LR 178 FUNDING PRIORITIES: Nebraska State College System

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

AIR QUALITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY
$23.7 million in geothermal and HVAC upgrades to State-owned buildings, a solar field, heating, and chiller plant upgrades.

STEM PROGRAM EQUIPMENT
$2.5 million investment in equipment to support STEM programs at Chadron State, Peru State, and Wayne State.

CRITICAL WORKFORCE PROGRAMS
$3.6 million in one-time expenses for teaching facility enhancement and workforce program expansion (criminal justice, healthcare) that target workforce shortage areas in Nebraska.

WATER AND SEWER UPGRADES
$5.6 million in upgrades to plumbing and water line improvements at Chadron State, Peru State, and Wayne State.

IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND CYBERSECURITY
$8.9 million in cybersecurity improvements, wireless and fiber network upgrades at Chadron State, Peru State, and Wayne State.

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Investment Impact for Nebraska

1. LONG-TERM REDUCTION IN COSTS
Investing in energy efficiency upgrades – emphasizing renewable energy – presents an opportunity to generate long-term cost savings for students and Nebraska. Expanding the geothermal, solar energy, and natural gas footprint at each College aligns with existing infrastructure investments and provides an avenue for more efficient and healthy air handling systems for students.

2. WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
The pandemic has increased the need for investments in several key workforce shortage areas in the State, including health care, health administration, STEM Education, and law enforcement. Program expansion in these critical areas seeks to increase students enrolled in these essential workforce areas, and investments in state-of-the-art equipment improves the educational experience for new and existing students.

3. STUDENT SUCCESS AND SAFETY
An evolution in the teaching and learning processes required new instructional technologies to foster student access as a result the pandemic. Expanding keycard access points provides controlled access to buildings and increases security for students and staff. Additionally, increased cybersecurity threats to faculty, staff, and student data warrant critical investments in common cybersecurity infrastructure to protect these data into the future.
The Nebraska State College System has focused its funding request on five key strategic areas: energy efficiency, IT infrastructure and cybersecurity, STEM program equipment, critical workforce programs, and water and sewer upgrades. The proposed project funding aligns with existing guidance for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and priorities were selected that have the most substantial return on investment by creating long-term reduction in costs, expanding workforce and economic development, and increasing student success and safety. The total funding request for the Nebraska State College System is $44.3 million and would enhance infrastructure and programs at Chadron State, Peru State, and Wayne State Colleges.

**AIR QUALITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

- Central Heating Plant $2,800,000
- Expand Chiller Capacity in Central Plant $700,000
- Nelson Physical Plant Activity Center HVAC System Upgrade $4,000,000
- Geothermal/HVAC Upgrades to State Buildings $1,500,000
- Geothermal/HVAC Upgrades to Complex $5,500,000
- Air Conditioning - Hoyt Science Center $30,000
- Anderson Hall MEP Infrastructure Replacement $2,420,00
- Solar Field $2,000,000
- Building Maintenance System Upgrades $1,600,000
- Carhart Science & Conn Library HVAC Upgrades $450,000
- Rec Center & Air Handler Replacement $2,750,000

**$23,750,000**

**IT INFRASTRUCTURE & CYBERSECURITY**

- Electronic Door Access $1,000,000
- High Broadband Capacity & Wireless Infrastructure (State and Revenue Bond Halls) $900,000
- IT Student Learning Upgrades (Core Switch, Virtual Lab, Mediated Study) $400,000
- Network Operations Center & IT Security Infrastructure $810,000
- Keycard Access $500,000
- Fiber/Broadband $300,000
- Campus Instructional Technology Upgrades $1,512,000
- Cybersecurity Infrastructure Improvements $600,000
- Wireless Refresh $800,000
- Fiber Optic Rings $1,000,000
- Remote Fire Alarm Network Upgrades $300,000
- IT Security Investment $750,000

**$8,872,000**

**CRITICAL WORKFORCE PROGRAMS**

- Panhandle Police Training Academy $2,000,000
- Criminalistics Lab Renovation, Drone, Healthcare Admin.) $310,000
- Early Admission & Pathway Programs - Nursing $1,250,000

**$3,560,000**

**WATER & SEWER UPGRADES**

- Kent Hall Bathroom Upgrades $1,500,000
- Campus Main Line $2,000,000
- Morey Hall First Floor & basement Restroom remodel $1,200,000
- Morey Hall Plumbing Upgrades $944,000

**$5,646,000**

**STEM PROGRAM EQUIPMENT**

- Anatomage Tables and STEM Equipment $500,000
- Chemistry/Physics Lab Equipment $310,000
- Anatomy Program Modernization $485,000
- STEM Equipment Replacement $1,183,000

**$2,478,000**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR INNOVATION**

**College of Osteopathic Medicine**

Today, the challenge of ensuring an adequate number of primary care physicians extends to osteopathic medicine, with more than one-third of osteopathic medical school graduates choosing careers in primary care. Osteopathic medicine also has a special focus on providing care in rural and urban underserved areas. Over the past three years, more than a third of osteopathic medical school graduates indicated they plan to practice in rural or underserved areas. In fact, College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) programs focused on rural communities result in 70% who serve as primary care doctors, whereas MD programs result in 30-40%. The State Colleges are requesting to explore the creation of a COM to support economic development in Nebraska and provide a new strategy for expanding health care in rural areas. Aligning the COM with the State Colleges will prepare students for the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) with an emphasis toward primary care and rural practice, developing culturally aware and compassionate physicians who are prepared for graduate medical education, and serve the people of Nebraska with patient-centered care.

**Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: Admissions Offices**

The American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) currently accredits 33 colleges of osteopathic medicine offering instruction at 48 locations in 31 states.