

**Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System (NSWERS)  
Executive Council Business Meeting Notification and Agenda**

October 30, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Sorrell Center, 619 South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, NE 68105

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – President Leah Barrett called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Roll Call showed the following Executive Council members in **attendance**:

President Leah Barrett, NSWERS President  
Commissioner Brian Maher, NSWERS Vice President  
Chancellor Paul Turman, NSWERS Secretary/Treasurer  
President Jeffrey Gold, NSWERS Member

**Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information**

Dr. Barrett announced that information regarding the Open Meetings Act is available at the entrance of the meeting room and also available on the NSWERS.org website.

2. **WORKING LUNCH**

Dr. Barrett announced a working lunch with invited stakeholders which included a presentation from the NSWERS Executive Director, Dr. Matt Hastings, and questions and answers from members of the NSWERS Executive Council.

3. **APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

**3.1 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment.

**3.2 APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

No agenda items were removed, added, or corrected.

Approval of the agenda as presented passed with a motion by Dr. Paul Turman, second by Dr. Jeffrey Gold.

Dr. Jeffrey Gold	Yea
Dr. Paul Turman	Yea

Dr. Leah Barrett                      Yea  
Dr. Brian Maher                      Yea

**3.3      Approve Minutes of NSWERS business meeting, July 29, 2024 and September 3, 2024**

Motion to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2024, NSWERS Executive Council Business meeting passed with a motion by Dr. Brian Maher, second by Dr. Paul Turman.

Dr. Paul Turman                      Yea  
Dr. Brian Maher                      Yea  
Dr. Jeffrey Gold                      Yea  
Dr. Leah Barrett                      Yea

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024, NSWERS Executive Council Business meeting passed with a motion by Dr. Paul Turman, second by Dr. Brian Maher.

Dr. Jeffrey Gold                      Yea  
Dr. Brian Maher                      Yea  
Dr. Leah Barrett                      Yea  
Dr. Paul Turman                      Yea

**4.      ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

**4.1      Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action to recognize Paul Turman for his service as former President of the NSWERS Executive Council.**

Motion to approve the recognition of Paul Turman for his service as former President of the NSWERS Executive Council passed with a motion by Dr. Jeffrey Gold and seconded by Dr. Brian Maher.

Dr. Brian Maher                      Yea  
Dr. Leah Barrett                      Yea  
Dr. Paul Turman                      Yea  
Dr. Jeffrey Gold                      Yea

**4.2      Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action regarding contracting for professional services and support for user engagement activities related to the NSWERS' *insights+* web platform and the delegation of authority to negotiate terms and execute an agreement.**

Motion to approve the delegation of authority to NSWERS Executive Director negotiate terms and execute and agreement passed with a motion by Dr. Brian Maher and seconded by Dr. Paul Turman.

Dr. Paul Turman	Yea
Dr. Jeffrey Gold	Yea
Dr. Brian Maher	Yea
Dr. Leah Barrett	Yea

**4.3** Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to the proposed revisions to the NSWERS data specifications (version 1.3.1).

Motion to approve revisions to the NSWERS data specifications (version 1.3.1) passed with a motion by Dr. Paul Turman and seconded by Dr. Jeffrey Gold.

Dr. Brian Maher	Yea
Dr. Jeffrey Gold	Yea
Dr. Leah Barrett	Yea
Dr. Paul Turman	Yea

**5. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

**5.1** Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program Evaluation (Dr. Mike Baumgartner)

Dr. Mike Baumgartner from the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education presented on the ACE (Access College Early) scholarship program, which provides tuition assistance for low-income students taking dual credit courses. The ACE program currently serves over 2,000 students per year, but the Commission has not been able to track long-term outcomes like persistence, retention, graduation, and workforce placement for these students. The Commission would like to partner with NSWERS to conduct an evaluation of the ACE program, comparing outcomes for ACE scholarship recipients to similar non-recipients. This would allow the Commission to better understand the program's efficacy.

The proposed evaluation would use 2017-18 as the baseline year, as that was a time when the program was fully utilized before changes to community college dual credit funding. The evaluation would use propensity score matching and regression discontinuity analysis to compare ACE recipients to similar non-recipients across key outcomes.

The Council expressed strong support for this proposed evaluation, noting it aligns well with NSWERS' mission and could provide valuable insights to inform policy decisions around the ACE program. NSWERS staff confirmed the data

management policies allow for such evaluations to be conducted if approved by the Council.

## **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. Hastings, Executive Director, NSWERS made a brief presentation on behalf of himself and the Management Team. (See attached PowerPoint.)

Dr. Hastings provided an update on the data submission and certification process, noting that NSWERS now has about 12 years of validated and certified data in the system. He highlighted that this represents about 26,000 separate analyses that can be conducted across the 8 outcome areas within insights+.

Hastings then discussed the technical enhancements being made to the insights+ platform, including:

- The ability for users to create custom populations to analyze, rather than just using the statewide populations
- A new query builder tool that allows users to further filter and transform the data
- A data request wizard to streamline the process of requesting custom data extracts

Dr. Hastings explained that these enhancements are intended to significantly increase the utility and usability of the insights+ platform for NSWERS partners.

Regarding the public-facing insights website, Hastings indicated it is nearing launch and asked the Council for input on how they would like to coordinate a public rollout, potentially through a joint press event.

Dr. Hastings provided an update on the upcoming meetings to discuss potentially adding financial aid data elements, like Pell eligibility and EFC, to the NSWERS data specifications.

He also gave a brief update on the status of the NSWERS legislative bill, noting they are working with Senator Hughes on drafting the bill and exploring options to have the appropriation included in the Governor's budget.

Finally, Dr. Hastings reviewed NSWERS' progress on its strategic plan objectives, noting they are now at 92% completion overall.

## **7. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORT**

### **7.1 NSWERS Treasurer's Report – Dr. Paul Turman and Dr. Matt Hastings**

Dr. Paul Turman provided an overview of the financial reports for NSWERS.

### **7.2 NSWERS Financial Aid Data Meetings – Dr. Matt Hastings**

Having provided an overview of the upcoming NSWERS Financial Aid Data Meetings in the Executive Director's Report, no additional information was provided by Dr. Hastings at this time.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the NSWERS Executive Council Business Meeting passed with a motion from Dr. Brian Maher and second by Dr. Paul Turman.

Dr. Paul Turman	Yea
Dr. Leah Barrett	Yea
Dr. Brian Maher	Yea
Dr. Jeffrey Gold	Not Present

President Barrett adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

The next NSWERS Executive Council Meeting is scheduled to be held on January 29, 202, at 1:30 p.m., at the Nebraska Department of Education.