

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 335

Introduced by Education Committee: Walz, 15, Chairperson; Day, 49; Linehan, 39; McKinney, 11; Morfeld, 46; Murman, 38; Pansing Brooks, 28; Sanders, 45.

WHEREAS, high state educational attainment is strongly correlated with higher state gross domestic product, higher per capita income, greater labor force participation, greater civic participation, improved health outcomes, and high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, projections are that at least seventy percent of Nebraska's jobs will soon require a degree, certificate, diploma, or other postsecondary or industry credential with economic value in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska's current educational attainment, including degrees, certificates, diplomas, and other postsecondary and industry credentials with economic value is approximately fifty-eight percent for Nebraskans age 25 to 34, and approximately fifty-five percent for Nebraskans age 25 to 64; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska is in competition with other states and nations to develop, attract, and retain businesses and industries that require highly skilled employees and pay high wages; and

WHEREAS, most states, including neighboring states, have set ambitious educational attainment goals to reach social and economic development aspirations and use those educational attainment goals to inform education and workforce development policies; and

WHEREAS, state educational attainment goals can focus and organize a myriad of strategies related to workforce development and deployment, economic diversification and innovation, and promotion of diversity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, state educational attainment goals help state officials, colleges and universities, elementary and secondary schools, employers, and philanthropic and community organizations establish a shared agenda and measure progress at regular intervals; and

WHEREAS, a state educational attainment goal is in the spirit, and touches every aspect, of Nebraskans' aspirations for job growth, vibrant communities, attracting and retaining young people, income growth, and growth in innovation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature declares it is the goal of the State of Nebraska that at least seventy percent of 25 to 34 year-old Nebraskans have a degree, certificate, diploma, or other postsecondary or industry-recognized credential with economic value by 2030.

2. That the Legislature encourages the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges, the Board of Governors of each community college area, the State Board of Education, and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to adopt the seventy percent attainment goal as evidence of their support for such goal.

3. That the Legislature recognizes the strong contributions of Nebraska's private and parochial schools and independent colleges and universities to the educational attainment of Nebraskans and encourages their support of the seventy percent attainment goal.

4. That the Legislature finds that disparities in educational attainment impede individual and collective well-being and prosperity and must be reduced and eliminated to meet a seventy percent attainment goal.

5. That the Legislature declares that certain fields of study, including science, technology, engineering, manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, and teaching, have particular strategic importance for the state's ongoing prosperity and encourages schools, colleges, universities, businesses, and community partners to join with the state to increase credential attainment in those fields.

6. That the Legislature encourages recent Nebraska high school graduates to continue their education in Nebraska postsecondary institutions and commends Nebraska postsecondary institutions for their efforts to enroll students from outside the state as a means of meeting the state's goal of growing a larger

and more highly educated workforce.

7. That the Legislature encourages the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education to incorporate the seventy percent attainment goal into the comprehensive statewide plan for postsecondary education required under Article VII, section 14, of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and report on progress toward the goal in the annual report to the Legislature required by section 85-1429.