▸ ▸ ▸

Q: **What's the goal of a University of Nebraska system-wide procurement function?**

A: Purchasing is an area where it makes sense for the University of Nebraska's campuses to align in order to maximize efficiency and effectiveness. A system-wide approach to procurement will streamline processes and create opportunities for long-term cost savings, versus a more fragmented campus-by-campus approach that doesn't maximize opportunities to implement best practices across the system. Ultimately, the goal is a more strategic approach to purchasing that will make the best use of the university system's collective talent and resources in service to NU's faculty, staff and students.

The plan to move to a system-wide procurement function was recommended unanimously by the chief business officers at each campus and from Central Administration, before being unanimously approved by the chancellors and president. It aligns with the goal outlined in President Carter's strategic plan to maximize efficiency across the university.

Q: **Who is engaged in this process?**

A: A system-wide team, representing business and finance, procurement, travel, audit, legal, IT, and diversity and inclusion teams from all four campuses and Central Administration will lead the process, carefully evaluating current procurement and payment structures and practices and then identifying opportunities for greater direction to procurement and payment across the university. The chief procurement officer will develop a strategic procurement plan in collaboration with campus and system leadership that is based on the needs of the campuses and university as a whole.

Q: **Does the P2P model envisioned for the NU system exist at other university systems?**

A: Yes. Similar models exist at the University of Colorado, Indiana University and University of Missouri systems, among others.

Q: Are the procurement changes related to the university's current budget challenges? Are jobs being cut?

A: No, building the new procurement model does not involve job cuts. Rather, these updates are about positive alignment of the university's procurement and payment practices and structures.

Q: What kind of benefits will be associated with the new P2P model?

A: Our intent is to streamline processes related to payments, travel request and reimbursements, Pcard reconciliation and administration, contract administration, and training. New technologies shared across the university system should free up employees' time and improve processes for purchase orders and invoice processing and payment. Moreover, greater collaboration between procurement and payments processes will create opportunities for cost savings and new processing rebates.

Q: Will I continue to work with my campus procurement office?

A: Yes. Procurement functions will continue to exist on the campuses. These teams will continue to assist employees in the purchasing of goods and services. The university will expand eSHOP to maintain an efficient processing platform for ordering goods and services from approved NU suppliers.

Q: I work in procurement. Am I getting a new boss? Will I be reclassified as a system employee instead of being based at my campus? Will I move offices?

A: We expect few, if any, employees to change offices. The past seven months have taught us that colleagues can work successfully from wherever they are located. We are still early in the process of assessing structures and practices and are undertaking a search for a system-level chief procurement officer. Much like was done with One IT that streamlined IT functions across the system, we anticipate campus-based P2P positions will be reclassified to system-level positions that will report to the chief procurement officer. But again, employees will continue to office on their "home base" campus.

Q: What are the next steps and timeline?

A: Building the new P2P model will take place over the next 12 to 18 months. An immediate next step is to develop a job description for the chief procurement officer and begin a national search.

Q: Where can I find more information?

A: A P2P website is available [here](#) and will be updated regularly throughout the process.