

Summary of Public Comments for the Proposed Qualified Action Plan for the State of Nebraska InternNE Grant Program Effective January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019

The Department of Economic Development received one public comment for the proposed 2018 – 2019 Qualified Action Plan for the State of Nebraska InternNE Grant Program. The Department has listed a synopsis of the comment received. The Department's response is written in italics.

Comment #1

Recommendation: The Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) would like to voice our support for the Qualified Action Plan for the State of Nebraska InternNE Grant Program, and the long-term impact it can bring to our state.

For the past few year, NASB has adopted a new strategic vision around the acronym LIVE – Leadership, Innovation, Vision & Engagement. This new strategic vision from NASB is there to help Nebraska's 1,724 school board leaders be better advocates for their community and to education them on issues relevant to public education in Nebraska.

In August of 2016, NASB blanketed the state hitting nine locations from Omaha to Gering, Valentine to Nebraska City, and everywhere in between. The focus of those meeting was to set the foundation towards creating a clear vision for Nebraska's future. We asked a lot of questions, and with that received a lot of feedback. It was here we learned school board members across Nebraska see the importance in increased job opportunities for teens and young adults; increased physical, mental, and behavioral health for kids from conception to college; mentoring; and Expanded Learning Opportunities to help transition students out of poverty and into college/career readiness at the district level. Education leaders feel K-12 engagement in the local community with local leaders; and career pathway programs at the K-12 level are areas of focus that would greatly strengthen the economy and add jobs in high-wage industries within your communities.

Since those meetings, NASB has worked with its members and state leaders on ways to formulate a strategic plan specifically geared around teen and youth employment, and the role that both NASB, and Nebraska's school board members across the state should play in this effort.

Therefore, NASB supports the efforts of the state and the InternNE program to provide internship opportunities to teens and young adults in Nebraska. Furthermore, we hope to engage school board and ESU board members in the Qualified Action Plan for the InternNE program and better align our efforts with the state.

We have heard it loud and clear, school board members across Nebraska see the value in getting our kids in this state employed!

Thank you for your comments on the proposed Qualified Action Plan. As a Department, we look forward to continue creating lasting connections between students and employers in the State of Nebraska through internship opportunities. Our Department plans to promote the value of internships to students with the assistance of counselors and career planning instructors.