



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 his arrival 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. In late 2015, he worked with the University of Nebraska Foundation to launch a two-year, \$200 million fundraising initiative to increase access and create success for current and future students. In 2015, Bounds also launched a university-wide Food for Health initiative—the first of several programs designed to increase collaborations across NU and incentivize new research that addresses critical issues important to Nebraskans and result in greater research funding opportunities. Supporting quality teaching is an important focus for Bounds, and in spring of 2016, he made a \$3.5 million strategic investment to hire additional faculty and expand NU’s online course offerings. And, Bounds announced in late 2015 that NU’s enrollment has grown to its highest level in 22 years—marking progress toward the Board of Regents’ goals to expand educational access to Nebraskans and attract more talent to the state to meet workforce needs.

Bounds grew up 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 25-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 nearly 52,000 students, employs over 13,000 faculty and staff, and operates with an annual budget of 2.5 billion dollars—including \$235 million in research expenditures.

He has identified four cornerstones that will separate NU from the rest of higher education and define a new era in university history: 1) The University of Nebraska will be the best university in the nation to be a student. 2) The University of Nebraska will transform lives through research and innovation. 3) The University of Nebraska will work hand in hand with our partners to achieve our goals. 4) The University of Nebraska will win with people.

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 National Association of System Heads (NASH), the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute, the Nebraska Innovation Campus Development Corporation, the Nebraska Advanced Manufacturing Coalition and the Consultation Committee for US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). He is also on the Board of Governors for the Knights of AKSARBEN.

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

