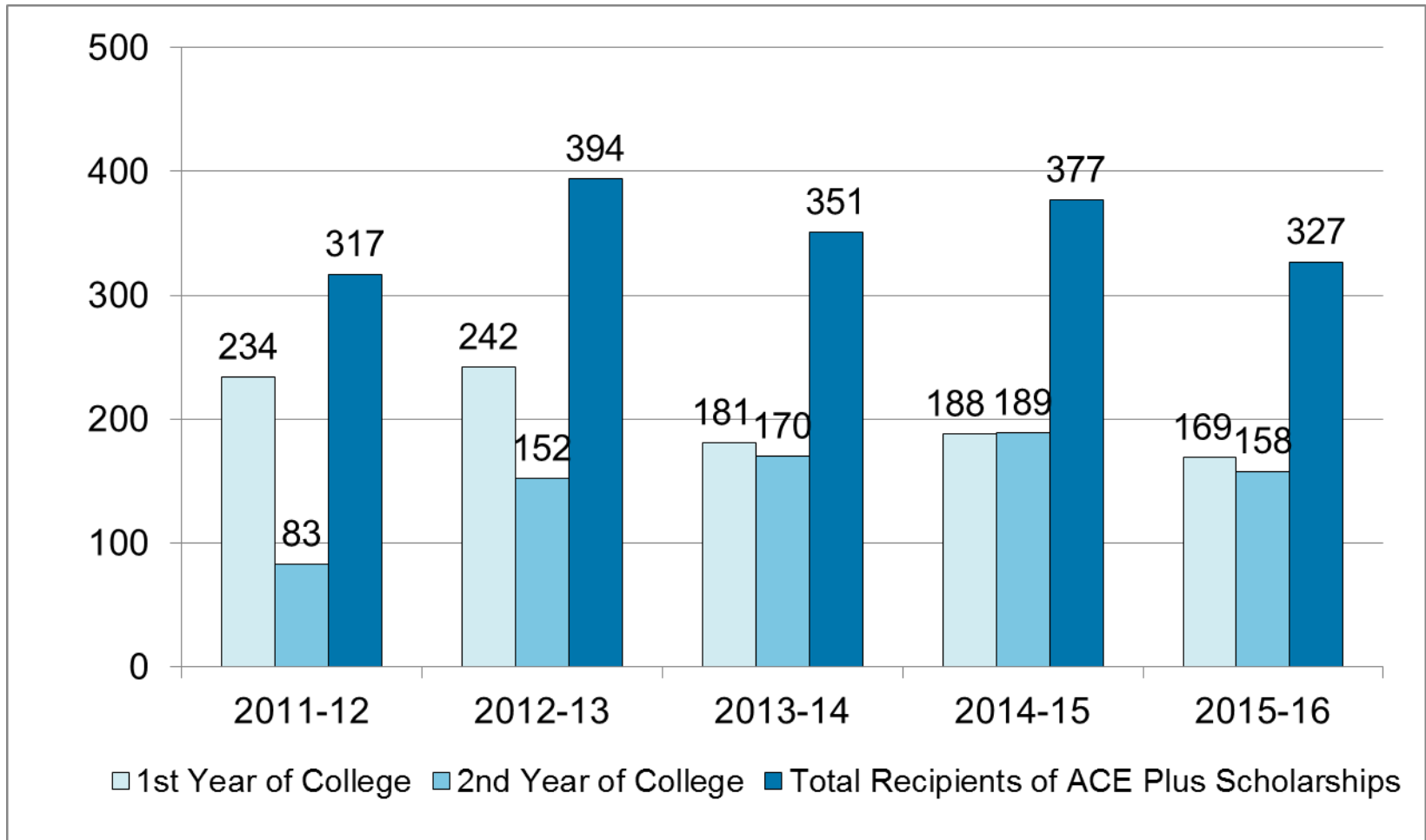
- First-year student award = \$500
- Second-year student award = \$1,000



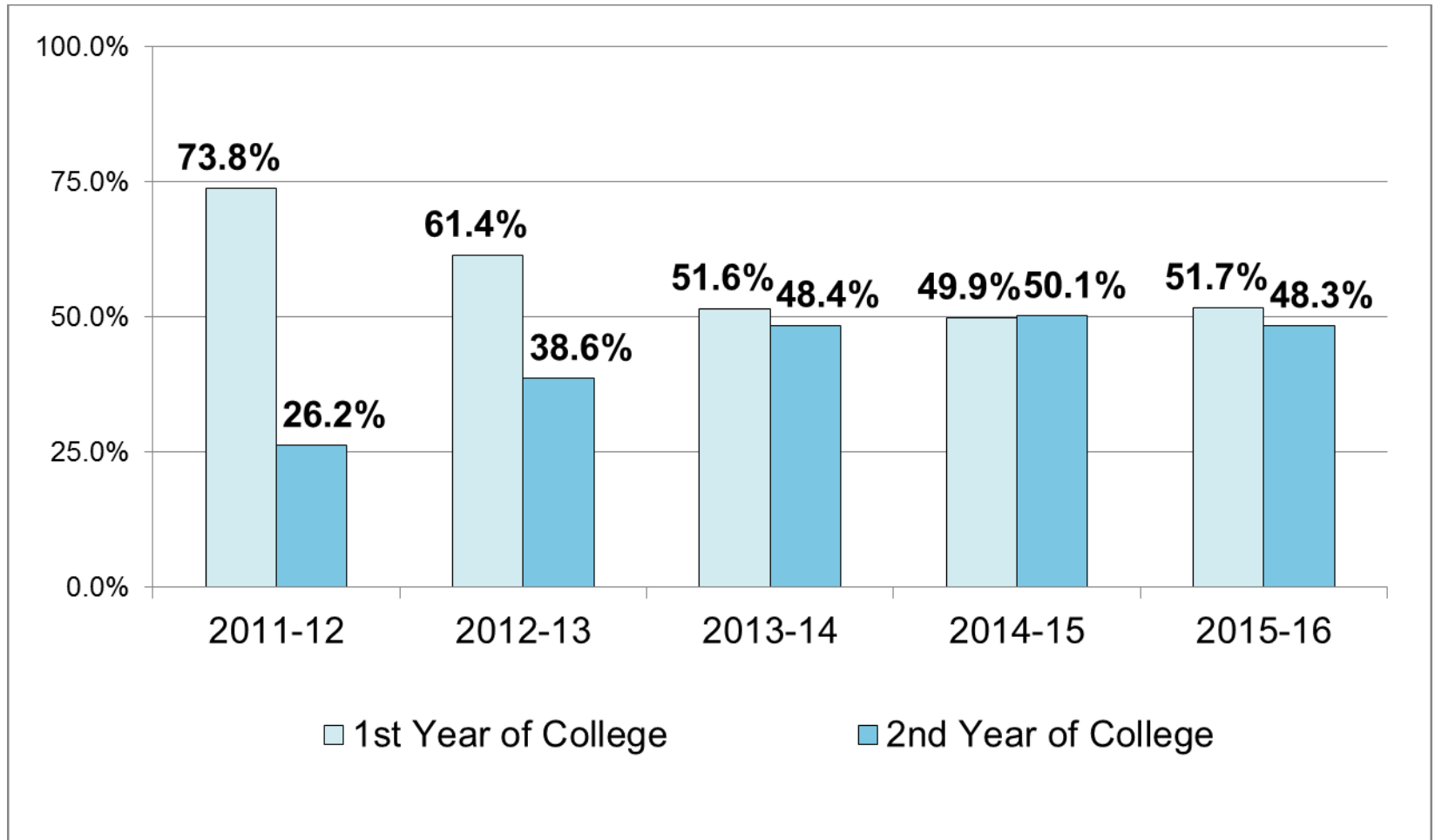
# Student Qualifications

- Must take at least one college course while in high school funded by the Access College Early (ACE) program
- Must earn at least a 2.0 GPA in ACE courses
- Must be enrolled full time in college for the full academic year
- To qualify for a second-year award, must earn at least a 2.0 GPA during first year of college

# Number of Recipients by Award Type

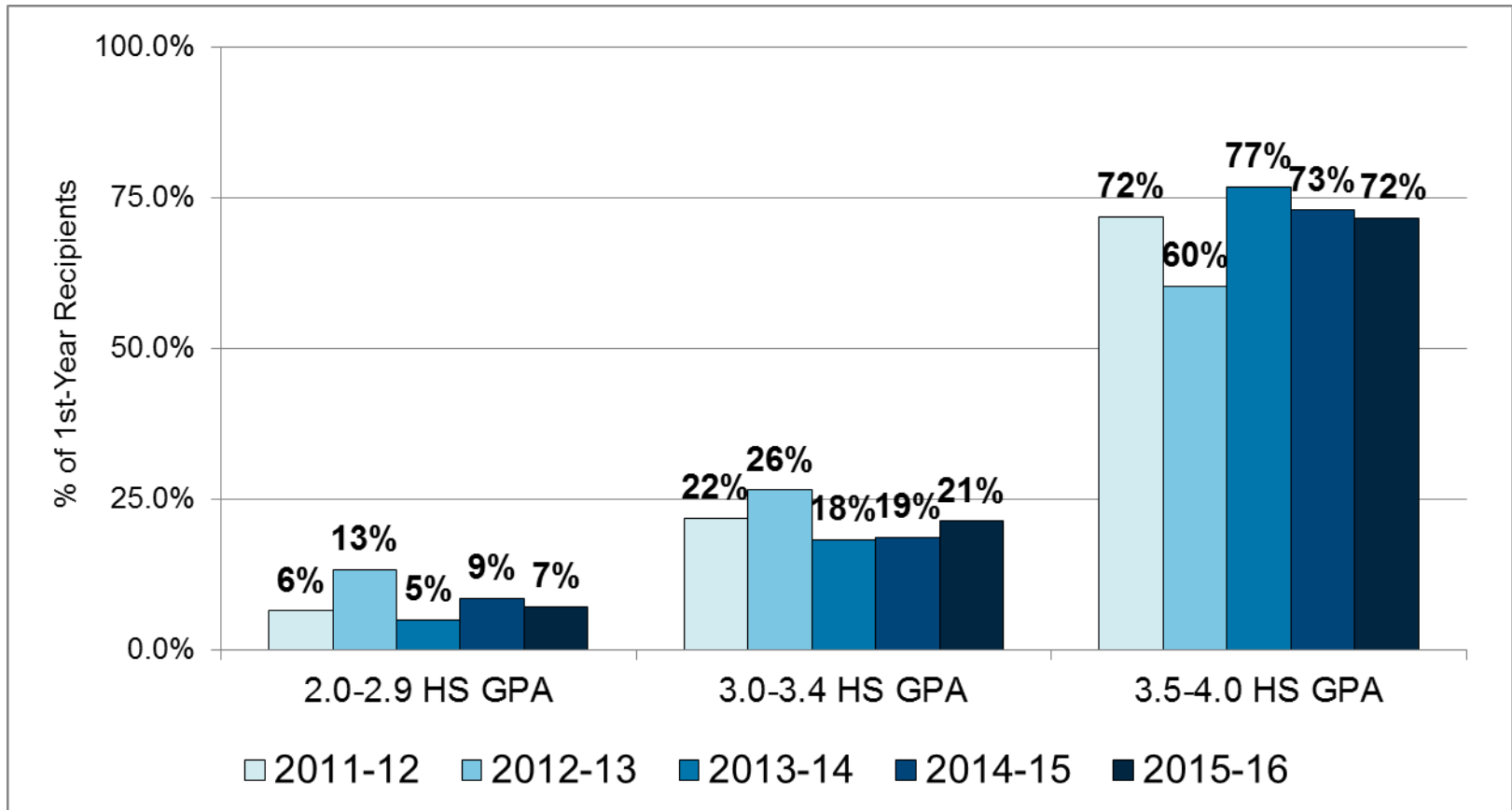


# Percentage of Recipients by Award Type



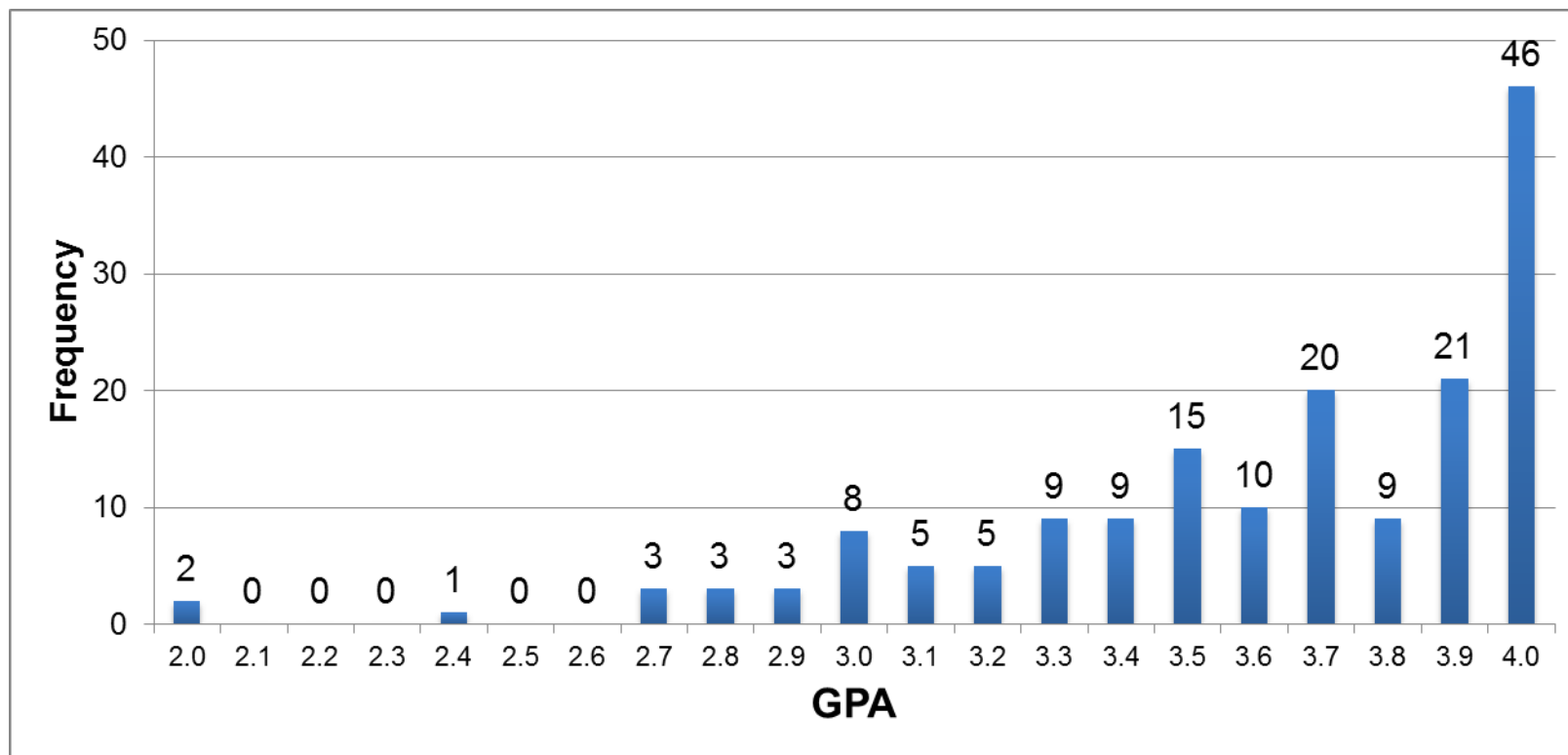
# The Academic Success of ACE Plus Scholarship Recipients

# Cumulative High School GPA for ACE Plus Recipients Who Received ACE Plus Scholarships for Their First Year of College



*Note.* High school GPA is equal to the student's unweighted high school GPA unless the student's transcript only contained a weighted GPA. GPAs greater than 4.0 were rounded to 4.0. For 2011–12, 2012–13, and 2013–14: high school GPA was self-reported by the student at the time of his/her ACE Plus application. For 2014–15 and 2015–16: high school GPA was obtained by Commission staff from the student's unofficial high school transcript.

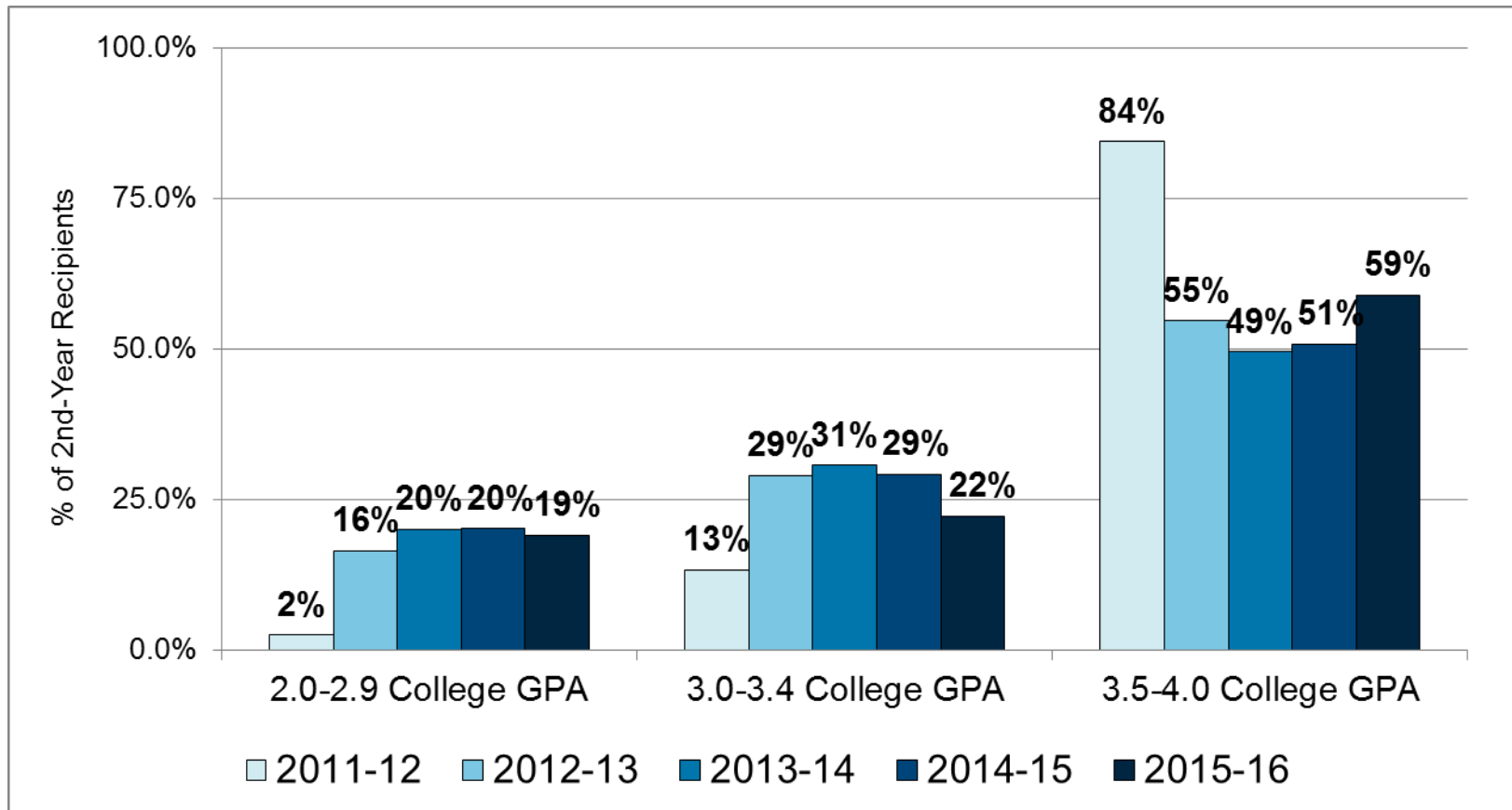
# Cumulative High School GPA for ACE Plus Recipients Who Received ACE Plus Scholarships for Their First Year of College in AY2015-2016



*Note.* High school GPA is equal to the student's unweighted high school GPA unless the student's transcript only contained a weighted GPA. GPAs greater than 4.0 were rounded to 4.0. For 2011–12, 2012–13, and 2013–14: high school GPA was self-reported by the student at the time of his/her ACE Plus application. For 2014–15 and 2015–16: high school GPA was obtained by Commission staff from the student's unofficial high school transcript.

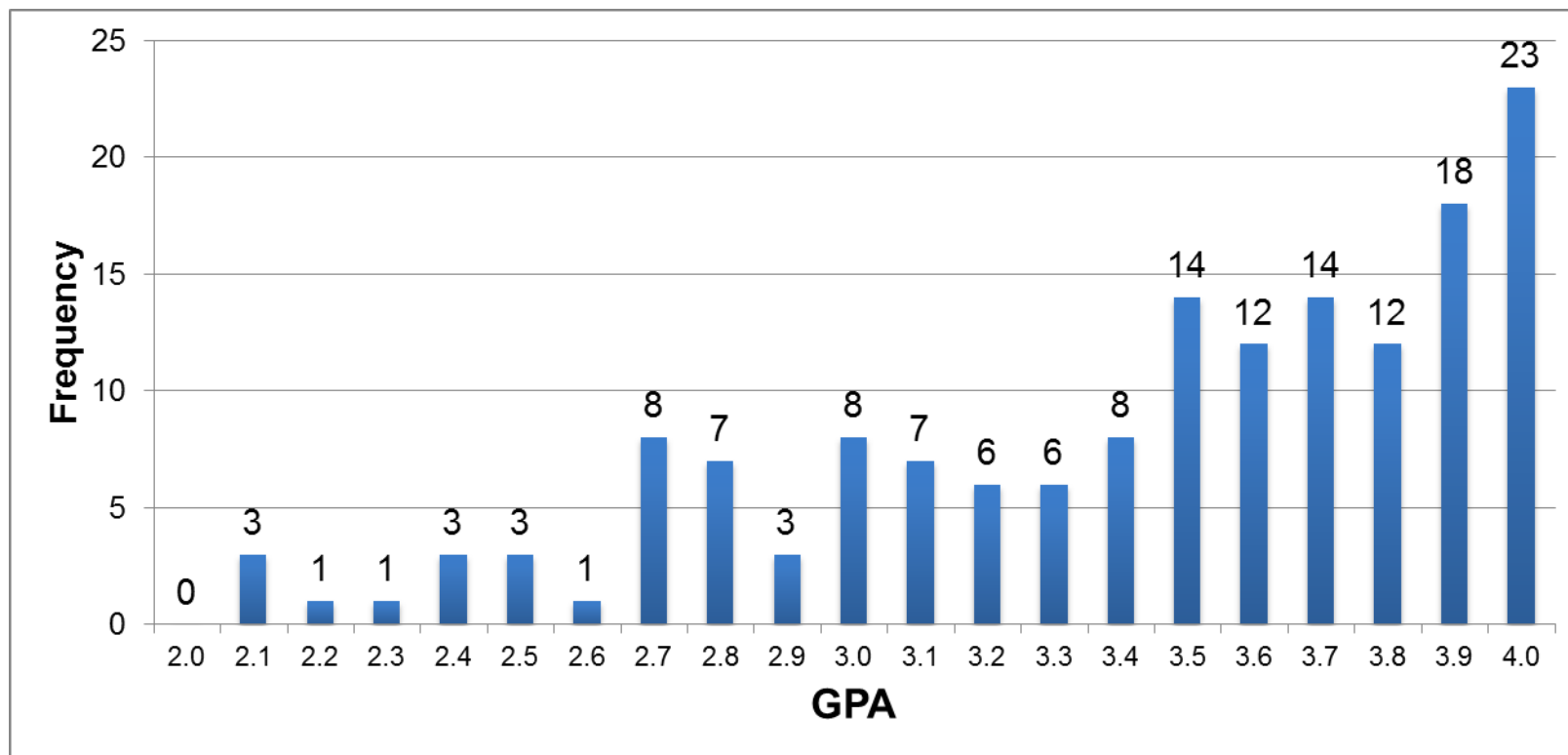


# Freshman Year (College) GPA for ACE Plus Recipients Who Received ACE Plus Scholarships for Their Second Year of College



Note. College GPA was obtained by Commission staff from the student's unofficial college transcript.

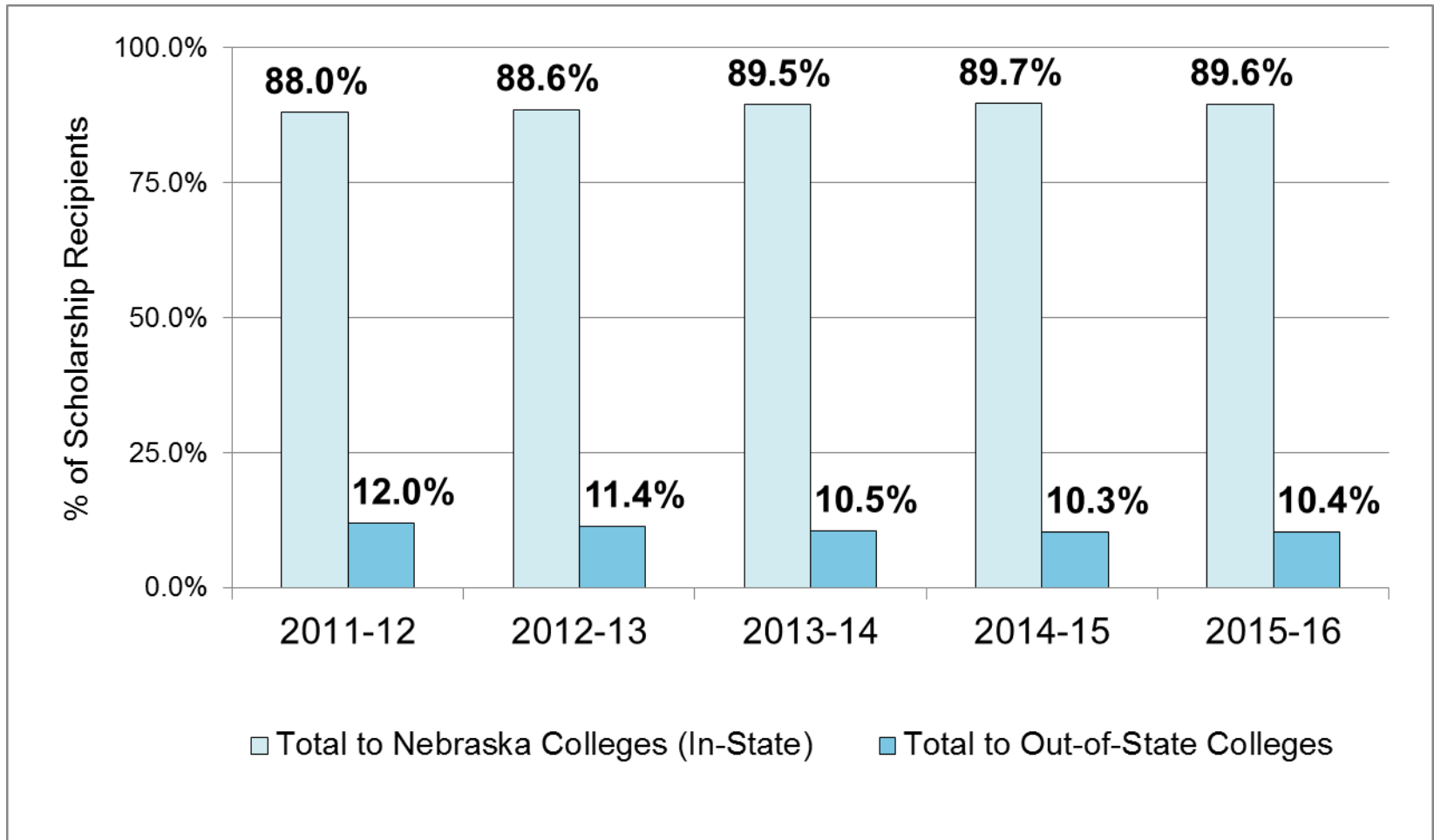
# Freshman Year (College) GPA for ACE Plus Recipients Who Received ACE Plus Scholarships for Their Second Year of College in AY2015-2016



*Note.* College GPA was obtained by Commission staff from the student's unofficial college transcript.

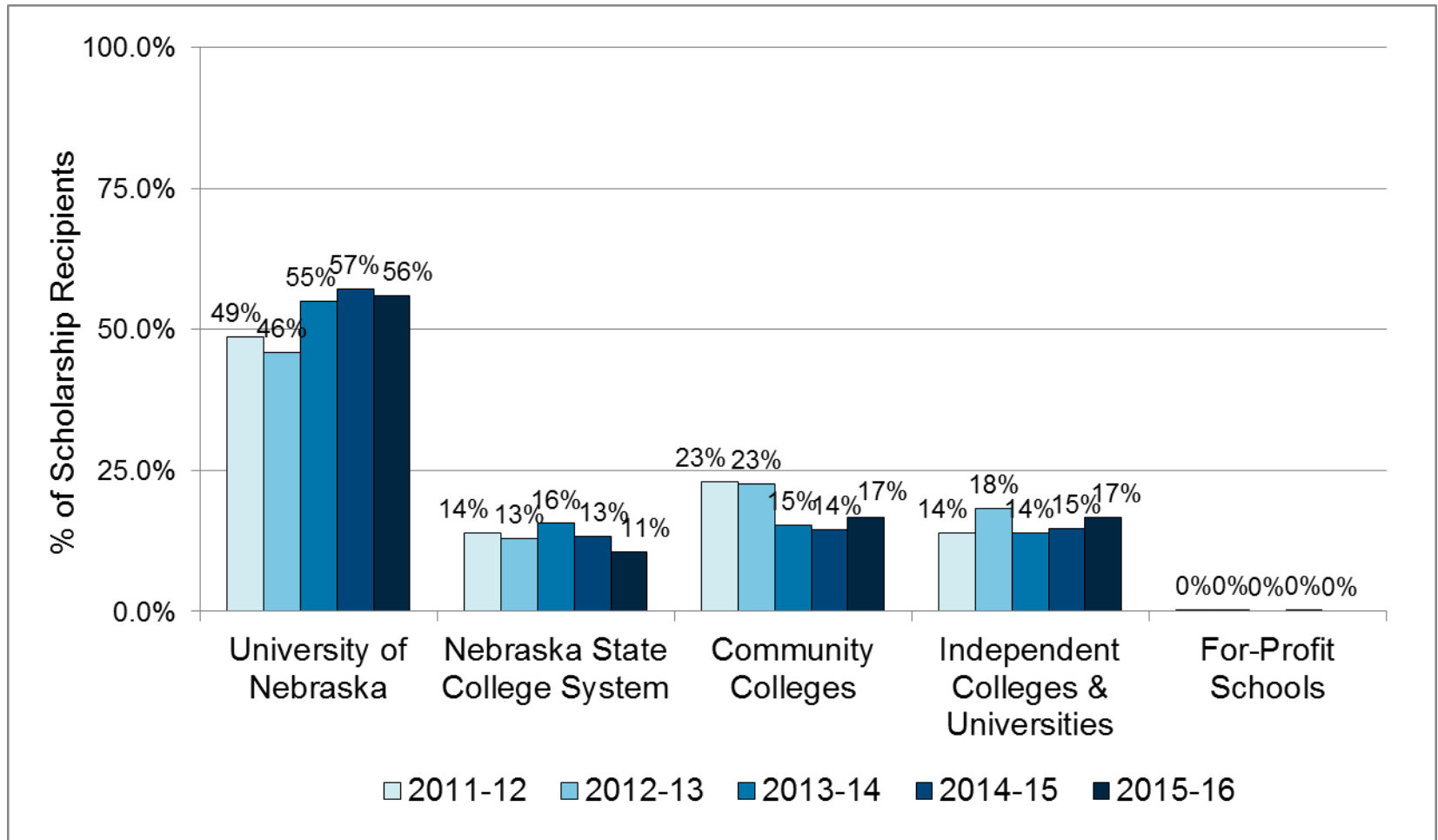
# Almost 90% of ACE Plus Scholarship Recipients Go to College in Nebraska

# % of ACE Plus Scholarship Recipients Who Attended (or are now attending) Nebraska and Out-of-State Schools



Note. Federal dollars prohibit only offering in-state scholarships.

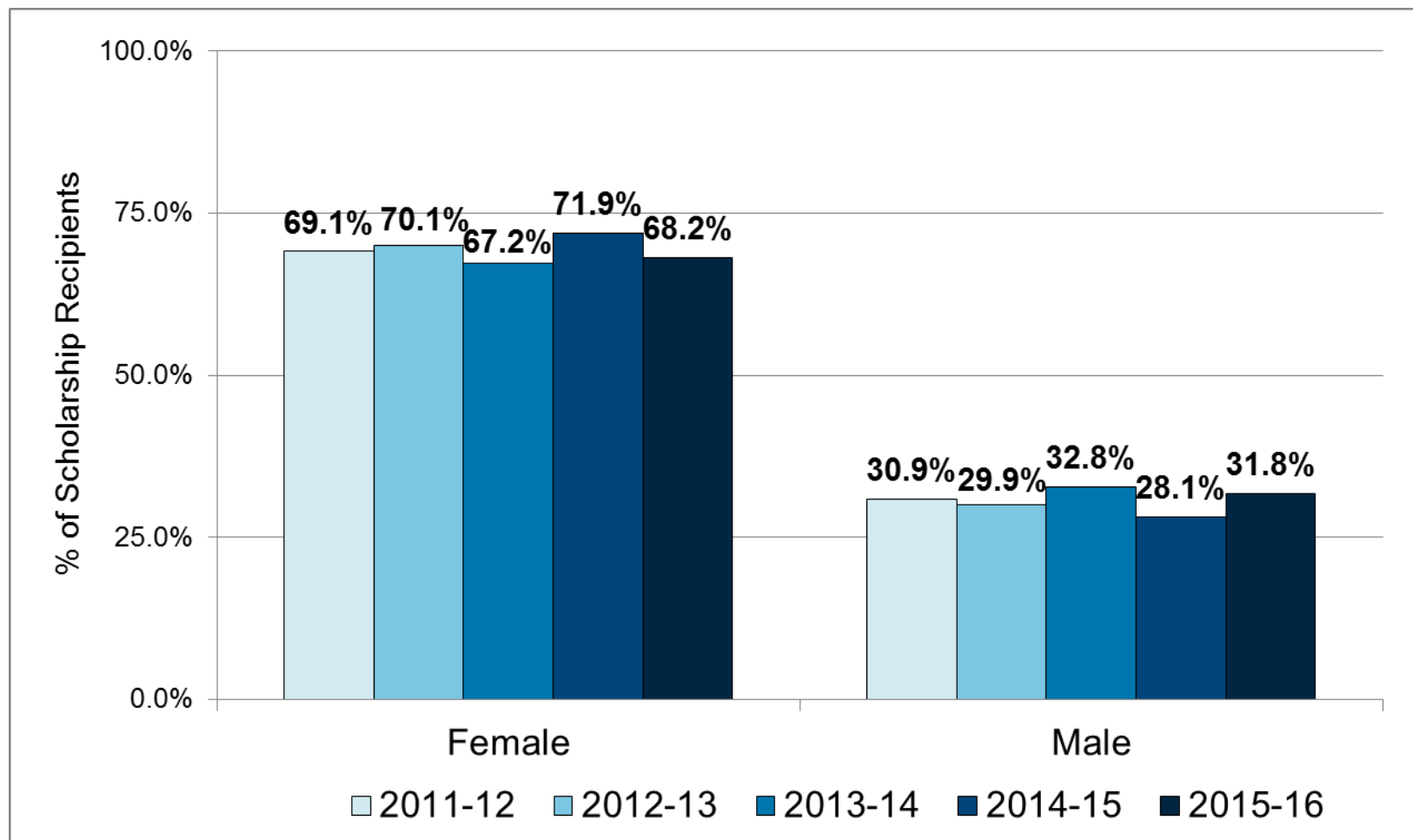
# % of ACE Plus Scholarship Recipients Who Attended (or are now attending) Nebraska Schools by Sector



Significantly more ACE Plus Scholarships have been awarded to females than males.

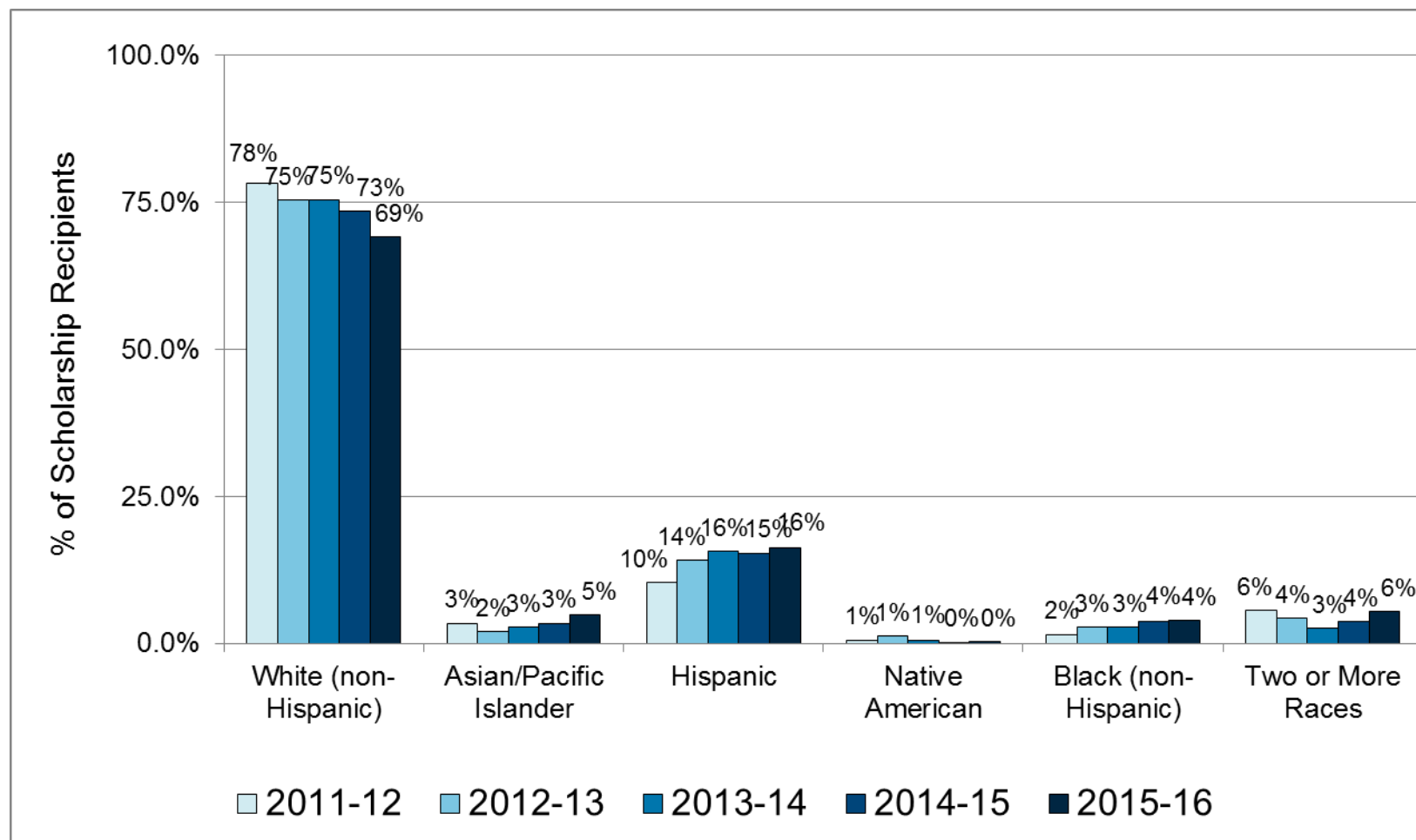


# % of ACE Plus Scholarship Recipients by Gender

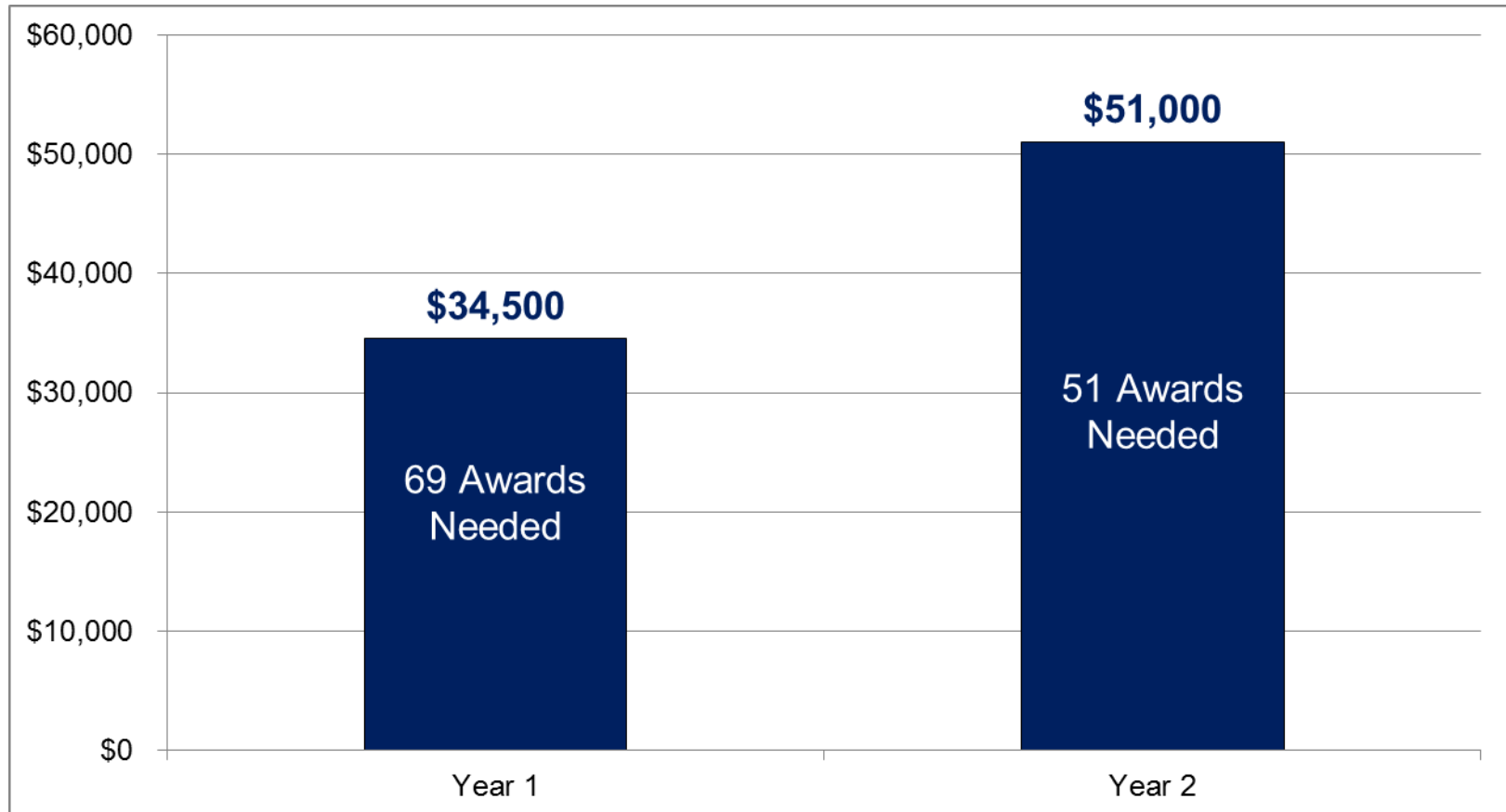


The majority of all ACE Plus Scholarships have been awarded to white non-Hispanics, but 25.7% of all scholarships have been awarded to minority students (30.9% in AY15-16).

# % of ACE Plus Scholarship Recipients by Race/Ethnicity



# Total Unmet Financial Need for 2015–16: \$85,500 (120 Awards)



*Note.* Total unmet financial need was calculated from qualified applications received but not awarded due to federal funding being exhausted for the 2015-2016 academic year.

# Snapshot of ACE Plus College Completion & Persistence Rates

- New limited data provides a snapshot of ACE Plus recipients
- High school class of 2010:
  - 81 students in this ACE Plus cohort
  - As of June 30, 2014, 56 or 69% of awardees received a college degree
  - As of June 30, 2014, 13 or 16% of awardees were still enrolled in college
  - 85% of awardees either received an award or are still enrolled in college
- High school class of 2011:
  - 250 students in this ACE Plus cohort
  - As of June 30, 2014, 109 or 44% of awardees received a college degree
  - As of June 30, 2014, 100 or 40% of awardees were still enrolled in college
  - 84% of awardees either received a college degree or are still enrolled in college
- ACE Plus awardees first-year persistence rate
  - Persistence rate is the percentage of students who return to college at any institution for their second year
  - Class of 2010: 94%
  - Class of 2011: 93%
  - Class of 2012: 95%
  - Class of 2013: 98%

**Improving Teacher Quality  
State Grant Program**

**2015 - 2016 Allocation  
to the State Agency for Higher Education**

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## **IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY STATE GRANT PROGRAM**

The purpose of the Improving Teacher Quality State Grant Program is to increase student academic achievement by helping to ensure that highly qualified teachers, paraprofessionals, and principals have access to sustained and intensive high quality professional development in core academic subjects. The program provides grants to partnerships comprised of Nebraska institutions of higher education and high-need local educational agencies (LEAs) for projects to improve the skills of teachers, paraprofessionals, and principals.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATION PANEL December 7, 2015**

The evaluation panel met on December 7, 2015, at the Coordinating Commission office in Lincoln. Eight proposals were submitted by partnerships that involved three different institutions (UNL, UNK, and Creighton University) and a variety of school districts and educational service units (ESUs). The panel ranked the proposals based on the degree to which they met the criteria identified in the RFP, discussed the proposals, and made their recommendations, attempting to fund as many quality projects as possible (available funds have been reduced over the past several years, most recently due to federal sequestration).

At this time, the total amount of funds available for awards in 2015-2016 is \$293,324. The total amount recommended for the following four projects is \$252,522. This is less than the current available amount. The remaining funds will be made available for projects that may have more participant applications than slots funded or other unexpected costs. This includes projects funded last year that have a second workshop scheduled this summer.

Below are synopses of the four proposals the panel has recommended for funding. The title of the project is listed, followed by the project director, the partners required by federal statute, and any other partners. Projects that are open state-wide may not have all additional partners identified until after their recruitment phase.

**Committee recommendation: concur with the panel's recommendations.**

## **Micro-Credential Based Professional Development to Support Writing Composition**

**Project Director: Dr. Brian Wojcik**

- **Higher education partner (teachers college): UNK, Ed Administration & Teachers Ed, College of Education**
- **Higher education partner (arts and sciences): UNK, English, College of Fine Arts & Humanities**
- **High-need LEA: O'Neill Public Schools, Sandhills Public Schools, Scottsbluff Public Schools, Arnold Public Schools**
- **Other partners: Central City Public Schools, Hastings Public Schools**

This project would focus on increasing the content knowledge of general and special education teachers for teaching writing composition, especially for struggling learners. Fifteen teacher pairs (one general education, one special education) would be introduced to effective teaching strategies and skills for the phases of the writing process and ways to utilize low-cost or free commercial technology tools in their classrooms. They would participate in a series of online learning experiences, experience face-to-face coaching sessions using a web-based platform, implement strategies in their classrooms over a year's time, and become part of an online community of practice for ongoing support.

Amount Requested: \$55,618

Amount Recommended: \$55,618

## **Primarily Math: Investing in Greater Nebraska**

**Project Director: Dr. Michelle Homp**

- **Higher education partner (teachers college): UNL, Department of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education**
- **Higher education partner (arts and sciences): UNL, Center for Science, Mathematics & Computer Education**
- **High-need LEA: Arapahoe Public Schools, Southern Valley Public Schools, Dundy County Public Schools, Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools**
- **Other partners: Educational Service Units 10, 11, and 15; Lexington Public Schools**

Primarily Math is an 18-credit hour graduate program that culminates in a K-3 Mathematics Specialist certificate from UNL. The program would deepen the mathematics knowledge and pedagogy of 30 primary grade teachers in southwest and south central Nebraska. The Primarily Math program would consist of two, week-long courses in summer 2016, two hybrid courses (combination face-to-face and online) during the 2016-17 school year, and two, week-long courses in summer 2017. The majority of funds requested is to reduce the cost of tuition for the teachers. Other outside funding has been secured, but costs remain; the ITQ grant would cover partial reimbursement for six courses for each teacher.

Amount Requested: \$79,133

Amount Recommended: \$89,565

Reason for Increase: To encourage teachers to participate in this rigorous and expensive project, the panel recommended increasing funding so that each teacher had one summer course fully funded, with support for the others as proposed.

## **Improving Teacher Quality through Biomedical Engineering BLAST! Workshops**

**Project Director: Dr. Jennifer Keshwani**

- **Higher education partner (teachers college): UNL, College of Education and Human Sciences**
- **Higher education partner (arts and sciences): UNL, Institute of Agricultural and Natural Resources**
- **High-need LEA: O'Neill Public Schools**
- **Other partners: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Community schools in northeast Nebraska and Lincoln**

Leveraging existing resources within the Nebraska Department of Education (21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers), this project would offer two-day workshops in two locations, focusing on biomedical engineering. One would be held in northeast Nebraska and the other in Lincoln. Engineering provides an excellent framework to teach STEM concepts, but teachers are often uncomfortable incorporating it into their classroom. The workshops would serve 20 middle school teachers, providing content knowledge and support through brainstorming sessions and a virtual chat community. Each school represented would receive two classroom kits so that teachers can easily replicate the activities with their students.

Amount Requested: \$43,222

Amount Recommended: \$48,722

Reason for Increase: Stipends and classroom kits for five additional teachers.

## **Helping Middle School Science Teachers Create Content-based Digital Games on the Structure and Energy of Matter**

**Project Director: Richard Meyer**

- **Higher education partner (teachers college): UNK, Ed Administration & Teachers Ed, College of Education**
- **Higher education partner (arts and sciences): UNK, Chemistry, College of Natural and Social Sciences**
- **High-need LEA: Arapahoe Public Schools, Arnold Public Schools, Grand Island Public Schools, Sandhills Public Schools, Southern Valley Public Schools**
- **Other partners: Educational Service Units 10 and 11, Lexington Public Schools**

This project would provide six months of professional development for all of the physical science teachers in grades 6-8 in the partner schools (24 teachers). The activities would include three face-to-face workshops held at ESU #11 and two follow-up online learning modules. Participants would learn how to create digital games and how to teach their students to do the same for topics that align with ten objectives in the Nebraska Science Standards.

Amount Requested: \$58,617

Amount Recommended: \$58,617

## IMPROVING TEACHER QUALITY STATE GRANTS: SUMMARY SHEET – 2015-2016

Projects in bold are recommended for funding by the Independent Review Panel

PROJECT TITLE	INSTITUTION/ DIRECTOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
1. <b>Micro-Credential Based Professional Development to Support Writing Composition</b>	<b>UNK / Dr. Brian Wojcik</b>	Increase content knowledge of 30 general and special education teachers for teaching writing composition; 15 pairs of teachers	<b>\$55,618</b>
2. Increasing Students' Scientific Literacy through Prolonged Professional Development for Teacher	UNL / Dr. Nathan Conner	15-month program to enhance science literacy; teach real-world science through the topics of agriculture, animal science, and scientific inquiry; 20 participants	\$59,560
3. UNL World Language Teacher Institute	UNL / Dr. Ali Moeller	Five-day residential immersion for 35 world language teachers; build language and cultural competency and develop skills to integrate digital media in the classroom	\$67,778
4. <b>Primarily Math: Investing in Greater Nebraska</b>	<b>UNL / Dr. Michelle Homp</b>	30 primary grade teachers participate in an 18-credit hour graduate program (Primarily Math); funding requested for part of the cost for tuition	<b>\$79,133</b>
5. Read Write Tech	UNL / Dr. Guy Trainin	Workshops for teachers to learn the content of new literacies and ways to integrate the technology into language arts curricula; for PreK-8 <sup>th</sup> grade teachers	\$75,053
6. <b>Improving Teacher Quality through Biomedical Engineering BLAST! Workshops</b>	<b>UNL / Dr. Jennifer Keshwani</b>	Using biomedical engineering to deliver STEM concepts; 20 teachers at two workshops	<b>\$43,222</b>
7. <b>Helping Middle School Science Teachers Create Content-Based Digital Games on the Structure and Energy of Matter</b>	<b>UNK / Dr. Richard Meyer</b>	Six-month professional development for 24 teachers of 6-8 grade physical science; creating digital games as an effective teaching technique	<b>\$58,617</b>
8. Modeling Instruction Institute (MI <sup>2</sup> ): Teaching Secondary Physical Science using Research-based Modeling Instruction	Creighton University / Dr. Gintaras Duda	Two-week summer workshop for 24 physical science teachers (grades 6-12); increase content and pedagogical knowledge	\$69,967
TOTAL REQUEST			\$508,948

**December 7, 2015**

**Voting Members**

**Members are selected who have expertise in a variety of fields. Many are recipients of local or regional awards or recommended by a curriculum specialist from the Nebraska Department of Education. As a partner with the Commission in promoting quality education for Nebraska students, the Department of Education is always asked to provide a panel member.**

Jayson Stoddard  
Science  
Hastings Middle School  
2015 Nebraska Department of Education Award of Excellence Recipient

Pat Madsen  
Adult Program Services  
Nebraska Department of Education  
Lincoln

Mike Musil  
English  
Papillion LaVista South High School

Mattie Olsen  
Instructional Technologist/Social Science  
Creighton Preparatory School  
Omaha

Cory Forbes  
Associate Professor of Science Education  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Staff**

Kathleen Fimple  
Academic Programs Officer

Miste Adamson  
Administrative Assistant

Kadi Lukesh  
Office Manager



## NEW INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM PROPOSAL

**Institution:** Central Community College (CCC)

**Program:** Heavy Equipment Operator

**Award:** Diploma

**Institution's Existing Degree(s) in Same or Similar Discipline:** Diesel Technology (AAS, diploma, certificates); Truck Driving (CDL)

**Proposal Received by Commission:** December 2, 2015

**Proposed Start Date:** August 2016

### Description

Heavy equipment operators are technicians who operate machinery to move large volumes of materials. Earth-moving equipment is needed for activities such as road construction, leveling land, and laying pipe. The students in the proposed program would develop skills to operate earth-moving equipment in a safe and efficient manner using technical drawings and field markers.

The proposed diploma would require 37 credit hours: 9 credit hours of general education courses, 26 credit hours of heavy equipment operations courses, and a two-credit Class B CDL course. Upon completion of the course students would earn their CDL. The program curriculum would be one designed by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). Courses would be primarily face-to-face on the Hastings campus, although some of the theory portions of the program could be offered online.

**Consistent with Institutional Role and Mission?** ☒ YES ☐ NO

**Consistent with Statewide Comprehensive Plan?** ☒ YES ☐ NO

### REVIEW CRITERIA

#### A. Need for the Program

High-----Low				
√				

CCC utilized Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI) for employment projections. EMSI has 14 occupations that would be directly related to some kind of heavy equipment, for example, paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators; pile-driver operators; and crane and tower operators. From 2015 to 2020 the EMSI data forecasts a six percent increase in related jobs for both Nebraska and the 25-county Central Community College service area, above the national projection of four percent. The occupation showing the highest number of projected employees is heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with an additional 2,025 needed in Nebraska by 2020, including 293 in

the CCC service area. The next four occupations indicate a total need of 136 new employees. The median hourly earnings for Nebraska reported by EMSI were \$18.04 (\$37,523 annually), above the national average of \$17.72.

EMSI also identified demographic data for the industry. The largest percentage of employees falls in the 45 to 54 age group (29%), with 22% in the 55-64 age range. This means that over a quarter of the current heavy equipment operators could be retiring within the next decade.

The college also conducted a statewide survey of the construction industry in summer 2015. The 72 responses represented 69 companies that employed 1,069 heavy equipment operators. They had hired 348 operators the previous year and reported their intent to hire 394 in the next year. The equipment identified as the one employers most needed employees trained in was skid steer (86% of employers), followed by CDL drivers (85%), excavator (75%), front end loader (75%), and dump trucks (71%).

A further indication of need for the program is the support pledged by the employers surveyed, including 75% willing to pay employee tuition reimbursement and 56% willing to provide scholarships.

The proposal provided strong and detailed documentation of need. One area of need that the program would not fully fulfill, however, is CDL drivers. A Class B license is limited to a single vehicle or one towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds. A Class A license allows for towing larger vehicles and would go further in meeting the needs of employers.

## B. Demand for the Program

High-----Low				
		√		

The college expects that 16 students would enroll in the proposed program each year. CCC did not provide an explanation for the estimate of enrollments but did note that this would be the only program in the state and well-positioned to attract students with its central location. The majority of respondents to the survey (see Section A.) indicated that they were likely to send current employees to a one-week heavy equipment certification program if offered by the college.

There was little actual evidence provided by CCC of demand by students for the program. The need in the region and the state for employees and the lack of a local program may drive enrollments.

## C. Avoidance of Unnecessary Duplication

High-----Low				
√				

Southeast Community College offers an AAS in Deere Construction and Forestry Equipment Technology. There are no programs designed specifically for heavy equipment operations in Nebraska. CCC states that institutions in Kansas and Iowa have formal education in heavy equipment.

## D. Resources: Faculty/Staff

High-----Low				
		√		

CCC reports that the program would require two full-time instructors who would be certified by the NCCER. The administrative assistant for the truck driving program would provide support for the program. The existing CDL program would be able to provide testing for the CDL portion of the program. The budget lists the two new faculty members.



**E. Resources: Physical Facilities/Equipment**

High-----Low				
		√		

CCC states that the Hastings campus has sufficient classroom and land space for the program. The college has set aside 10 acres of land for field work training with equipment. The Harlan Building houses the truck driving and diesel technology programs and has office space for two new faculty and shared classrooms. Also in place is a confined space portable lab that would be used for safety coursework. CCC would need to add a portable trailer for a simulation lab and a 100' x 208' building for safety check meetings and demonstrations.

The program would require an initial investment of \$500,000 for simulators, two skid steers, a backhoe, and a front-end loader. The budget also includes \$50,000 annually for leasing of equipment. CCC projects annual fuel costs of \$6,000. Industry partners have pledged to provide assistance in this area. Of the employers surveyed to determine need, 24% were willing to loan equipment to the college and nine percent were willing to purchase equipment for the college. In addition, 31% were likely to provide funds for start-up costs. The proposal states that the college currently has pledges of \$878,000 from business and industry, including American General Contractors – Nebraska Chapter and Midlands Contracting, Inc. in Kearney.

**F. Resources: Library/Information Access**

High-----Low				
		√		

The proposal did not address this point, although the budget identifies \$5,000 in year one and \$1,000 each subsequent year. CCC has courses and programs in some related fields, e.g., diesel technology and truck driving, so a certain amount of information resources should be available. In addition, equipment purchases may come with operation manuals that essentially serve as textbooks.

**G. Budget**

**PROJECTED COSTS AND ANTICIPATED REVENUES FOR THE FIRST FOUR YEARS**  
As reported by CCC

PROJECTED COSTS		ANTICIPATED REVENUES	
Faculty and Staff	\$743,279	Reallocated Funds <sup>2</sup>	\$743,279
General Operating <sup>1</sup>	\$324,000	New State Funds	
Equipment	\$730,000	New Local Funds	
New/renovated Space	\$500,00	Tuition and Fees <sup>3</sup>	\$278,240
		Other: <sup>4</sup>	\$1,100,000
Four-Year TOTAL	\$2,306,279	Four-Year TOTAL	\$2,121,519

<sup>1</sup> Fuel, faculty development, supplies, travel, equipment leasing

<sup>2</sup> From faculty retirements

<sup>3</sup> Based on 16 students taking 37 credits at \$94 per credit hour

<sup>4</sup> Contributions from contracting businesses and other employers

**Committee Recommendation: Approve the program.**

**First Program Review Date: Due June 30, 2017**

**Urban Studies-MS  
University of Nebraska at Omaha  
Follow-up Report**

***Background***

- In **1999**, the Commission reviewed the Urban Studies programs at UNO. The program averaged 329 SCH/FTE. The MS program averaged 7.8 graduates, but the baccalaureate program averaged only 4.2. (Commission thresholds are five and seven, respectively.) The Commission **continued the program with a report**.
- During the **2005-06** program review cycle, UNO reported that the baccalaureate program had been discontinued. The MS averaged 5.2 graduates. The Executive Director **continued** the master's program.
- In **2013**, during the next seven-year review, UNO reported the following:
  - Several years prior the program had been converted to a totally online format.
  - The conversion resulted in unintended consequences, including a decrease in the diversity of the student population, a drop in the number of international students, and weakened local connections.
  - The average number of graduates was 3.6.
  - A plan was being implemented to address problems and ultimately increase enrollments and graduation rates and restore community connections.
- The Commission **continued the program with a report** on enrollments and graduation rates.

***Summary of Institution's Report***

- The program refocused its efforts to a campus-based rather than online only format.
- The program averaged 3.8 graduates between 2011 and 2015, with a high of seven in 2013-14.
- Enrollments increased from 21 in 2011 to 25 in 2015.
- The program will continue to work to grow enrollments but will increasingly focus on student success and completions.
- Faculty are exploring possible collaboration with the Community and Regional Planning program based at UNL.
- Urban studies supports UNO's mission as a metropolitan university.

***Committee Comment***

The program made a significant change in returning to a campus-based format. Enrollments and graduation rates are up slightly. The next program review (in 2019) should better indicate the impact of the change.

***Committee Recommendation***    Continue the program.

[The next regular program review is due June 30, 2019.]

## 2014-2015 EXISTING PROGRAM REVIEW

\*\* (Item in bold is under Commission Threshold)

UNIVERSITY & STATE COLLEGE PROGRAMS APPROVED by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for Continuation										
Institution	Program	5 yr Average (2009-2014)								
		SCH	SCH/ FTE	Baccalaureate Degrees awarded		Masters Degrees awarded		Doctorate Degrees awarded		Justification if under threshold
UNK	Counseling and School Psychology	2,050	296			MSE	30.6	EdS	8.8	
UNO	Counseling	1,974	312			MA MS	1.0 47.4			
CSC	School Counseling	1,756	351			MEd	9.0			
	Community Mental Health Counseling					MAE	12.4			
WSC	Counselor Education	1,095	362			MSE	18.0			
WSC	Human Service Counseling	1,600	395	BA BS	1.2 31.0					
UNK	Instructional Technology	3,929	459			MSE	36.8			
UNO	Library Science	14,939	470	BGS BSED	8.4 5.4					
UNL	Educational Psychology	9,082	569			MA	18.8	EdS	<b>2.8</b>	Need
	Mixed Methods Research					Grad Cert	<b>2.0</b>			New
	Psychological Studies in Education							PhD	13.4	
UNL	Human Services	*	*							*Interdisciplinary
	Gerontology							PhD	1.6	
	Medical Family Therapy							PhD	0.4	
	Nutrition and Health Sciences							PhD	1.0	
	Textiles, Merch & Fashion Design							PhD	0.6	
	Child, Youth, and Family Studies							PhD	3.8	
	Communication Disorders							PhD	3.0	
	Leadership Studies							PhD/ EdD	6.0	

COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAMS APPROVED by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for Continuation									
Institution	Program	5 yr Average (2009-2014)							
		SCH	SCH/ FTE	Associate		Diploma	Certificate	Total Awards	Justification if under threshold
CCC	Human Services	1,787	518	AAS	15.6	8.0	10.0	33.6	
MCC	Human Services	6,673	853	AAS	24.6		15.4	40.0	
SCC	Human Services	5,855	543	AAS	48.4			48.4	
WNCC	Human Services	461	536	AAS	1.4			2.6	Need
				AA	1.2				
SCC	Long Term Care Administration	1,045	768	AAS	4.3		4.7	9.0*	New

PROGRAMS DISCONTINUED by the INSTITUTIONS			
Institution	Program	Degree(s)	Comments
UNO	Instructional Technology	Certificate	

## Commission Thresholds

**Number of Degrees/Awards in this Program**  
(the mean of the prior 5 years)

Less Than Two Years and Associate	10
Baccalaureate and First Professional	7
Masters Degree	5
Specialist	4
Doctoral Degree	3

All credit hours produced at the baccalaureate levels and all credit hours at the associate level or below except those described below. 300

**Student Credit Hour Production by Department**  
**Per Full-Time Equivalent Faculty**  
(the mean of the prior 5 years)

All credit hours produced at the associate level and below in programs which utilize contact hours that are converted to credit hours for purposes of determining full-time equivalency pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 85-1503 (2008) 275

### **Justification Key**

R & M:	Program is critical to the role and mission of the institution
Gen Ed:	Program contains courses supporting general education or other programs
Interdisciplinary:	Interdisciplinary program (providing the program meets the requirements set in the existing policy for interdisciplinary programs)
Demand:	Student or employer demand, or demand for intellectual property is high and external funding would be jeopardized by discontinuing the program
Access:	Program provides unique access to an underserved population or geographical area
Need:	Program meets a unique need in the region, state, or nation
New:	Program is newly approved within the last five years
Other:	Detailed explanation provided

**Nebraska Institutions Approved for Participation in SARA  
(State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements)  
as of December 30, 2015**

**Grace University – Omaha**

- Incorporated under the laws of Nebraska as a non-profit corporation on September 13, 1943.
- Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools since 1994; current accreditation to be reaffirmed in 2018-19.
- U.S. Department of Education composite financial score for 2012-13: 2.0\*
- Enrollment: 432 full time equivalent students
- Approved by CCPE Executive Director on December 17, 2015
- Approval by the National Council of SARA pending

**Previously approved institutions (20: 13 public, 7 private)**

**Renewed by CCPE\*\***

<b>Bellevue University – Bellevue</b>	<b>7-7-15</b>
<b>Bryan College of Health Sciences – Lincoln</b>	<b>8-10-15</b>
<b>Central Community College – Grand Island, Columbus, Hastings</b>	<b>7-16-15</b>
<b>Chadron State College - Chadron</b>	
<b>Clarkson College – Omaha</b>	
<b>College of Saint Mary – Omaha</b>	<b>10-21-15</b>
<b>Concordia University, Nebraska – Seward</b>	
<b>Creighton University – Omaha</b>	<b>7-20-15</b>
<b>Metropolitan Community College – Omaha</b>	<b>7-31-15</b>
<b>Mid-Plains Community College – North Platte and McCook</b>	<b>9-10-15</b>
<b>Nebraska Methodist College – Omaha</b>	<b>7-16-15</b>
<b>Northeast Community College – Norfolk</b>	<b>7-20-15</b>
<b>Peru State College – Peru</b>	<b>7-31-15</b>
<b>Southeast Community College – Lincoln, Beatrice, Milford</b>	
<b>University of Nebraska at Kearney</b>	<b>10-13-15</b>
<b>University of Nebraska – Lincoln</b>	<b>10-13-15</b>
<b>University of Nebraska Medical Center</b>	<b>10-13-15</b>
<b>University of Nebraska at Omaha</b>	<b>10-13-15</b>
<b>Wayne State College – Wayne</b>	<b>7-29-15</b>
<b>Western Nebraska Community College – Scottsbluff</b>	

\*The scale is based on financial soundness, operating funds, and debt. The range is 1.0 to 3.0; the higher the score, the better the institution's financial status. An acceptable rating falls between 1.5 and 3.0.

\*\*Annual renewal is required by NC-SARA and must take place within 90 days prior to the expiration date.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. Reasonable and Moderate Extensions**

1. UNO - Department of Biomechanics
2. UNO - Department of Management
3. UNO - Department of Marketing and Entrepreneurship
4. UNO - American Government (graduate certificate)

### **B. Institution Name Change**

1. Doane College to *Doane University* (effective May 9, 2016)

### **C. Teach Out Update**

1. University of Phoenix has closed all Nebraska campuses since all students have been taught out.

### **D. Discontinued Centers**

1. UNL - Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education in the College of Education and Human Sciences
2. UNL - Center for Ergonomics and Safety Research in the College of Engineering

The *2015 Factual Look at Higher Education in Nebraska – Faculty and Salaries* section can be found on the CCPE website, along with the other two sections that have already been published:

[2015 Factual Look - Faculty and Salaries](#)