



Nebraska State
College System

CHADRON | PERU | WAYNE

NEBRASKA Talent Scholarship INITIATIVE

Community Input:

Since the biennium submission, the NSCS held over 30 meetings with business and industry leaders across Nebraska, as well as the Department of Corrections, Department of Labor, Department of Economic Development, the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, and Blueprint Nebraska.

All of these meetings further convinced the NSCS of the critical need for the NebraskaFWD initiative. The Chancellor and Presidents were not anticipating the wide breadth of programs from which bachelor-degreed graduates are lacking, nor the extent to which current employers are struggling to fill positions across their organizations. In addition, the NSCS learned of a strong willingness of business and industry leaders to align more closely with the Colleges to connect NSCS students with their organizations during their college careers.

The short-term goal of this initiative is to attract more students into the higher education pipeline in identified areas of workforce need. The long-term goal is to graduate more students in these high-need areas who then move into employment in rural Nebraska; and ultimately provide a qualified workforce for business and industry.

For more
information, contact
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NSCS Biennium Submission: NebraskaFWD

The Nebraska State College System (NSCS) submitted a Strategic Initiative for the 2019-2021 Biennium Budget entitled NebraskaFWD (Future Workforce Development), that proposed a "5 x 4" plan and requests \$5 million per year, built into the NSCS base budget, for each of the next 4 years. Of the \$5 million each year, the NSCS would first cover its core needs. Core needs include increased costs in areas such as salaries and benefits, utility costs, and other operating costs. These core needs are those items that the NSCS must cover just to continue to do business at its current level. After covering the core needs, the NSCS would use the balance of the funds each year for targeted tuition remissions (scholarships) to students who major in areas necessary to satisfy rural workforce needs and to maintain or decrease tuition rates.

After meeting with the Governor to discuss the initiative, holding community meetings (details on back of brochure) to identify key areas, Governor Ricketts proposed the Nebraska Talent Scholarships Initiative.

Governor's Proposal:

Nebraska Talent Scholarships

The Governor is proposing a new program that provides \$4,000 scholarships for students in targeted programs of study at the state's institutions of higher education.

- ◆ State Colleges: Nebraska Talent Scholarships creates 250 scholarships a year at the Chadron, Peru, and Wayne State Colleges available to students in the following programs: rangeland management, industrial technology, criminal justice, and computer information systems.

The Nebraska State College System supports the Governor's Nebraska Talent Scholarships Initiative as part of his budget priority recommendation.

Nebraska Talent Scholarships will be available at:



Benefits

The Nebraska Talent Scholarship Initiative, as proposed by the Governor, is a win-win-win-win-win proposal. The program benefits the Nebraska, Business and Industry, Students, and the State Colleges

Benefits to Nebraska

- ◆ Increases number of graduates in high-need workforce areas
- ◆ Assists in providing a qualified workforce to meet the needs of existing and future businesses
- ◆ Strengthens the economy
- ◆ Creates a flexible Program able to evolve with the changing workforce needs of the State
- ◆ Develops strategic work-based opportunities that connect State College students with local business/industry during their academic programs
- ◆ Strengthens rural Nebraska, which in turn strengthens the entire State
- ◆ Creates a flexible Program able to evolve with the changing workforce needs of Rural Nebraska

Benefits to Business and Industry

- ◆ Increases the pipeline, and ultimately the number of graduates in high-need occupations who will enter the workforce in Nebraska

- ◆ Connects the State Colleges more closely with business and industry in the regions they serve and statewide, providing new opportunities for collaboration and work-based opportunities for students
- ◆ Connects students with business and industry during their college careers, resulting in an increased likelihood that these students will choose to enter the workforce in these businesses or elsewhere in Nebraska

Benefits to the Students

- ◆ Expands student access to higher education
- ◆ Removes financial barriers to attending a State College
- ◆ Increases affordability and decreases student debt
- ◆ Connects students with business and industry during their college career, furthering their preparation to enter the workforce after graduation and increasing the likelihood they will consider employment in area businesses and organizations.

- ◆ Provides focused and attainable goals for students as they enter college, providing a heightened sense of achievable success

Benefits to the State Colleges

- ◆ Strengthens opportunities for increased enrollment, retention and graduation rates
- ◆ Connects the State Colleges more closely with business and industry in the regions they serve and statewide
- ◆ Builds a community of students in the NebraskaFWD Program
- ◆ Increases the relevance of the State Colleges in rural Nebraska
- ◆ Improves the Colleges' financial ability to internally address strategic initiatives and identified opportunities as a result of increased enrollments
- ◆ Improves financial viability of revenue bond programs through increased occupancies in residence halls and utilization of food service programs