

**December 14,
2010**

Follow Us

TWITTER
FACEBOOK

Please Take Our Survey

We are currently working on a project involving the new Omaha entertainment tax and would appreciate your feedback. Please take a moment to complete [THIS 10 QUESTION SURVEY](#). Thank you.

Media Information

If you are a member of the media and would like more information on anything in this e-newsletter, please email Berk Brown at: Berk.Brown@PlatteInstitute.org or call (402) 452.3737. Members of the media may use any or all parts of this information in reproduction as long as proper credit is given to the author and to the Platte Institute for Economic Research.

Send a Letter to the

**PLATTE
CHAT**

Earmarks Flowing to University of Nebraska

If Washington D.C. does put an end to earmarks, the University of Nebraska will have several reasons to be concerned. In fact, about 40 million reasons to be concerned. That's because "pork" money from federal earmarks has been pouring into the University of Nebraska's coffers over the last three years.

Information gathered by the Platte Institute shows the University of Nebraska system has received \$40.6 million over the last three years. When you compare that to the amount universities in the Big 10 Conference, which UNL will be joining this summer, received over the same period, you can see how disproportionate UNL's figure is:

Federal Earmark Dollars from 2008-2010:

University of Nebraska - \$40,666,000
University of Wisconsin - \$28,327,000
University of Iowa - \$15,926,000
Penn State University - \$15,700,000
Michigan State University - \$14,256,500
University of Indiana - \$13,041,746
Ohio State University - \$10,768,000
University of Michigan - \$10,500,000
University of Minnesota - \$10,207,000
University of Illinois - \$9,694,000
Purdue University - \$9,449,000
Northwestern University - \$4,830,014

Of the more than \$40 million going to the University of Nebraska, U.S. Senator Ben Nelson played a role in acquiring all but roughly \$900,000 of it.

When it comes to Nebraska's representation in Washington D.C., Sen. Nelson again leads the pack in bringing in the pork. A review of earmarks requested by

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:

John S. McCollister
Executive Director
john.mccollister@platteinstitute.org

Kimberly Stephenson
Development Director
kims@platteinstitute.org

Berk Brown
Director of Communications
berk.brown@platteinstitute.org

individual legislators shows Sen. Nelson (\$62.2 million) earmarked nearly 11 times more than Sen. Mike Johanns (\$0), Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (\$2.8 million), Rep. Lee Terry (\$1.5 million), and Rep. Adrian Smith (\$1.3 million) combined.

One of the most common criticisms regarding earmarking is that the process lacks transparency. Lawmakers are able to insert earmarks during the conference phase of legislation, once debate has ceased. In addition, members of Congress may introduce earmarks anonymously, making it difficult for constituents to follow the actions of his/her legislator. Earmarks are often not judged on their merit. Rather, earmarks are typically handed out as favors in exchange for votes on key pieces of legislation by party leaders and appropriations chairmen.

If budgeting accountability and transparency is ever to take place, putting an end to this type of government spending is a must.

Below is a list of individually requested and awarded earmarks by legislator. Each earmark shows the year, receiving entity (if specified), purpose, and the amount.

Sen. Mike Johanns (0):

Rep. Lee Terry (2 for a total of \$1,500,000):

2010 - Creighton University - facilities, equipment - \$1,000,000.
2010 - Creighton University - equipment - \$500,000

Rep. Adrian Smith (3 for a total of \$1,315,000):

2008 - U.S. Highway 30 Columbus Viaduct Replacement - \$490,000
2009 - Heartland Expressway Corridor Development and Management Study - \$475,000
2010 - University of Nebraska-Kearney - curriculum development - \$350,000

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (7 for \$2,845,000):

2009 - Antelope Valley Transportation Improvements - \$570,000
2009 - Nebraska Highway 35 from Norfolk to South Sioux City - \$500,000
2009 - Rulo Bridge Replacement Project - \$95,000
2010 - Antelope Valley Project Transportation Improvements - \$750,000
2010 - Sustainable Energy Options for Rural Nebraska - \$500,000
2010 - Special Olympics - Support for the 2010 Special Olympics National Games in Lincoln - \$350,000
2010 - CEDARS Children's Crisis Center Building Construction - \$200,000

Sen. Ben Nelson (53 for \$62,249,440):

2008 - Global Awareness Presentation Services - \$2,400,000
2008 - Advanced Wireless Encryption Module - \$2,400,000
2008 - University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Establishment of Degree Program in Space and Telecommunications Law - \$1,786,000
2008 - Construction, Renovation and Equipment for Charles Drew Health Center - \$958,000
2008 - University of Nebraska Medical Center - Construction of Cancer Floor - \$694,000
2008 - Boys Town National Research Hospital - Construction, Renovation and Equipment - \$690,000
2008 - Western Nebraska Regional Airport Authority - Maintenance of Runways

and Taxiways and Safety Factors - \$656,600
2008 - Western Nebraska Regional Airport Authority - Maintenance of Runways and Taxiways and Safety Factors - \$656,600
2008 - Metro Area Transit - Video Surveillance Security System for Transit Buses - \$490,000
2008 - Alliance Municipal Airport - Establishment of Instrument Landing System - \$458,640
2008 - TeenMates Mentoring Program - \$258,500
2008 - Center for Rural Affairs - Business Training and Technical Assistance Website - \$250,000
2008 - Visiting Nurse Association - Intervention Program for Vulnerable Women, Infants and Children - \$223,250
2008 - Heartland Family Service - Services for Women and Children in Methamphetamine Abuse Cases - \$178,600
2008 - Residential Care Consortium - A Program for Underprivileged, At-Risk and Disadvantaged Children, Young Adults, and Their Families in a Residential Care Setting - \$178,600
2008 - Creighton University - Personal Training, Equipment, and Technological Upgrades for the Milton R. Abrahams Legal Clinic - \$178,600
2008 - CEDARS Youth Services Inc. - Emergency Shelter for Runaway and Homeless Youth - \$133,950
2008 - Mid-American Arts Alliance, HELP Program - \$95,000
2008 - Zero to Three - Maltreated Infants and Toddlers - \$89,300
2009 - STRATCOM Replacement Facility Design - \$10,000,000
2009 - Battlefield Tracheal Intubation - \$4,200,000
2009 - Solutions for Infection Control in Military Hospitals - \$2,000,000
2009 - Construction and Renovation to Create the Non-Profits and Education Training Center for the Center for People in Need - \$950,000
2009 - Stable Fly Control - \$866,000
2009 - Equipment for Tabitha Health Care Services - \$761,000
2009 - Rainwater Basin Wetlands Management District - \$500,000
2009 - Nebraska Meth Project to Support a Campaign to Significantly Reduce the Prevalence of Methamphetamine Use in Nebraska - \$500,000
2009 - City of Omaha - Expansion of After School Educational Programming - \$500,000
2009 - University of Nebraska-Omaha - Develop and Implement a Training Program Centered on Civic Leadership - \$476,000
2009 - St. Monica's Home - Construction of a New Community Center for Low Income Women and Their Families in Need of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment - \$418,000
2009 - Nebraska Community Foundation - \$285,000
2009 - Boys and Girls Home of Nebraska, Treatment and Services Program to Serve Child and Teenaged Victims of Trauma - \$250,000
2010 - University of Nebraska-Lincoln - Nanoelectronic Memory, Sensor and Energy Devices - \$6,300,000
2010 - University of Nebraska Medical Center - Countermeasures to Hemorrhaging - \$5,760,000
2010 - University of Nebraska Medical Center - Simplified Orthopedic Surgery - \$4,240,000
2010 - University of Nebraska Medical Center - Supporting Surgical Options in Space - \$2,700,000
2010 - Dawnbreaker Inc. - Virtual Business Accelerator for the Silicon Prairie - \$1,600,000
2010 - City of Plattsmouth - Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements - \$1,200,000
2010 - Heritage Services - Construction of an 80,000 square foot, multi-level facility - \$876,600
2010 - Material Science Smart Coatings - \$500,000
2010 - National Wild Turkey Federation - \$500,000
2010 - Heartland Family Service - Methamphetamine and Drug Treatment

Program for Women - \$500,000.
2010 - University of Nebraska-Lincoln - International Trade Scholars Program - \$500,000
2010 - Rainwater Basin Wetlands Management District - \$500,000
2010 - Mid-Plains Community College - Construction of a New Events Center that Supports Rural Economic Development and Activity in Southwestern Nebraska - \$487,000
2010 - NeighborWorks - Neighborhood Revitalization Including Elimination of Blight, Construction of Single Family Homes, Rehabilitation and Repairs - \$487,000
2010 - Metropolitan Community College - Facilities and Equipment Relating to Healthcare Training - \$300,000
2010 - Wayne State College - Construction of a New Collaborative Education Center - \$292,200
2010 - Nebraska Community Foundation - \$275,000
2010 - Novel Photocatalytic Metal Oxides - \$250,000
2010 - Durham Museum - Photo Archive Project - \$200,000
2010 - Nebraska Advocacy Services - Center for Disability Rights, Law and Advocacy - \$200,000
2010 - City of Omaha - Family Justice Center of the Midlands - \$100,000

www.platteinstitute.org

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter or if you wish to be removed from all future newsletters, please [click here](#) to manage your subscriptions.