Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 94848 • Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848
Phone: (402) 471-2244 • dave.heineman@nebraska.gov

May 27, 2014

Timothy F. Clare
Board of Regents
1201 Lincoln Mall, Suite 102
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Regent Clare:

I am writing today to officially notify you that I would like to be considered and selected to become the President of the University of Nebraska.

Like you, I want the University of Nebraska to be ranked among the best public universities in America. One of Nebraska's greatest assets is the University of Nebraska. The next President of the University of Nebraska will have an outstanding opportunity to build upon President Milliken's successes and to lead the University of Nebraska to an even more successful future.

Working with the Board of Regents, our stakeholders and the citizens of this great state, we can make this great University even better. For nearly ten years, I have been fortunate and honored to serve as Governor of Nebraska. I know our citizens very well and they want an even brighter future for their sons and daughters. Nebraskans know the value and the importance of access to a high quality, affordable higher education.

Priority number one should continue to be affordable tuition rates for students. That's why I was pleased to work with President Milliken and the Legislature to fund a two-year tuition freeze for Nebraska students attending the University of Nebraska. Reaching student enrollment goals is critical to the University's financial stability and I look forward to working in collaboration with the University leadership and our stakeholders to achieve these enrollment goals. Additionally, I support expanding scholarship opportunities for low income and middle class families.

President Milliken and I worked together on the issues of education and economic development. We worked with the Legislature to increase state funding for the University of Nebraska when most states were cutting funding to their higher education institutions. We worked with the Legislature to secure $25 million for Innovation Campus in Lincoln, $50 million for the Buffett Cancer Center in Omaha, $15 million for an allied health professions college at UNK and $6 million for a veterinary diagnostic lab at UNL.

Increasing research activity at the University of Nebraska is another key goal that I support and I am prepared to work with our federal partners and our donor community to expand the University of Nebraska's research capabilities and opportunities. The University has significantly increased its research funding this past decade and yet, the potential for increased funding in the future is enormous.

An Equal Opportunity Employer
Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

One of the most important assets of the University of Nebraska is the faculty. As Governor, I have had the opportunity to interact with faculty members at UNL, UNO, UNK and UNMC. I have been very impressed by the University of Nebraska's talented, knowledgeable, dedicated and committed faculty. It is essential to the success of the University of Nebraska to recruit and maintain outstanding faculty, and to encourage increased faculty development opportunities.

I support academic excellence and the key to academic excellence is a strong faculty. We have outstanding and respected faculty at the University of Nebraska and I want to partner with them to enhance the University's academic reputation.

I want to emphasize that Nebraska can be a national leader in several targeted areas of research through its investments in the Buffett Early Childhood Center, the Daugherty Water for Food Institute, the Rural Futures Institute, the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center, Innovation Campus, and the National Strategic Research Institute. These initiatives create excellent partnering opportunities with the private sector and they are important to job creation, especially for keeping young graduates in our state.

I am prepared to work with the University of Nebraska Foundation to maximize philanthropic support for the University of Nebraska. Even with the record setting "Campaign for Nebraska" fund-raising effort, I am confident that we can achieve even more extraordinary results in the future. Nebraskans want to invest in the University of Nebraska because we know a quality higher education is the key to our sons' and daughters' future.

Additionally, I support the University of Nebraska's continued involvement in our state's P-16 Initiative. As you know, the leadership of this initiative includes the President of the University of Nebraska, the Commissioner of Education, the Chair of the Legislature's Education Committee, the CEO of EducationQuest and the Governor. Our team effort in partnership with schools, colleges and educators has resulted in increased high school graduation requirements, the second highest high school graduation rate in America, and a top ten college-going rate. We are also focused on increasing the graduation rates of Nebraska's colleges and universities.

Finally, I know Nebraska. I know our community, civic, business and state and local leadership. I love Nebraska. I am passionate about education and I would be honored to be the next President of the University of Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Dave Heineman

Dave Heineman
Governor