



Lincoln



Omaha



Kearney



Medical Center

Building a Healthier Nebraska

The University of Nebraska’s “Building a Healthier Nebraska” legislative proposal represents an extraordinary opportunity to:

- Expand Nebraska’s health care workforce to better serve Nebraska, especially in rural areas, and help address shortages of nurses and allied health professionals.
 - Nebraska’s nursing shortage is projected to grow to 3,800 by 2020, with rural areas expected to be especially hard-hit.
 - For the period of 2008-2018, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected increases in demand of 39 percent for physician assistants, 30 percent for physical therapists, 18 percent for diagnostic medical sonographers, 17 percent for radiographers, and 14 percent for clinical laboratory scientists – an overall need of more than 152,000 allied health professionals.
- Strengthen cancer research and treatment and enhance the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s regional and national reputation in cancer care.
- Create new high-tech, high-paying jobs in research that will keep Nebraska’s best and brightest in the state and attract highly educated researchers from around the world.
- Create new educational opportunities for students in Lincoln and greater Nebraska to pursue high-demand careers in nursing and allied health. Currently, the nursing programs located in Lincoln and Kearney turn away 50 to 60 percent of qualified applicants annually, and the School of Allied Health Professions is able to accept only 25 percent of applicants.
- Undertake planning and design for a Veterinary Diagnostic Center that meets the needs of Nebraska’s veterinarians and livestock producers.

Scope: Four allocations from the State’s cash reserve fund.

- \$17 million for a new College of Nursing Lincoln facility in Lincoln.
- \$50 million for a new UNMC cancer research tower, to be leveraged with more than \$300 million from private donors, clinical and hospital revenues and other sources.
- \$19 million for expansion of the UNMC College of Nursing’s Kearney division and addition of a Kearney-based UNMC allied health professions program.
- \$5 million state investment in programming, design and development of construction documents for a new Veterinary Diagnostic Center in Lincoln; construction costs estimated at \$50 million will go into a future capital request.

Project details: College of Nursing – Lincoln Division

- The new facility that would house 314 students, compared to the current annual enrollment of about 250. This would help address the shortage of nurses and nurse educators in Nebraska. Expansion would especially focus on the Lincoln area’s greatest need, which is for masters and doctorally prepared nurses to take roles in advanced clinical specialization and as educators in the area’s nursing education programs.
- The Lincoln nursing program is currently housed in leased space in downtown Lincoln on a mixed-usage block occupied by bars, retail and other businesses with pedestrian traffic not compatible with a college mission. The new facility would be on campus, which would enhance the college experience for nursing students, improve safety and alleviate parents’ concerns.
- Current facilities lack adequate space for classrooms, clinical simulation labs, conference rooms, computer labs and faculty offices. The five existing classrooms would be replaced with six classrooms and six seminar rooms sized to accommodate varying course enrollments.
- Half of the Lincoln faculty are Ph.D.-prepared and active researchers, bringing in National Institutes of Health and other grant dollars (and new employees) to the region. The new facility would allow faculty to expand their research activities, which are currently constrained by lack of space.
- Across the country, clinical sites for training are being replaced by high-technology clinical simulation labs, and the University of Nebraska intends to do the same. The university anticipates that by the time the full enrollment growth model could be reached (2020), 50 percent of the clinical training would be in the labs of this facility, thus substantially reducing the demand on patients and clinical sites.

Other considerations: Lincoln College of Nursing facility

- Initiated in 1974
- 31 faculty, 7 staff
- Total annual enrollment: approximately 250
- Graduates per year: 80 BSN, 18 MSN, 1-2 Ph.D.; majority employed in Lincoln area
- Up to 60 percent of qualified BSN applicants are turned away annually.
- Master’s and Ph.D. graduates become the future faculty workforce for Lincoln-area nursing colleges.
- Annual budget: \$2.6 million, with 93 percent from state general funds and the remainder from research and faculty nursing practices.
- Annual projected enrollment with a new facility: 314 students **(an increase of 26 percent)**

Project details: UNMC Cancer Center

- The cancer research tower would include 250,000 square feet and 98 new laboratories dedicated to cancer research, for a total cost of \$110 million. The university believes that the remaining \$60 million could be raised from private donors and other sources.
- The research tower is one part of a \$370 million cancer center project that would also include an outpatient facility and an inpatient cancer treatment center that would be part of The Nebraska Medical Center. Costs also include removal of Swanson Hall and a current parking structure, utilities and construction of parking for 1,200 employees and 1,000 patients. More than 85 percent of the total cost would be paid from private philanthropy and clinical revenues.

Other considerations: UNMC Cancer Center

- Comprehensive Cancer Center designation from the National Cancer Institute would help UNMC increase its competitive advantage for top faculty and research funding. There are only about 40 such centers in the U.S. Several other regional institutions (Kansas, Oklahoma) are pursuing NCI designation with state support.
- When complete, the cancer center project would ultimately add 1,200 jobs in Nebraska; the 98 new laboratories planned for the research tower would house 50 research faculty and more than 400 new support staff. The inpatient and outpatient facilities would add another 700+ jobs.
- A Comprehensive Cancer Center would grow UNMC's diagnostic capabilities as it moves toward more individualized therapies, genetically tailored to the specific needs of the patient. This is the direction in which major cancer centers are moving.
- With a new cancer research tower, all cancer researchers would be located in one facility, increasing synergy and fostering collaboration.
- Research facilities would be close to the patient care areas, enabling researchers to work closely with the physicians providing care. This would improve patient treatment.
- Patients would have access to clinical trials and new therapies not available at other locations.
- UNMC would enhance its core strengths and expand into new areas, such as:
 - Hematological cancer, emphasizing lymphoma, multiple myeloma and leukemia
 - Development and testing of cancer drugs and vaccines in a new Immunotherapeutic Center
 - Gastrointestinal cancer (pancreatic, liver and colon); prostate cancer
 - Brain tumors
 - Women's cancer, emphasizing breast and ovarian cancers
 - Lung cancer
- Cancer represents about 50 percent of the net income of The Nebraska Medical Center and 50 percent of extramural research support to UNMC.

Project details: UNMC College of Nursing and School of Allied Health Professions – Kearney campus

- The university proposes a 30,000-square-foot addition to the Bruner Hall of Science; this location provides close proximity to the biology and other science programs, Calvin T. Ryan Library and additional classroom space in Copeland Hall. This offers an opportunity for shared space and services.
- The addition would allow the expansion of the UNK-based UNMC nursing program to grow by about 40 students from its current enrollment of 124, as well as the establishment of a UNK-based UNMC allied health professions program that would serve about 46 students when fully phased in.
- The School of Allied Health Professions on the UNMC campus currently accepts about 25 percent of applicants. Housing a program at UNK would provide additional opportunities in allied health fields for students from central and western Nebraska. Allied health programs include physical therapy, physician assistant, clinical laboratory science, diagnostic medical sonography and radiography.

Other Considerations: Kearney initiatives

- College of Nursing program at UNK was initiated in 1991
- 15 faculty, 5 staff; annual enrollment 124; 40 graduates per year
- About 50 percent of qualified BSN applicants were turned away in FY 2011

- Master’s graduates become the future faculty workforce for Kearney area nursing colleges and become nurse practitioners who practice in primary care settings.
- The need for nurses, nurse educators and allied health professionals statewide and in the region will continue to grow as the population ages and as emphasis increases on prevention, wellness and living with chronic medical conditions.
- Many health care organizations (hospitals and clinics) in central and western Nebraska could become primary clinical instruction sites for students enrolled in Kearney-based programs. There is strong regional interest in expanding both the nursing and allied health education programs in Kearney.
- The nursing program faces significant space challenges. The simulated patient care lab is located away from nursing classrooms and faculty and is badly outdated, and there is no space for faculty research.
- There are currently about 180 pre-nursing students at UNK and only 48 slots per year in the nursing program there. Some of the spots are committed for specific programs. An expansion of the UNK-based UNMC nursing program would help address critical shortages of nurses and nurse educators statewide as well as creating opportunities for students to pursue the career of their choice.

Project details: Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center – IANR

- An investment of \$5 million will fund the programming, design and development of construction documents for a new Veterinary Diagnostic Center at the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources on UNL’s East Campus.
- The current facility was built in 1975 and is no longer adequate because of:
 - Ventilation, building design, risk of cross-contamination, and lack of adequate space
 - Not accessible to people with disabilities
- Due to inadequacies, the center’s accreditation is at risk. An accreditation decision is expected soon and the university must demonstrate a good-faith effort to address the deficiencies.
- Nebraska is a leading beef state and having adequate facilities is deemed essential by industry leaders including the Ag Builders of Nebraska, Nebraska Veterinary Association, Nebraska Cattlemen and Nebraska Farm Bureau.

Other considerations: Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center

- Benefits of the Veterinary Diagnostic Center include:
 - Providing accurate and timely diagnostic services (processes 13,000 cases annually)
 - Improving animal and public health through disease surveillance
 - Developing new diagnostic testing methods
 - Supporting food safety and infectious/biomedical research
 - Training PPVM veterinary students
- Risks of loss of accreditation:
 - Reduces ability to respond to disease outbreaks
 - Loss of faculty, lack of competitiveness for faculty
 - Reduces opportunity to obtain federal grants and contracts
 - State cannot test at a non-accredited laboratory
- Architects have determined that a new facility is more cost-effective than renovation.