



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jason Keese, (402) 471-0023, jason.keese@nebraska.gov
For Immediate Release
Feb. 8, 2010

CCPE Announces 2009-2010 Improving Teacher Quality Grant Recipients

Lincoln, Omaha, Scottsbluff public school districts and their postsecondary institution partners are among those to benefit from funding for teachers' professional development.

LINCOLN, Neb. – Programs for Nebraska teachers seeking to sharpen their instruction skills and improve their knowledge of the subjects they teach were given a financial boost thanks to federal grants awarded recently for select teaching-improvement courses and workshops.

Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) administers the Improving Teacher Quality grants, which fund projects designed to improve teachers' content knowledge and professional skills. The CCPE approved the funds at its Commission meeting Jan. 25, 2010.

Selected programs include one in which teachers will learn how to integrate technology into their foreign language instruction. Another program will help teachers promote literacy among middle- and high-school students. A full list and descriptions of the selected programs can be found on the [CCPE website](#). Programs will benefit teachers from school districts across the state, including Omaha, Lincoln, Scottsbluff and communities in southwest Nebraska.

Improving Teacher Quality grants are project-based grants designed to help increase student achievement by providing educators with professional development activities to improve their knowledge and teaching skills. The grants provide funds to partnerships established between Nebraska's postsecondary institutions and high-need, low-income local education agencies (LEAs). The partners use the funds for specific projects pertaining to core academic subjects.

- more -

"Our state's teachers face a variety of educational challenges in low-income areas. These grants offer additional assistance for innovative projects in those areas – projects that otherwise might fall by the wayside," said Marshall Hill, executive director of the CCPE.

The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title IIA) funds the grants. The total amount of funds available to Nebraska for awards in 2009-2010 is \$373,508. The total amount recommended for the five projects that received funding was \$290,955. The remaining funds will be available for projects that may have more participant applications than slots funded or other unexpected costs. Any additional remaining funds will be carried forward for use in the 2010-2011 competition.

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.