



BIOGRAPHY: HANK M. BOUNDS, PH.D.

On January 12, 2015, the Board of Regents appointed lifelong educator Hank M. Bounds, Ph.D., as the seventh president of the University of Nebraska (NU). Bounds began his tenure on April 13, 2015, bringing a demonstrated record of expanding opportunities for students, improving higher education outcomes and efficiencies, and building successful partnerships with policymakers, donors and business leaders.

He has continued working to improve educational outcomes and build partnerships since he arrived in Nebraska. Bounds has connected with leaders within the university, in the private sector, in government and in the military to increase collaboration and innovation. During his tenure, enrollment has grown to its highest level in 22 years and research dollars have reached record highs. Bounds launched several programs designed to increase collaborations across NU and incentivize new research, such as the University-wide Food for Health initiative. These programs address critical issues important to Nebraskans and result in greater research funding opportunities. He has also focused on attracting more talent to the state to meet workforce needs and expanding educational access to Nebraskans, recently working with the University of Nebraska Foundation on a two-year, \$217 million fundraising initiative to create success for current and future students.

Bounds grew up on a small family farm in Mississippi. His service in the Army National Guard helped him pay for college, and he earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and a doctorate from the University of Mississippi.

Bounds has devoted his 28-year career to helping change students' lives in the same way education opened doors in his own life. He began as a high school teacher, then rose to principal, superintendent and state superintendent before becoming Mississippi's commissioner of higher education in 2009. In that role, he oversaw a complex system of eight public universities.

Today, under his leadership, the University of Nebraska enrolls 52,000 students, employs over 16,000 faculty and staff, and operates with an annual budget of 2.5 billion dollars—including \$337 million in extramural research expenditures.

Bounds holds a faculty appointment in the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and courtesy faculty appointments in the Colleges of Education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He serves on the board of directors for several organizations, including the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation, the Nebraska State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Consultation Committee for US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) and The Buckle, Inc. He is on the Board of Governors for the Knights of Aksarben and serves as the chair of the board of directors for the the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute.

Bounds and his wife, Susie, are the parents of a son, Will, and a daughter, Caroline. They reside in Lincoln, Nebraska.

**“TODAY’S CHALLENGES DEMAND A
COLLABORATIVE APPROACH. THE UNIVERSITY
HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD IN ADDRESSING THESE
CHALLENGES. BUT WE CAN’T DO IT ALONE. WE WILL
DO IT WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH OUR PARTNERS
IN EVERY PART OF THE STATE.”**

HANK M. BOUNDS
President, University of Nebraska

