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# MINUTES

**COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
Apothecary/Ridnour Building  
140 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, North Loft, Lincoln, Nebraska  
Friday, December 13, 2024  
9:00 a.m. (CT)**

*Public notice of meeting*

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. A current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted beside the table containing the documents for the meeting.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE COORDINATING COMMISSION FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION WILL HOLD A MEETING ON DECEMBER 13, 2024. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9:00 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 11:30 A.M.

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

DR. PAUL VON BEHREN, CHAIR

*Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.*

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Von Behren called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked for introductions.

**Commissioners Present**

Tim Daniels  
Dr. Deborah Frison  
Dr. Dennis Headrick  
Dannika Nelson

Dr. Paul Von Behren  
Tami Weber  
W. Scott Wilson

**Commissioners Absent**

Dr. LeDonna Griffin  
Mary Lauritzen

Molly O'Holleran

**Commission Staff Present**

Dr. Michael Baumgartner  
Dr. Kathleen Fimple  
Jill Heese  
Kadi Lukesh  
J. Ritchie Morrow

Helen Pope  
Matthew Roque  
Celeste Thompson  
Gary Timm

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*Dr. Baumgartner introduces speakers*

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Dr. Baumgartner stated that he and Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, have been participating in the Nebraska Post-Secondary Education Consortium, which informs the process of bringing Pell-eligible programs back into prisons. Metropolitan Community College and Southeast Community Colleges are involved in this work. Representatives were present to provide information.

*Amy Doty, Southeast Community College*

Amy Doty, Dean of Correctional Education at Southeast Community College, provided a handout and spoke on UPWARD, a prison education program that was launched at four Nebraska correctional facilities in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Ms. Doty discussed current programs such as CDL and culinary training and other services that Southeast Community College offers. She noted success stories and stated that several new programs will be available in 2025.

*Diane Good-Collins, Metropolitan Community College*

Diane Good-Collins, Director of the Re-entry Program at Metropolitan Community College, provided a short video on the 180 Re-entry Assistance Program (180 RAP) at Metropolitan Community College. The program serves the currently incarcerated, individuals leaving jail, prison or treatment centers, and those managing court-imposed issues. The program provides services and support to help individuals achieve their education and employment goals and make a successful transition into society.

*Minutes of October 11, 2024, approved*

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2024, COMMISSION MEETING**

**Commissioner Frison made a motion to approve the October 11, 2024, minutes as written. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. A roll call was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Headrick, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

*Chair's report*

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Von Behren did not have a report.

*Executive Director's report*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The following out-of-service area application requests were approved by the executive director:

*Out-of-service area applications approved*

- Offered by Mid-Plains Community College  
Distance delivery from Arthur High School, Arthur, NE to Cody-Kilgore High School, Cody, NE
  - MATH 1150 – College Algebra – 3 Credits  
Spring 2025
  
- Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video from Arcadia High School, Arcadia, NE to Sargent High School, Sargent, NE

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*Out-of-service area applications,  
continued*

- BIOS 1260 – Structure & Function of Human Body II – 2 credits  
January 13, 2025 – May 15, 2025
  
- Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video from Arcadia High School, Arcadia, NE to Loup County Public Schools, Taylor, NE
  - BIOS 1260 – Structure & Function of Human Body II – 2 credits  
January 13, 2025 – May 15, 2025
  
- Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video from Arcadia High School, Arcadia, NE to Loup County Public Schools, Taylor, NE
  - HLTH 1060 – Comprehensive Medical Terminology – 3 credits  
January 13, 2025 – May 15, 2025
  
- Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video from Central Community College, Columbus, NE to Elgin High School, Elgin, NE
  - ENGL 2100 – Intro to Literature – 3 credits  
January 13, 2025 – May 8, 2025
  
- Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way video from Central Community College, Columbus, NE to Pope John High School, Elgin, NE
  - SPCH 1110 – Public Speaking – 3 credits  
January 13, 2025 – May 8, 2025
  
- Offered by Mid-Plains Community College  
Distance delivery from Broken Bow Community Campus, Broken Bow, NE to Litchfield High School, Litchfield, NE
  - ENGL 1020 – English Composition II – 3 credits  
January 2, 2025 – May 16, 2025
  
- Offered by Mid-Plains Community College  
Distance delivery from Ansley High School, Ansley, NE to Litchfield High School, Litchfield, NE
  - SPAN 1020 – Elementary Spanish I – 5 credits  
January 2, 2025 – May 16, 2025

*Staff activities*

Dr. Baumgartner gave an update on staff happenings. J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, attended the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs annual conference in Portland, Maine, in the last week of October. He is also participating in weekly US Dept of Ed meetings on the FAFSA launch and has been signing up many high school counselors and principals for the FAFSA Completion website. NDE has provided the data on high school seniors that populates the website, and FAFSAs are beginning to roll in.

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*Staff activities, continued*

Dr. Kathleen Fimple attended the annual HLC State Partner Agencies meeting in Chicago in November. Three-year bachelor's degrees continue to be a hot topic there, as is the future of accreditation. She has also been meeting regularly with the M-SARA folks. A lot of concern for the future of SARA has dissipated since the election as new regulations affecting state reciprocity no longer seem imminent.

Dr. Baumgartner attended the Midwestern Higher Education Compact meeting in Overland Park last month, and Commissioner Frison attended by Zoom. Last week he attended the Education Commission of the States Winter Commission meeting in Denver, where they worked on fleshing out the six issues that ECS will work on over the next two years.

Dr. Baumgartner noted that the transition of the Excellence in Teaching Act (ETA) programs continues. Work continues with the application developers at NDE who are building the web-based ETA application and tracking system. User acceptance testing and data checking is being done, and next week data will be moving permanently from the old Access databases to the new system.

Celeste Thompson has become the new ETA specialist at CCPE, as Kelcy Sasse, who came from NDE has retired. Dr. Baumgartner thanked Kelcy for all her efforts to transition the program. One of the last things she did for us was the ETA Report on today's agenda.

Dr. Baumgartner stated that the CCPE staff are once again involved in buying, wrapping, and delivering Christmas gifts for seven families at Voices of Hope. The project is a team effort, even involving a few past employees.

*Public Hearing on Matters of General Concern*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN**

There was no testimony on Matters of General Concern.

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

*Public Hearing on Academic Programs Committee Items*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE ITEMS**

There was no testimony on Academic Programs Committee Items.

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

*Academic Programs Committee  
Commission Weber*

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Weber, Committee Chair, introduced Dr. Fimple to provide information on the proposed program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

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University of Nebraska at Omaha –  
Proposal for a New Instructional  
Program – Applied Leadership Studies,  
BS

Dr. Fimple

Dr. Christine Billings, University of  
Nebraska at Omaha

Committee recommendation

University of Nebraska at Omaha –  
Proposal for a New Instructional  
Program – Applied Leadership Studies,  
BS, approved

Existing Program Review

## **University of Nebraska at Omaha – Proposal for a New Instructional Program - Applied Leadership Studies, BS**

Dr. Fimple presented the proposal, stating the purpose of the program is to provide multigenerational learners an undergraduate degree program that is accessible, affordable, and flexible. It would address workforce challenges for adults for whom obtaining a bachelor's degree would expand career opportunities. Dr. Fimple discussed the evidence of demand and need for the program.

Dr. Christine Billings, Director of the UNO Division of Continuing Studies, was present and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Committee recommendation: That the Commission approve the Bachelor of Science in Applied Leadership Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Commissioner Weber, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Applied Leadership Studies, BS. A roll call was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Headrick, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

### **Existing Program Review**

Dr. Fimple presented the Existing Program Review.

Information Items:

#### **Central Community College**

- Diesel Technology, AAS, Diploma, Certificate
- Media Arts, AAS, Diploma, Certificate

#### **Metropolitan Community College**

- Administrative Technology (Office Technology), AAS, Certificate

#### **Mid-Plains Community College**

- Diesel Technology, AAS, Diploma, Certificate

#### **Northeast Community College**

- Diesel Technology, AAS
- Media Arts, AAS, Diploma
- Administrative Professional, AAS, AA, Diploma, Certificate

#### **Southeast Community College**

- Deisel Ag Equipment Service Tech, AAS
- Diesel Technology-Truck, AAS
- John Deere Construction & Forestry Equipment Tech, AAS
- John Deere Technology, AAS
- Office Professional, AAS, Diploma
- Powersports Technology, AAS, Diploma

Western Nebraska Community College

- Diesel, Truck & Heavy Equipment Technology, AAS, Diploma, Certificate

University of Nebraska – Lincoln

- Agriculture Leadership, Education and Communication, BS
- Leadership Education, MS, Graduate Certificate

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 Von Behren closed the public hearing on Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee Items.**

Budget, Construction, and Financial  
Aid Committee

Commissioner Wilson

2023-24 Programs of the Excellence in  
Teaching Act Report

Mr. Morrow

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

Commissioner Wilson, in the absence of Commissioner Lauritzen, opened the Committee report.

**2023-24 Programs of the Excellence in Teaching Act Report**

Mr. Morrow presented the report. There are four separate programs under the Excellence in Teaching Act, the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program (AETP), the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program (EETP), Career-Readiness and Dual-Credit (CRDC) Education Grant Program, and AETP-Student Teaching (AETP-ST). The latter two are new programs effective July 1, 2024, while AETP and EETP administrative duties were transferred from the Nebraska Department of Education to CCPE on July 1, 2024. The AETP program provides forgivable loans in an amount of \$3,000 to eligible students on an annual basis who are enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate teacher education program at an eligible Nebraska institution working towards initial certification to teach in Nebraska. EETP provides loans to graduate students in the amount of not more than \$175 per enrolled credit hour, up to a maximum of \$3000.

Mr. Morrow noted that since program implementation in 2006, 1,555 AETP loan recipients have received their initial certification with an endorsement in a subject area identified as a shortage area in Nebraska. The report includes allocations and awards listed by institution for the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program (AETP), and the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program (EETP). Since the AETP-ST and CRDC are new programs, award information is not available. Mr. Morrow discussed the distribution formula and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Committee recommendation

Committee recommendation: The Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee recommends approval of the 2023-24 Programs of the Excellence in Teaching Act report.

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*2023-24 Programs of the Excellence in Teaching Act Report, approved*

**Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, made a motion to approve the 2023-24 Programs of the Excellence in Teaching Act Report. A roll call was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Headrick, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

*Executive Committee*

*Chair Von Behren*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chair Von Behren stated the Executive Committee met on November 21, 2024, to review and approve the 2024 Biennial Report in order to be ready for submission to the Governor and Legislature on or before December 1.

*Ratification of the Executive Committee's approval of the 2024 Biennial Report*

*Dr. Baumgartner*

**Ratification of the Executive Committee's approval of the 2024 Biennial Report**

Dr. Baumgartner presented a brief summary of the report, stating the 2024 Biennial Report provides an overview of the Coordinating Commission's accomplishments during 2023 and 2024.

*Committee recommendation*

Committee recommendation: That the Commission ratify the Executive Committee's approval of the Biennial Report to the Legislature and the Governor.

*Ratification of the Executive Committee's approval of the 2024 Biennial Report, approved*

**Chair Von Behren, on behalf of the Executive Committee, made a motion to approve the Ratification of the Executive Committee's Approval of the 2024 Biennial Report. A roll call was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Headrick, Nelson, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

*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 Items.

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

*Planning and Consumer Information Committee*

*Commissioner Wilson*

**PLANNING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Wilson, in Commissioner O'Holleran's absence, introduced Jill Heese to provide the 2024 Measuring Accomplishments report.

*2024 Measuring Accomplishments, Companion Piece to Chapter One of the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education*

*Ms. Heese*

**2024 Measuring Accomplishments, Companion Piece to Chapter One of the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education**

Ms. Heese gave a presentation on the *2024 Measuring Accomplishments* report. The report is a companion piece to *Chapter One of the Comprehensive Statewide Plan for Postsecondary Education*. It includes national comparisons, peer comparisons for Nebraska's public institutions, and non-comparative measures. The Data Dictionary describes each of the measures in detail. Nebraska ranked in the top 25 for educational attainment by age group and degree level, in the top 10 for ACT college

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readiness and college continuation, and in the top 25 for high school graduation rates and six-year completion rates. Ms. Heese answered questions from the Commissioners.

*Next Commission meeting is January 24, 2025*

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next Commission meeting will be a virtual meeting via Zoom on Friday, January 24, 2025, 8:30 a.m.

*Meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Von Behren** adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.