

## EDUCATION COUNCIL

August 28, 2024, Wednesday, August 28th at 9:00AM CT  
Host Location: University of Nebraska Varner Hall Board Room  
3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE  
**MINUTES**

### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Co-Chair, Mr. Andrew Buker, University of Nebraska  
Co-Chair, Mr. Gary Needham, ESU 09  
Mr. Derek Bierman, Doane University  
Mr. Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Public Schools  
Mr. Gregg Robke, ESU 4 (Alt. for Dr. Ted DeTurk, ESU 2)  
Mr. Stephen Hamersky, Omaha Gross Catholic High School  
Mr. Brandon Eckman, Northeast Community College (Alt for Paul Feilmeier)  
Ms. Cassandra Joseph, South Sioux City Public Schools  
Ms. Elizabeth Kumru, Nebraska Association of School Boards  
Mr. Leonard Kwapnioski, (Alt. for Trent Kelly, Hastings Public Schools)  
Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska  
Mr. Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan University  
Mr. Tom Peters, Central Community College  
Ms. Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System

### **LIAISONS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Ms. Ling Ling Sun, Nebraska Public Media  
Dr. Paul Turman, Nebraska State College System

### **MEMBERS/LIAISONS ABSENT:**

Mr. Nick Muir, Wayne State College  
Ms. Kathleen Fimple, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education  
Ms. Christina Struebing, Nebraska Department of Education  
Mr. Dean Tickle, Loup City Schools

### **CALL TO ORDER, ELECTRONIC POSTING, LOCATION OF OPEN MEETING LAW DOCUMENTS, ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTIONS**

Co-chair Andrew Buker called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. There was a quorum present to conduct official business. The meeting notice was posted to the [Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar](#) August 23, 2024. The meeting agenda was posted to the [NITC Web site](#) on August 23, 2024. Members introduced themselves.

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 28, 2024 MEETING\***

Mr. Robke moved to approve the August 28, 2024 agenda has presented. Mr. Hamersky seconded. Roll call vote: Buker-Yes, Bierman-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Robke-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Kumru-Yes, Joseph-Yes, Kwapnioski-

**Yes, Lindburg-Yes, Needham-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Peters-Yes, and Polenski-Yes.**  
**Results: Yes-14, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.**

### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 17, 2024 MEETING\***

Mr. Chrisman moved to approve the April 17, 2024 minutes as presented. Ms. Kumru seconded. Roll call vote: Polenski-Yes, Peters-Yes, Ourada-Yes, Needham-Yes, Lindburg-Yes, Kwapnioski-Yes, Joseph-Yes, Kumru-Yes, Eckmann-Yes, Hamersky-Yes, Robke-Yes, Chrisman-Yes, Bierman-Yes, and Buker-Yes. Results: Yes-14, No-0, Abstained-0. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

### **CURRENT NEBRASKA BROADBAND INITIATIVES**

Diane Lowe, Grants & Budget Director, Nebraska Broadband Office, presented information to the Council regarding the BEAD and Digital Equity grants. The State of Nebraska received. The State of Nebraska received \$405 million for grant projects. Information regarding the funding vision, goals and application process. The tentative timelines for the project were as follows:

<b>NBEAD TIMELINE - TENTATIVE</b>	
September 2024	RFA & Round 1 DPA list released
October 2024	OA's due
December 2024	Approved Applicants list published
January 2025	Round 1 PA's due
February 2025	Round 2 DPA list release
March 2025	Round 2 PA's due and Round 3 DPA list release
April 2025	Round 3 PA's due
May 2025	Award list to NTIA for approval
August 2025	Announce awards

Ms. Lowe entertained questions from the Council.

### **NITC UPDATE**

Ms. Kingery reported that the NITC met in July. New members were approved. For the Education Council report, Ms. Kingery provided an update on the RFPs and action items for the Statewide Technology Plans. Commissioners are inquisitive and want to learn about the Councils. At the November meeting, the Commission will review and approve the Statewide Technology Plan.

### **NETWORK NEBRASKA UPDATE**

The mega RFP has been awarded. Ms. Kingery believes this will be one of the most successful buildouts the project has experience. As of today, only one site is behind schedule but feels the project is on schedule as a whole. The state has a good relationship with the vendors.

## **NITC EDUCATION COUNCIL REVIEW**

As August is the first meeting of the new term, it is a good time to review the Council's charter and purpose. Nebraska is unique in that it is one of very few states that bring K12 and higher education, public and private, as well as NDE, CPPE, CIO and NPM, come to the table to collaborate IT efforts and distance learning,

## **STATEWIDE TECHNOLOGY PLAN REVIEW**

Members were asked to review the SWTP one last time and provide any feedback and input. Ms. Kingery will update the data with current Network Nebraska data. The plan will be approved by the NITC at their November meeting.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

LB1: Adopt the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act, the School District Property Tax Relief Act, and the Advertising Services Tax Act and change revenue and taxation provisions, introduced by: Linehan. Potential Impact: Amended existing law to adjust existing taxation provisions and redefine terms for property, sales, school districts, use, income and several other types of taxes.

Notes: Emergency Declared

Status: Incorporated into LB 34

LB2: Provide, change, and eliminate appropriations for operations of state government, introduced by: Clements. Potential Impact: Operational budgets for several divisions within State Agencies were provided for, amended, or eliminated. Specifically, the budget that housed costs associated with the NITC were adjusted from General Funds to Revolving Funds.

Notes: Emergency Declared

Status: Approved by Governor 8/21/24

Status: Incorporated into LB34 Committee:

LB34: Adopt the Property Tax Growth Limitation Act and the School District Property Tax Relief Act and change provisions relating to revenue and taxation, introduced by Brewer. Potential Impact: Amended existing law to adjust existing taxation provisions and redefine terms for property, sales, school districts, use, income and several other types of taxes.

LB402: Propose an interim study to examine and monitor broadband expansion in Nebraska, introduced by Senator Wendy DeBoer and Senator Bosn

## **SUBSECTOR REPORTS (if time permits)**

University of Nebraska, Andrew Buker. The University is upgrading the WAN network, which serves Network Nebraska, to 400 GB capability. Dr. Lindburg commented that enrollment of the hybrid online courses is increasing. Micro credentials partnerships are increasing to provide course offerings for students.

Nebraska State Colleges, Cheri Polenski. State college institutions are working on Security and business continuity plans. October is Cybersecurity month. The state colleges will be doing tabletop exercises.

Nebraska Community Colleges, Tom Peters. Mr. Peters did not have an update to report. Mr. Eckmann reported that fraudulent applications for admissions are on the increase. Currently, these are being handled through business processes but at some point, he would like to brainstorm with K12 sector.

Nebraska Independent Colleges and Universities, Derek Bierman. The institutions are also working on security, financial information, and fraud. An application for this is in place but it has not been implemented. Mr. Ourada informed the Council that Wesleyan is researching social engineering and addressing security. It is difficult to budget when vendors continue to increase their prices.

Public K-12 and ESUs. Mr. Chrisman indicated that there has been an increase with phishing. Mr. Robke stated that they will be having Cybersecurity Preparedness Workshops in October at no charge and invited members to attend. Mr. Needham stated that Canvas has a new computer science course available. He hopes that this will help solidify commitment to canvas. This is a new requirement (computer course) for high school students. Mr. Needham gave kudos to the OCIO and Network Nebraska team in writing and completing the mega RFP.

Private/Denominational K-12, Stephen Hamersky. Mr. Hamersky stated that his sector has also been addressing cybersecurity issues.

Nebraska Public Media, Ling Sun. Nebraska Public Media has implemented an AI based closed captioning application in Spanish and English which was used during the special session. The new General Manager, Stacey Decker, will be taking his new position on October 14<sup>th</sup>. He is replacing Mark Leonard.

Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Dr. Mike Baumgartner. The new rules for Reciprocity have not been released. There are lots of concerns regarding affordable distance education. The CCPE is implementing new financial aid programs. There are still dollars available for teachers looking for dual credit. The computer science would qualify.

## **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Nebraska Cybersecurity Conference is on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center. It is hosted by the Office of the CIO and Southeast Community College. Registration is still open.

## **CONSIDER LOCATION(S) AND AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 16, 2024 MEETING**

Northeast Community College offered to host the next meeting.

The following agenda items were suggested for the next meeting:

- Invite CIO for a presentation or other speakers.
- Review and recommendation of any IT Budgets submitted.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Kumru moved to adjourn. Mr. Bierman seconded. All were in favor.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

The meeting minutes were taken by Lori Lopez Urdiales and reviewed by Becca Kingery of the Office of the CIO.