

**Partnerships for Innovation  
Annual Report: Executive Summary  
June 2011**



*Partnerships for Innovation is a collaboration of secondary and postsecondary partners focused on building a better statewide system of Career and Technical Education for Nebraska to improve student learning and better meet economic development priorities. PFI will do this by introducing innovation in delivery systems in CTE to include career academies, professional development and programs of study with coordinated curriculum between secondary and postsecondary.*

**Economic Development Priorities:** PFI has provided the statewide membership to **Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI)** since 2007. This membership provides community colleges the opportunity to quickly identify labor and education projections in their communities and throughout the state. Once a year, the PFI Director has the opportunity to pull reports for ESU's and school districts to assist with the development and planning of future programs. As of February 2011, the chart below documents the 365 day activity of the six Nebraska community colleges:

	CCC	MCC	MPCC	NCC	SCC	WNCC
Number of Log-ins	24	75	15	29	31	2
Economic Forecaster Reports Generated	113	405	69	99	237	5
Educational Analysis Reports	7	152	33	22	53	0
Economic Impact Reports	0	117	3	25	13	0

**Career Academy Leadership:** PFI collaborated with the community college Chief Instructional Officers and the Nebraska State Board of Education to finalize *Quality Indicators*; standards of practice for career academy implementation. The indicators were used to identify data sets for measuring quality programs. Career academy representatives appreciate the opportunity to network with colleagues; better understand the expectations and requirements of both secondary and postsecondary credentialing agencies while staying up-to-date on activities of the Department of Education.

PFI provided partial funding for high school, Educational Service Unit and community college personnel to attend either the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) Conference or the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) Conference. Five constituents attended the NACEP Conference, of which PFI provided \$1000.00 to their respective organization. More than 30 stakeholders attended the NCAC Conference, of which PFI provided a reimbursement of \$1500.00. Of those who attended, 95.8 % reported they would be able to apply the *content learned at the conference in my regular work*.

**Professional Development:** PFI provided funding to NET Force to deliver the Entrepreneurship Infusion Workshop. Entrepreneurship curriculum was delivered online with a culminating workshop June 1 – 3, 2011. More than 20 teachers from high schools and community colleges participated. PFI provided transportation and registration costs for 20 teachers to attend the National Consortium of Health Sciences Educators Curriculum Conference held in Minneapolis, MN. PFI funded the NEXUS '11 Conference which was held January 22, 2011 to provide leadership building for state, local and organizational marketing efforts to more than 56 CTE secondary and postsecondary faculties.

**Programs of Study Development:** The majority of PFI's work is the high school programs of study standards revision, better aligning with postsecondary education or direct employment. In 2011, PFI facilitated Visioning Forums for Business, Marketing, Finance and Law, Public Safety and Corrections. The purpose of these meetings is to gather from business, industry and postsecondary the experiences and knowledge high school students should have prior to entering postsecondary. These forums have proven very beneficial to improving the rigor of state model programs of study. Future professional development will be based on these course sequences.

**Additional Licenses:** PFI has supported the statewide membership to the National Repository for Online Courses (NROC). According to Google Analytics, between January and March of 2011, Nebraska had more than 5,400 visits to the web-based content. NROC provided content held on the following host server sites: ESU's 1, 3, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18 & 19; UNL Independent Study, My-ELearning; MidPlains, Mercy High School, Bryan LGH College, and UNO. As of June 1, 2011, this contract has been transferred to the Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council to manage as it is more closely aligned with their priorities.