

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION\FISCAL, FACILITIES AND AUDIT

ACTION: **Approve Contracts for Audits for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022**

Proposed rates for audit work performed by BKD for FY22 are as follows:

Revenue Bond	\$51,700
Facilities Corporation	\$11,075
Federal Awards	\$22,940
TRIO Cluster	\$ 8,600
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	\$ 8,925

These audit contracts represent the third year under the Request for Proposal (RFP) process that was completed in advance of the FY20 audit. The contract awarded under the RFP process allowed for annual contracts up to a total of seven (7) years (FY20-FY26).

The negotiation with BKD at the time of the RFP award included a concession to limit the annual rate increase to 3% each year. The original proposal from BKD was for 5%. The System Office was contacted by BKD prior to the FY22 contract renewal and informed that the company was seeking a 10% increase from all clients given the escalation of costs driven by inflation and energy costs. BKD requested a 7% increase from the NSCS. Given the rate of inflation, and original proposal from BKD for annual rate increases of 5%, an increase of 5% or the CPI, whichever is lower, was agreed to. The rates above reflect a 5% increase.

For the Facilities Corporation, bond documents require that the bond insurer is provided audited financials within one hundred eighty (180) days after the end of the fiscal year. The bond continuing disclosure agreements require that the audit be filed with the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), through Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) no later than nine (9) months following the end of the fiscal year.

The TRIO Cluster is audited every three (3) years as a major federal program, and will be required for FY 2021-22.

The System Office recommends approval of the Contracts for Audits.

ATTACHMENTS:

- NSCS Revenue Bond Contract (PDF)
- NSCS Facilities Corporation Audit Contract (PDF)

- NSCS Single Audit Contract (PDF)
- NSCS Letter (PDF)

[Date of Contract]

Dr. Paul Turman
Chancellor
Nebraska State Colleges
1327 H Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

We appreciate your selection of **BKD, LLP** as your service provider and are pleased to confirm the arrangements of our engagement in this contract. Within the requirements of our professional standards and any duties owed to the public, regulatory, or other authorities, our goal is to provide you **Unmatched Client Service**[®].

This contract is between BKD, LLP (“We” or “Us” or “Our”) and the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges (“You” or “Management”). This contract will begin on April 22, 2022 and continue through October 31, 2022.

In addition to the terms set forth in this contract, including the detailed **Scope of Services**, our engagement is governed by the following, incorporated fully by this reference:

- Terms and Conditions Addendum
- Exhibit A
- New Auditing and Accounting Standards

Summary Scope of Services

As described in the attached **Scope of Services**, our services will include the following:

- Nebraska State Colleges Student Fees and Facilities Revenue and Refunding Bond Programs
- Audit Services for the year ended June 30, 2022

Engagement Fees

The fee for our services will be \$51,700 which includes administrative fee of five (5) percent to cover items such as copies, postage and other delivery charges, supplies, technology-related costs such as software licensing, user access, and research tools, and similar expense items.

Our pricing for this engagement and our fee structure are based upon the expectation that our invoices will be paid promptly. Payment of our invoices is due in accordance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act. We will issue progress billings during the course of our engagement.

Additional Costs Related to Implementing New Standards

Assistance and additional time as a result of the adoption of new standards, such as those listed in the attached **New Auditing and Accounting Standards**, are not included within our standard engagement fees. These fees will be based on time expended and will vary based on the level of assistance and procedures required. We will consult with you in the event any other regulations or standards are issued that may impact our fees. Any additional charges will be agreed to in writing in advance of any changes to the contract amount.

Contract Agreement

Please sign and return this contract to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our services including our respective responsibilities.

BKD, LLP

[Must be approved for firm signature by a partner or managing director]

Acknowledged and agreed to as it relates to the entire contract, including the **Scope of Services and Terms and Conditions Addendum**, and **Exhibit A** on behalf of Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and Management.

BY _____
Chris Lindner, Partner

DATE _____

BY _____
Paul Turman, Chancellor

DATE _____

Scope of Services

The following apply for all services:

Assistance Our timely completion of services depends on the assistance you provide us in accumulating information and responding to our inquiries. Inaccuracies or delays in providing this information or the responses may result in untimely filings or inability to meet other deadlines.

Responsibility for Outcomes We may perform additional services for you that are not covered by this contract. You agree to assume full responsibility for the substantive outcomes of the contracted services and for any other services we may provide, including any findings that may result.

You also acknowledge these services are adequate for your purposes, and you will establish and monitor the performance of these services to ensure they meet management's objectives. All decisions involving management responsibilities related to these services will be made by you, and you accept full responsibility for such decisions.

We understand you have designated (or will) a management-level individual to be responsible and accountable for overseeing the performance of these services, and you have determined (or will) this individual is qualified to conduct such oversight.

Additional Costs Related to COVID-19 Our fees do not consider additional efforts driven by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the related COVID-19 (COVID-19) environment. Complexities and uncertainties related to various provisions of new laws and the continued issuance of interpretative and procedural guidance from federal agencies may affect our services. Fees related to COVID-19 activities will be billed based on time expended. Any additional charges will be agreed to in writing and signed by the parties in advance of any changes to the contract amount. Additional efforts or services may include:

- Single Audits or compliance audits for the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) or other COVID-19-related funding programs. If these funding programs will be subject to Single Audit requirements or other compliance audits, we will issue an addendum for those services
- Accounting and auditing issues such as going concern, impairment of investments, impairment of intangibles, collectability of receivables, compliance with debt agreements, modification of lease terms, etc.

Audit Services

We will audit the basic financial statements and related notes to the basic financial statements for the following entity(ies) with the objective of expressing an opinion on the financial statements:

Nebraska State Colleges Student Fees and Facilities Revenue and Refunding Bond Programs as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022

We will also express an opinion on whether the supplementary schedules listed below (“supplementary information”) are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

- Schedules of Net Position
- Schedules of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
- Schedules of Cash Flows
- Schedules of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position by Fund Type
- Cash Receipts and Disbursements, Trustee’s Account
- Rentals
- Operations and Maintenance Fund Expenditures
- Debt Service Coverage
- Bonds Outstanding

We will also provide you with the following nonattest services:

- Assistance with formatting, printing, and binding of the financial statements

Abby Dobson, Director, will oversee and coordinate the engagement. Amy Shreck, Director, is responsible for supervising the engagement team and authorizing the signing of reports.

We will issue a written report(s) upon completion of our audit(s), addressed to the following parties:

Entity Name	Party Name
Nebraska State Colleges Student Fees and Facilities Revenue and Refunding Bond Program.	Board of Trustees

The following apply for the audit services described above:

Our Responsibilities We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

**Limitations &
Fraud**

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to your preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of your internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we identify during the audit. Also, in the future, procedures could become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in design or operation. Two or more people may also circumvent controls, or management may override the system.

We are available to perform additional procedures with regard to fraud detection and prevention at your request, subject to completion of our normal engagement acceptance procedures. The actual terms and fees of such an engagement would be documented in a separate contract to be signed by you and **BKD, LLP**.

Opinion

We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion, add an emphasis-of-matter or other matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement. If we discover conditions that may prohibit us from issuing a standard report, we will notify you as well. In such circumstances, further arrangements may be necessary to continue our engagement.

**Your
Responsibilities**

Management and, if applicable, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand their responsibility for the following:

- For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- To provide us with:
 - Access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters
 - Additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence

**Written
Confirmations
Required**

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, if applicable, those charged with governance written confirmation acknowledging certain responsibilities outlined in this contract and confirming:

- The availability of this information
- Certain representations made during the audit for all periods presented
- The effects of any uncorrected misstatements, if any, resulting from errors or fraud aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole

**Supplementary
Information**

With regard to any supplementary information that we are engaged to report on:

- Management is responsible for its preparation in accordance with applicable criteria
- Management will provide certain written representations regarding the supplementary information at the conclusion of our engagement
- Management will include our report on this supplementary information in any document that contains this supplementary information and indicates we have reported on the supplementary information
- Management will make the supplementary information readily available to intended users if it is not presented with the audited financial statements

**Implementation of
New Standards**

Unless indicated in our contract, our services and related fees do not include substantive assistance beyond routine advice related to the adoption of new accounting and reporting standards.

**Assistance with
Application of
Standards**

Transactions or changes in business may require you to apply existing standards differently each year, such as when business operations create new revenue streams, operations are discontinued, liquidity or operational challenges are encountered, business combinations are executed, etc. We welcome your questions throughout the year and are happy to provide general guidance and routine support; however, our engagement does not include substantive effort to assist you with applying standards to these circumstances, unless otherwise indicated in the contract.

New Auditing and Accounting Standards

Leases

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 87, *Leases*, is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021.

Statement No. 87 establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources. We can assist you with the adoption by providing services which may include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing your readiness by assisting with the evaluation of your:
 - Current controls and policies
 - Current internal resources and system capabilities
- Assisting with changes required to adopt Statement No. 87, including:
 - Assisting with information gathering to develop an inventory of all lease agreements, service contracts, and other arrangements that may contain right-to-use lease assets
 - Recommending enhancements to existing controls and policies or suggesting new controls and policies to address Statement No. 87
 - Documenting any changes from your previous lease recognition and reporting methods
 - Drafting the required disclosures

The time it will take to perform the above assistance and our additional audit procedures relating to the adoption of the Statement, and any time to assist you with the adoption, may be minimized to the extent your personnel will be available to provide timely and accurate documentation and information as requested by us.

BKD, LLP Terms and Conditions Addendum

GENERAL

1. **Overview.** This addendum describes **BKD, LLP's** standard terms and conditions ("Terms and Conditions") applicable to Our provision of services to the Client ("You"). The Terms and Conditions are a part of the contract between You and **BKD, LLP**. For the purposes of the Terms and Conditions, any reference to "Firm," "We," "Us," or "Our" is a reference to **BKD, LLP** ("BKD"), and any reference to "You" or "Your" is a reference to the party or parties that have engaged Us to provide services.

BILLING, PAYMENT, & TERMINATION

2. **Billing and Payment Terms.** We will bill You for Our professional fees and costs as outlined in Our contract. Interest will be charged on any unpaid balance in accordance with the Nebraska Prompt Payment Act.

We reserve the right to suspend or terminate Our work for this engagement or any other engagement for nonpayment of fees. If Our work is suspended or terminated, You agree that We will not be responsible for Your failure to meet governmental and other deadlines, for any penalties or interest that may be assessed against You resulting from Your failure to meet such deadlines, and for any other damages (including but not limited to consequential, indirect, lost profits, or punitive damages) incurred as a result of the suspension or termination of Our services.

Our fees may increase if Our duties or responsibilities are increased by rulemaking of any regulatory body or any additional new accounting or auditing standards. Our engagement fees do not include any time for post-engagement consultation with Your personnel or third parties, consent letters and related procedures for the use of Our reports in offering documents, inquiries from regulators, or testimony or deposition regarding any subpoena. Charges for such services will be billed separately. Any additional charges will be agreed to in writing in advance of any changes to the contract amount.

3. **Billing Records.** If these services are determined to be within the scope and authority of Section 1861(v)(1)(I) of the Social Security Act, We agree to make available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or to the U.S. Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, such of Our books, documents, and records that are necessary to certify the nature and extent of Our services, until the expiration of four (4) years after the furnishing of these services. This contract allows access to contracts of a similar nature between subcontractors and related organizations of the subcontractor, and to their books, documents, and records.
4. **Termination.** Either party may terminate these services in good faith at any time for any reason, including Your failure to comply with the terms of Our contract or as We determine professional standards require. Both parties must agree, in writing, to any future modifications or extensions. If services are terminated, You agree to pay BKD for time expended to date. In addition, You will be billed costs and fees for services from other professionals, if any, as well as an administrative fee of five (5) percent to cover items such as copies, postage and other delivery charges, supplies, technology-related costs such as software licensing, user access, and research tools, and similar expense items. The total of all payments shall not exceed the total amount of this contract. In the event our services are terminated, we will reasonably cooperate with any successor auditor.

DISPUTES & DISCLAIMERS

5. **Mediation.** Any dispute arising out of or related to this engagement will, prior to resorting to litigation, be submitted for nonbinding mediation upon written request by either party. Both parties agree to try in good faith to settle the dispute in mediation. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") will administer any such mediation in accordance with its Commercial Mediation Rules. Such mediation shall take place in Lincoln, Nebraska. The mediator will be selected by agreement of the parties. If We cannot agree, a mediator shall be designated by the AAA. The mediation proceeding shall be confidential. Each party will bear its own costs in the mediation, but the fees and expenses of the mediator will be shared equally.
6. **Indemnification.** Unless disallowed by law or applicable professional standards, You agree to hold BKD harmless from any and all claims which arise from knowing misrepresentations to BKD, or the intentional withholding or concealment of information from BKD by Your management or any partner, principal, shareholder, officer, director, member, employee, agent, or assign of Yours. You also agree to indemnify BKD for any claims made against BKD by third parties, which arise from any wrongful actions of Your management or any partner, principal, shareholder, officer, director, member, employee, agent, or assign of Yours. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply regardless of the nature of the claim.
7. **Statute of Limitations.** You agree that any claim or legal action arising out of or related to this contract and the services provided hereunder shall be commenced no more than one (1) year from the date of delivery of the work product to You or the termination of the services described herein (whichever is earlier), regardless of any statute of limitations prescribing a longer period of time for commencing such a claim under law. This time limitation shall apply regardless of whether BKD performs other or subsequent services for You. A claim is understood to be a demand for money or services, demand for mediation, or the service of suit based on a breach of this contract or the acts or omissions of BKD in performing the services provided herein. This provision shall not apply if enforcement is disallowed by applicable law or professional standards.
8. **Limitation of Liability.** You agree that BKD's liability, if any, arising out of or related to this contract and the services provided hereunder, shall be limited to the amount of the fees paid by You for services rendered under this contract. This limitation shall not apply to the extent it is finally, judicially determined that the liability resulted from the intentional or willful misconduct of BKD or if enforcement of this provision is disallowed by applicable law or professional standards.
9. **Waiver of Certain Damages.** In no event shall BKD be liable to You or a third party for any indirect, special, consequential, punitive, or exemplary damages, including but not limited to lost profits, loss of revenue, interruption, loss of use, damage to goodwill or reputation, regardless of whether You were advised of the possibility of such damages, regardless of whether such damages were reasonably foreseeable, and regardless of whether such damages arise under a theory of contract, tort, strict liability, or otherwise.

10. **Severability.** If any portion of this contract is deemed invalid or unenforceable, said finding shall not operate to invalidate the remainder of the terms set forth in this contract.
11. **Assignment.** You acknowledge and agree that the terms and conditions of this contract shall be binding upon and inure to the parties' successors and assigns, subject to applicable laws and regulations.
12. **Disclaimer of Legal or Investment Advice.** Our services do not constitute legal or investment advice.

RECORDS, WORKPAPERS, DELIVERABLES, & PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

13. **Maintenance of Records.** You agree to assume full responsibility for maintaining Your original data and records and that BKD has no responsibility to maintain this information. You agree You will not rely on BKD to provide hosting, electronic security, or backup services, *e.g.*, business continuity or disaster recovery services, to You unless separately engaged to do so. You understand that Your access to data, records, and information from BKD's servers, *i.e.*, BKDconnect, can be terminated at any time and You will not rely on using this to host Your data and records.
14. **BKD Workpapers.** Our workpapers and documentation retained in any form of media for this engagement are the property of BKD. We can be compelled to provide information under legal process. In addition, We may be requested by regulatory or enforcement bodies (including any State Board) to make certain workpapers available to them pursuant to authority granted by law or regulation. Unless We are prohibited from doing so by law or regulation, BKD will inform You of any such legal process or request. You agree We have no legal responsibility to You in the event We determine We are obligated to provide such documents or information. In addition, You agree to compensate or reimburse BKD for all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, associated with BKD's compliance with requests or demands for its workpapers or other information related to this engagement, and for any testimony required by summons or subpoena.

Upon request, the workpapers for this engagement will be made available to the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) pursuant to the authority provided by law or regulation at no additional cost to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges. Access to such workpapers will be provided under the supervision of BKD personnel.

15. **Use of Deliverables and Drafts.** You agree You will not modify any deliverables or drafts prepared by Us for internal use or for distribution to third parties. You also understand that We may on occasion send You documents marked as draft and understand that those are for Your review purpose only, should not be distributed in any way, and should be destroyed as soon as possible.

Our report on any financial statements must be associated only with the financial statements that were the subject of Our engagement. You may make copies of Our report, but only if the entire financial statements (exactly as attached to Our report, including related footnotes and supplementary information, as appropriate) are reproduced and distributed with Our report. You agree not to reproduce or associate Our report with any other financial statements, or portions thereof, that are not the subject of Our engagement.

16. **Proprietary Information.** You acknowledge that proprietary information, documents, materials, management techniques, and other intellectual property are a material source of the services We perform and were developed prior to Our association with You. Any new forms, software, documents, or intellectual property We develop during this engagement for Your use shall belong to us, and You shall have the limited right to use them solely within Your business. All reports, templates, manuals, forms, checklists, questionnaires, letters, agreements, and other documents which We make available to You are confidential and proprietary to Us. Neither You, nor any of Your agents, will copy, electronically store, reproduce, or make available to anyone other than Your personnel, any such documents. This provision will apply to all materials whether in digital, "hard copy" format, or other medium. Records are subject to the Nebraska Public Records statutes (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§84-712 through 84-713).

REGULATORY

17. **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and other Regulatory Bodies.** Where We are providing services either for (a) an entity that is registered with the SEC, (b) an affiliate of such registrant, or (c) an entity or affiliate that is subject to rules, regulations, or standards beyond those of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"), any term of this contract that would be prohibited by or impair Our independence under applicable law or regulation shall not apply to the extent necessary only to avoid such prohibition or impairment.
18. **Offering Document.** You may wish to include Our report(s) on financial statements in an exempt offering document. You agree that any report, including any auditor's report, or reference to Our firm, will not be included in any such offering document without notifying us. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including providing agreement for the use of the auditor's report in the exempt offering document, will be a separate engagement.

Any exempt offering document issued by You with which We are not involved will clearly indicate that We are not involved by including a disclosure such as, "BKD, LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. BKD, LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document."

19. **BKD Not a Municipal Advisor.** BKD is not acting as Your municipal advisor under Section 15B of the *Securities Exchange Act of 1934*, as amended. As such, BKD is not recommending any action to You and does not owe You a fiduciary duty with respect to any information or communications regarding municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities. You should discuss such matters with internal or external advisors and experts You deem appropriate before acting on any such information or material provided by BKD.

TECHNOLOGY

20. **Electronic Sites.** You agree to notify Us if You desire to place Our report(s), including any reports on Your financial statements, along with other information, such as a report by management or those charged with governance on operations, financial summaries or

highlights, financial ratios, etc., on an electronic site. You recognize that We have no responsibility to review information contained in electronic sites. The NSCS shall annually post financial reports in entirety on their website.

21. **Electronic Signatures and Counterparts.** This contract and other documents to be delivered pursuant to this contract may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original copy and all of which, when taken together, will be deemed to constitute one and the same agreement or document, and will be effective when counterparts have been signed by each of the parties and delivered to the other parties. Each party agrees that the electronic signatures, whether digital or encrypted, of the parties included in this contract are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as manual signatures. Delivery of a copy of this contract or any other document contemplated hereby, bearing an original manual or electronic signature by facsimile transmission (including a facsimile delivered via the internet), by electronic mail in "portable document format" (".pdf") or similar format intended to preserve the original graphic and pictorial appearance of a document, or through the use of electronic signature software, will have the same effect as physical delivery of the paper document bearing an original signature.
22. **Electronic Data Communication and Storage.** In the interest of facilitating Our services to You, We may send data over the internet, temporarily store electronic data via computer software applications hosted remotely on the internet, or utilize cloud-based storage. Your confidential electronic data may be transmitted or stored using these methods. In using these data communication and storage methods, We employ measures designed to maintain data security. We use reasonable efforts to keep such communications and electronic data secure in accordance with Our obligations under applicable laws, regulations, and professional standards.

If the information is confidential information, that information shall be encrypted or password protected.

BKD agrees to provide a virtual workspace that is designated as BKDconnect, which may be found at bkdconnect.bkd.com.

You recognize and accept that We have no control over the unauthorized interception or breach of any communications or electronic data once it has been transmitted or if it has been subject to unauthorized access while stored, notwithstanding all reasonable security measures employed by us. You consent to Our use of these electronic devices and applications during this engagement.

OTHER MATTERS

23. **Third-Party Service Providers.** BKD may from time to time utilize third-party service providers, e.g., domestic software processors or legal counsel, or disclose confidential information about You to third-party service providers in serving Your account. BKD maintains, however, internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality and security of Your information. In addition, BKD will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of Your information. If We are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, You will be asked to consent prior to BKD sharing Your confidential information with the third-party service provider.
24. **Independent Contractor.** When providing services to You, We will be functioning as an independent contractor; and in no event will We

or any of Our employees be an officer of You, nor will Our relationship be that of joint venturers, partners, employer and employee, principal and agent, or any similar relationship giving rise to a fiduciary duty to You.

25. **Use of BKD Name.** Any time You intend to reference BKD's firm name in any manner in any published materials, including on an electronic site, You agree to provide Us with draft materials for review and approval before publishing or posting such information.
26. **Praxity.** BKD is an independent accounting firm allowed to use the name "Praxity" in relation to its practice. BKD is not connected, however, by ownership with any other firm using the name "Praxity." BKD will be solely responsible for all work carried out on Your behalf. In deciding to engage BKD, You acknowledge that We have not represented to You that any other firm using the name "Praxity" will in any way be responsible for Our work.
27. **BKD Status as LLP.** BKD is a registered limited liability partnership under Missouri law. Under applicable professional standards, partners of **BKD, LLP** have the same responsibilities as do partners in a general accounting and consulting partnership with respect to conformance by themselves and other professionals in BKD with their professional and ethical obligations. However, partners in a registered limited liability partnership do not have individual civil liability, directly or indirectly, for any debts, obligations, or liabilities of or chargeable to the registered limited liability partnership or each other, whether arising in tort, contract, or otherwise. In the event of a merger or change in control, we will notify you of such as soon as reasonably practicable.
28. **Entire Agreement.** The contract, including this *Terms and Conditions Addendum* and any other attachments or addenda, encompasses the entire agreement between You and BKD and supersedes all previous understandings and agreements between the parties, whether oral or written. Any modification to the terms of this contract must be made in writing and signed by both You and BKD. This agreement incorporates the Agreement between BKD, LLP and the Board of Trustees, herein attached and noted as "Exhibit A".
29. **Force Majeure.** We shall not be held responsible for any failure to fulfill Our obligations if such failure was caused by circumstances beyond Our control.
30. **E-Verify Program.** BKD is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of new employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system mean the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United State Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the eligibility status of a newly hired employee.
31. **Non-Discrimination.** The Contractor agrees to comply fully with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§48-1101 to 48-1125, as amended, and Board Policy 5000 in that there shall be no discrimination against any employee who is employed in the performance of this Contract, or against any applicant for such employment, because of age, color, national origin, race, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. This provision

shall include, but not be limited to employment, promotion, demotion, transfer, recruitment, layoff, termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training including apprenticeship. The Contractor further agrees to insert a similar provision in all subcontracts for services allowed under this Contract.

32. **ADA & Drug-Free Workplace Requirements.** All provisions of this Contract are subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Further, the Contractor certifies that the Contractor operates a drug-free workplace and, during the term of this Contract, will be in compliance with the provisions of the Drug- Free Workplace Act of 1988.

Exhibit A

**Agreement between BKD LLP
and the
Nebraska State Colleges Board of Trustees**

For purposes of the financial audit of the Nebraska State College System (NSCS), covering the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the BKD LLP (BKD) will be granted access to records contained in the NSCS Student Information System, as well as to other documentation that may contain personally identifiable student information.

The NSCS is authorized under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99) to disclose personally identifiable NSCS student information to BKD without prior written consent from the student.

BKD agrees that any and all personally identifiable student information obtained during the present financial audit of the NSCS, having been incorporated into the audit working papers, will be destroyed when no longer needed to support the audit work. Specifically, the personally identifiable student information will be destroyed or deleted in seven (7) calendar years after completion of all work on the present financial audit of the NSCS, except for data that must be retained in accordance with the applicable professional standards, firm policy or legal requirements.

Except as described in the previous paragraph, staff of BKD will destroy any personally identifiable student information obtained during the present financial audit of the NSCS by shredding or deleting such information. Information stored on routine back-up media for the purpose of disaster recovery will be subject to destruction in due course. Latent data such as deleted files and other non-logical data types, such as memory dumps, swap files, temporary files, printer spool files and metadata that can customarily only be retrieved by computer forensics experts and are generally considered inaccessible without the use of specialized tools and techniques will not be within the requirements set forth by this Agreement.

BKD agrees that personally identifiable student information will be maintained in a confidential manner and, except as provided by law or applicable professional standards, will not be disclosed to anyone outside of BKD. NSCS acknowledges that BKD uses third party service providers within and without the United States to provide at Contractor's direction administrative and clerical services to Contractor during the performance of this audit.

Chris Lindner, Partner

Date

Nebraska State Colleges Board of Trustees

Date

[Date of Contract]

Dr. Paul Turman
Secretary - Treasurer
Nebraska State Colleges Facilities Corporation
1327 H Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

We appreciate your selection of **BKD, LLP** as your service provider and are pleased to confirm the arrangements of our engagement in this contract. Within the requirements of our professional standards and any duties owed to the public, regulatory, or other authorities, our goal is to provide you **Unmatched Client Service[®]**.

This contract is between BKD, LLP (“We” or “Us” or “Our”) and the Board of Directors of the Nebraska State Colleges Facilities Corporation (“You” or “Management”). This contract will begin on April 22, 2022 and continue through September 30, 2022.

In addition to the terms set forth in this contract, including the detailed **Scope of Services**, our engagement is governed by the following, incorporated fully by this reference:

- Terms and Conditions Addendum
- New Auditing and Accounting Standards

Summary Scope of Services

As described in the attached **Scope of Services**, our services will include the following:

- Nebraska State Colleges Facilities Corporation
- Audit Services for the year ended June 30, 2022

Engagement Fees

The fee for our services will be \$11,075, which includes an administrative fee of five (5) percent to cover items such as copies, postage and other delivery charges, supplies, technology-related costs such as software licensing, user access, and research tools, and similar expense items.

Our pricing for this engagement and our fee structure are based upon the expectation that our invoices will be paid promptly. Payment of our invoices is due in accordance with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act. We will issue progress billings during the course of our engagement.

Additional Costs Related to Implementing New Standards

Assistance and additional time as a result of the adoption of new standards, such as those listed in the attached **New Auditing and Accounting Standards**, are not included within our standard engagement fees. These fees will be based on time expended and will vary based on the level of assistance and procedures required. We will consult with you in the event any other regulations or standards are issued that may impact our fees. Any additional charges will be agreed to in writing in advance of any changes to the contract amount.

Contract Agreement

Please sign and return this contract to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our services including our respective responsibilities.

BKD, LLP

[Must be approved for firm signature by a partner or managing director]

Acknowledged and agreed to as it relates to the entire contract, including the **Scope of Services and Terms and Conditions Addendum** on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges and Management.

BY _____
Chris Lindner, Partner

DATE _____

BY _____
Paul Turman, Secretary – Treasurer/Chancellor

DATE _____

Scope of Services

The following apply for all services:

Assistance Our timely completion of services depends on the assistance you provide us in accumulating information and responding to our inquiries. Inaccuracies or delays in providing this information or the responses may result in untimely filings or inability to meet other deadlines.

Responsibility for Outcomes We may perform additional services for you that are not covered by this contract. You agree to assume full responsibility for the substantive outcomes of the contracted services and for any other services we may provide, including any findings that may result.

You also acknowledge these services are adequate for your purposes, and you will establish and monitor the performance of these services to ensure they meet management's objectives. All decisions involving management responsibilities related to these services will be made by you, and you accept full responsibility for such decisions.

We understand you have designated (or will) a management-level individual to be responsible and accountable for overseeing the performance of these services, and you have determined (or will) this individual is qualified to conduct such oversight.

Additional Costs Related to COVID-19 Our fees do not consider additional efforts driven by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the related COVID-19 (COVID-19) environment. Complexities and uncertainties related to various provisions of new laws and the continued issuance of interpretative and procedural guidance from federal agencies may affect our services. Fees related to COVID-19 activities will be billed based on time expended. Any additional charges will be agreed to in writing and signed by the parties in advance of any changes to the contract amount. Additional efforts or services may include:

- Single Audits or compliance audits for the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* (CARES Act) or other COVID-19-related funding programs. If these funding programs will be subject to Single Audit requirements or other compliance audits, we will issue an addendum for those services
- Accounting and auditing issues such as going concern, impairment of investments, impairment of intangibles, collectability of receivables, compliance with debt agreements, modification of lease terms, etc.

Audit Services

We will audit the basic financial statements and related notes to the basic financial statements for the following entity(ies) with the objective of expressing an opinion on the financial statements:

Nebraska State Colleges Facilities Corporation as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022

We will also express an opinion on whether the Chadron State College Math Science Project (Series 2020 Bonds), Building Projects (Series 2014 Bonds) and Deferred Maintenance (Series 2016 Refunding Bonds) Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position by Account; Schedule of Interest and Principal Payments; and Schedule of Project Authorization, Accumulated Costs and Unexpended Authorization (“supplementary information”) is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

We will also provide you with the following nonattest services:

- Assistance with formatting, printing, and binding of the financial statement

Abby Dobson is responsible for supervising the engagement and authorizing the signing of the report or reports.

We will issue a written report(s) upon completion of our audit(s), addressed to the following parties:

Entity Name	Party Name
Nebraska State Colleges Facilities Corporation	Board of Directors

The following apply for the audit services described above:

Our Responsibilities We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Limitations & Fraud Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to your preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose

of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of your internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we identify during the audit. Also, in the future, procedures could become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in design or operation. Two or more people may also circumvent controls, or management may override the system.

We are available to perform additional procedures with regard to fraud detection and prevention at your request, subject to completion of our normal engagement acceptance procedures. The actual terms and fees of such an engagement would be documented in a separate contract to be signed by you and **BKD, LLP**.

Opinion

We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion, add an emphasis-of-matter or other matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement. If we discover conditions that may prohibit us from issuing a standard report, we will notify you as well. In such circumstances, further arrangements may be necessary to continue our engagement.

**Your
Responsibilities**

Management and, if applicable, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand their responsibility for the following:

- For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (or other basis if indicated in the contract)
- For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- To provide us with:
 - Access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters
 - Additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence

**Written
Confirmations
Required**

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, if applicable, those charged with governance written confirmation acknowledging certain responsibilities outlined in this contract and confirming:

- The availability of this information
- Certain representations made during the audit for all periods presented
- The effects of any uncorrected misstatements, if any, resulting from errors or fraud aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole

Supplementary Information

With regard to any supplementary information that we are engaged to report on:

- Management is responsible for its preparation in accordance with applicable criteria
- Management will provide certain written representations regarding the supplementary information at the conclusion of our engagement
- Management will include our report on this supplementary information in any document that contains this supplementary information and indicates we have reported on the supplementary information
- Management will make the supplementary information readily available to intended users if it is not presented with the audited financial statements

Implementation of New Standards

Unless indicated in our contract, our services and related fees do not include substantive assistance beyond routine advice related to the adoption of new accounting and reporting standards.

Assistance with Application of Standards

Transactions or changes in business may require you to apply existing standards differently each year, such as when business operations create new revenue streams, operations are discontinued, liquidity or operational challenges are encountered, business combinations are executed, etc. We welcome your questions throughout the year and are happy to provide general guidance and routine support; however, our engagement does not include substantive effort to assist you with applying standards to these circumstances, unless otherwise indicated in the contract.

New Auditing and Accounting Standards

Leases

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 87, *Leases*, is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2021.

Statement No. 87 establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources. We can assist you with the adoption by providing services which may include, but are not limited to:

- Assessing your readiness by assisting with the evaluation of your:
 - Current controls and policies
 - Current internal resources and system capabilities
- Assisting with changes required to adopt Statement No. 87, including:
 - Assisting with information gathering to develop an inventory of all lease agreements, service contracts, and other arrangements that may contain right-to-use lease assets
 - Recommending enhancements to existing controls and policies or suggesting new controls and policies to address Statement No. 87
 - Documenting any changes from your previous lease recognition and reporting methods
 - Drafting the required disclosures

The time it will take to perform the above assistance and our additional audit procedures relating to the adoption of the Statement, and any time to assist you with the adoption, may be minimized to the extent your personnel will be available to provide timely and accurate documentation and information as requested by us.

BKD, LLP Terms and Conditions Addendum

GENERAL

1. **Overview.** This addendum describes **BKD, LLP's** standard terms and conditions ("Terms and Conditions") applicable to Our provision of services to the Client ("You"). The Terms and Conditions are a part of the contract between You and **BKD, LLP**. For the purposes of the Terms and Conditions, any reference to "Firm," "We," "Us," or "Our" is a reference to **BKD, LLP** ("BKD"), and any reference to "You" or "Your" is a reference to the party or parties that have engaged Us to provide services.

BILLING, PAYMENT, & TERMINATION

2. **Billing and Payment Terms.** We will bill You for Our professional fees and costs as outlined in Our contract. Interest will be charged on any unpaid balance in accordance with the Nebraska Prompt Payment Act.

We reserve the right to suspend or terminate Our work for this engagement or any other engagement for nonpayment of fees. If Our work is suspended or terminated, You agree that We will not be responsible for Your failure to meet governmental and other deadlines, for any penalties or interest that may be assessed against You resulting from Your failure to meet such deadlines, and for any other damages (including but not limited to consequential, indirect, lost profits, or punitive damages) incurred as a result of the suspension or termination of Our services.

Our fees may increase if Our duties or responsibilities are increased by rulemaking of any regulatory body or any additional new accounting or auditing standards. Our engagement fees do not include any time for post-engagement consultation with Your personnel or third parties, consent letters and related procedures for the use of Our reports in offering documents, inquiries from regulators, or testimony or deposition regarding any subpoena. Charges for such services will be billed separately. Any additional charges will be agreed to in writing in advance of any changes to the contract amount.

3. **Billing Records.** If these services are determined to be within the scope and authority of Section 1861(v)(1)(I) of the Social Security Act, We agree to make available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or to the U.S. Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, such of Our books, documents, and records that are necessary to certify the nature and extent of Our services, until the expiration of four (4) years after the furnishing of these services. This contract allows access to contracts of a similar nature between subcontractors and related organizations of the subcontractor, and to their books, documents, and records.
4. **Termination.** Either party may terminate these services in good faith at any time for any reason, including Your failure to comply with the terms of Our contract or as We determine professional standards require. Both parties must agree, in writing, to any future modifications or extensions. If services are terminated, You agree to pay BKD for time expended to date. In addition, You will be billed costs and fees for services from other professionals, if any, as well as an administrative fee of five (5) percent to cover items such as copies, postage and other delivery charges, supplies, technology-related costs such as software licensing, user access, and research tools, and similar expense items. The total of all payments shall not exceed the total amount of this contract. In the event our services are terminated, we will reasonably cooperate with any successor auditor.

DISPUTES & DISCLAIMERS

5. **Mediation.** Any dispute arising out of or related to this engagement will, prior to resorting to litigation, be submitted for nonbinding mediation upon written request by either party. Both parties agree to try in good faith to settle the dispute in mediation. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") will administer any such mediation in accordance with its Commercial Mediation Rules. Such mediation shall take place in Lincoln, Nebraska. The mediator will be selected by agreement of the parties. If We cannot agree, a mediator shall be designated by the AAA. The mediation proceeding shall be confidential. Each party will bear its own costs in the mediation, but the fees and expenses of the mediator will be shared equally.
6. **Indemnification.** Unless disallowed by law or applicable professional standards, You agree to hold BKD harmless from any and all claims which arise from knowing misrepresentations to BKD, or the intentional withholding or concealment of information from BKD by Your management or any partner, principal, shareholder, officer, director, member, employee, agent, or assign of Yours. You also agree to indemnify BKD for any claims made against BKD by third parties, which arise from any wrongful actions of Your management or any partner, principal, shareholder, officer, director, member, employee, agent, or assign of Yours. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply regardless of the nature of the claim.
7. **Statute of Limitations.** You agree that any claim or legal action arising out of or related to this contract and the services provided hereunder shall be commenced no more than one (1) year from the date of delivery of the work product to You or the termination of the services described herein (whichever is earlier), regardless of any statute of limitations prescribing a longer period of time for commencing such a claim under law. This time limitation shall apply regardless of whether BKD performs other or subsequent services for You. A claim is understood to be a demand for money or services, demand for mediation, or the service of suit based on a breach of this contract or the acts or omissions of BKD in performing the services provided herein. This provision shall not apply if enforcement is disallowed by applicable law or professional standards.
8. **Limitation of Liability.** You agree that BKD's liability, if any, arising out of or related to this contract and the services provided hereunder, shall be limited to the amount of the fees paid by You for services rendered under this contract. This limitation shall not apply to the extent it is finally, judicially determined that the liability resulted from the intentional or willful misconduct of BKD or if enforcement of this provision is disallowed by applicable law or professional standards.
9. **Waiver of Certain Damages.** In no event shall BKD be liable to You or a third party for any indirect, special, consequential, punitive, or exemplary damages, including but not limited to lost profits, loss of revenue, interruption, loss of use, damage to goodwill or reputation, regardless of whether You were advised of the possibility of such damages, regardless of whether such damages were reasonably foreseeable, and regardless of whether such damages arise under a theory of contract, tort, strict liability, or otherwise.

10. **Severability.** If any portion of this contract is deemed invalid or unenforceable, said finding shall not operate to invalidate the remainder of the terms set forth in this contract.
11. **Assignment.** You acknowledge and agree that the terms and conditions of this contract shall be binding upon and inure to the parties' successors and assigns, subject to applicable laws and regulations.
12. **Disclaimer of Legal or Investment Advice.** Our services do not constitute legal or investment advice.

RECORDS, WORKPAPERS, DELIVERABLES, & PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

13. **Maintenance of Records.** You agree to assume full responsibility for maintaining Your original data and records and that BKD has no responsibility to maintain this information. You agree You will not rely on BKD to provide hosting, electronic security, or backup services, *e.g.*, business continuity or disaster recovery services, to You unless separately engaged to do so. You understand that Your access to data, records, and information from BKD's servers, *i.e.*, BKDconnect, can be terminated at any time and You will not rely on using this to host Your data and records.
14. **BKD Workpapers.** Our workpapers and documentation retained in any form of media for this engagement are the property of BKD. We can be compelled to provide information under legal process. In addition, We may be requested by regulatory or enforcement bodies (including any State Board) to make certain workpapers available to them pursuant to authority granted by law or regulation. Unless We are prohibited from doing so by law or regulation, BKD will inform You of any such legal process or request. You agree We have no legal responsibility to You in the event We determine We are obligated to provide such documents or information. In addition, You agree to compensate or reimburse BKD for all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, associated with BKD's compliance with requests or demands for its workpapers or other information related to this engagement, and for any testimony required by summons or subpoena.

Upon request, the workpapers for this engagement will be made available to the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) pursuant to the authority provided by law or regulation at no additional cost to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges. Access to such workpapers will be provided under the supervision of BKD personnel.

15. **Use of Deliverables and Drafts.** You agree You will not modify any deliverables or drafts prepared by Us for internal use or for distribution to third parties. You also understand that We may on occasion send You documents marked as draft and understand that those are for Your review purpose only, should not be distributed in any way, and should be destroyed as soon as possible.

Our report on any financial statements must be associated only with the financial statements that were the subject of Our engagement. You may make copies of Our report, but only if the entire financial statements (exactly as attached to Our report, including related footnotes and supplementary information, as appropriate) are reproduced and distributed with Our report. You agree not to reproduce or associate Our report with any other financial statements, or portions thereof, that are not the subject of Our engagement.

16. **Proprietary Information.** You acknowledge that proprietary information, documents, materials, management techniques, and other intellectual property are a material source of the services We perform and were developed prior to Our association with You. Any new forms, software, documents, or intellectual property We develop during this engagement for Your use shall belong to us, and You shall have the limited right to use them solely within Your business. All reports, templates, manuals, forms, checklists, questionnaires, letters, agreements, and other documents which We make available to You are confidential and proprietary to Us. Neither You, nor any of Your agents, will copy, electronically store, reproduce, or make available to anyone other than Your personnel, any such documents. This provision will apply to all materials whether in digital, "hard copy" format, or other medium. Records are subject to the Nebraska Public Records statutes (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§84-712 through 84-713).

REGULATORY

17. **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and other Regulatory Bodies.** Where We are providing services either for (a) an entity that is registered with the SEC, (b) an affiliate of such registrant, or (c) an entity or affiliate that is subject to rules, regulations, or standards beyond those of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"), any term of this contract that would be prohibited by or impair Our independence under applicable law or regulation shall not apply to the extent necessary only to avoid such prohibition or impairment.
18. **Offering Document.** You may wish to include Our report(s) on financial statements in an exempt offering document. You agree that any report, including any auditor's report, or reference to Our firm, will not be included in any such offering document without notifying us. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including providing agreement for the use of the auditor's report in the exempt offering document, will be a separate engagement.

Any exempt offering document issued by You with which We are not involved will clearly indicate that We are not involved by including a disclosure such as, "BKD, LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the financial statements addressed in that report. BKD, LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document."

19. **BKD Not a Municipal Advisor.** BKD is not acting as Your municipal advisor under Section 15B of the *Securities Exchange Act of 1934*, as amended. As such, BKD is not recommending any action to You and does not owe You a fiduciary duty with respect to any information or communications regarding municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities. You should discuss such matters with internal or external advisors and experts You deem appropriate before acting on any such information or material provided by BKD.

TECHNOLOGY

20. **Electronic Sites.** You agree to notify Us if You desire to place Our report(s), including any reports on Your financial statements, along with other information, such as a report by management or those charged with governance on operations, financial summaries or

highlights, financial ratios, etc., on an electronic site. You recognize that We have no responsibility to review information contained in electronic sites. The NSCS shall annually post financial reports in entirety on their website.

21. **Electronic Signatures and Counterparts.** This contract and other documents to be delivered pursuant to this contract may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original copy and all of which, when taken together, will be deemed to constitute one and the same agreement or document, and will be effective when counterparts have been signed by each of the parties and delivered to the other parties. Each party agrees that the electronic signatures, whether digital or encrypted, of the parties included in this contract are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as manual signatures. Delivery of a copy of this contract or any other document contemplated hereby, bearing an original manual or electronic signature by facsimile transmission (including a facsimile delivered via the internet), by electronic mail in "portable document format" (".pdf") or similar format intended to preserve the original graphic and pictorial appearance of a document, or through the use of electronic signature software, will have the same effect as physical delivery of the paper document bearing an original signature.
22. **Electronic Data Communication and Storage.** In the interest of facilitating Our services to You, We may send data over the internet, temporarily store electronic data via computer software applications hosted remotely on the internet, or utilize cloud-based storage. Your confidential electronic data may be transmitted or stored using these methods. In using these data communication and storage methods, We employ measures designed to maintain data security. We use reasonable efforts to keep such communications and electronic data secure in accordance with Our obligations under applicable laws, regulations, and professional standards. If the information is confidential information, that information shall be encrypted or password protected.

BKD agrees to provide a virtual workspace that is designated as BKDconnect, which may be found at bkdconnect.bkd.com.

You recognize and accept that We have no control over the unauthorized interception or breach of any communications or electronic data once it has been transmitted or if it has been subject to unauthorized access while stored, notwithstanding all reasonable security measures employed by us. You consent to Our use of these electronic devices and applications during this engagement.

OTHER MATTERS

23. **Third-Party Service Providers.** BKD may from time to time utilize third-party service providers, e.g., domestic software processors or legal counsel, or disclose confidential information about You to third-party service providers in serving Your account. BKD maintains, however, internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality and security of Your information. In addition, BKD will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of Your information. If We are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, You will be asked to consent prior to BKD sharing Your confidential information with the third-party service provider.
24. **Independent Contractor.** When providing services to You, We will be functioning as an independent contractor; and in no event will We or any of Our employees be an officer of You, nor will Our

relationship be that of joint venturers, partners, employer and employee, principal and agent, or any similar relationship giving rise to a fiduciary duty to You.

25. **Use of BKD Name.** Any time You intend to reference BKD's firm name in any manner in any published materials, including on an electronic site, You agree to provide Us with draft materials for review and approval before publishing or posting such information.
26. **Praxity.** BKD is an independent accounting firm allowed to use the name "Praxity" in relation to its practice. BKD is not connected, however, by ownership with any other firm using the name "Praxity." BKD will be solely responsible for all work carried out on Your behalf. In deciding to engage BKD, You acknowledge that We have not represented to You that any other firm using the name "Praxity" will in any way be responsible for Our work.
27. **BKD Status as LLP.** BKD is a registered limited liability partnership under Missouri law. Under applicable professional standards, partners of **BKD, LLP** have the same responsibilities as do partners in a general accounting and consulting partnership with respect to conformance by themselves and other professionals in BKD with their professional and ethical obligations. However, partners in a registered limited liability partnership do not have individual civil liability, directly or indirectly, for any debts, obligations, or liabilities of or chargeable to the registered limited liability partnership or each other, whether arising in tort, contract, or otherwise. In the event of a merger or change in control, we will notify you of such as soon as reasonably practicable.
28. **Entire Agreement.** The contract, including this *Terms and Conditions Addendum* and any other attachments or addenda, encompasses the entire agreement between You and BKD and supersedes all previous understandings and agreements between the parties, whether oral or written. Any modification to the terms of this contract must be made in writing and signed by both You and BKD. This agreement incorporates the Agreement between BKD, LLP and the Board of Trustees, herein attached and noted as "Exhibit A".
29. **Force Majeure.** We shall not be held responsible for any failure to fulfill Our obligations if such failure was caused by circumstances beyond Our control.
30. **E-Verify Program.** BKD is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of new employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the eligibility status of a newly hired employee.
31. **Non-Discrimination.** The Contractor agrees to comply fully with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§48-1101 to 48-1125, as amended, and Board Policy 5000 in that there shall be no discrimination against any employee who is employed in the performance of this Contract, or against any applicant for such employment, because of age, color, national origin, race, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. This provision shall include, but not be limited to employment, promotion, demotion,

transfer, recruitment, layoff, termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training including apprenticeship. The Contractor further agrees to insert a similar provision in all subcontracts for services allowed under this Contract.

32. **ADA & Drug-Free Workplace Requirements.** All provisions of this Contract are subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Further, the Contractor certifies that the Contractor operates a drug-free workplace and, during the term of this Contract, will be in compliance with the provisions of the Drug- Free Workplace Act of 1988.

[Date of Contract]

Dr. Paul Turman
Chancellor
Nebraska State Colleges
1327 H Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

We appreciate your selection of **BKD, LLP** as your service provider and are pleased to confirm the arrangements of our engagement in this contract. Within the requirements of our professional standards and any duties owed to the public, regulatory, or other authorities, our goal is to provide you **Unmatched Client Service**[®].

This contract is between BKD, LLP (“We” or “Us” or “Our”) and the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges (“You” or “Management”). This contract will begin on April 22, 2022 and continue through March 31, 2023 except the federal audit clearinghouse data collection form must be certified within 30 days of the report date.

In addition to the terms set forth in this contract, including the detailed **Scope of Services**, our engagement is governed by the following, incorporated fully by this reference:

- Terms and Conditions Addendum
- Exhibit A

Summary Scope of Services

As described in the attached **Scope of Services**, our services will include the following:

- Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (“Schedule”) of the Nebraska State Colleges
- Audit Services for the year ended June 30, 2022

Engagement Fees

The fees for our services will be as follows:

Student Financial Assistance Cluster	\$22,940
TRIO Cluster	\$ 8,600
Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund	\$ 8,925

The fees above include travel costs and fees for services from other professionals, if any, as well as an administrative fee of five (5) percent to cover items such as copies, postage and other delivery charges, supplies, technology-related costs such as software licensing, user access, and research tools, and similar expense items.

Our pricing for this engagement and our fee structure are based upon the expectation that our invoices will be paid promptly. Payment of our invoices is due in accordance with the Nebraska Prompt Payment Act. We will issue progress billings during the course of our engagement.

Contract Agreement

Please sign and return this contract to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our services including our respective responsibilities.

BKD, LLP

[Must be approved for firm signature by a partner or managing director]

Acknowledged and agreed to as it relates to the entire contract, including the **Scope of Services and Terms and Conditions Addendum**, and **Exhibit A** on behalf of Nebraska State Colleges.

BY _____
Chris Lindner, Partner

DATE _____

BY _____
Paul Turman, Chancellor

DATE _____

Scope of Services

The following apply for all services:

Assistance Our timely completion of services depends on the assistance you provide us in accumulating information and responding to our inquiries. Inaccuracies or delays in providing this information or the responses may result in untimely filings or inability to meet other deadlines.

Responsibility for Outcomes We may perform additional services for you that are not covered by this contract. You agree to assume full responsibility for the substantive outcomes of the contracted services and for any other services we may provide, including any findings that may result.

You also acknowledge these services are adequate for your purposes, and you will establish and monitor the performance of these services to ensure they meet management’s objectives. All decisions involving management responsibilities related to these services will be made by you, and you accept full responsibility for such decisions.

We understand you have designated (or will) a management-level individual to be responsible and accountable for overseeing the performance of these services, and you have determined (or will) this individual is qualified to conduct such oversight.

Additional Costs Related to COVID-19 Our fees do not consider additional efforts driven by the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the related COVID-19 (COVID-19) environment. Complexities and uncertainties related to various provisions of new laws and the continued issuance of interpretative and procedural guidance from federal agencies may affect our services. Fees related to COVID-19 activities will be billed based on time expended. Any additional charges will be agreed to in writing and signed by the parties in advance of any changes to the contract amount. Additional efforts or services may include:

- Accounting and auditing issues such as additional major programs subject to Single Audit, etc.

Audit Services

We will audit the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (“Schedule”) and related notes to the Schedule for the following entity with the objective of expressing an opinion on the Schedule; expressing an opinion on your compliance, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements described in the *U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement* that are applicable to each of your major federal award programs; issuing a report on your internal control over compliance based on the audit of your compliance with the types of compliance requirements that are applicable to each of your major federal award programs; and issuing a report on your schedule of expenditures of federal awards:

Nebraska State Colleges as of and for the year ended June 30, 2022

We will also provide you with the following nonattest services:

- Assisting with formatting, printing, and binding of the Schedule

Abby Dobson is responsible for supervising the engagement and authorizing the signing of the report or reports.

We will issue a written report(s) upon completion of our audit(s), addressed to the following parties:

Entity Name	Party Name
Nebraska State College’s Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	Board of Trustees

You are responsible to distribute our reports to other officials who have legal oversight authority or those responsible for acting on audit findings and recommendations, and to others authorized to receive such reports.

The following apply for the audit services described above:

Our Responsibilities	We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and Title 2 U.S. <i>Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards</i> (Uniform Guidance). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit of the Schedule to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the Schedule is free of material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error, and the audit of compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the <i>OMB Compliance Supplement</i> applicable to each major federal award program to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether noncompliance having a direct and material effect on a major federal award program occurred.
-----------------------------	--

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Schedule. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Schedule, whether due to fraud or error. An audit also

includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Schedule.

**Limitations &
Fraud**

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements or noncompliance having a direct and material effect may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to your preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of your internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the Schedule that we identify during the audit. Also, in the future, procedures could become inadequate because of changes in conditions or deterioration in design or operation. Two or more people may also circumvent controls, or management may override the system.

We are available to perform additional procedures with regard to fraud detection and prevention at your request, subject to completion of our normal engagement acceptance procedures. The actual terms and fees of such an engagement would be documented in a separate contract to be signed by you and **BKD, LLP**.

Opinion

We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion, add an emphasis-of-matter or other matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement. If we discover conditions that may prohibit us from issuing a standard report, we will notify you as well. In such circumstances, further arrangements may be necessary to continue our engagement.

**Your
Responsibilities**

Management and, if applicable, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand their responsibility for the following:

- For the preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (or other basis if indicated in the contract)
- For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of Schedule that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- For identifying and ensuring compliance with the laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to your activities (including your federal award programs)

- To provide us with:
 - Access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the Schedule such as records, documentation, and other matters
 - Additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit
 - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence

The results of our tests of compliance and internal control over financial reporting performed in connection with our audit of the Schedule may not fully meet the reasonable needs of report users. Management is responsible for obtaining audits, examinations, agreed-upon procedures, or other engagements that satisfy relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements or fully meet other reasonable user needs.

Written Confirmations Required

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, if applicable, those charged with governance written confirmation acknowledging certain responsibilities outlined in this contract and confirming:

- The availability of this information
- Certain representations made during the audits for all periods presented
- The effects of any uncorrected misstatements, if any, resulting from errors or fraud aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the Schedule taken as a whole

Peer Review Report

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, and any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comment received during the period of the contract. Our most recent peer review report accompanies this contract.

Implementation of New Standards

Unless indicated in our contract, our services and related fees do not include substantive assistance beyond routine advice related to the adoption of new accounting and reporting standards.

Assistance with Application of Standards

Transactions or changes in business may require you to apply existing standards differently each year, such as when business operations create new revenue streams, operations are discontinued, liquidity or operational challenges are encountered, business combinations are executed, etc. We welcome your questions throughout the year and are happy to provide general guidance and routine support; however, our engagement does not include substantive effort to assist you with applying standards to these circumstances, unless otherwise indicated in the contract.

BKD, LLP Terms and Conditions Addendum

GENERAL

1. **Overview.** This addendum describes **BKD, LLP's** standard terms and conditions ("Terms and Conditions") applicable to Our provision of services to the Client ("You"). The Terms and Conditions are a part of the contract between You and **BKD, LLP**. For the purposes of the Terms and Conditions, any reference to "Firm," "We," "Us," or "Our" is a reference to **BKD, LLP** ("BKD"), and any reference to "You" or "Your" is a reference to the party or parties that have engaged Us to provide services.

BILLING, PAYMENT, & TERMINATION

2. **Billing and Payment Terms.** We will bill You for Our professional fees and costs as outlined in Our contract. Interest will be charged on any unpaid balance in accordance with the Nebraska Prompt Payment Act.

We reserve the right to suspend or terminate Our work for this engagement or any other engagement for nonpayment of fees. If Our work is suspended or terminated, You agree that We will not be responsible for Your failure to meet governmental and other deadlines, for any penalties or interest that may be assessed against You resulting from Your failure to meet such deadlines, and for any other damages (including but not limited to consequential, indirect, lost profits, or punitive damages) incurred as a result of the suspension or termination of Our services.

Our fees may increase if Our duties or responsibilities are increased by rulemaking of any regulatory body or any additional new accounting or auditing standards. Our engagement fees do not include any time for post-engagement consultation with Your personnel or third parties, consent letters and related procedures for the use of Our reports in offering documents, inquiries from regulators, or testimony or deposition regarding any subpoena. Charges for such services will be billed separately. Any additional charges will be agreed to in writing in advance of any changes to the contract amount.

3. **Billing Records.** If these services are determined to be within the scope and authority of Section 1861(v)(1)(I) of the Social Security Act, We agree to make available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or to the U.S. Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, such of Our books, documents, and records that are necessary to certify the nature and extent of Our services, until the expiration of four (4) years after the furnishing of these services. This contract allows access to contracts of a similar nature between subcontractors and related organizations of the subcontractor, and to their books, documents, and records.
4. **Termination.** Either party may terminate these services in good faith at any time for any reason, including Your failure to comply with the terms of Our contract or as We determine professional standards require. Both parties must agree, in writing, to any future modifications or extensions. If services are terminated, You agree to pay BKD for time expended to date. In addition, You will be billed costs and fees for services from other professionals, if any, as well as an administrative fee of five (5) percent to cover items such as copies, postage and other delivery charges, supplies, technology-related costs such as software licensing, user access, and research tools, and similar expense items. The total of all payments shall not exceed the total

amount of this contract. In the event our services are terminated, we will reasonably cooperate with any successor auditor.

DISPUTES & DISCLAIMERS

5. **Mediation.** Any dispute arising out of or related to this engagement will, prior to resorting to litigation, be submitted for nonbinding mediation upon written request by either party. Both parties agree to try in good faith to settle the dispute in mediation. Unless the parties agree otherwise, the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") will administer any such mediation in accordance with its Commercial Mediation Rules. Such mediation shall take place in Lincoln, Nebraska. The mediator will be selected by agreement of the parties. If We cannot agree, a mediator shall be designated by the AAA. The mediation proceeding shall be confidential. Each party will bear its own costs in the mediation, but the fees and expenses of the mediator will be shared equally.
6. **Indemnification.** Unless disallowed by law or applicable professional standards, You agree to hold BKD harmless from any and all claims which arise from knowing misrepresentations to BKD, or the intentional withholding or concealment of information from BKD by Your management or any partner, principal, shareholder, officer, director, member, employee, agent, or assign of Yours. You also agree to indemnify BKD for any claims made against BKD by third parties, which arise from any wrongful actions of Your management or any partner, principal, shareholder, officer, director, member, employee, agent, or assign of Yours. The provisions of this paragraph shall apply regardless of the nature of the claim.
7. **Statute of Limitations.** You agree that any claim or legal action arising out of or related to this contract and the services provided hereunder shall be commenced no more than one (1) year from the date of delivery of the work product to You or the termination of the services described herein (whichever is earlier), regardless of any statute of limitations prescribing a longer period of time for commencing such a claim under law. This time limitation shall apply regardless of whether BKD performs other or subsequent services for You. A claim is understood to be a demand for money or services, demand for mediation, or the service of suit based on a breach of this contract or the acts or omissions of BKD in performing the services provided herein. This provision shall not apply if enforcement is disallowed by applicable law or professional standards.
8. **Limitation of Liability.** You agree that BKD's liability, if any, arising out of or related to this contract and the services provided hereunder, shall be limited to the amount of the fees paid by You for services rendered under this contract. This limitation shall not apply to the extent it is finally, judicially determined that the liability resulted from the intentional or willful misconduct of BKD or if enforcement of this provision is disallowed by applicable law or professional standards.
9. **Waiver of Certain Damages.** In no event shall BKD be liable to You or a third party for any indirect, special, consequential, punitive, or exemplary damages, including but not limited to lost profits, loss of revenue, interruption, loss of use, damage to goodwill or reputation, regardless of whether You were advised of the possibility of such damages, regardless of whether such damages were reasonably foreseeable, and regardless of whether such damages arise under a theory of contract, tort, strict liability, or otherwise.

10. **Severability.** If any portion of this contract is deemed invalid or unenforceable, said finding shall not operate to invalidate the remainder of the terms set forth in this contract.
11. **Assignment.** You acknowledge and agree that the terms and conditions of this contract shall be binding upon and inure to the parties' successors and assigns, subject to applicable laws and regulations.
12. **Disclaimer of Legal or Investment Advice.** Our services do not constitute legal or investment advice.

RECORDS, WORKPAPERS, DELIVERABLES, & PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

13. **Maintenance of Records.** You agree to assume full responsibility for maintaining Your original data and records and that BKD has no responsibility to maintain this information. You agree You will not rely on BKD to provide hosting, electronic security, or backup services, e.g., business continuity or disaster recovery services, to You unless separately engaged to do so. You understand that Your access to data, records, and information from BKD's servers, i.e., BKDconnect, can be terminated at any time and You will not rely on using this to host Your data and records.
14. **BKD Workpapers.** Our workpapers and documentation retained in any form of media for this engagement are the property of BKD. We can be compelled to provide information under legal process. In addition, We may be requested by regulatory or enforcement bodies (including any State Board) to make certain workpapers available to them pursuant to authority granted by law or regulation. Unless We are prohibited from doing so by law or regulation, BKD will inform You of any such legal process or request. You agree We have no legal responsibility to You in the event We determine We are obligated to provide such documents or information. In addition, You agree to compensate or reimburse BKD for all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, associated with BKD's compliance with requests or demands for its workpapers or other information related to this engagement, and for any testimony required by summons or subpoena.

Upon request, the workpapers for this engagement will be made available to the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) pursuant to the authority provided by law or regulation at no additional cost to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges. Access to such workpapers will be provided under the supervision of BKD personnel.

15. **Use of Deliverables and Drafts.** You agree You will not modify any deliverables or drafts prepared by Us for internal use or for distribution to third parties. You also understand that We may on occasion send You documents marked as draft and understand that those are for Your review purpose only, should not be distributed in any way, and should be destroyed as soon as possible.

Our report on any Schedule must be associated only with the Schedule that was the subject of Our engagement. You may make copies of Our report, but only if the entire Schedule (exactly as attached to Our report, including related footnotes and supplementary information, as appropriate) are reproduced and distributed with Our report. You agree not to reproduce or associate Our report with any other Schedule or portions thereof, that are not the subject of Our engagement.

16. **Proprietary Information.** You acknowledge that proprietary information, documents, materials, management techniques, and other intellectual property are a material source of the services We perform and were developed prior to Our association with You. Any new forms, software, documents, or intellectual property We develop during this engagement for Your use shall belong to Us, and You shall have the limited right to use them solely within Your business. All reports, templates, manuals, forms, checklists, questionnaires, letters, agreements, and other documents which We make available to You are confidential and proprietary to Us. Neither You, nor any of Your agents, will copy, electronically store, reproduce, or make any such documents available to anyone other than Your personnel. This provision will apply to all materials whether in digital, "hard copy" format, or other medium. Records are subject to the Nebraska Public Records statutes (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§84-712 through 84-713).

REGULATORY

17. **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and other Regulatory Bodies.** Where We are providing services either for (a) an entity that is registered with the SEC, (b) an affiliate of such registrant, or (c) an entity or affiliate that is subject to rules, regulations, or standards beyond those of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("AICPA"), any term of this contract that would be prohibited by or impair Our independence under applicable law or regulation shall not apply to the extent necessary only to avoid such prohibition or impairment.
18. **Offering Document.** You may wish to include Our report(s) on the Schedule in an exempt offering document. You agree that any report, including any auditor's report, or reference to Our firm, will not be included in any such offering document without notifying us. Any agreement to perform work in connection with an exempt offering document, including providing agreement for the use of the auditor's report in the exempt offering document, will be a separate engagement.

Any exempt offering document issued by You with which We are not involved will clearly indicate that We are not involved by including a disclosure such as, "BKD, LLP, our independent auditor, has not been engaged to perform and has not performed, since the date of its report included herein, any procedures on the Schedule addressed in that report. BKD, LLP also has not performed any procedures relating to this offering document."

19. **BKD Not a Municipal Advisor.** BKD is not acting as Your municipal advisor under Section 15B of the *Securities Exchange Act of 1934*, as amended. As such, BKD is not recommending any action to You and does not owe You a fiduciary duty with respect to any information or communications regarding municipal financial products or the issuance of municipal securities. You should discuss such matters with internal or external advisors and experts You deem appropriate before acting on any such information or material provided by BKD.

TECHNOLOGY

20. **Electronic Sites.** You agree to notify Us if You desire to place Our report(s), including any reports on Your Schedule, along with other information, such as a report by management or those charged with governance on operations, financial summaries or highlights, financial ratios, etc., on an electronic site. You recognize that We

have no responsibility to review information contained in electronic sites. The NSCS shall annually post financial reports in entirety on their website.

21. **Electronic Signatures and Counterparts.** This contract and other documents to be delivered pursuant to this contract may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed to be an original copy and all of which, when taken together, will be deemed to constitute one and the same agreement or document, and will be effective when counterparts have been signed by each of the parties and delivered to the other parties. Each party agrees that the electronic signatures, whether digital or encrypted, of the parties included in this contract are intended to authenticate this writing and to have the same force and effect as manual signatures. Delivery of a copy of this contract or any other document contemplated hereby, bearing an original manual or electronic signature by facsimile transmission (including a facsimile delivered via the internet), by electronic mail in "portable document format" (".pdf") or similar format intended to preserve the original graphic and pictorial appearance of a document, or through the use of electronic signature software, will have the same effect as physical delivery of the paper document bearing an original signature.
22. **Electronic Data Communication and Storage.** In the interest of facilitating Our services to You, We may send data over the internet, temporarily store electronic data via computer software applications hosted remotely on the internet, or utilize cloud-based storage. Your confidential electronic data may be transmitted or stored using these methods. In using these data communication and storage methods, We employ measures designed to maintain data security. We use reasonable efforts to keep such communications and electronic data secure in accordance with Our obligations under applicable laws, regulations, and professional standards. If the information is confidential information, that information shall be encrypted or password protected.

BKD agrees to provide a virtual workspace that is designated as BKDconnect, which may be found at bkdconnect.bkd.com.

You recognize and accept that We have no control over the unauthorized interception or breach of any communications or electronic data once it has been transmitted or if it has been subject to unauthorized access while stored, notwithstanding all reasonable security measures employed by us. You consent to Our use of these electronic devices and applications during this engagement.

OTHER MATTERS

23. **Third-Party Service Providers.** BKD may from time to time utilize third-party service providers, e.g., domestic software processors or legal counsel, or disclose confidential information about You to third-party service providers in serving Your account. BKD maintains, however, internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality and security of Your information. In addition, BKD will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of Your information. If We are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, You will be asked to consent prior to BKD sharing Your confidential information with the third-party service provider.
24. **Independent Contractor.** When providing services to You, We will be functioning as an independent contractor; and in no event will We or any of Our employees be an officer of You, nor will Our

relationship be that of joint venturers, partners, employer and employee, principal and agent, or any similar relationship giving rise to a fiduciary duty to You.

25. **Use of BKD Name.** Any time You intend to reference BKD's firm name in any manner in any published materials, including on an electronic site, You agree to provide Us with draft materials for review and approval before publishing or posting such information.
26. **Praxity.** BKD is an independent accounting firm allowed to use the name "Praxity" in relation to its practice. BKD is not connected, however, by ownership with any other firm using the name "Praxity." BKD will be solely responsible for all work carried out on Your behalf. In deciding to engage BKD, You acknowledge that We have not represented to You that any other firm using the name "Praxity" will in any way be responsible for Our work.
27. **BKD Status as LLP.** BKD is a registered limited liability partnership under Missouri law. Under applicable professional standards, partners of **BKD, LLP** have the same responsibilities as do partners in a general accounting and consulting partnership with respect to conformance by themselves and other professionals in BKD with their professional and ethical obligations. However, partners in a registered limited liability partnership do not have individual civil liability, directly or indirectly, for any debts, obligations, or liabilities of or chargeable to the registered limited liability partnership or each other, whether arising in tort, contract, or otherwise. In the event of a merger or change in control, we will notify you of such as soon as reasonably practicable.
28. **Entire Agreement.** The contract, including this *Terms and Conditions Addendum* and any other attachments or addenda, encompasses the entire agreement between You and BKD and supersedes all previous understandings and agreements between the parties, whether oral or written. Any modification to the terms of this contract must be made in writing and signed by both You and BKD. This agreement incorporates the Agreement between BKD, LLP and the Board of Trustees, herein attached and noted as "Exhibit A".
29. **Force Majeure.** We shall not be held responsible for any failure to fulfill Our obligations if such failure was caused by circumstances beyond Our control.
30. **E-Verify Program.** BKD is required and hereby agrees to use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of new employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the eligibility status of a newly hired employee.
31. **Non-Discrimination.** The Contractor agrees to comply fully with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§48-1101 to 48-1125, as amended, and Board Policy 5000 in that there shall be no discrimination against any employee who is employed in the performance of this Contract, or against any applicant for such employment, because of age, color, national origin, race, religion, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity. This provision shall include, but not be limited to employment, promotion, demotion,

transfer, recruitment, layoff, termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training including apprenticeship. The Contractor further agrees to insert a similar provision in all subcontracts for services allowed under this Contract.

32. **ADA & Drug-Free Workplace Requirements.** All provisions of this Contract are subject to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Further, the Contractor certifies that the Contractor operates a drug-free workplace and, during the term of this Contract, will be in compliance with the provisions of the Drug- Free Workplace Act of 1988.

Exhibit A

**Agreement between BKD LLP
and the
Nebraska State Colleges Board of Trustees**

For purposes of the financial audit of the Nebraska State College System (NSCS), covering the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the BKD LLP (BKD) will be granted access to records contained in the NSCS Student Information System, as well as to other documentation that may contain personally identifiable student information.

The NSCS is authorized under the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99) to disclose personally identifiable NSCS student information to BKD without prior written consent from the student.

BKD agrees that any and all personally identifiable student information obtained during the present financial audit of the NSCS, having been incorporated into the audit working papers, will be destroyed when no longer needed to support the audit work. Specifically, the personally identifiable student information will be destroyed or deleted in seven (7) calendar years after completion of all work on the present financial audit of the NSCS, except for data that must be retained in accordance with the applicable professional standards, firm policy or legal requirements.

Except as described in the previous paragraph, staff of BKD will destroy any personally identifiable student information obtained during the present financial audit of the NSCS by shredding or deleting such information. Information stored on routine back-up media for the purpose of disaster recovery will be subject to destruction in due course. Latent data such as deleted files and other non-logical data types, such as memory dumps, swap files, temporary files, printer spool files and metadata that can customarily only be retrieved by computer forensics experts and are generally considered inaccessible without the use of specialized tools and techniques will not be within the requirements set forth by this Agreement.

BKD agrees that personally identifiable student information will be maintained in a confidential manner and, except as provided by law or applicable professional standards, will not be disclosed to anyone outside of BKD. NSCS acknowledges that BKD uses third party service providers within and without the United States to provide at Contractor's direction administrative and clerical services to Contractor during the performance of this audit.

Chris Lindner, Partner

Date

Nebraska State Colleges Board of Trustees

Date



8550 United Plaza Blvd., Ste. 1001 – Baton Rouge, LA 70809
225-922-4600 Phone – 225-922-4611 Fax – pncpa.com

Postlethwaite & Netterville and Associates, L.L.C.

Report on the Firm's System of Quality Control

To the Partners of BKD, LLP
and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of BKD, LLP (the firm) applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended May 31, 2020. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Standards).

A summary of the nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review as described in the Standards may be found at www.aicpa.org/prsummary. The summary also includes an explanation of how engagements identified as not performed or reported in conformity with applicable professional standards, if any, are evaluated by a peer reviewer to determine a peer review rating.

Firm's Responsibility

The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. The firm is also responsible for evaluating actions to promptly remediate engagements deemed as not performed or reported in conformity with professional standards, when appropriate, and for remediating weaknesses in its system of quality control, if any.

Peer Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review.

Required Selections and Considerations

Engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*, including compliance audits under the Single Audit Act; audits of employee benefit plans, audits performed under FDICIA, an audit of a broker-dealer, and examinations of service organizations [SOC 1 and SOC 2 engagements].

As part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities as communicated to the firm, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures.

Opinion

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of BKD, LLP applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended May 31, 2020, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. BKD, LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana
November 2, 2020



1248 "O" Street, Suite 1040 | Lincoln, NE 68508-1461
402.473.7600 | Fax 402.473.7698 | bkd.com

April 6, 2022

Dr. Paul Turman
Chancellor
Nebraska State Colleges
1327 H Street, Suite 200
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Chancellor Turman:

This letter serves to document our desire to continue to provide professional services to Nebraska State Colleges. We are excited to have the opportunity to continue to serve you as your independent auditors and believe our governmental experience, coupled with our current understanding of your organization, makes BKD uniquely qualified to continue to meet your needs.

The fees for our services for fiscal year 2022 are detailed in the separate engagement letter for each engagement. The fees for our services in fiscal years after 2022 will vary based on the lesser of 5% or the U.S. Consumer Price Index (CPI). CPI will be determined using the 12-month inflationary increase of January 31 as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Our fees are based primarily on the complexity of the work and the amount of time required. Our estimate is based on our understanding of your present internal control policies and procedures and our expectation of continued assistance from your personnel. Our fees may increase if our duties or responsibilities change because of new rules, regulations, accounting, or auditing standards.

Your personnel know the level of unmatched service and personal attention you have received throughout our relationship. We do not take our past relationship for granted and will continue to enhance our service delivery. We look forward to working with Nebraska State Colleges and welcome this opportunity to continue providing professional services as your independent auditors in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Abby Dobson, CPA
adobson@bkd.com

Amy Shreck, CPA
ashreck@bkd.com