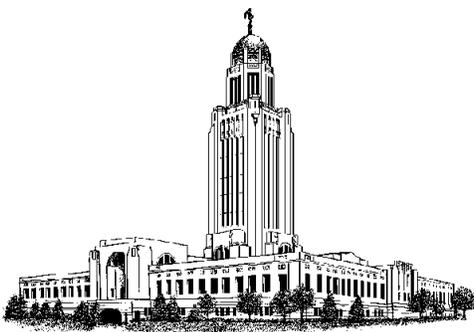


Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR KATE SULLIVAN

District 41

State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2631
ksullivan@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Education
Revenue
Committee on Committees
Education Commission of the States
Legislature's Planning

April 19, 2013

Mr. Patrick J. O'Donnell
Clerk of the Nebraska Legislature
Room 2018, State Capitol
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Mr. Clerk:

This correspondence is intended to fulfill the requirement for the Education Committee to report electronically to the Legislature regarding its findings related to the report required by section 85-1429, commonly known as the Higher Education Progress Report. The report, which is prepared annually by the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, evaluates progress toward attainment of the priorities listed in subdivision (3) of section 85-1428. These priorities are: (a) Increasing the number of students who enter postsecondary education in Nebraska; (b) Increasing the percentage of students who enroll and successfully complete a degree; and (c) Reducing, eliminating, and then reversing the net out-migration of Nebraskans with high levels of educational attainment.

The Education Committee conducted a public hearing to review the report, as required by section 85-1429. The hearing on the report was held on Friday, April 19 in Hearing Room 1525. All members of the Education Committee were in attendance. The hearing featured a presentation by the Commission's research coordinator, Dr. Barbara McCuen, regarding the report's major findings.

The report found that in comparison to white and Asian students, Nebraska's Hispanic, black non-Hispanic, and Native American students have lower high school and college graduation rates, are less prepared for college, and are attending college at lower rates. These disparities are made even more troubling when considering that minority students presently account for all of the projected growth in high school graduates between 2011-12 and 2021-22.

The report and its individual sections are available online at <http://www.ccpe.state.ne.us/PublicDoc/Ccpe/Reports/progressReport/2013/default.asp> .
A copy of the materials that were provided to the Committee at the hearing can be obtained in my office.

Sincerely,

Kate Sullivan

Kate Sullivan
State Senator
District #41

KS:kv