

The University of Nebraska Foundation

TRUSTEE NEWSLETTER



New NU President Hank Bounds says University of Nebraska can be a 'giant in higher ed'

When Dr. Hank Bounds was first asked to become a finalist for the University of Nebraska presidency, he admits he was looking for a reason to say no.

Bounds already had a great job as commissioner of higher education in Mississippi, where he was working to change students' lives the way education had shaped his own life and career. He had built a reputation over his 25-year career in education as someone who was skilled in expanding opportunities for students, improving outcomes and building successful partnerships with constituents. A native Mississippian, Bounds and his wife, Susie, and their children, Will and Caroline, had family and friends close by.

But the more Bounds learned about the University of Nebraska – the diversity and strengths of its four campuses; the talents of its faculty, staff and students; the deep connection Nebraskans feel to their university; the tremendous public and private support the university enjoyed – the more he and his family felt this could be the place for them.

Continued on page 5

Inside

June Board Meeting Summary

Trustees Fund for the Future

Trustee Q&A

Campus Priority Projects

80th Anniversary Timeline

New NU President Hank Bounds *Continued from page 1*

“All my life, I’ve wanted to be in a position where I could help change the world,” Bounds said. “The University of Nebraska presidency is that position. In Nebraska, I found a university that can be a real giant in higher education, doing more than ever to impact the lives of Nebraskans and people around the world. And I wanted to be a part of it.”

Bounds got his wish – and on April 13, following a national search by the Board of Regents, he began his tenure as the seventh president of the University of Nebraska.

Bounds has spent his initial months on the job listening and learning, immersing himself in the university’s campuses and communities. He has traveled the length of the state and met as many constituents as possible.

And he says everything he’s learned has only strengthened his conviction that the University of Nebraska can become one of America’s great universities.

“The best days for the University of Nebraska are ahead of us,” he said. Getting there, Bounds said, will require the university to identify a handful of areas where it can be the best in the world – and then go own those conversations.

For example, feeding a population that is expected to grow from 7.2 billion to 9.6 billion by 2050 is one of the most pressing global challenges of the day. In terms of quality of life for people around the world and national and international security, Bounds said, the challenge could not be more urgent – and the University of Nebraska, through its Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute, established with a private gift, can and should be in the lead.

Early childhood education is another area where the University of Nebraska can lead the way. Experts increasingly recognize that a child’s first day of college begins in preschool, Bounds said, and higher education institutions need to work closely with partners in early childhood and K-12 education to ensure all children can be college- and career-ready. The university’s Buffett Early Childhood Institute, established with private philanthropy, is engaged in that work.

And the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center will position the university to transform cancer research and care in Nebraska and beyond.

Rural development, defense and national security, and engineering and information sciences are other areas that offer potential for global leadership – and what they all have in common, Bounds said, is that they draw on the strengths of multiple University of Nebraska campuses.

“To me, that’s the power of the University of Nebraska,” he said. “Each of our campuses has a unique role and mission. But together, we represent rural and urban interests, undergraduate and graduate education, STEM and the liberal arts. We are one university with four campuses, all working to serve people in Nebraska and around the world.”

Key Campus, Foundation and Alumni Event Dates

SEPTEMBER

- 24** UNMC College of Dentistry Dean’s Club Dinner, Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln, 6:15 p.m.
- 25-26** UNMC College of Dentistry Homecoming Weekend, Cornhusker Marriott, Lincoln
- 25-26** UNK Homecoming, UNK Campus, Kearney
- 25** Foundation Annual Meeting of Trustees, Pinnacle Bank Arena, Lincoln, 5:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

- 1** WIN Awards Ceremony and Reception, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Omaha, Time TBD
- 2-3** UNMC Alumni Association Alumni Reunion, Omaha
- 7** Baxter Arena Dedication/Maverick Kickoff, Baxter Arena, Omaha, 5:30 p.m.
- 8** Nebraska Innovation Campus Ribbon Cutting, Nebraska Innovation Campus, Lincoln, 3:30 p.m.
- 21-23** Rural Futures Conference, Nebraska Innovation Campus, Lincoln, and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Curtis, Neb.