

For the third year, the Nebraska State College System (NSCS) is offering the Governor's Opportunity Award.

A partnership with Gov. Dave Heineman, the scholarship is aimed at Nebraska high school seniors who plan to stay in the state after college and become leaders in their communities.

The Governor's Opportunity Award will cover half of the tuition costs for a student enrolled in one of the three state colleges and can be renewed for four years at Chadron, Peru and Wayne State Colleges.

Three students will be awarded scholarships for 2011-12 academic year.

Students eligible for the Governor's Opportunity Award will have a cumulative ACT score between 21 and 24 or an SAT score ranging from 1500 to 1650, and must plan to attend Chadron, Peru or Wayne State next fall.

Applicants submit an essay detailing their interest in staying in Nebraska after college graduation, how they plan to become a leader in their community and contribute to the state's economic landscape. Grade point average and involvement in activities, organizations and service projects will also be taken into consideration.

NSCS Chancellor Stan Carpenter said, "This award is about helping students who have a real desire to contribute to Nebraska's future and attend college. Our goal is to provide financial assistance to bright, talented, driven individuals who have a commitment to our state. This award will help offset the costs of attending college. We want to ensure that our students' level of debt upon graduation is minimal because we know that with less debt, they are more likely to stay in Nebraska after college."

Application materials are on the Nebraska State College System website at [www.nscs.edu](http://www.nscs.edu) under the scholarship tab and can also be obtained from high school guidance counselors.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 1. A committee of NSCS representatives will select the recipients.

The NSCS serves nearly 9,000 students from Nebraska and surrounding states through three geographically diverse institutions.

The three campuses combined offer more than 200 degree, certificate and pre-professional programs accessible on campus, via the Internet, and in several satellite locations throughout the state.