



Some Good News About Nebraska Postsecondary Education

Testimony for the Nebraska
Legislature's Education Committee,
pursuant to LR 262 of the
2009 session

July 8, 2009

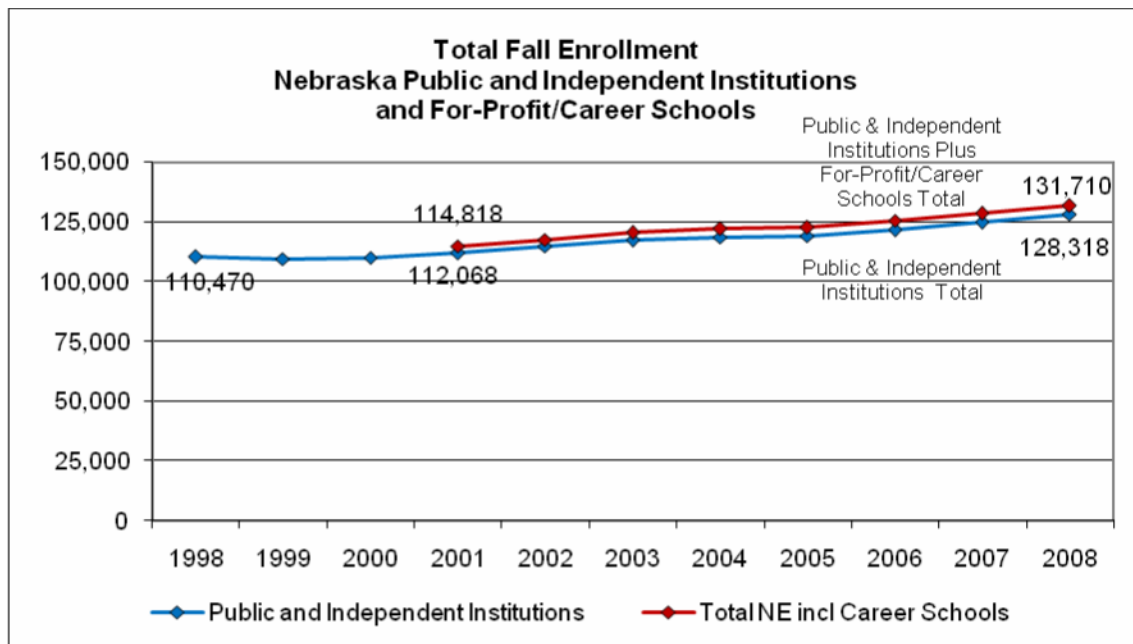
Marshall A. Hill
Executive Director
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Nebraska Higher Education Institutions and Enrollment

Nebraska has 52 postsecondary institutions that are serving almost 200,000 students a year:

- 5 institutions constituting the University of Nebraska (UNL, UNO, UNK, UNMC and NCTA)
- 3 institutions in the Nebraska State College System (Chadron, Peru and Wayne State)
- 6 community colleges (Central, Metro, Mid Plains, Northeast, Southeast and Western)
- 18 independent (not-for-profit) colleges and universities (e.g. Bellevue, Creighton, Doane)
- 2 tribal colleges (Little Priest Tribal College and Nebraska Indian Community College)
- 9 degree-granting for-profit/career schools (e.g. ITT, Kaplan, Vatterott, U of Phoenix)
- 9 non-degree-granting for-profit/career schools (schools and colleges of hair design, massage therapy, and radiologic technology)

Fall 2008 enrollment totaled 131,710. About 68,000 additional students were enrolled sometime during the 2008-2009 academic year, but not during the fall semester or quarter, for a total 12-month, unduplicated headcount of about 200,000.¹ That's about 11.3% of the state's population.



Data Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), Enrollment surveys for fall 1998 through fall 2008.

¹This total is based on the reported total 12-month, unduplicated headcount for 2007-2008. The total,

unduplicated headcount for 2008-2009 will not be available until it is reported in fall 2009.

Completion (Graduation) Rates for 4-Year Public Institutions

A recent study ranked Nebraska #1 for the improved completion rates of its four-year, public-supported colleges and universities.¹

Nebraska has six schools in this category:

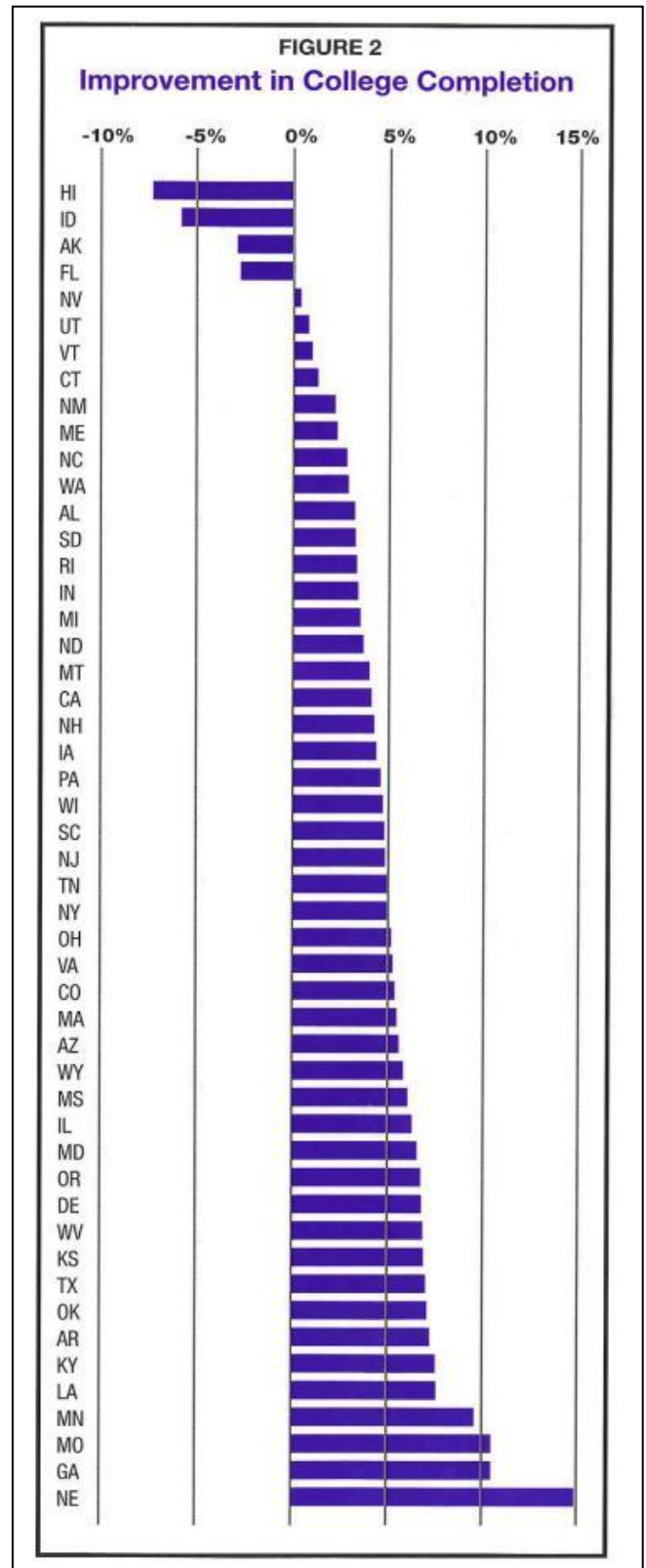
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of Nebraska at Omaha
- University of Nebraska at Kearney
- Chadron State College
- Peru State College
- Wayne State College

For the six institutions combined:

Academic Year	Completion Rate	National Rank
1998-1999	38.7%	41 st
2005-2006	53.7%	21 st
7-Year Improvement	15.0%	

Data Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), completion data for 1998-1999 and 2005-2006.

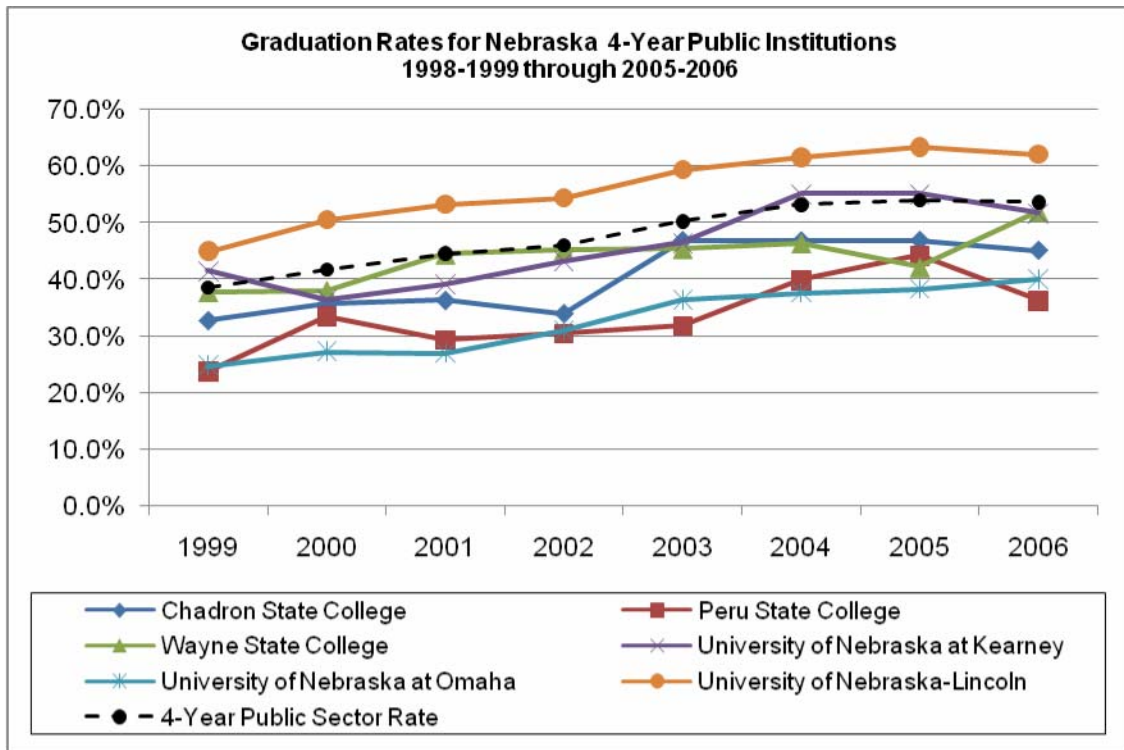
¹Source of Chart: *Making the Connections: Connecting State and Institutional Policies to Improve Student Success.* A publication of the Making the Connections Project housed at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.



The graduation rates of each of the six Nebraska four-year public institutions improved by at least 10% over the seven-year period between 1998-1999 and 2005-2006.

The highest rate of improvement was at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where the rate increased from 44.9% to 62.2% or 17.3%.

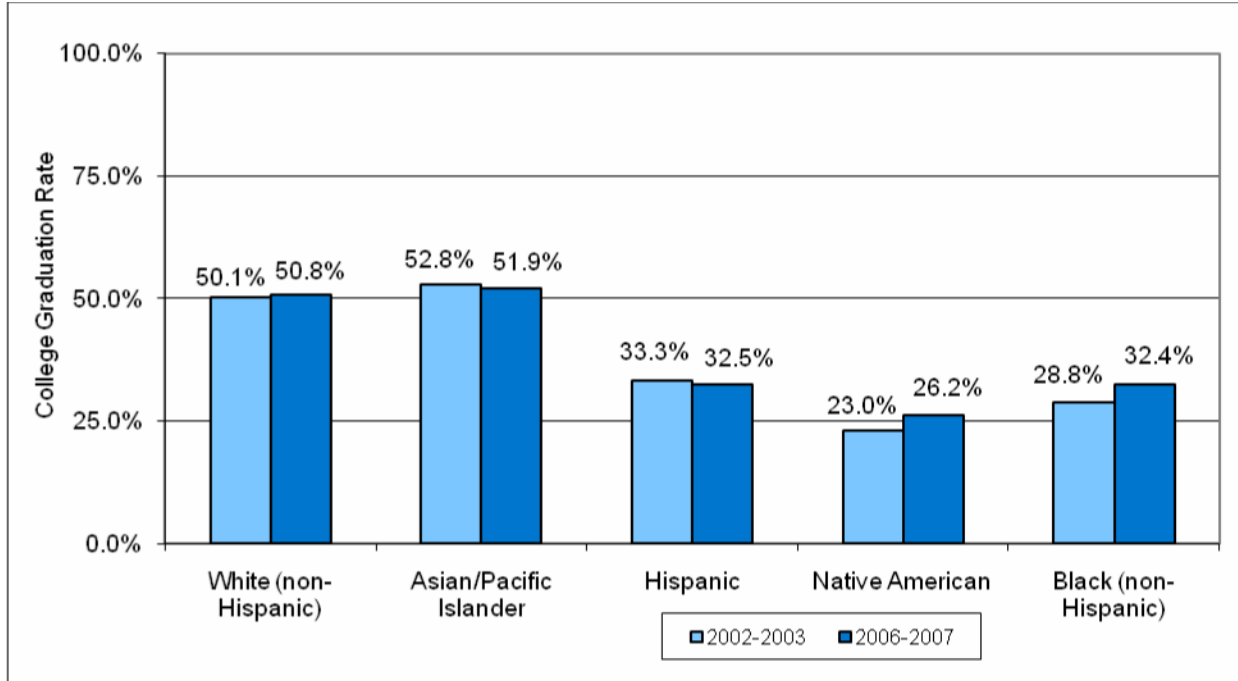
The second-highest rate of improvement was at University of Nebraska at Omaha , where the rate increased from 24.8% to 40.1% or 15.3%.



	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	Change 99-06
Chadron State College	32.7%	35.7%	36.3%	34.0%	46.9%	46.9%	46.9%	45.2%	12.5%
Peru State College	23.7%	33.5%	29.3%	30.5%	31.8%	39.9%	44.3%	36.3%	12.6%
University of Nebraska at Kearney	41.6%	36.5%	39.2%	43.3%	46.6%	55.2%	55.2%	51.7%	10.1%
University of Nebraska at Omaha	24.8%	27.3%	27.0%	31.0%	36.4%	37.7%	38.3%	40.1%	15.3%
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	44.9%	50.5%	53.3%	54.4%	59.5%	61.6%	63.4%	62.2%	17.2%
Wayne State College	37.7%	38.0%	44.5%	45.2%	45.4%	46.4%	42.2%	52.0%	14.3%
Sum	38.7%	41.8%	44.6%	46.1%	50.2%	53.2%	53.9%	53.7%	15.0%

Completion (Graduation) Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Completion (graduation) rates generally have been stable or they have been increasing for most racial/ethnic groups.



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