



The University of Nebraska Report from the Board of Regents

December 2010

A report from the December 2010 meeting of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents

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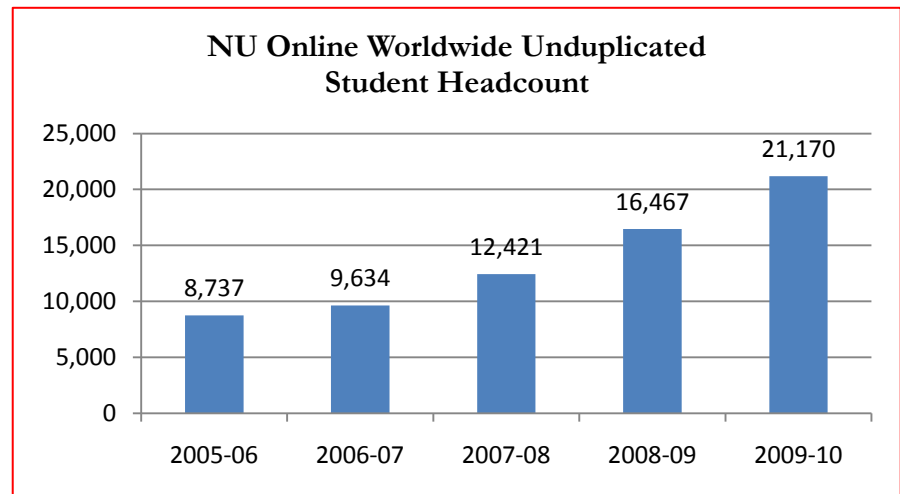
President

Online education grows 30 percent at the University of Nebraska

Online education at the University of Nebraska's distance learning platform, Online Worldwide, grew nearly 30 percent last year, the Board of Regents learned during its December meeting.

NU President James B. Milliken said the growth demonstrates that the university is making progress toward a key goal of Online Worldwide: expanding access to education to more Nebraskans. "We know that 265,000 Nebraskans have completed some college but have not earned a degree," Milliken said. "Online learning is a great way to reach many of these Nebraskans, who may not be in a position to enroll in traditional on-campus programs."

Milliken added, "Online Worldwide will be a key tool in increasing the level of educational attainment in Nebraska in order to ensure our state's economic competitiveness – a goal I and many other state and education leaders share."



Rapid growth in online programs is occurring on a national scale as well. A new report by the Sloan Consortium and the Babson Survey Research Group shows that online college enrollment grew by a record 21 percent last fall. The report also found that nearly 30 percent of all U.S. college students now take at least one course online. Continuing to tap this growing market for online learning will be an important goal for the university as it seeks to expand access to education even further, Milliken said.

Nationally recognized programs available via Online Worldwide include a Master of Public Administration degree offered through UNO; doctoral degree programs in educational studies, educational leadership and higher education offered through UNL; UNL's online MBA program; and a Master of Science degree in biology offered through UNK.

Gov. Heineman provides P-16 Initiative update, discusses importance of education

Gov. Dave Heineman, chair of the Nebraska P-16 Initiative, updated the Board of Regents on progress toward the initiative's eight goals designed to improve educational outcomes in the state. Goals include adopting a more rigorous high school core curriculum; eliminating the achievement gap; increasing the state's high school graduation rate to 90 percent; improving the college-going rate to the top 10 nationally; and providing affordable access to higher education to Nebraska students.

Heineman noted that key strategies have been implemented to reach the goals. For example, he and the P-16 co-chairs recently unveiled a new initiative called "Go.Visit.College!" designed to encourage more high school students to visit college campuses so they can find the college that best fits their needs and ultimately earn their degree.

Heineman said that every student in Nebraska deserves a quality education, and that every student needs at least two years of college – preferably four. "Nebraska's economic future is tied to a more highly educated workforce," he said.

In introducing the Governor, NU President James B. Milliken noted that there is a growing consensus that educational attainment is the key to the economic competitiveness of a region or nation. However, the U.S. has fallen from first to 12th in the world in educational attainment among 25- to 34-year-olds. Only about 40 percent of young Americans have college degrees. Increasing that number will be critical to ensuring the United States' competitiveness in the global innovation economy, Milliken said.

Regents hear about progress in energy efficiency efforts at NU

In a presentation led by Rebecca Koller, NU assistant vice president and director of facilities management, the Board of Regents learned that NU is making progress in its energy efficiency efforts.

Most buildings across the university now are metered to monitor energy use, and the rest are scheduled to be metered by 2012, Koller said. Campuses have also upgraded their energy management systems. In addition, NU is part of a number of local and state agreements designed to reduce energy consumption and save resources.

Energy objectives for 2015 include:

- Continue to upgrade energy management systems.
- Implement new energy and engineering technologies.
- Meet or exceed sustainability design requirements.
- Reduce energy consumption and demand by 10 percent at UNL, UNO and UNK, and by 25 percent at UNMC and the Nebraska Medical Center.

News briefs

- Regents eliminated geographic restrictions on appointments to the Board of Directors of The Nebraska Medical Center and resolved to recruit Board appointees from all across Nebraska. Regents also approved the appointments of President Milliken and Dr. Ron Hollins to three-year terms on the Board of Directors beginning Jan. 1, 2011.
- The Board authorized the President to execute, approve and administratively process the Nebraska Innovation Campus covenants, conditions and restrictions.
- The Board authorized the UNL Chancellor to finalize, administer and execute the lease and operating agreement for the West Haymarket Arena with the City of Lincoln.
- Regents approved the amended and restated Joint Public Agency agreement for the West Haymarket Arena.
- Regents approved the selection of the Clark Enersen Partners to provide design services for the East Stadium improvements at UNL.
- The Board approved a resolution thanking outgoing UNMC Regent Andrew Klutman for his service.