

# NEBRASKA HIGHLIGHTS

## 2023-2024

### OVERVIEW

Nebraska enacted authorizing legislation in 1991 to join the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC). Over the past 34 years, commissioners, commissioner alternates, and members of advisory committees from Nebraska have provided and continue to provide important governance and strategic direction for MHEC.

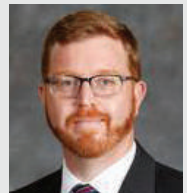
### HOW MHEC BENEFITS NEBRASKA

- ▶ **\$5.85M in total annual savings.** Nebraska colleges, universities, school districts, state and local governments, and students and their families realized more than \$5.85M in cost savings through MHEC's contracts and programs.
  - » **Technology Contracts.** Nebraska entities saved \$762,092 through MHEC contracts with Dell, Oracle, CampusGuard, Lenovo, and others.
  - » **Distance Education.** By participating in the Midwestern-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (M-SARA), Nebraska saved approximately \$1.16M and avoided a costly state-by-state, institution-by-institution approach.
  - » **Tuition Reciprocity.** Nebraska students and their families who participated in the Midwest Student Exchange Program saved more than \$3.9M.
  - » **Student Health Insurance.** 5,000 students at five Nebraska institutions participated in MHEC's contract for student health insurance.
- ▶ **Strong return on investment.** Nebraska received a 51-fold return on annual compact membership commitment of \$115,000.
- ▶ **Open Education Resources.** MHEC supported Nebraska with grant funds to expand access to the open education resources (OER) Commons Hub and established ten groups on the hub for various Nebraska institutions.
- ▶ **Professional Development and Support.** MHEC provided four scholarships for Nebraska leaders to attend MHEC's FAFSA Summit, with seven other Nebraska representatives also in attendance. Eight technology leaders engaged in MHEC's free professional development and networking.

### COMMISSIONERS



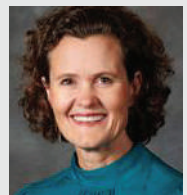
**Matthew Blomstedt**  
University of  
Nebraska System,  
Associate Vice  
President for  
Government Relations



**John Cavanaugh**  
Nebraska Legislature,  
State Senator



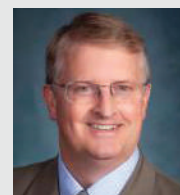
**Deborah A. Frison**  
Coordinating  
Commission for  
Postsecondary  
Education,  
Commission Member



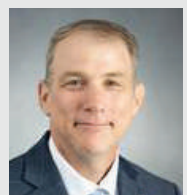
**Jana Hughes**  
Nebraska Legislature,  
Senator



**Grant Latimer**  
State of Nebraska,  
Policy Advisor to the  
Governor



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



**Paul Turman**  
Chancellor,  
Nebraska State  
College System  
(alternate)



The Midwestern Higher Education Compact seeks to improve individual career readiness and regional economic vitality through collective problem-solving and partnerships that strengthen postsecondary education. To achieve this vision, the Compact focuses its work in three strategic priority areas:

## **INCUBATE**

*Advance innovation, efficiency & effectiveness*

- » Serve as an incubator, studying challenging topics where MHEC can play a valuable role and piloting potential solutions.
- » Lead in expanding use and utility of open educational resources.
- » Respond rapidly to member states' requests for research on pressing topics such as workforce development, loan forgiveness programs, and college affordability.
- » Provide state-by-state data through an interactive dashboard on key performance indicators including preparation, participation, affordability, completion, finance, and workforce.

## **LAUNCH**

*Develop collaborative solutions to regional problems and opportunities*

- » Take on projects, issues and opportunities that are too big for one state to do alone, working jointly to improve higher education and to strengthen the Midwest region.
- » Convene and connect higher education leaders to navigate timely and critical issues facing higher education, such as FAFSA, distance education delivery, and tuition reciprocity.
- » Help Midwestern states navigate accreditation standards to meet the significant increase in demand for dual and concurrent enrollment.

## **SAVE**

*Drive cost savings & business solutions*

- » Leverage the combined technology needs of higher education institutions in member states to reach favorable agreements with technology vendors that result in tremendous time and cost savings.
- » Explore opportunities to serve risk management needs.
- » Offer affordable solutions that improve student well-being.