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# MINUTES

**Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
McCook Community College (MPCC)  
East Campus Conference Room #1  
905 East 7th Street, McCook, Nebraska  
Friday, July 25, 2025  
9:30 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 copy of the current 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 JULY 25, 2025. THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 9:30 A.M. AND ADJOURN AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 P.M.

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

TIM DANIELS, CHAIR

## *Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m.*

### **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Daniels called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and asked for introductions.

#### **Commissioners Present**

Tim Daniels	Molly O'Holleran
Dr. Deborah Frison	Dr. Paul Von Behren
Dr. LeDonna Griffin	Tami Weber
Dr. Dennis Headrick	W. Scott Wilson

#### **Commissioners Absent**

Mary Lauritzen  
Dannika Nelson

#### **Commission Staff Present**

Dr. Michael Baumgartner	Matthew Roque
Dr. Kathleen Fimple	Celeste Thompson
J. Ritchie Morrow	Gary Timm
Helen Pope	

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*Ryan Purdy, Mid-Plains Community College*

**WELCOME**

Ryan Purdy, President of Mid-Plains Community College, welcomed the Commissioners and staff and gave a brief history of McCook Community College. McCook Community College is the first Nebraska community college, with plans underway to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026.

*Minutes of May 16, 2025, Commission Meeting approved*

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 16, 2025, COMMISSION MEETING**

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the May 16, 2025, Commission meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Frison seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, O'Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.

*Chair's Report*

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Daniels announced new Committees for 2025-2026, noting chairs for each committee will be voted upon at the next committee conference call.

*New Committees for 2025-2026*

**Executive Committee**

Tim Daniels (Chair)  
Dr. Dennis Headrick (Vice Chair)  
Dr. Paul Von Behren  
Molly O'Holleran

**Academic Programs Committee**

Dr. Deborah Frison  
Dr. Dennis Headrick  
Mary Lauritzen  
Dannika Nelson  
W. Scott Wilson

**Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee**

Dr. LeDonna Griffin  
Mary Lauritzen  
Molly O'Holleran  
Dr. Paul Von Behren  
Tami Weber

**Planning and Consumer Information Committee**

Dr. Deborah Frison  
Dr. LeDonna Griffin  
Dannika Nelson  
Tami Weber  
W. Scott Wilson

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*Executive Director's Report*

*Out-of-Service Area requests approved*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Baumgartner stated the following Out-of-Service-Area Requests have been approved.

Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way live video, from Central Community College, Holdrege Learning Center, Holdrege, NE, to Elgin Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School, Elgin, NE

- MATH 1150 College Algebra – 3 credits  
Fall 2025 Semester

Offered by Central Community College  
Interactive two-way live video, from Central City High School, Central City, NE, to Elgin Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School, Elgin, NE

- MATH 1600 – Analytic Geometry and Calc I - 5 credits  
2025-2026 Academic year

Offered by Central Community College  
Request from North Bend Central High School, North Bend, NE, to participate in Central Community College's iMEC career pathway program, taught online with a CCC instructor

- INDT 1100 Concepts of Electronics – 3 credits
- INDT 1800 Introduction to Instrumentation – 3 credits
- INDT 1200 Introduction to Programmable Controls –3 credits
- INDT 2410 Applications of Industrial Sensors – 3 credits  
Academic year 2025-2026

*Gary Timm presented the Fourth Quarter Budget Report*

Dr. Baumgartner introduced Gary Timm, Chief Finance Officer, to present the Fourth Quarter Budget Report. Mr. Timm gave updates on the status of Administrative Funds and the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Program (NOG). He focused on the government aid portion of the Higher Education Financial Aid regarding the new Excellence In Teaching Act programs. Lastly, Mr. Timm reviewed the Access College Early Scholarship (ACE), Guaranty Recovery Program, and the Community College ARPA Grants.

*Dr Baumgartner gave a report on recent staff meetings and activities*

Dr. Baumgartner reported that the CCPE staff have recently been actively participating in organizations and events with several coming up. He attended the MHEC Executive Committee meeting in Detroit in June, with Commissioner Frison attending by Zoom. He also attended the Education Commission of the States National Forum in Salt Lake City, and the SHEEO Annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Dr. Baumgartner stated he plans to go to England as Nebraska's representative next month with the National Governors Association for a study trip on degree apprenticeships. They will be looking at English models of teacher, engineering, and healthcare apprenticeships.

In June, Dr. Baumgartner, Jill Heese, Research Director, and J. Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Officer, attended the Buffett Research Meeting at Metropolitan Community College.

Dr. Kathleen Fimple, Academic Programs Officer, attended the M-SARA meeting in Chicago and will attend the SHEEO Professional Development Conference in Minneapolis in August and the National SARA meeting in September.

Dr. Fimple and Mr. Morrow will attend a MHEC-sponsored dual enrollment conference in Chicago next week as part of a team of Nebraskans. Mr. Morrow also participated in the first meeting of the Nebraska College Access Network Planning Committee. He plans to begin his financial aid audits in September.

Gary Timm traveled to Hastings, Grand Island, Sidney, and Scottsbluff this week as part of compliance duties related to the \$60 million ARPA grants the Commission have been administering. He, along with Matthew Roque, Capital Project & Financial Analyst, will soon be visiting South Sioux City, Norfolk, and Metropolitan Community College in August for the same purpose.

*Public Hearing on Matters of General Concern*

*Dr. David Jackson, University of Nebraska*

**PUBLIC HEARING ON MATTERS OF GENERAL CONCERN**

Dr. David Jackson, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, Interim Dean of the Graduate College from the University of Nebraska, came forward to provide an update on the Higher Learning Commission report that the University has received. Dr. Jackson also mentioned there were representatives from the University available remotely to talk about or answer questions on agenda items.

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

*Academic Programs Committee  
Commissioner Weber*

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Weber, Committee Chair, introduced Dr. Kathleen Fimple to provide information on new proposals.

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln –  
Proposal for a New Instructional  
Program – Robotics Engineering, BS*

*Dr. Kathleen Fimple presented the  
proposal*

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Robotics Engineering, BS**

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal, indicating this program would provide students with the skills needed to identify, formulate, and solve complex engineering problems in the robotics field. She noted the high need and demand for this program and stated there are no robotics engineering programs offered in Nebraska.

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*Dr. Lance Perez, University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Committee Recommendation*

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln –  
Proposal for a New Instructional  
Program – Robotics Engineering, BS  
approved*

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln –  
Proposal for a New Instructional  
Program – Multidisciplinary Studies,  
BA, BS*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

*Dr. June Griffin, University of  
Nebraska-Lincoln*

*Dr. David Jackson, University of  
Nebraska*

*Committee Recommendation*

*University of Nebraska-Lincoln –  
Proposal for a New Instructional  
Program – Multidisciplinary Studies,  
BA, BS approved*

*University of Nebraska Medical Center  
– Proposal for a New Center – Center  
for Diabetes Care, Research, and  
Education*

*Dr. Fimple presented the proposal*

Dr. Lance Perez, Dean of Engineering at the University of Nebraska, provided additional information and answered Commissioners' questions.

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the Bachelor of Science degree in Robotics Engineering at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Commissioner Weber, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Robotics Engineering, BS. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, O'Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Multidisciplinary Studies, BA, BS**

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal, stating this program is designed to offer a flexible degree completion pathway to students who have attended UNL or a local institution previously and may have stopped short of graduating. Any student who has completed 60 or more UNL degree-applicable credit hours would be eligible for the program.

Dr. June Griffin, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education, College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, provided information on the program, as well as Dr. David Jackson, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost, Interim Dean of the Graduate College from the University of Nebraska

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in Multidisciplinary Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Commissioner Weber, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Proposal for a New Instructional Program – Multidisciplinary Studies, BA, BS. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, O'Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. Voting no: Headrick. The motion carried.**

**University of Nebraska Medical Center – Proposal for a New Center – Center for Diabetes Care, Research, and Education**

Dr. Fimple presented the program proposal, noting UNMC has been involved in diabetes care and research for a long time. She stated a new center would increase collaborative research across the University system and transform diabetes outcomes through education, research, and changes in policy.

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*Dr. David Jackson, University of  
Nebraska*

*Dr. Andjela Drincic, University of  
Nebraska Medical Center*

*Committee Recommendation*

*University of Nebraska Medical Center  
– Proposal for a New Center – Center  
for Diabetes Care, Research, and  
Education approved*

*Annual Reports from Out-of-state and  
Private Institutions*

*Dr. Fimple spoke*

*Report on College Course Offerings for  
High School Students by Nebraska  
Public Institutions, 2023-2024*

*Dr. Fimple presented the report*

*Dr. Joel Michaelis, Southeast  
Community College, Ryan Purdy, Mid-  
Plains Community College and Dr.  
Charlene Widener, Northeast  
Community College*

*Report on Institutional Activities  
Related to Existing Programs*

*Reasonable and Moderate Extensions*

Dr. Jackson and Dr. Andjela Drincic, Diabetes & Endocrinology Center Medical Director, spoke on benefits of the proposed center and answered Commissioners' questions.

Committee Recommendation: That the Commission approve the Center for Diabetes Care, Research, and Education at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

**Commissioner Weber, on behalf of the Academic Programs Committee, moved to approve the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Proposal for a New Center – Center for Diabetes Care, Research, and Education. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, O'Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

Chair Daniels called for a break at 10:54 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:04 a.m.

### **Annual Reports from Out-of-state and Private Institutions**

Dr. Fimple provided information on two institutions holding a recurrent authorization to operate in Nebraska:

- Western Governors University (Salt Lake City, UT; online with PO box in Fremont)
- Andrews University (Berrien Springs, MI, at Union College, Lincoln)

### **Report on College Course Offerings for High School Students by Nebraska Public Institutions, 2023-2024**

Dr. Fimple gave a report on courses offered at distance by public institutions for high school students in Nebraska. She noted that while the majority of dual credit courses are offered in high schools, Wayne State College, UNL, and four of the community colleges included courses that were taught on a campus or center.

Dr. Joel Michaelis, Vice President of Instruction at Southeast Community College, Ryan Purdy, President, Mid-Plains Community College, and Dr. Charlene Widener, Vice President of Educational Services at Northeast Community College, were present and answered questions from the Commissioners.

### **Report on Institutional Activities Related to Existing Programs**

Dr. Fimple discussed the following information items:

#### **Reasonable and Moderate Extensions**

- NECC – Natural Resources, Diploma & Certificate
- NECC – Horticulture Business, Certificate
- NECC – Farm to Market, Certificate
- NECC – Agricultural Drone Pilot, Certificate
- NECC – Paramedicine: Pre-Professional AA/AS

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- UNL – Modern Languages (with French and German options), BA, BS

*Program Name Changes*

Program Name Changes

- NECC – Pre-Professional Veterinary Technology, AA to *Pre-Professional Veterinary Technology, AS*
- MCC – Nursing, AS to *Nursing, ASN*

*Eliminated Center*

Eliminated Center

- UNMC – Center for Advanced Surgical Technology (CAST)

*Discontinued Programs*

Discontinued Programs

- UNK – Physics Comprehensive-Engineering Emphasis, BS (BS in Physics will remain)
- UNK – Astronomy, BS
- UNK – Astrophysics Comprehensive, BS
- UNK – Physical Science, BA and BS
- UNK – English-Writing Emphasis, BA
- UNK – Spanish Translation and Interpretation Comprehensive, BA
- UNL – French Language and Literature, BA, BS
- UNL – German Language and Literature, BA, BS

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

*Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee*

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

Commissioner Wilson chaired the committee in Commissioner Lauritzen's absence.

*Southeast Community College – Lincoln Campus – Science Center*

**Southeast Community College – Lincoln Campus – Science Center**

*Matthew Roque presented the project proposal*

Matthew Roque presented the proposal, stating that Southeast Community College is proposing construction of a new state-of-the-art, 45,750 gross square foot Science Center at their 8800 O Street campus. The project cost is estimated at \$37.7 million, funded by Capital Improvement Funds and other sources that may include student fees, private donations, grants, or fundraising efforts. The new center would provide advanced science laboratories, interactive learning spaces, and update safety and infrastructure concerns within the current campus building.

*Dr. Bev Cummins, Southeast Community College*

Dr. Bev Cummins, Vice President for Program Development at Southeast Community College's Lincoln Campus, discussed the proposal and answered Commissioners' questions.

*Southeast Community College –  
Lincoln Campus – Science Center  
approved*

*Southeast Community College –  
Milford Campus – Construction  
Technologies Center*

*Mr. Roque presented the project  
proposal*

*Dr. Bev Cummins, Southeast  
Community College*

*Committee Recommendation and  
Comments*

*Southeast Community College –  
Milford Campus – Construction  
Technologies Center approved*

**Action:** Pursuant to the Nebr. Rev. Stat. § 85-1414, the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education recommends approval of Southeast Community College's proposal to utilize Capital Improvement Funds to construct and equip the Science Center project as outlined in the governing board's program statement approved on June 17, 2025, along with supplemental information provided.

**Comments:** The primary purpose of this project is the need to provide modern, safe, and quality spaces for Biology and Life Science courses. This proposed building will accomplish this goal for current students while allowing for future enrollment growth.

**Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve Southeast Community College's – Lincoln Campus – Science Center Project. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, O'Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

**Southeast Community College – Milford Campus – Construction Technologies Center**

Mr. Roque presented the proposal, noting Southeast Community College is proposing construction of a new Construction Technologies Center at its Milford Campus. The proposed 48,000 gross square foot facility will consolidate several of Milford's construction-related programs, which are currently spread across three aging and undersized buildings. The estimated cost for the center is \$30.6 million, which would come from the Capital Improvement Fund and several other sources.

Dr. Cummins provided additional information on the proposed project.

**Action:** Pursuant to the Nebr. Rev. Stat. § 85-1414, the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education recommends approval of Southeast Community College's proposal to utilize Capital Improvement Funds to construct and equip the Construction Technologies Center project as outlined in the governing board's program statement approved on June 17, 2025, along with supplemental information provided.

**Comments:** The primary driver for this project is the need to provide modern, safe, and quality spaces for Construction Technology Programs. This proposed building will accomplish this goal for current students while allowing for future growth in enrollment.

**Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve Southeast Community College's – Milford Campus – Construction Technologies Center Project. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, O'Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

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*Metropolitan Community College –  
Sarpy County Campus – Roads and  
Infrastructure Project*

*Mr. Roque presented the proposed  
project*

*Stan Horrell, Metropolitan Community  
College*

*Committee Recommendation and  
Comments*

*Metropolitan Community College –  
Sarpy County Campus – Roads and  
Infrastructure Project approved*

*Nebraska Opportunity Grant 2025-26  
Annual Allocation Report*

*J. Ritchie Morrow presented the  
Report*

*Excellence In Teaching 2025-26  
Annual Allocation Report*

*Mr. Morrow presented the Report*

**Metropolitan Community College – Sarpy County Campus – Roads  
and Infrastructure Project**

Mr. Roque presented the project, stating that the Metropolitan Community College Board of Governors approved the establishment of the new Sarpy County Campus in 2024. The Roads and Infrastructure project will include installation of roads, sewers, retention ponds, water lines, and electricity on the property. Mr. Roque noted the approximate cost of the project is \$9.8 million, utilizing Capital Improvement Funds.

Stan Horrell, Director of Campus Planning at Metro, answered questions and provided additional information on the project.

**Action:** Pursuant to the Nebr. Rev. Stat. § 85-1414, the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee of the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education recommends approval of Metropolitan Community College’s proposal to utilize Capital Improvement Funds to construct the Sarpy County Campus Infrastructure project as outlined in the governing board’s program statement approved on May 27, 2025, along with supplemental information provided.

**Comments:** The primary purpose of this project is to provide the infrastructure necessary for the complete build-out of this new campus. The Commission approved the Sarpy County Campus as a branch campus at its October 11, 2024, meeting.

**Commissioner Wilson, on behalf of the Budget, Construction, and Financial Aid Committee, moved to approve Metropolitan Community College’s Sarpy County Campus – Roads and Infrastructure Project. A roll call vote was taken. Voting aye: Daniels, Frison, Griffin, Headrick, O’Holleran, Von Behren, Weber, and Wilson. The motion carried.**

**Nebraska Opportunity Grant 2025-26 Annual Allocation Report**

Mr. Morrow presented the report on the allocation of the Nebraska Opportunity Grant. He noted that every year the Coordinating Commission is appropriated funds by the legislature, and those funds are combined with the Nebraska Lottery money that we receive to award each year. After an allocation formula is applied, institutions are notified how much is available to award to their students. Mr. Morrow discussed the portion of the report that includes a breakdown of allocated dollars for each participating institution and reviewed the 10-year comparison graph of appropriations funding by source and the Lottery Fund Transfers received to the Nebraska Opportunity Grant.

**Excellence In Teaching 2025-26 Annual Allocation Report**

Mr. Morrow presented the report, stating this is the second year we are administering this program as it was previously administered through the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). The report focuses on those two years. The allocations for AETP (Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program) and AETP-ST (Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program-Student Teaching) programs are based on the number of teacher

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*Nebraska Career Scholarship 2025-26  
Annual Allocation Report*

*Mr. Morrow presented the Report*

*Next Commission meeting is Friday,  
October 3, 2025*

*Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.*

education completers as reported annually to the NDE. EETP (Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program) allocations are based on the number of completers with a master's degree.

**Nebraska Career Scholarship 2025-26 Annual Allocation Report**

Mr. Morrow presented the report, stating the Commission allocates state funding from the Nebraska Career Scholarship program based on one of two formulas. For 2025-26, \$4 million was allocated to the community colleges, based on the most recent 3-year Reimbursable Education Units (REU) calculations, and \$4 million to the private nonprofit institutions, based on the average number of Nebraska residents enrolled in specific high-need academic programs over the last three years.

**FUTURE MEETING**

The next Commission meeting will be Friday, October 3, 2025, 8:30 a.m. at Southeast Community College, 8800 O Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Daniels adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.