

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 2, 2006

Committee, has been adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, a third report this morning offered by the Education Committee, chaired by Senator Raikes, involves the appointment of James Strand to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. (Legislative Journal page 823.)

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, the Education Committee recommends your confirmation of the appointment of Mr. James Strand to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Mr. Strand is a reappointment to the commission. If confirmed, he would continue his service on the commission until January 1, 2011. Mr. Strand is a resident of Lincoln. He's a former telecommunications executive, having retired as market area president for Alltel in 2001. Mr. Strand has spent the majority of his professional career in the telecommunications industry. He held various management positions for the Lincoln Telephone Company and Aliant Communications prior to his retirement from Alltel. He began his work career as an employment counseling supervisor for the Nebraska Department of Labor in 1971. Mr. Strand was born in Columbus and is a graduate of York High School. From there, he attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1969. He followed that with a master's degree in psychology from UNL in 1971. He went on to earn a master's of business administration degree also from UNL in 1981. In the way of a reminder, I'll mention that the Coordinating Commission is a constitutional entity that is charged with the general duty of coordinating higher education in Nebraska. As enumerated in Article VII, Section 14 of the constitution, coordination duties include the adoption of a comprehensive statewide plan, review and approval of postsecondary educational programs and capital construction projects, and review and, if necessary, modification of budget requests submitted by state higher education administering boards. The commission's statutory duties also include the identification and enactment of policies that meet the educational, research, and public service needs of the state, while at the same time avoiding unnecessary