



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Valentine resident named new chair of state higher education agency; Hay Springs resident assumes vice-chair duties

LINCOLN, Neb. (Dec.17) – Nebraska's Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education (CCPE) has elected Dr. Joyce Simmons of Valentine as its new chair. The CCPE's 11-member board of commissioners elected Simmons at their Dec. 10 meeting in Lincoln.

Simmons assumes her new duties Jan. 1, 2010. She has been a member of the CCPE since 2005, most recently serving as vice chair for the past year. Simmons earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Chadron State College and a Doctor of Dental Science degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Dentistry. After a residency program in California, Simmons returned to Nebraska for an orthodontic specialty degree at UNMC. She has been in private practice in Valentine since 1988.

Also at the Dec. 10 meeting, the CCPE commissioners elected Dr. Ron Hunter of Hay Springs as their new vice chair. A native of Rushville, Hunter accepted a commission in the U.S. Army in 1966 and proceeded to graduate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Doctor of Dental Science degree. Hunter retired in 1987 with the rank of colonel.

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.

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