



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.  
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Richard Katt

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Grant the Commissioner to provide a grant to the ESUCCs for the operation of the Nebraska Career Connections for the 2014-2015 school year.

RATIONALE: The ESUCC holds the contract with Kuder, Inc. for the operation of the Nebraska Career Connections career information website. This website is customized for Nebraska and contains information about Nebraska's career education programs, labor market information and Nebraska postsecondary institutions.

This grant of \$235,000 will provide the financial resources needed to keep Nebraska Career Connections operational for this school year. The funds are from Federal Perkins Statewide Leadership Funds as allocation in the Federal Perkins Act under Section 118 of the act.

Background information - The ESUCC has held the contract for Nebraska Career Connections starting last year. Nebraska Career Connections provides career information to Nebraska schools, colleges, Department of Labor, VR and other statewide clients. The system is free to use to these clients and is available 24/7 at school, home and in state offices.

The site provides career interest assessments, work values assessments and an adult skills confidence assessment. The site also allows individuals to explore careers, career education and postsecondary institutions.

Since September 1 of this year there have been 44,680 logins to the use the site.

Estimated Cost - \$215,000