



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Women, Minorities Gain According to New Postsecondary Education Enrollment, Degrees and Salary Report**

**LINCOLN, Neb.** – Women have now pulled ahead of men in enrolling and graduating from Nebraska's postsecondary education institutions at all degree levels and across almost all racial and ethnic groups, according to a new report released yesterday. But while women may be gaining in earning their bachelor's, masters and doctorate degrees, female faculty, on average, continue to earn less than male faculty at Nebraska's postsecondary institutions.

Changes in enrollment and salaries are reported in the *1997-2007 Factual Look at Higher Education*, which is produced by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The report provides a decade-long analysis of Nebraska's public postsecondary education in three areas: student enrollment, degrees and awards, and faculty and their salaries.

In addition to information on the number of women attaining degrees at Nebraska's postsecondary institutions and women faculty salaries, the *Factual Look* also reports gains in degrees awarded to minorities. Minority faculty percentages, however, continue to trail minority students enrolled at Nebraska's postsecondary schools.

"We are encouraged that Nebraska's postsecondary education institutions are seeing increased numbers of women and minorities attain higher education degrees and are optimistic that these gains will continue," said Marshall Hill, executive director of the Coordinating Commission. "Enrollment growth across all sectors speaks to increased opportunities for Nebraska residents to further their education and supports a promising outlook for the economic vitality of the state and its citizens."

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(Add one)

Below are some of the report's major findings.

### **Enrollment and Degrees**

- Women now outnumber men at the undergraduate, graduate and first-professional levels and across all racial/ethnic groups except among foreign students.
- Since 2000, statewide fall enrollment has increased about two percent per year to a total of 128,538 in fall 2007.
- The most significant gain among minorities has been an increased number of black non-Hispanics enrolled in graduate programs.
- There has been a significant increase in the percentage of students enrolled at the community colleges who are 24 years of age or younger.
- The University of Nebraska's share of statewide fall enrollment and of the number of degrees and awards conferred decreased between 1997 and 2007, while the independent institutions' shares increased.
- The most significant increase in fall enrollment and the number of degrees conferred has been at Bellevue University.
- Undergraduate degrees account for almost 80 percent of the degrees awarded in Nebraska, but the highest rate of growth has been at the master's level.
- Minorities are continuing to account for a slowly increasing share of the degrees awarded.
- The greatest increases in the percentages of degrees awarded has been in the percentage of less-than-four-year degrees earned by black non-Hispanics, the percentage of master's degrees earned by black non-Hispanics and the percentage of first-professional and doctoral degrees awarded to Asians/Pacific Islanders.

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(Add two)

### **Faculty and Salaries**

- Women continue to account for increasing percentages of faculty at almost all ranks, but in general, there is a continuing and sometimes widening gap between the average salaries received by male and female faculty.
- Increases in full-time faculty generally parallel increases in fall enrollment.
- There have been modest increases in the number of “non-white” faculty, and the greatest “non-white” growth has been in the number of non-resident alien faculty.
- The percentages of faculty who are Hispanics, black non-Hispanics or Native Americans trail the percentages of students in these three racial/ethnic groups. However, the percentage of faculty who are Asian/Pacific Islanders is higher than the percentage of students who are Asian/Pacific Islanders.
- Overall, increases in average faculty salaries slightly outpaced inflation over the past 10 years.

To view the full report, visit: [www.ccpe.state.ne.us/publicdoc/ccpe/Reports/FactLook/default.asp](http://www.ccpe.state.ne.us/publicdoc/ccpe/Reports/FactLook/default.asp)

### **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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