

**December 1,
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PLATTE CHAT

Big XII's Best in Football Struggle in the Classroom

While fans of the University of Nebraska and University of Oklahoma will be focused on this Saturday's football game to determine the Big XII Conference champion, both schools should be focusing more on graduating their students.

Information released today in a study by the Platte Institute for Economic Research in conjunction with the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), shows the two universities are in the bottom three of the conference when it comes to graduation rates of all students.

The University of Nebraska ranks dead-last in the conference by graduating only 25 percent of its students in four years. The University of Oklahoma ranks 10th in the conference with a four-year graduation rate of only 29 percent. Meanwhile, the University of Texas—perhaps the biggest rival for both Oklahoma and Nebraska—ranks as the best school in the Big XII by graduating 51 percent of first-time, full-time freshmen in four years.

Among the other findings in the study:

- From fiscal year 2004-05 through 2007-2008, Oklahoma State (62.0) and the University of Kansas (61.3) each increased their athletic department spending by more than 60 percent. Meanwhile, Nebraska increased its spending by 34.4 percent and Oklahoma by 22.3 percent—each ranking in the bottom half of the Big XII.
- From fiscal year 2002-03 to 2007-08, Oklahoma (133.9), Kansas (120.4) and Texas Tech (104.0) had whopping percentage increases in administrative spending. The University of

Editor

The Platte Institute strongly believes in the importance of citizens participating in the public dialogue on issues important to Nebraska. Writing a letter to the editor is an outstanding way to partake in the discussion and have your voice heard by thousands of people. To make the process easier, the Platte Institute has assembled a list of links which allow you to submit a letter to the editor to nearly all Nebraska newspapers. Simply [CLICK HERE](#) for a listing of the newspapers and follow the appropriate link to submit your letter.

Contact Us

If you would like to contact someone at the Platte Institute, you are always welcome to give us a call, drop us an email or stop by the office. Our telephone number is 402.452.3737. We are located at 10050 Regency Circle – Suite 120 – in Omaha. Below is a list of staff email address:

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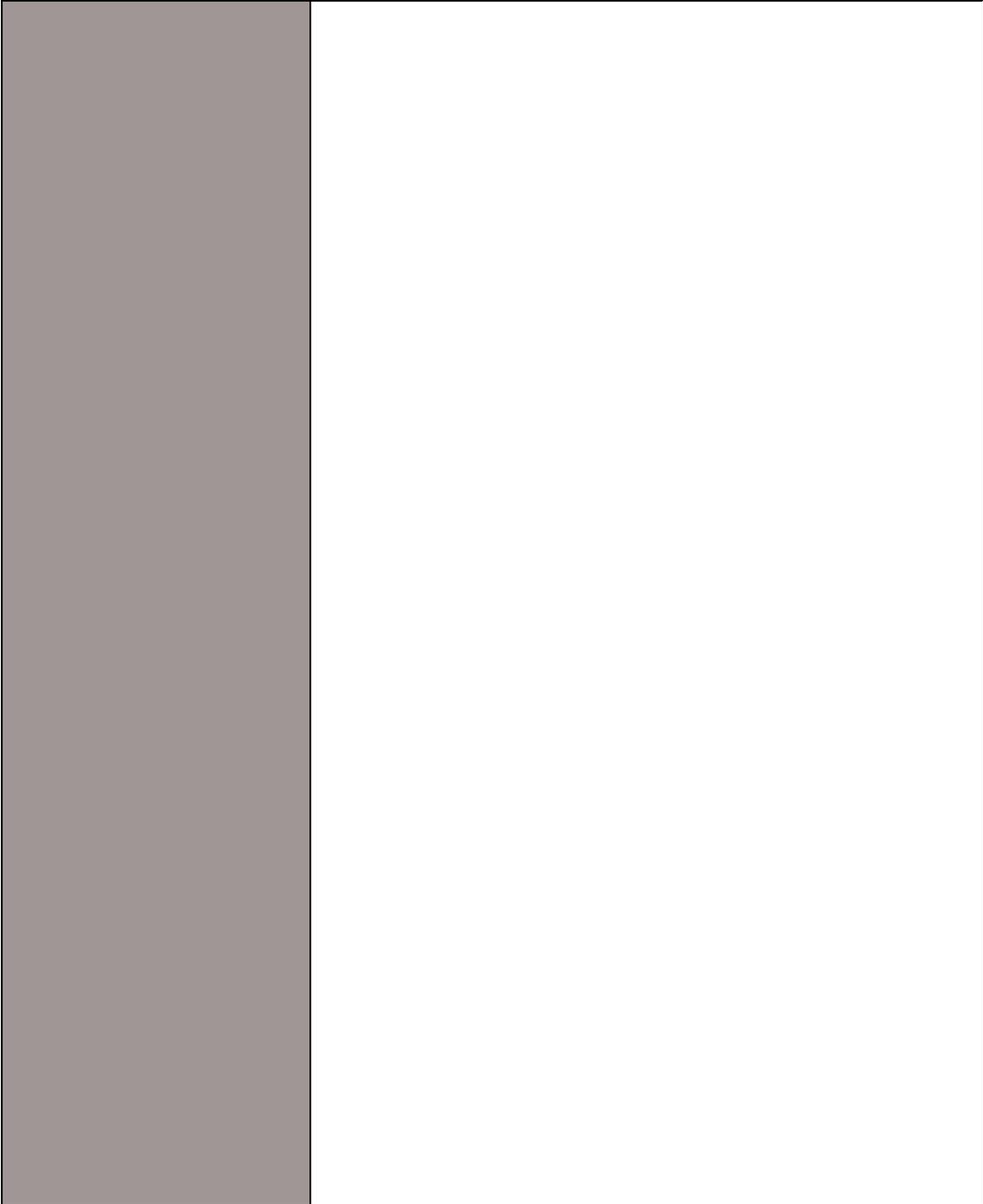
Missouri did the best job on spending, slashing administrative costs by 39.2 percent while increasing instructional spending by 48 percent. Nebraska was nearly even in its spending increase on administration (21.7) and instruction (25.1).

- From fiscal year 2004-05 to 2009-10, the University of Colorado had the highest tuition increase-an astounding 60.9 percent. Oklahoma had the second highest at 45.9 percent. Nebraska's 14.6 percent increase ranked 10th. Iowa State did the best, raising tuition by only 7.9 percent over that time.

As outlined in the full report, the University of Nebraska is faced with many of the same problems plaguing institutions across the country: rising costs, low graduation rates, and curricular gaps that make real and proactive engagement imperative. Our hope is that at Nebraska and other Big XII schools, institutional leaders-governors, regents, trustees, and administrators-will use this report to make the Nebraska and the Big XII as prominent off the field as it is on it.

For a condensed version of the study - [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#).

For the full version of the study - [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#).



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