



# Nebraska State College System

CHADRON | PERU | WAYNE

March 18, 2020

Dear State College Colleagues,

Over the past week, we have all been impacted both personally and professionally by our nation's response to the coronavirus outbreak. Just last Tuesday afternoon, we were encouraged as the Nebraska Legislature approved the first round of budget recommendations that included scholarship dollars for the State Colleges as well as funding for a Peru State and Department of Corrections career pathway partnership. Further action is now pending as the Legislature remains temporarily adjourned as the State responds to the COVID-19 pandemic. In just a few short days, we have found ourselves in the midst of an unprecedented period of uncertainty for our families, the colleges, state, country, and world.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your commitment to the Nebraska State Colleges and for your work to ensure our students continue to receive the high-quality education and support that they deserve. Transitioning face-to-face courses to remote delivery and developing alternative student support strategies has required considerable effort and resources and is only possible through the excellent teamwork from our faculty and staff. I also recognize that it didn't come without significant anxiety and stress, not only for us but also for our students.

I appreciate the understanding and flexibility you have demonstrated since we began seeing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Nebraska. The guidance from State and Federal officials continues to evolve daily if not minute by minute and that flexibility and commitment to keeping our Colleges open will be vital to the success of our students. These students began this journey with you in January with the belief they would be successful in completing the Spring term to either graduate or return to campus next fall. I believe these opportunities still exist for our students, but down an alternative path than envisioned a week ago. We will continue to work with you to provide accommodations when conflicts or needs arise, all with a goal of helping all students remain on their path toward degree completion.

The past week has brought so many disruptions to our normal plans, not just at work, but also in our personal lives. Virtues like respect, patience, and kindness towards each other will help us work through these uncertain times. And it is clear to me that our employees embody these virtues.

I am confident that together we can forge a path forward. It might be difficult and trying at times, but with a common goal and commitment to our students, colleagues, and communities, we will emerge stronger than we were before.

With sincere gratitude,

Paul Turman  
Chancellor