

H. Dele Davies

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Interim Chancellor, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Overview

I am a physician, educator, researcher and academic leader. For over four decades, I have strengthened educational programs, advanced discoveries and improved the health of children and their families. I have had the privilege of serving at every level of health science academia, from clinics and hospitals to campuses and communities, and engaged with people across Nebraska and the world. This perspective keeps me grounded on how decisions affect faculty, staff, learners, patients and communities – and it is why I lead by listening closely, communicating clearly, and acting with purpose to advance our shared mission.

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Please note, while I use the word "I" in relation to the items mentioned in this document, none of my successes have been achieved alone, but always with exceptional teams of people.

Faculty & Staff Success

Proven dedication to developing leaders, strengthening culture and improving efficiency

- » Introduced and leading the **UNMC Better Processes Initiative**, using Lean Six Sigma Methodologies to train unit-based “M Teams” and leaders to **maximize efficiency**, eliminate work that does not add value, and improve faculty, staff and student **satisfaction**. (ONGOING)
- » Championed the creation of UNMC’s **inaugural Staff Advisory Council**, providing staff with representation in university decisions and direct access to leadership.
- » Co-established the **NU-wide Developing Excellence in Academic Leadership** (NU DEAL) program, equipping senior leaders for future dean/vice chancellor/president roles and **strengthening cross-campus connections** across the four NU system universities.
- » Championed CIMER “train-the-trainer” facilitator development for UNMC graduate faculty, enabling **mentoring training for >300 faculty who advise graduate students or postdocs**, strengthening mentor-mentee relationships.
- » Launched and grew the **UNMC Design Thinking Program**, which blends human-centered empathy with innovative design methods for solving problems.
- » Established the Academic Affairs Joanne Loch Memorial Award, an annual **award recognizing staff for their exemplary dedication** and commitment to excellence.
- » Established and expanded the **UNMC-wide Impact in Education Awards**, which has **recognized 70 exemplary faculty** across multiple categories, including emerging educator, innovation, leadership, mentorship, service, interprofessional education and sustained achievement.
- » Launched and grew the **Interprofessional Academy of Educators**, which built a community of **350+ engaged educators** across UNMC, driving collaboration, innovation and scholarship.

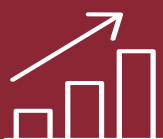
Face-to-Face Engagement

I strongly believe in shared governance and open dialogue, so I host monthly campus forums – including sessions from Lincoln and Norfolk – and regularly engage with the Faculty Senate, Staff Advisory Council and Student Senate, with ongoing leadership check-ins to ensure concerns are heard and addressed.

Student and Trainee Success

Strong leadership improving the learner experience, advising and career readiness

- » Leading statewide community outreach to **expand rural training rotations** tied to the Kearney expansion, partnering with hospital leaders to discover community needs and resources, and **ensuring students and residents form lasting connections to rural communities**. (ONGOING)
- » Created and leading the initiative to **expand private financial aid pathways** for graduate and professional students in response to the loss of federal GradPLUS loans by engaging local and national banks. (ONGOING)
- » Introduced the **first UNMC-wide learning management system**, Seguidor, to track graduate student milestones and embedded Individual Development Plans to **strengthen advising and support timely degree completion**.
- » Led a **graduate assessment strategic initiative** defining universal core and co-curricular competencies, aligning program/course outcomes and metrics, and launching a five-year program review model with external reviewers to strengthen quality and consistency.
 - » **Strengthened graduate student well-being and support** by creating the Graduate Student Wellness Hub, appointing on-site student advocates, and launching dissertation, thesis and grant-writing boot camps.
 - » **Expanded professional development and academic support** through a Professional Development Skills program, a UNO-partnered Writing Center, and a digital badging program recognizing co-curricular skill-building and contributions.
 - » Built career pathways by **founding the Graduate Studies Alumni Council** and partnering with Bio Nebraska for **networking and internships**, which have **led to employment for multiple graduate students** and postdoctoral fellows.



Under my leadership over the last 14 years, UNMC student **enrollment increased by 32%**. We launched **11 new graduate programs** and **17 new professional degree programs**; and UNMC established **15 new departments/centers** and **1 institute**.



Pipeline & Workforce Development

Proven track record of expanding pathways that strengthen Nebraska's workforce

- » Advancing **rural training and retention** by engaging over 20 health care leaders statewide in their own communities on rural preceptor development and site readiness. (ONGOING)
- » Established the **Office of Health Workforce Initiatives** to align and scale workforce pipeline efforts statewide, serving as a central coordinating hub for rural initiatives (including the Kearney expansion), preceptor excellence, and pathway programs, while strengthening partnerships with communities and external agencies.
- » Oversaw the growth of the **UNMC High School Alliance**, our health sciences pipeline serving juniors/seniors from across greater Omaha, growing **enrollment from 47 to 100**.
- » Established a **noncredit/microcredentials program** for faculty, staff and community learners, strengthening skills and **creating pathways for future enrollment** at UNMC.
- » Established and grew **uBEATS**, a free online health science enrichment platform for **middle and high school students**. The program is endorsed by, and is a member of, the National Consortium for Health Science Education. It is also verified by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Since the launch of uBEATS in 2020, the online library has grown to **107 interactive modules** and reached **132,000 lifetime student enrollments in all 50 states**; 25% of students are from Nebraska. The program began offering digital badges in January 2024, and over **800 badges have been awarded** since then.

Innovation & Institutional Growth

Strong leadership in launching signature initiatives that expand capability and national visibility

- » Oversaw the consolidation of 6 independent departmental basic science programs into an **interdisciplinary umbrella program (IGPBS)**. This led to a more than **threefold increase in applicants**, a **reduction in student attrition from 18% to 6%** and a significant increase in **nationally funded institutional and individual training grants**.
- » Established and grew **Interactive E-learning**, equipping faculty, staff and students with the knowledge and resources they need to embrace innovative teaching modalities for the modern learner.

Under my leadership, Interactive E-learning has rapidly expanded to encompass all our campuses, with participation from **820+ faculty, students and staff from 6 UNMC colleges and 1 institute**, working in teams to create more than **320** curricular and extracurricular e-learning **modules**. These modules are available 24/7 in an online gallery and have received over **500,000 page views** from users in **197 countries**.

- » Served on the executive leadership team that launched the **Global Center for Health Security**, a US Agency for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and NU Board of Regents-funded center, to meet and expand America's current and future health care **training needs for disaster preparedness, response and recovery**.
- » Helped lay the foundation and shepherded the Board of Regents' approval for UNMC's **Child Health Research Institute (CHRI)**, an innovative UNMC-Children's Nebraska partnership advancing pediatric discovery and translating research into new tests and treatments for child health.
- » Served as the original convener and on the executive leadership team that launched the **Interprofessional Experiential Center for Enduring Learning (iEXCEL)**, which focuses on improving human performance and effectiveness in health care through interprofessional adoption of high-fidelity simulation, virtual and augmented reality, and other experiential learning technologies.
- » Established the **Dean's Scorecard**, a dashboard tracking year-over-year college performance; it is now embedded in annual dean evaluations to identify gaps, adjust resources, and improve alignment with strategic initiatives.



*I became a doctor because of my passion to **positively transform the lives of patients and communities**. That is why, despite extensive administrative responsibilities, I continue to care for patients. This also **grounds my decisions** in what our teams and our communities experience daily.*

Clinical Service & Operational Governance

Hands-on clinical experience that informs real-world decisions

- » Serve as **Chair of the Nebraska Medicine Board of Directors**, providing **governance leadership** to support the system's mission, strategic direction and long-term sustainability. (ONGOING)
- » Provide strategic oversight for UNMC-Children's Nebraska clinical collaboration as **Chair of the UNMC-Children's Nebraska Coordinating Committee, guiding partnership governance** and advancing joint recruitment, new programs and integrated planning with senior leadership. (ONGOING)
- » Maintain an active clinical role as a **pediatric infectious diseases consultant** at Children's Nebraska and a member of UNMC's **Global Center for Health Security pediatric emergency response team**, participating in ongoing training and drills to support preparedness for biological threats and public health emergencies. (ONGOING)

Research Strategy & Advancement

Accomplished researcher with a focus on sustained research growth and industry engagement

- » Launched the new UNMC **Office of Industry Engagement**, leading to a more coordinated approach for how UNMC interacts with the biomedical research industry and growing research dollars.
- » **Drove growth in PhD graduates** that enabled UNMC to qualify for and earn **R1 Carnegie Classification**, recognizing UNMC as a top-tier research and doctoral university.
- » Strengthened UNMC's research resilience amid shifting federal funding by **supporting the expansion of industry grants/contracts and industry-sponsored clinical trials**, driving a **70%+ increase** in industry research funding last fiscal year.
- » Empowered and incentivized graduate faculty to expand their grant writing, leading to the number of **national institutional training grants awarded to UNMC increasing** from 1 NIH-funded T32 award (Cancer Research) **to 9 awards**, including 6 NIH T32 awards, 2 R25 awards and 1 US Department of Education GAANN Award, which expanded the number of students supported from 4 to 36 and **totaled more than \$10 million**, while expanding world class research training for graduate students.
- » Established and incentivized the **Graduate Students of Distinction** awards program, leading to **100+ individual national awards received by graduate students**, including from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, American Heart Association, and other national or professional society awards.



Personal Research Impact

I am an internationally recognized leader in perinatal and Group A/B streptococcal infections, whose work helped lay the groundwork for future GBS vaccines. Across my career, I have **secured \$28M+ in research and pipeline funding** (as PI/co-PI/co-investigator), **published 250+ peer-reviewed papers**, and advanced child health research.



Campus Growth & Strategic Infrastructure

Proven track record developing facilities that expand workforce pipelines, strengthen research capacity, and improve the student experience

- » **Modernized student and learning spaces** on the Omaha campus, **overseeing a \$10 million renovation** that consolidated student services into a single **Student Center** (Williams Science Hall) and serving on the executive team for the **\$17 million Wittson Hall renovation**, including modernization of the McGoogan Health Sciences Library and **creation of the Wigton Heritage Center**.
- » **Advanced rural workforce capacity through major capital development**, serving on the executive leadership team for the **\$95 million**, 110,000-square-foot Douglas A. Kristensen Rural Health Education Complex on the UNK campus, expanding UNMC's presence from about **300 to 600+ health professions students** across medicine, public health, pharmacy, allied health, and nursing.
- » Accelerated Omaha's innovation ecosystem and research capacity, serving on the **executive leadership team for the EDGE District**: Catalyst building, a 170,000-square-foot, **\$97 million** mixed-use hub for UNMC innovators alongside startups, and the Center of Research Excellence (CORE) building, a 180,000-square-foot, **\$105 million** investment in the biotechnology industry in Nebraska.
- » **Expanded student housing**, advocating for and supporting the **\$66 million**, 200,000+ square-foot residence hall to house ~300 students, strengthening access to safe, affordable housing near campus.

Community Engagement & Outreach

Ongoing commitment to listening, learning and strengthening connections in Nebraska and beyond

- » Prioritizing **community engagement across Nebraska**, completing **15+ "listening visits"** over 18 months to hear community priorities, build trust and develop partnerships – along with targeted neighborhood meetings around the EDGE District to strengthen collaboration. (ONGOING)
- » **Strengthening statewide clinical training partnerships** by meeting with over **20 hospital system leaders** to expand **preceptorship opportunities** and assess housing/support needs for learners as part of the Kearney expansion. (ONGOING)
- » Established the **Office of Community Engagement**, which oversees service-learning activities and builds bridges between UNMC faculty, students, staff and community partners to impact lives and drive positive change.

Under my leadership, UNMC was the **first health sciences center in the country to be designated a Carnegie Community Engaged institution**, one of the highest national honors recognizing an institution's commitment to community engagement. In 2026, UNMC **renewed** our status, making us **one of only seven comparable institutions in the U.S.** with this classification.

- » Expanded UNMC's community presence in North Omaha by opening a joint UNMC-Nebraska Medicine **Community Wellness Collaborative** in one of the city's most economically challenged zip codes.
- » Contributing **civic, national, and global leadership** through board service, including board roles with organizations spanning biodefense preparedness, academic health leadership, pediatrics and performing arts. (ONGOING)

Philanthropic Strategy & Donor Engagement

Accomplished networker and strategist in forging relationships to accelerate mission priorities

- » Led internal planning for UNMC's \$1 billion comprehensive campaign, supporting strategy, coordination, and readiness; the campaign is more than 90% toward its goal.
- » Secured or involved in a supportive role for **philanthropic funding** for UNMC academic programs by **cultivating foundation and private-donor partnerships** and partnering with university and foundation leadership on donor presentations that resulted in multiple major gifts.

As Interim Chancellor, I place extensive focus on growing the university's support within Nebraska, **shepherding gifts from new donors to UNMC from my existing community relationships.**

- » Advanced **community fundraising** through board membership and leadership, contributing to over **\$200 million raised across major civic campaigns**, including Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands, Joslyn Art Museum and Omaha Performing Arts.

Government Relations & Strategic Advocacy

Extensive experience building trust with lawmakers while navigating funding and regulatory change

- » Coordinated with the NU System to **engage federal and state lawmakers**, communicating UNMC/NU's value to Nebraska and advancing shared university priorities.
- » Strengthening **statewide legislative relationships** through consistent **outreach and in-person engagement** — meeting senators in their districts during UNMC travels and hosting visits when they are in Omaha. (ONGOING)
- » Strengthening **federal legislative relationships** by engaging with Nebraska's federal congressional **House and Senate delegation** and **Department of Defense** health security partners both in their Washington, DC offices and on campus at UNMC. (ONGOING)
- » Proactively **monitored and responded to policy and funding risks affecting UNMC** — tracking federal actions (e.g., NIH indirect cost proposals, executive orders, broader spending changes) and key state priorities (biennial budget, tobacco settlement funds, and bills supporting workforce development such as LB305 and LB627).

HONORS & AWARDS (2014-2025)

- 2025 **Arbor Award**
University of Toronto
(in recognition of outstanding volunteer commitment to university)
- 2025 **Honorary Alumnus Award**
UNMC College of Medicine
- 2024 **"Man of Honor" Award**
100 Black Men of Omaha, Inc.
- 2024 **Founders Award**
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands
- 2024 **National Service to Youth Award**
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
- 2022 **Dean's Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award for International Impact**
University of Toronto
Temerty Faculty of Medicine
- 2022 **Eagle Award**
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands
- 2021 **Founders Award**
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands
- 2020 **Spirit of Progress Award**
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands
- 2019 **Corporate Partner Award**
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands
- 2017 **Man and Youth Award**
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands
- 2015 **H. Dele Davies Inspiration Award**
The Davies Project
(namesake not-for profit organization)
- 2014 **Inaugural Fellow**
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society

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