

Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System (NSWERS)  
Executive Council Meeting and Workshop  
October 21, 2020 11:00 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Great Plains Studies Center, Schorr Suite, 6th floor, 1155 Q Street, Lincoln, NE

Publicized notice of the Executive Council Meeting and Workshop was given by posting the date, time, and location on the NSWERS.org website.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - President Dr. Susan Fritz called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

1.1 Roll Call

Roll call showed the following NSWERS members in attendance:

Dr. Susan Fritz, President  
Dr. Paul Turman, Vice President  
Dr. Paul Illich, Member  
Dr. Matthew Blomstedt, Secretary/Treasurer

1.2 Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information

President Fritz announced that the information regarding the Open Meetings Act is located in the Great Plains Studies Center, Schorr Suite, 6th floor, 1155 Q Street, Lincoln, NE.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

2.1 Public Comment (5 minutes)

No one appeared for public comment.

3. **BUSINESS**

3.1 Strategic Visioning workshop

Dr. Hastings as well as Management Team members, Dr. Jodi Kupper, Dr. Leah Barrett, Dr. Kristin Yates and Dr. Folkers engaged Council members in discussion of the Strategic Visioning for NSWERS.

#### 4. **ACTION ITEMS**

##### 4.1 Approve NSWERS-NDOL Data Sharing Agreement

Motion to postpone the approval of the NSWERS-DOL Data Sharing Agreement passed with a motion from Dr. Paul Turman, second by Dr. Paul Illich.

Dr. Hastings indicated that with the approval of NSWERS attaining Legal Counsel at their business meeting October 12, 2020, Karen Haase, KSB Law, has been working on reviewing the DOL Agreement along with each entity's legal counsel and hopes to have the Agreement finalized for the November business meeting.

Dr. Paul Illich	Yea
Dr. Susan Fritz	Yea
Dr. Paul Turman	Yea
Dr. Matthew Blomstedt	Yea

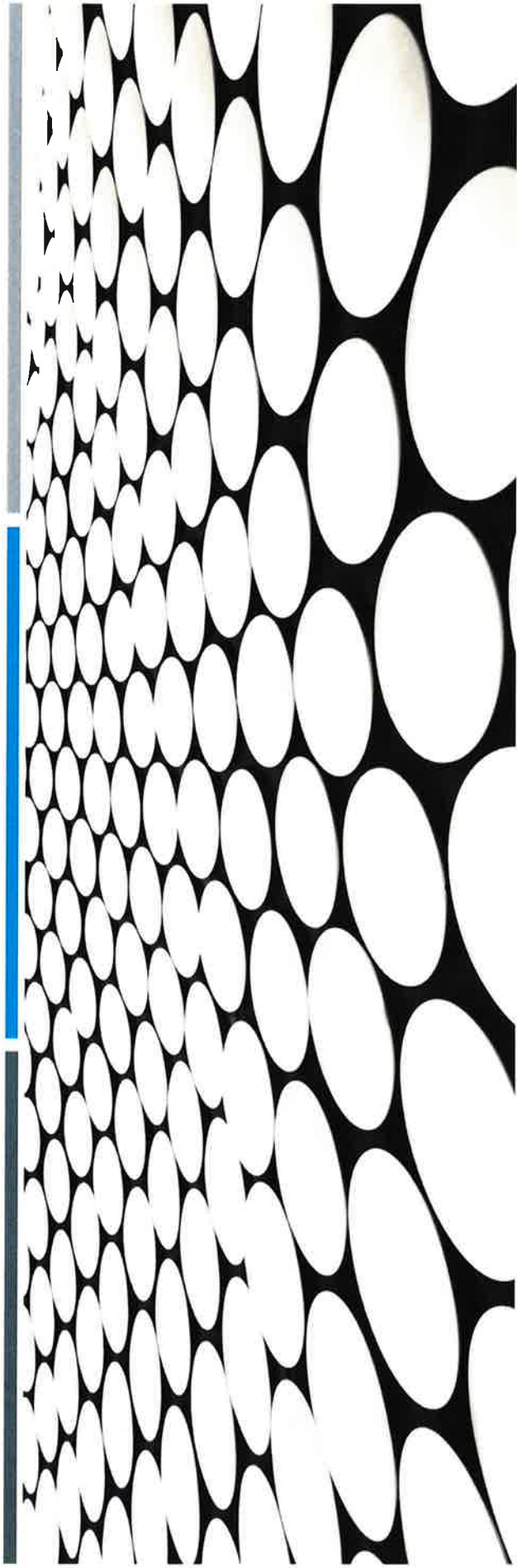
#### 5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the NSWERS Council workshop passed with a motion from Dr. Blomstedt, second by Dr. Paul Illich.

Dr. Matthew Blomstedt	Yea
Dr. Paul Turman	Yea
Dr. Paul Illich	Yea
Dr. Susan Fritz	Yea

President Fritz adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

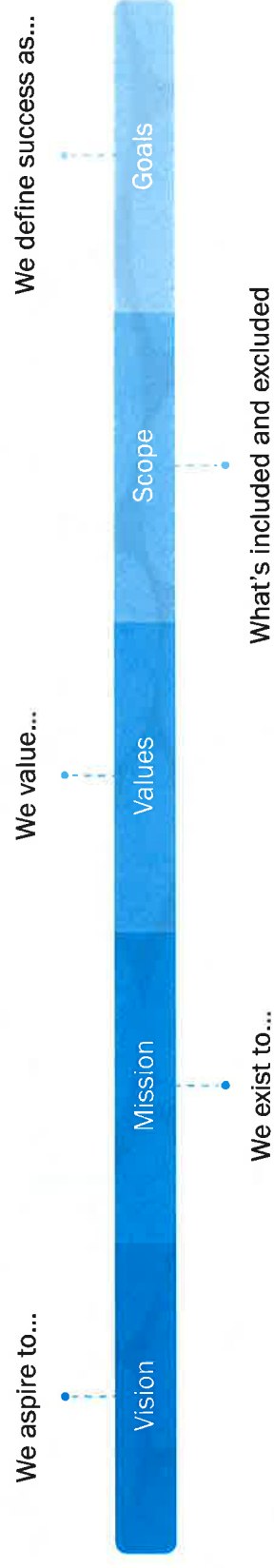
A NSWERS Executive Council Business Meeting will be held on Monday, November 23, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. at the Varner Hall Boardroom, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE.



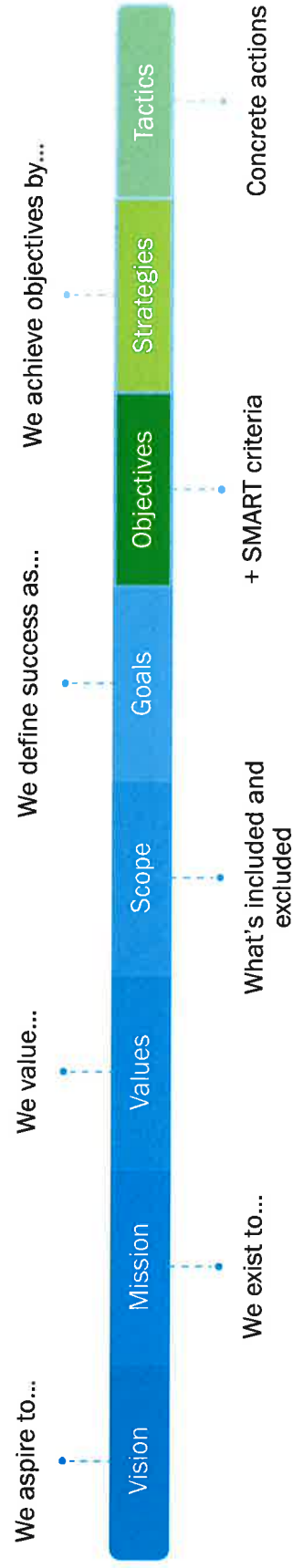
# **NSWERS STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP**

SCHORR PRESIDENTIAL SUITE - NSWERS EXECUTIVE & MANAGEMENT COUNCILS - OCTOBER 21, 2020

# STRATEGIC APPROACH



# STRATEGIC PLAN





# PROBLEMS TO SOLVE

- Establish the **capacity for greater data sharing** among partner entities and **answer longitudinal data related questions**. A more complete picture of the student educational pathway is being sought.
- Providing the data to build the **understanding of the Nebraska student experience** from P/K to workforce. This understanding will help us to **identify gaps and barriers as well as areas of strength**.
- **systematize longitudinal data** uses for education and workforce and begin to **answer key policy questions** for education linked sectors
- Improved ability to **meet educational and workforce needs** in Nebraska through **data-informed proactive strategies**



# PROBLEMS TO SOLVE

- I believe the problem solved is a need to provide access to accurate and reliable longitudinal student information to analysts and researchers to discover those policies, processes, and practices across students' academic involvement that best improve student outcomes as well as impact the efficient, effective, and ensured security of the information that allows continuously improving the educational systems.
- Increase the talent pipeline for Nebraska's workforce; Increase the number of students that complete high school; increase the number of students that complete college; Close the achievement gap between majority and minority students across the P-20 pipeline.
- NSWERS responds to the continued questions around what happens to our high school graduates from NE schools? The data will be able to identify their paths toward education or the work force and help to determine whether they remain in Nebraska.



# PROBLEMS TO SOLVE

- **Cogent, coherent, consistent, collection, connection, and curation of public sector P2OW longitudinal data** and data sources necessary to answer questions relevant to partners and stakeholders (broadly meant--govt, legislators, non-profits, NE employers, etc.).
- **Efficiency.** We share many common questions across institutions, stakeholders and the state (writ large). It's a giant needless time suck for everyone to source and analyze data to chase down answers to the same questions individually.
- Having not yet realized items one and two, we are often kept from **making truly data informed decisions** about what is good policy and may waste money and resources **making policy on hunches or feelings that doesn't pan out**. If we can know at least one possible variation data driven answer before we make big policy decisions as a state, I think we should.





# 10 YEARS FROM NOW

- Publicly facing website with dashboards that provide real time and 10 year trends of key indicators across the P-20 and employment spectrum. There will be a set of core staff and several teams of grant-supported researchers functioning together as NSWERS. NSWERS will have core funding from the State of Nebraska.
- More mature in structure, governance, data availability (e.g., maybe data from private postsecondaries?) and data quality. Where will you be in 10 years assumes this is a journey from point A (now) to point B (now +10). I believe that if NSWERS functions as it should, it's always going to be an adaptive organization engaged in iterative reexamination of the ideas, data, analyses and technologies most necessary and most suited to helping ensure the success of students, institutions and the State of Nebraska.
- NSWERS will be a state-wide system that provides data on the paths that our students take in their educational journeys and how those paths contribute to their ability to transition into the workforce in Nebraska.



## NEXT 10 YEARS

- A P-20 data system environment that has the capacity to assist all educational sectors assess factors impacting student success, and develop effective approaches to state education and workforce policies.
- NSWERS will provide data to support/refute policy recommendations, support grant applications, support basic and applied research, and support continuous quality improvement efforts of educational leaders.
- It will be the go-to source of data about pk-20 and labor and probably have a series of policy analyses that are viewed as premier sources for tracking education outcomes
- Collaborative entity that allows for timely access to interactive and reliable information related to educational and workforce needs in Nebraska
- An internationally respected and innovative entity that embodies the best practices of supporting the secure and effective use of data that informs policy, practice, process, and proactive engagement.

---

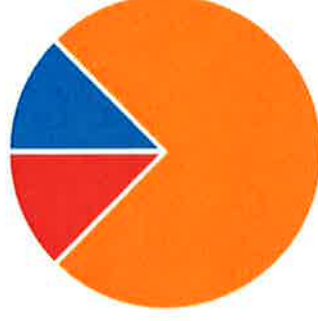
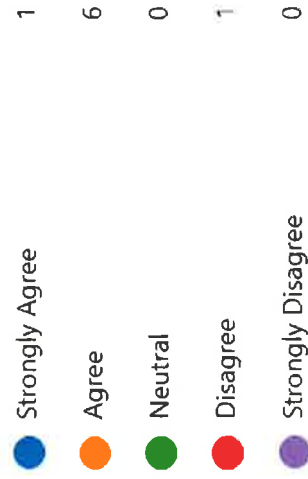
## **VISION**

- The Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Educational Reporting System (NSWERS) is envisioned as a comprehensive, sustainable, and robust lifelong learning and workforce longitudinal data system serving the needs of the people of Nebraska. (LB 1160)

# VISION

3. LB 1160 identified the following as a potential vision statement for NSWERS: "The Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Education[al] Reporting System is envisioned as a comprehensive, sustainable, and robust lifelong learning and workforce longitudinal data system serving the needs of the people of Nebraska." (section 2, subsection 3) To what extent do you agree or disagree with adopting this text as the NSWERS vision?

[More Details](#)



---

## SUGGESTED EDITS TO VISION

- Add something specific about students' educational experiences (K-12, college, etc.)
- Replace "learning" with "educational" but also maybe add in "experiential."
- Maybe NSWERS will eventually include data that is not strictly from the world of education or workforce; other SLDs have clearly done this. Which "needs of the people" are we serving?
- This is more about process (data informed) and outcomes (positive for students, workers, employers and the state).
- The statement sounds mostly like a description of the box we keep things in, not the full depth of the "why" we're doing this.

---

## SUGGESTED EDITS TO VISION

- Integrate how the system can assist in evolving state public policy to improve the opportunities for student success across all educational sectors.
- NSWERS is a comprehensive, sustainable, and robust lifelong learning and workforce longitudinal data system that is the foundation of continuous quality improvement for the State of Nebraska.
- Add a policy information role to the vision
- Not sure it is set up to be "lifelong learning" at least yet
- Add the word collaborative to go along with "comprehensive, sustainable, etc....."
- Adding the supportive nature of NSWERS for and on behalf of the partners.



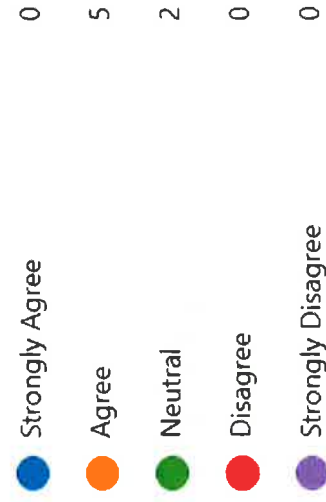
## **MISSION**

- NSWERS exists to provide the information necessary to align Nebraska's education and training systems with workforce and labor market demands.

# MISSION

5. By combining and truncating these statements, we offer the following potential mission statement: NSWERS exists to provide the information necessary to align Nebraska's education and training systems with workforce and labor market demands. To what extent do you agree or disagree with adopting this statement as the NSWERS organizational mission?

[More Details](#)





---

# SUGGESTED EDITS TO MISSION

- Better I like the LB 1160 language, although I still like the language from the Interlocal better. Workforce is a clear focus and it's important and we do care about it. Ditto for education. But I still think this whole is more than the sum of those two parts. It still sorta sounds like the answer to a "what" question without an answer to the "why" part of things. If tomorrow we had figured out how to meet all workforce demands, would we have run out of questions to ask? My answer is no, because I think this is less about "filling a box with x number of things" and more about elevating the potential of people and the probability of their success, whether those people are students, workers, employers or none of the above.
- I don't disagree about the focus on workforce, but I also think NSWERS has the possibility to further improve our educational systems as well, and improve the progression of students to improve educational attainment. . NSWERS exists to provide the information necessary to align Nebraska's education and training systems with workforce and labor market demands, with a goal of increasing the educational attainment of the citizens in the state.
- Again, I see a policy (and perhaps I also mean public investment) role
- We want to add "community" next to workforce
- It seems fine for an initial mission, but I wonder if there should be something about the "how" or "through" as a part of the mission

---

## **CORE VALUES**

---

Quality – 40 pts

---

Excellence – 39 pts

---

Collaboration – 38 pts

---

Integrity – 37 pts

---

Continuous Improvement – 37 pts

---

## **CORE VALUES**

---

Value-Enhancing – 36 pts

---

Innovation – 35 pts

---

Efficiency – 33 pts

---

Teamwork – 30 pts

---

Boldness & Cutting-Edge – 29 pts

---

---

## SUGGESTED ADDITIONS TO CORE VALUES

- Progression
- Completion
- Alignment
- Equity
- Reflective
- Transparent
- Learning
- Useful
- Credible
- Brave
- Fair
- Thoughtful
- Inquiry
- Adaptive
- Creative
- Teaching

---

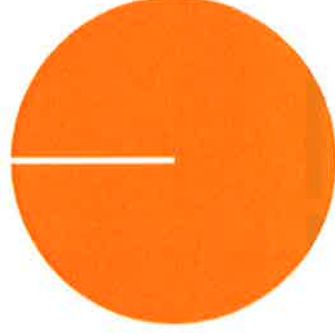
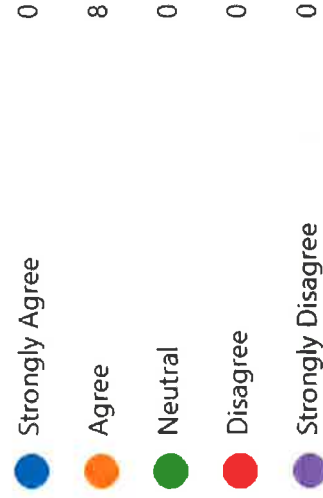
## SCOPE

- *As a Data System:* NSWERS is a comprehensive, sustainable, and robust lifelong learning and workforce longitudinal data system to enable the training of tomorrows workforce, today.
- *As an Administrative Entity:* NSWERS oversees the creation, operations, maintenance, expansion and use of the NSWERS data system.

# SCOPE

9. By combining and truncating these statements, we have the following potential scope statement: As a Data System: NSWERS is a comprehensive, sustainable, and robust lifelong learning and workforce longitudinal data system to enable the training of tomorrows workforce, today. As an Administrative Entity: NSWERS oversees the creation, operations, maintenance, expansion and use of the NSWERS data system. To what extent do you agree or disagree with adopting this statement as the NSWERS organizational scope?

[More Details](#)



---

## SUGGESTED EDITS TO SCOPE

- Workforce and education are both important. But is that all of why are we doing this?
- I think we're setting up structures and systems and processes to allow decision-makers, educators and employers to have better insight into those practices that ensure greater and more equitable success for students, workers, industry, citizens and "the State of Nebraska" as a whole.
- Conclude with " . . . NSWERS data system to serve Nebraska stakeholders."



## GOALS

- Measure the efficacy of Nebraska's education and training system for workforce and labor demands
- Innovate system efficiency to deliver sustainable insights
- Ensure informational protection, privacy safeguards and cybersecurity