

Teammates,

Last week, Governor Jim Pillen delivered his first [State of the State Address](#) to the people of Nebraska. While DAS' broader goal of providing high-level service to our customers won't change, I did want to highlight some areas of the Governor's address that I believe will directly impact/be impacted by our Department.

In Governor Pillen's address, he highlighted the need to be thoughtful custodians of taxpayer dollars. He detailed how his budget would restrict the growth of state spending to 1.3% annually by implementing "an inspirational systems approach to running agencies," to improve services and cut operational cost. At DAS, this has been our longstanding approach and we will double down to support the Governor's fiscal agenda. Our Center of Operational Excellence is also well equipped to come alongside our customer agencies and help them attain their fiscal objectives.

The Governor also stressed the importance of the State's workforce and provided a number of strategies to help keep more of our talent here in Nebraska. Our State Personnel and HR teams are at the forefront of recruiting and retaining top talent in Nebraska. We have had record levels of low unemployment, and we are constantly looking for new ways in which we can build the best team at the State. In just the last few years, we've implemented a number of approaches towards achieving this, including:

- Historic compensation agreements with the State's labor unions
- Comprehensive and industry leading benefit and healthcare options for teammates
- Initiatives to create a premier workplace for families and our veterans and military members

Going hand-in-hand with creating a stronger workforce, Governor Pillen emphasized the need to provide better educational opportunities at all levels and throughout all areas of Nebraska. He especially mentioned the need to better support our community colleges. The Governor's budget recommendation includes continued investment in DAS' partnership with the State's community colleges to provide tuition assistance to dependents of state teammates attending any of the State's community colleges.

Many of these policies, strategies, and ideas laid out by Governor Pillen in his State of the State Address, such as revamping our state aid to education formula (TEEOSA), will also greatly impact our Accounting team and the great work they do each and every day.

While these are specific areas in which DAS can support Governor Pillen's priorities, our Department will work to serve all our sister agencies in supporting the Governor's overall mission to continue to build a strong State for the people of Nebraska. Thank you to all of our teammates who already work hard every day to support this mission, and I look forward to continuing to work with you all to accomplish this goal in the years to come.

You can read the Governor's full [State of the State Address here](#).

Regards,

Jason Jackson