



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Higher education commission awards more than \$12 Million in grants to Nebraska low-income students**

**LINCOLN, Neb.** – As recent reports illustrate, many college students are struggling more than ever to pay for school. The Nebraska Opportunity Grant (NOG) program is doing its part to help ease that burden for students in our state.

Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) administrators the NOG program – known until recently as the Nebraska State Grant program – and has completed a distribution analysis for the 2008-2009 academic year. The analysis revealed that \$12,611,384 was awarded to 14,106 low-income Nebraska college and university students to use for the 2008-2009 academic year. The average grant awarded to each student was \$894, which was applied toward students' educational expenses, including tuition and fees.

Distribution is ongoing for the 2009-2010 academic year, with nearly 14,000 students already receiving \$12.5 million in NOG funds.

Since 2003, this program has awarded allocated Nebraska lottery funds, state general funds and matching federal funds to students who are Nebraska residents and are attending a Nebraska college or university that participates in the NOG program. Qualified students also must be eligible for the Pell Grant, which is a federal financial assistance grant given to low-income students, or have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) toward their tuition costs of less than \$6,000 per award year. CCPE administers the program in consultation with financial aid administrators at Nebraska's postsecondary institutions.

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Nebraska students in both public and private institutions received NOG funds. The CCPE determines the allocation for each institution based on a formula defined by Nebraska statute. Institutions then recommend students to receive grants and the grant amount awarded to each.

Community college students were the largest recipients of NOG funds (32 percent), while state college students were the smallest (7 percent). Twenty-seven percent of NOG recipients attended the University of Nebraska, 18 percent attended independent colleges and universities and 15 percent enrolled in private career colleges. To view a recipient analysis by income and enrollment, please click [here](#) for CCPE's year-end-summary. *(Note: At the time of this summary presentation, NOG was still called the Nebraska State Grant, or NSG, program.)*

### **About Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education**

Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) is a state constitutional agency that serves as an independent voice within Nebraska's higher education system. It serves to promote sound policies that apply to the best interests of taxpayers, students and Nebraska's postsecondary institutions. The CCPE recommends policy to the legislative and executive branches to improve and support postsecondary education. The CCPE also reviews and recommends operating budgets, administers the Nebraska State Grant program, approves academic degree programs, and reviews for approval new tax-funded building projects proposed by Nebraska's public institutions. The CCPE is governed by 11 commissioners appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Nebraska State Legislature. For more information about the CCPE, please visit [www.ccpe.state.ne.us](http://www.ccpe.state.ne.us).

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