

CHADRON STATE COLLEGE

February 12, 2010

The Honorable Ben Nelson
U.S. Senator
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Chadron State College, I have submitted an appropriation request to you for an initiative regarding degree programs in Rangeland and Agriculture Management. As you perhaps know, the program at Chadron State College is the second largest in the nation, surpassed only by Texas A&M. A large majority of the graduates in the Rangeland and Agriculture Management programs remain in Nebraska and are employed by corporations, financial institutions specializing in agricultural financing, organizations that require staff scientists, and government agencies at the local, state, and federal level including USDA, BLM, Forest Service, and Fish and Wildlife Services.

As is pointed out in the appropriation request I submitted to you, job growth in careers directly related to the academic programs offered at Chadron State College is currently very high and is projected to increase dramatically between now and the year 2016. The **Chadron State College Rangeland and Agriculture Management Technology and GIS-GPS Jobs Initiative** is in direct response for our need to upgrade technology and scientific equipment to support and enhance the student learning experience provided by our faculty.

I am not asking you to support an appropriation request to provide all funding needed to support this essential academic program. To help meet our overall need for the **Chadron State College Rangeland and Agriculture Management Technology and GIS-GPS Jobs Initiative**, the College's Foundation Board of Directors is currently engaged in raising \$2 million dollars from the private and corporate sector toward a \$5.5 million dollar project approved by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Post Secondary Education to build and equip a new complex on campus that will house the entire Rangeland and Agriculture Management programs. The goal is to have all funding in place by 2011.

As President of Chadron State College, it is my responsibility to assure that Nebraska students continue to receive an education second to none. The public we serve and the students we prepare to enter Nebraska's workforce and meet the needs of employers must remain globally competitive. This includes having access to and knowledge of state-of-the-art technology and equipment.



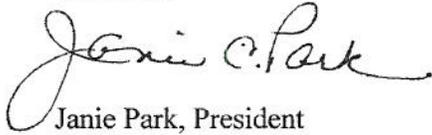
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Thank you for your consideration of this appropriation initiative, for your commitment to higher education, and your interest in and support of Chadron State College and the Nebraska State College System.

If you have questions or comments regarding this initiative, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janie C. Park". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Janie Park, President