



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

DATE: October 21, 2021

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

FROM: Dr. Katie Graham
Administrator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

Lane Carr
Administrator, Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Authorize the Commissioner to contract with the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce from November 2021 to October 2024 to hire an education and workforce alignment coordinator.

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Nothing is more important in Nebraska than our people. The Good Life has always boasted a strong sense of community, low unemployment, and a commitment to preparing all for learning, earning, and living. However, challenges, especially people-related challenges, have necessitated even greater alignment of efforts to prepare, attract, retain, and continuously develop Nebraska's workforce. Additionally, while Nebraska's economy and workforce were resilient through COVID-19, the effects continue to unfold. With an infusion of federal funds, the state has a once in a lifetime opportunity to reset expectations, align goals, and implement strategies propelling our state forward.

As such, the Nebraska Department of Education in partnership with the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce are proposing an education and workforce alignment coordinator for the next three years. This person will work to align statewide goals, plans, and strategies for strengthening and coordinating the PK-16W pathway. The coordinator will work collaboratively with stakeholders in PK-12, postsecondary, and business communities, and respond directly to administrator for the office of career, technical, and adult education and Chamber president.

This individual will conduct a landscape analysis, convene stakeholders to cohere and align plans, and plan for the future including recommendations for policy and advocacy and development of systems.

PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR): November 2021

ESTIMATED COST: Not to exceed \$400,000 total over three years

FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:

- Indicate the Funding Source: ESSER III
- New or Renewal: New
- If renewal, date of first approval: N/A