

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE NEBRASKA STATE COLLEGES

### CHANCELLOR INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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#### *INFORMATION ONLY:*      **NASH Power of Systems Initiatives**

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In February 2019, the Nebraska State College System joined the National Association of System Heads (NASH), which represents public higher education systems that educate more than 75% of college and university students. NASH is working to help systems make a collective impact on improving student success and closing achievement gaps for low-income students, first-generation students and students of color. During its annual convening in December, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) representatives provided data outlining the collective impact of the 409 colleges and universities represented by NASH members. These data were used to set three specific goals that include:

**Degree & Credential Completion** - NASH member systems will collectively increase degree and credential completion by 35% from 2019-20 baseline levels by 2030. They also propose that equity gaps should be reduced by 50% from 2019-20 baseline levels, resulting in an additional 80,000 degrees and credentials for underrepresented students.

**Social Mobility** - By 2040, NASH member systems will advance 85% of students from families in the bottom 40% of the income distribution to the top 60% of the income distribution and 65% of students in the bottom 40% to the top 40%. To chart interim progress toward the 2040 goal, by 2030, the median income of students in the bottom percentile eight years after enrollment will exceed the national median.

**Student Debt** - By 2030, NASH member systems will collectively decrease the median debt borrowed by Pell students (completers and non-completers), by 25% from 2020-21 baseline levels. In addition, we propose that the equity gap in three-year repayment rates between Pell recipients and non-Pell recipients should be reduced by 50% from 2019-20 baseline levels (19 points). Collectively, achieving this goal in conjunction with the other NASH targets would result in an estimated \$7 billion reduction in borrowing by low-income students by 2030.

During the convening in December, the Nebraska State College System signed on to support these three goals. These outcomes and metrics align closely with the 2025 Strategic Plan for the NSCS, individual College Strategic Plans and the new Attainment Goal established for the state to ensure that 70% of 25-34 year olds in Nebraska have a meaningful credential by 2030. To assist institutions in developing action plans to impact these three goals, a series of NASH Improvement Communities (NIC) has been formed to help Systems embrace evidence-based practices within and across Systems to collectively

improve outcomes for millions of students in line with their goals, metrics and targets. Three NICs are currently engaged around three topics: 1) Increasing the Number of Transfer Students Who Complete Degrees; 2) Increasing Curricular Flexibility with Flexible Pathways, Credentials and Shared Degrees; and 3) Closing Equity Gaps Through Student Success Interventions.

These three topics were consistently identified as the top issues across a series of surveys for Senior Academic Officers, the broader NASH community and System Improvement Workshop attendees. Because of the ongoing work with the NASH Equity Collaborative, the NSCS requested “Closing Equity Gaps Through Student Success Interventions” as our top priority and was selected by NASH to work with three other Systems (Minnesota State Colleges & Universities, Southern Louisiana University System and the University of Nebraska System). Jodi Kupper, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, has been selected as the System Lead for this work and has been meeting since September 2022 with the System Leads from the participating Systems to develop a NASH AIM Statement for Equity to guide this work.

During the Board of Trustees meeting, Chancellor Turman and Vice Chancellor Kupper will provide an overview of NASH priorities and the upcoming work of the NSCS NIC team, which includes representatives from across the three Colleges.