

Nebraska Highlights 2018-2019

Nebraska is Key to Shaping the Compact's Direction

- 28-Year Partnership:** As one of the first states to pass authorizing legislation, Nebraska is a founding member state of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which was created in 1991.
- Midwest Census Region:** A product of Midwestern legislators, MHEC was created through actions of the Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments (CSG) with its member states closely mirroring the Midwest footprint of CSG Midwest.
- Nebraska Leadership:** Commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory program committees provide significant direction for MHEC programs and services.

Benefits to Nebraska from Participation in MHEC Programs and Contracts

- Savings:** Through the use of MHEC's contracts and programs, Nebraska higher education institutions (including public and private not-for-profit), school districts, state and local governments, and students have achieved cost savings of over \$91.53M since 1991, when Nebraska joined the Compact. In FY19, Nebraska achieved savings of over \$3.32M.
- ROI:** Nebraska received a 29-fold return on its MHEC investment for FY19 when comparing total savings to the state's annual commitment of \$115,000.
- Competitive Sourcing:** The Compact conducts competitive sourcing events and negotiates contract terms and conditions, thereby allowing flexibility for state and local entities to tailor MHEC contracts to their needs without having to incur the cost of rebidding for the products or services covered in MHEC contracts.
- Technology Contracts:** In FY19, Nebraska entities realized over \$775,000 in cost savings by purchasing over \$7.79M in technology hardware, software, and services. Cumulatively, they have saved over \$7.16M.
- Property Insurance:** MHEC's Master Property Program insures over 165 campuses nationwide with property values exceeding \$81.82B dollars. Total property values for participating Nebraska institutions are over \$9.69B, collectively saving over \$12.74M since joining the program and over \$1.29M in FY19.
- Student Insurance Solutions:** MHECare, the student health collaborative, provides member institutions with sustainable student health insurance solutions and helps institutions support the student learning experience by providing 50,452 students protection from unexpected medical expenses in the 2018-2019 academic year. The University of Nebraska System now covers 5,920 students.
- Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP):** Nebraska students and families have saved over \$67.51M in tuition through the MSEP since joining the program. In FY19, there were 151 students from other MHEC states who came to Nebraska through this program, and Nebraska residents saved over \$588,000 by using the program.
- State Authorization:** Nebraska became the third state to become a member of the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA). MHEC has estimated FY19 M-SARA savings to be over \$664,000, cumulatively over \$1.99M.

Commissioners



Randolph M. Ferlic
Former Regent
University of Nebraska



Deborah A. Frison
Vice Chair
Coordinating Commission
for Postsecondary
Education



Susan M. Fritz
Executive Vice President
and Provost
University of Nebraska
System



Rick Kolowski
Senator
Nebraska Legislature



Julie Slama
Senator
Nebraska Legislature



Michael Baumgartner
Executive Director
Coordinating Commission
for Postsecondary
Education
(alternate)

Opportunity to Discuss the Issues in Nebraska and Convene with Peers

- 1. Military Credit:** The Multi-State Collaborative on Military Credit (MCMC) is a forum to exchange information and best practices to support Nebraska's efforts in translating competencies acquired through military training and experiences into meaningful college credit toward a college degree or earning a certificate or license.
- 2. Concurrent Enrollment:** Also referred to as dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment provides high school students the opportunity to take college credit-bearing courses. Research on addressing the shortage of qualified concurrent enrollment instructors continues at MHEC with staff making presentations at national conferences and producing reports and thought papers on the subject.
- 3. Open Resources:** Open Educational Resources (OER) are textbooks and supplemental learning materials accessible via the Internet at little or no cost to students or institutions. MHEC has provided support to 12 state OER action teams to broaden awareness and engagement and this work continues. In 2020, MHEC will be working with the other three higher education compacts to develop a multi-compact, multi-year OER implementation strategy.
- 4. Convening:** MHEC convenes a diverse set of people with varying viewpoints from across state lines, that don't otherwise regularly meet, including institutional leaders and policymakers to discuss critical issues confronting Nebraska, the region, and the nation.
- 5. State Visits:** MHEC visits the state during the legislative session to learn more about and address key issues affecting each state's economy and higher education.
- 6. Meeting Locations:** The locations of MHEC Commission Meetings rotate among the member states, showcasing each state's education initiatives to an audience comprised of Midwestern legislators and education leaders. MHEC's 2019 Annual Commission Meeting was focused on *Issues Facing the Midwest: Future Workforce Needs, Changing Demographics, and the Value Proposition of Higher Education*. www.mhec.org/convening-resources

Research and Policy Keep Nebraska Informed

- 1. Timely and Relevant Research:** MHEC provides regional and national expertise, policy, and best practices to inform state and institutional efforts in improving postsecondary opportunities and outcomes. Nebraska and other member states receive high-priority access to expertise in the areas of college readiness; affordability and finance; educational quality; and performance, value, and accountability.
- 2. Affordability:** Get the facts on college affordability with a comprehensive set of briefs that show which policies and programs can reduce the financial burden of postsecondary enrollment and degree completion. The most recent report, *State Grant Aid*, provides an overview of grant programs in the Midwest and shows how some policy features affect student outcomes.
- 3. Quality:** Learn how institutions can improve educational quality and degree completion rates with MHEC's series of research briefs on *Campus-based Practices for Promoting Student Success*.
- 4. Dual Enrollment:** Compare state policies on faculty credentials for dual enrollment programs with the report *Increasing the Supply of Qualified High School Teachers for Dual Enrollment Programs*. The report also summarizes state strategies implemented to address the shortage of properly credentialed dual enrollment instructors.
- 5. Benchmarking State Performance:** The biennial report, *Higher Education in Focus*, features key performance indicators for evaluating Nebraska's educational system relative to regional and national benchmarks for college preparation, participation, affordability, completion, equity, and finance. www.mhec.org/19NEHigherEdinFocus
- 6. Graduation Rate Effectiveness:** MHEC's research brief *The Effectiveness and Efficiency of Postsecondary Institutions*, provides a list of all highly effective institutions for each MHEC state based on higher than expected graduation rates.
- 7. Access to Policy Research:** Access all MHEC's research briefs and reports can be found at www.mhec.org/research.