NCTA College Wide Assessment Protocol

Goals:

Institutionalize an integrated and systematic planning and assessment protocol measuring attainment of college-wide goals as identified in the college strategic plan. Characteristics of the assessment protocol:

- 1. The system is simple, useful and pragmatic.
- 2. Focuses on student learning outcomes.
- 3. The process is cyclical and ties into existing evaluation structures.
- 4. The system utilizes existing assessment practices were feasible.
- 5. The process influences budgetary priorities.
- 6. The process is forward-looking and considers emerging trends.

Strategic plan Imperatives and Goals	Assessment Tools/Reports	Achievements/Advancements	Outcome 1 to 10 10=done	Notes
Academic quality:				
A. Maintain/improve assessment of student learning outcomes to improve academic quality	 SLO Assessment Policy Annual Couse SLO Reports Annual Program Assessment Reports Course-Program Outcome Matrix Course Evaluation by Students Internship Employer Surveys Industry license/certification exams 5-year Program Review Policy/Reports Post-Graduate Surveys Academic Advising Policy Degree Audit Procedures Student Achievement Data Reports 	 Academic Program Reviews completed and continued. Implementation of EvaluationKIT for course evaluations by students. Implementation of student course evaluations for online/dual credit courses More structure for advisory councils in SLO revisions More structure for graduation/retention rate reporting Course/curriculum revisions driven by assessment data Detailed developmental course assessment completed Implemented Co-curricular assessment procedures Improved advising/degree audit procedures Revised Academic Council structure to improve communication and transparency Annual college-wide degree/program assessment report initiated replacing division reports. Director of Academic Services position initiated. 	9	A solid SLO assessment system was developed and utilized since Fall 2013 to guide faculty in decisions to improve student learning. Annual program reports have been in place since 2015 and guided divisions in decisions to improve student attainment of program learning outcomes. A revised SLO Assessment Policy initiated in November 2020 included a new Co-curricular assessment procedure section. 5-year program reviews were completed by all programs in spring 2022, and a new cycle of reviews have begun. Rigorous retention/graduation rate goals have been established in the June 2019 revised Retention plan as mandated by HLC. A web-based course evaluation system has been established for all courses including online/dual credit.

B. Identify, measure, attain, and improve student career success	 IPEDs data Department of Education College Scorecard Federal Income Tax Records Graduate Surveys Internship employer surveys Annual Industry Advisory Council Meetings Industry License/Certification Exams Annual Program Assessment Reports 	 Achieved high rankings in Zippia, Forbes, WalletHub, career reports. Internship employer data reported and discussed in Annual Program Assessment Reports High student success in industry license, certification exams Improved analysis of student transfer success from UNL data and individual academic program reporting Technical skills regularly evaluated by course SLO reports and internship employers 5-Year post-graduate surveys were redesigned and delivered. 	7	Various national reports are generated annually that utilize data from IPEDS, Department of Education, and federal income tax records. Data provide national comparisons of average salary, return on college investment, percent employment, etc. NCTA has several top 10 rankings for 2- year institutions from published analyses of these data. 5- year Graduate surveys were re-iniated in 2022. Data has recently been collected by UNL and communicated to NCTA on our transfer student success for the last 10 years. NCTA also internally tracks and present transfer student success in annual or 5-year review reports.
C. Improve the function of the college farm	 Farm Advisory Committee Experiential Learning Coordinator Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Annual Program Assessment Reports 5-Year Program Reviews 	 Added Experiential Learning Coordinator position to organization and communication of farm use Re-structured Farm Advisory Committee to improve communication and equipment/animal needs by faculty Development and revision of Crop Practicum curriculum Development of Feedlot Practicum curriculum Now participating in IANR's lease agreement with John Deere (2 economical tractors; annually exchanged; autosteer capable) Repairs and upgrades to animal and feed facilities. Over 2000 acres of rangeland gifted from Scholz family New planter with full precision ag capability 	8	Budgeting, planning and communication of farm resource needs for classes were priority areas for improvement. The creation of the Experiential Learning Coordinator position and restructuring of the Farm Advisory Committee membership has resulted in significant improvements in all three of these areas. The addition of new curriculum has increased student involvement in farm operations and decision making. More courses are utilizing farm resources and management decision for improved student learning, which is reported in course and annual program assessment reports. Additional rangeland will allow for expanded education in range and livestock management for students. Equipment upgrades have improved budgeting and access to precision agriculture technology.
D. Ensure effective/continuous professional development of faculty/staff	 Professional Development Funding Policy Faculty/Staff Evaluation Procedures 	 Existing policy provides framework for faculty to request up to \$1000 for professional development. Faculty/staff evaluation procedures were revised to clarity to professional development reporting Faculty/staff have regular access to professional development programing from the University of Nebraska system. 	9	Growth has occurred in this area both in terms of access to funding and expectations from administrators. More structure and transparency of expectations is needed. Policies for requesting professional development support funds were updated.

E. Effectively match personnel workloads with academic workload needs	 Faculty Workload Policy Adjunct Remuneration Policy Faculty Summer Remuneration Lecture/Temp Summer Remuneration Credit Hour Policy Leave policies Coordinated course scheduling 	 Documented faculty workloads since 2016 Updated remuneration procedures for adjuncts and dual credit/online Increased administrator guidance in compensation for additional work activities. Planned assessment of faculty workloads and course credit hour policy are in place. Director of Academic Services position initiated for better workload planning. Revised credit hour policy to allow greater flexibility. 	6	A greater understanding of faculty workloads has occurred since the 2016 implementation of the policy. Greater clarity and consistency has been initiated to manage the variety of combinations of lecture, lab, multiple sections, practicums, etc. Development of annual full-time faculty contracts have increased efforts in fair compensation for additional responsibilities beyond the standard 9-month contract. Further clarity on service workload is needed.
F. Achieve and sustain technology/equipment for student career success	 Perkins Grants Alumni/Industry Gifts/Grants Prioritized budgeting State CTE funding Deferred maintenance funding 	 Grant based (Foundation) technology additions for multiple programs Leveraged state funding Deferred maintenance Facility upgrades making technology usable 	8	A large grant (written by NCTA administrators) was received the Department of Education (Perkins) to provide new academic technology for agronomy, welding, animal science and vet tech programs. Revisions in managing teaching supply and technology needs are occurring. Procedures for prioritizing larger technology/equipment purchases are being established.
G. Leverage industry and UNL partnership to ensure student success	 Reinke Agreement John Deere Tractor Lease Nebraska Extension TAPS program UNK 2+2 agribusiness program Stumpf Center Summer Program 	 Reinke agreement continues to be extended John Deere tractor lease program with IANR (2 tractors exchanged annually) Agronomy student participation in Nebraska Extension TAPS competitions Industry supported chemical and seed donations 	8	The extension of the Reinke agreement provides over \$100,000 in irrigation technology for the college farm and irrigation technology laboratory. Access the IANR lease agreement with John Deere provides more precision ag technology for students. Participation in Nebraska Extensions TAPS irrigated corn competitions at North Platte provides agronomy students access to multiple technologies and data sets to assist with irrigation decisions. Multiple corn/soybean seed companies donate the seed for student Crop Practicum projects on the college's farm, thus providing access to genetic technology.
H. Maintain accreditation	 Designated accreditation lead Assessment lead and committee Established campus governance Established policies and procedures Designated AVMA Accreditation lead Associate Dean peer reviewer 	 Revised SLO Assessment Policy to meet HLC Co- curricular report requirements. Faculty/staff fully engaged in assessment and committee service Shared governance across campus Timely assessment of previous policies and appropriate revisions. 	8	HLC's new electronic self-study reporting structure has greatly assisted in preparing for reviews. Having a faculty lead in managing HLC communication and requests provides consistency in managing compliance. Effectively developed Co-curricular Assessment Policy and data collected and reported as required. Most critical in preparing for the next HLC site-visit and review is updating policies and procedures to reflect our new strategic plan and changes in infrastructure.

Student Services: A. Seek regular student input into activity planning	 Graduate Opinion Survey/Report Student Senate Student Ambassadors Established intramural seasons Dedicated staff with student life responsibilities Student on Dean's Council 	 Students are now full-time members of Dean's Council Student Senate and clubs/teams regularly assist or lead in developing weekly activities Well established intramural season and dance schedule Faculty/staff support in activities 	7	The primary assessment tool for gathering data on student views of student surveys is the annual Graduate Opinion Survey. This instrument was redesigned to be delivered by a Web-based instrument. Improved Student Senate infrastructure and representation on Dean's Council allows for students to better communicate needs to administrators, faculty, staff. Co-curricular assessment of clubs provide more data for effective planning.
B. Ensure a high quality, educational housing environment	 Regular health and safety checks Nightly rounds by RA's Campus Cleary Report Hosted activities Resident life survey of students Title IX training annually Residence Life Staff Position 	 Over 20 activities organized for students Zero Cleary reported incidents for 3 years Minimal incidents reported by RA's Sherrif Office agreement and presence 	8	The Residence Life Manager plays a key role in ensuring that NCTA maintains a safe and well-structured housing environment for students. The manager and team of RA's have established a very structured and appropriate set of guidelines and procedures to create an optimal environment for all students. NCTA administrators, staff, and faculty prioritize that the campus facilities and structure maintain a "student first" approach.
C. Ensure structured student advising and streamlined progress toward academic completion	 Academic Advising Policy Classroom/Course Policy Distance Learning Policy Credit for Prior Learning Policy MyNCTA and Degree Audits Transfer Advisor 	 New degree audit tools provided in MyNCTA; assessable by students and advisors for tracking degree progress Updated academic advising policy with new degree audit procedures Conducted academic advising workshops in August 2020 and January 2021 Added Director of Transfer Programs Implementation of CollegeSource (TES) for more structured management of incoming transfer course equivalency 	7	Advising workshops are regularly provided to faculty to maintain a detailed overview of essential advising practices and procedures to ensure student success. The new electronic degree audit system on MyNCTA provides very clear direction of degree progress for both advisors and students. Incoming transfer courses from students are now managed by CollegeSource (TES), which is a database for establishing course equivalencies with all institutions of higher learning. A new transfer advisor was also added to assist faculty/students for more streamlined transition to a 4-year institution. Multiple policies are in place to provide necessary structure for degree progress.
D. Develop IT programs/procedures that meet student needs	 Transitioned to One IT with UNL IT services provided at new student registration days and orientation Systemized management of IT help requests Scheduled maintenance of computer labs 	 Greatly improved access and support for student IT needs One-IT with UNL includes the systemized management of IT requests and an instrument for gathering feedback More actively involved in student orientations 	7	The restructuring of IT to be directly include in the UNL One-IT system has greatly increased our ability to meet the IT needs of our campus. IT troubleshooting, service, and upgrades are being completed much more efficiently; thus providing for a better campus IT infrastructure. Much more efficient in meeting faculty/staff/student needs.

E. Provide an environment that ensures a positive student life and career success	 Annual career fairs System for job announcements Teleheath counseling services through Ambiance Counselling Diversity Policy and Committee Title IX ADA Compliance Plan 504 Accommodation Plans 	 Established policy on diversity and inclusion General Education outcomes of Intercultural Knowledge and Civic Engagement Students have regular access to counseling Academic accommodation plans are readily available for students Campus-wide career assistance from faculty/staff Added ADA software for students Improved ADA building access 	7	A positive student life certainly involves managing our student's mental health. Mental health, diversity and inclusion is a very important part of our annual planning to ensure that the services and overall environment that we provide meet our students' needs. Career success is also extremely important, which is why partnering with industry in multiple ways through curriculum and planning is a major part of our identity. Most of our direct career support is provided through key curriculum and through faculty advisors.
Enrollment:				
A. Grow on-campus enrollment: quantity and diversity	 Four annual Discovery Days University wide application system UNL articulation agreements Reverse-Transfer system with UNL Continual curriculum updates that are workforce relevant In state and out of state recruiting staff Forward strategies in recruiting and advertising. 	 Annual IPEDs reporting Internal data collection on recruiting and admissions Updated UNL articulation agreements expected in 2024 Additional recruiting staff in Colorado and Kansas New web-based advertising 	7	The elimination of non-resident tuition rates prior to this strategic plan has continued to positively impact out of state enrollment. As such, new part-time recruiting staff is being initiated. Forwarding thinking ideas in web-based advertising has been initiated to better target potential students. Updating agreements with UNL are occurring to improve the attraction of potential transfer students. Maintaining industry workforce relevant programs is continually prioritized as well as seeking industry partnerships for potential sponsoring of students like the Irrigation Technician program with Reinke.
B. Establish planning to match increased enrollment with resource requirements	 Program Development Policy Annual Budgeting Procedures Annual Assessment Policy Program Review Policy Nebraska Foundation 	 5-Year Program Review Reports Annual assessment reports for courses and programs Annual facility and student services assessment reports 	7	Procedures that are established for budgeting and assessment of student learning are adequately providing for any additional needs in response to enrollment changes. A strong relationship with the Nebraska Foundation for University of Nebraska members continues to facilitate conversations in identifying significant donors for funding campus enhancements and growth.
C. Develop on-campus programs to attract and engage international students	 Open to specialized, non-traditional international programs. Active communication with UNL on potential partnerships. 	 Supported UNL's CUSP program for Rwanda undergraduates with summer experiential learning Multiple conversations with the irrigation industry and UNL regarding potential programs in Sudan, Nigeria, and Kazakhstan 	7	International programming has two major hurdles. One is institutional eligibility for allowing international student enrollment for degrees is very expensive. Secondly, many discussions regarding non-traditional training for international students have consistently met with travel restrictions. The CUSP program with UNL students was very successful and serves as a primary model moving forward, which is NCTA providing experiential learning

				for international students enrolled at UNL. Ultimately, international programs does not match our institutions primary mission which is statewide workforce development.
D. Develop assessment to guide recruiting and retention efforts	 Updated recruiter data collection and analysis Updated Retention Plan Faculty reporting student success on teams and clubs 	 Added recruiters targeting neighboring states Adding a Student Success position 	6	Based on assessment, resident recruiters in Colorado and Kansas have been added. A new Student Success position has been added to play a key role in retention. Improvements are being identified and prioritized for the new strategic plan.
E. Identify and prioritize new programs and modes of delivery to meet Nebraska's ag industry needs	 Program Review Policy Revised SLO Assessment Policy Updated Distance Learning Policy Established Transfer Coordinator Reverse transfer program with UNL Industry Advisory Councils 	 Initiation of multiple certificates and degree options in response to industry needs. Awareness of dual credit/online delivery needs and development of procedures to ensure rigor Continual course updating in response to industry advisory groups 	8	Workforce development for the veterinary and agricultural industries guides all curriculum decisions at NCTA. Much of the updating to stay relevant occurs within the content and methods delivered in existing courses. For example, a unique summer program was initiated in 2024 to deliver 2 agronomy courses at the university's Stumpf International Wheat Center in Grant, NE, one day a week for 12 weeks which enabled students to also complete internship experiences. NCTA has had an active dual credit presence for many years and statewide meetings have supported the need for this type of programming. Industry guided certificates have also been created and updated to assist with meeting industry needs. Enrollment and SLO assessment data continues to guide future decisions on which programs NCTA can most efficiently deliver.
F. Integrate workforce development and lifelong learning into curriculum	 Internship Employer Surveys SLO reports for Practicum courses Industry Advisory Councils AVMA Accreditation for Vet Tech program Capstone courses Industry backed certificates and licenses available Required business courses in all production degree options 	 5-Year Program review team feedback providing guidance Active partnerships with industry to provide relevant learning activities for students Annual course and program SLO reports to guide decision making Active integration of industry into teaching/courses 	8	As just mentioned above, NCTA continues to prioritize workforce development in all curriculum decisions and many examples were given. NCTA faculty continue to actively incorporate relevant industries in the classroom through guest speakers and field trip experiences. Lifelong learning and successful career management is particularly emphasized in Capstone courses that occur in multiple programs. Training our students on the resources that are available and the importance of personal and professional planning and management of finances is a key component of these courses. All agricultural production programs require several ag business courses to provide a foundation in financial management as well.

Budget and Finances:				
A. Strengthen campus-wide participation and understanding of budgeting procedures	 Re-established budget committee in 2024 Assessment reports of programs, facilities, student services to identify needs 	 Deferred maintenance planning and communication of accomplishments Weekly meetings of budget management by Executive Council. Budget communicated and discussed semesterly 	6	Active conversations occur annually to identify needs and match to funding availability. Budgeting moved from a campus-wide to an Executive Council model temporarily to try to strengthen and simply procedures. The Budget Committee is being re-established with campus-wide participation to increase visibility across campus.
B. Develop strategies to increase revenue	 Strategies to grow enrollment NU Foundation partnerships Cafeteria capital campaign Strategies to identify grants 	 Improved relationships with NU Foundation staff to identify donors Increased Perkins Grant funds 	8	Multiple efforts have increased revenue from gifts and grants. Collaboration with NU Foundation has greatly improved identification of donors and gifts.
C. Develop a preventative maintenance plan for long-term campus sustainability	 Short-term/Long-term deferred maintenance plan implemented LB 384 deferred maintenance funds provided for building improvements 308 Taskforce Funds 	 Monthly discussion of prioritizing needs Frequent meetings with University facilities team for active planning 	8	The establishment of the deferred maintenance plan has ensured the available funding is being actively utilized for appropriate maintenance needs. Regular meetings prioritized these needs. Active tracking of completion.
D. Develop procedures for farm budgeting and planning	•Experiential Learning Coordinator •Farm Advisory Committee	 Farm Advisory Committee Minutes Prioritizing maintenance funds for farm infrastructure Improved efficiency of farm operations to support students 	8	The farm budget is managed by the new Experiential Learning Coordinator in collaboration with NCTA's Executive Council. The Farm Advisory Committee provides additional recommendations and transparency for planning needs and budget of the college's farm learning laboratory. This includes membership from animal production, veterinary, equine, equipment, and crop production faculty. The committee provides a mechanism for sharing of needs and clearly communicating any financial challenges for those needs.
E. Review processes and procedures for awarding scholarships	 Rawson Scholarships awarded by high school GPA Defined procedures for Aggie and Dean scholarships NU Foundation Partnerships 	 Updated scholarship committee membership Coordinated efforts to recognized recipients and donors. Identification of multiple new scholarships 	7	The scholarship committee is being restructured to ensure proper faculty/staff membership and involvement in scholarship awarding. Efforts have been initiated to better recognize the scholarship achievements by our students as well as better recognition of scholarship donors. Improved partnership with NU Foundation has increased the number of scholarships available.
Infrastructure:				
A. Develop a college facilities master plan	•Deferred Maintenance Planning	•Meeting with university facility personnel to begin planning		A full master plan is being developed. Plan development is on-going. Priorities has focused more on deferred maintenance needs and planning.

	•Maintenance/Work Order Request System	•Internal identification of long-term needs		
B. Ensure a safe and secure campus life	 Campus Cleary Report Campus environmental scan completed Emergency Management Plan Student Housing Policy/Procedures New Student Awareness 	 Security cameras for building exits Campus outdoor lighting upgrades Key-card access to the Vet Tech Building Annual Crime, Safety, and Fire Report Renewed agreement with Frontier County Sheriff office to include dorm walk-thru Active shooter training for RA's, faculty, and staff 	8	NCTA is actively pursuing a safe and secure campus for everyone, particularly students. Lighting, sidewalk and road upgrades are continually occurring across campus. Security cameras are in place at key building exit points. A key-card access system has been installed in the Vet Tech Building. Community assistance is provided through an agreement with the Frontier County Sheriff's office. Appropriate trainings are occurring during new student orientation, RA training, and faculty/staff in-service days such as the active shooter session provided in 2023.
C. Ensure campus is ADA compliant	 ADA compliance scan completed through 309 Annual assessment of ADA needs 	 ADA accessibility added to welding shop and greenhouse Side-walk upgrades completed Appropriate ADA space provided at all facilities 	7	ADA compliance is essential for our sustainability as a college and campus. Procedures are in place for regular identification of ADA needs and deficiencies. As funds are obtained, facility upgrades for ADA compliance are actively occurring, which includes the completion of improvements to our sidewalk infrastructure and building accessibility for the welding shop and greenhouse.
D. Establish Unit/Division assessment of operating systems for efficiently meeting student needs	 Course and Program Assessment Infrastructure Co-curricular Assessment of Clubs 5-Year Program Reviews Faculty Senate and Dean's Council 	 Annual course and program outcome reporting provides mechanism for identifying financial and technology needs. 5-Year Program Review provides mechanism for external evaluation of budgeting and infrastructure. 	8	A restructuring of our campus has occurred in which academic divisions with an academic lead have been removed so that our campus now functions as one single academic unit. The number of full-time faculty members (less than 15) was a primary factor in eliminating the 5 different academic divisions. The identity of individual academic programs is still being maintained for recruiting and student success purposes, but functionally we are now one entity for budgeting and managing academics. Assessment procedures that are focused on academic programs still provides sufficient data for guiding needs of each individual program as well as the shared governance of Faculty Senate, Dean's Council, and Academic Council to ensure equal representation across our different academic areas.

A. Develop positive and effective communication with internal and external audiences	 Weekly online newsletter Regular open forums with the Dean Shared Governance Established social media presence 	 Internal New Dean's Council structure New Committee Structure Policy Semi-annual faculty/staff in-service days External Web site event calendar and news updates NCTA Facebook and other social media 	7	When the academic divisions/leads were eliminated, a new Dean's Councial structure was initiated. Maintained were multiple faculty members, but 2 Student Senate members were added as well as additional staff representation. This increased the communication among the shared governance groups of Faculty Senate, Student Senate, and Staff Senate. Also recently adopted was a new Committee Structure Policy. The policy provides guidelines for each committee to follow in terms of committee mission and membership. The goal is to increase overall campus participation in committee membership without overwhelming any individual. NCTA maintains a goal of maintaining transparency and awareness with our external audiences. This is accomplished through a weekly online newsletter and other news postings on our website as well as maintaining an up-to-date online event calendar.
B. Strengthen student/campus relationships with local and regional communities	 Faculty/staff engagement in community organizations Student/staff/faculty regular assistance with community events Civic Engagement learning outcome in General Education program Event Scheduling Process Frontier County Extension Staff on campus Chamber of Commerce Partication 	 Active event calendar (internal and web-based) Community Involvement Award for faculty/staff Civic Engagement course SLO reports NCTA part-time job boards NCTA internships 	8	NCTA has a very strong relationship with the community of Curtis. Students, faculty and staff are regular participants in community related events and vice versa, community members assist with NCTA events and community organizations utilize campus facilities. 4H and FFA programs are active users of campus facilities as well as regional Nebraska Extension specialists, ag commodity groups, and agricultural industries. All of these examples continue to be an important part of NCTA's identity. Regular communication with city manager.
C. Strengthen alumni relations to support campus growth	 Actively support annual alumni events Maintain alumni recognition in campus facilities Providing alumni presence on college website 	 Alumni recognition award established Growth in recruiter/alumni relationships New alumni supported awards for faculty/staff Alumni gifts-in-kind provided for enhanced technology for teaching and student learning Deans Office participate in Alumni Council 	9	NCTA recognizes that engaging and supporting our alumni is a very important part of our history, existence, and future sustainability. Though not as large of a group compared to much larger campuses, many of our alumni are very proud of their time at NCTA and are willing to support our programs and current students. Through the examples cited, we are striving hard to maintain and improve alumni relationships and have examples to cite that we are being successful.