

P E R S P E C T I V E



UNMC – a good investment

On the following pages, you'll see some of the truly great things taking place here at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. UNMC's trajectory never has been at a higher angle, and we're delighted to be able to share with you a few of our successes.

An area of the medical center that often is overlooked is our impact on the economy. An article on page 16 details the positive impact that one UNMC graduate – Jesse Neal, D.D.S. – has had on the economy of the community of Alma, in south central Nebraska. One study showed that a single dentist has an economic impact of \$1.2 million annually on a community.

Our graduates are just one example of the impact that we have on the economy. A study conducted earlier this year examined our impact. The study found that UNMC and its hospital partner, The Nebraska Medical Center, have a \$1.5 billion annual impact on the state's economy. That's an average of about \$4.1 million per day, or over \$875 for every man, woman and child in Nebraska.

I believe that of the report's many findings, a couple are key. One is that we are good stewards of the money that is provided to us via the state Legislature. For every dollar invested by the state, the medical center returns \$14. I'm very proud of that accomplishment.

I think it's important to note, too, that only about 26 percent of UNMC's budget – and only 10 percent when we include the hospital's budget – comes from the state's general fund appropriation.

The second finding that I'd like to highlight regards UNMC's research enterprise, a true economic driver for the state. Last year, UNMC earned \$80 million in research support. The U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that every \$1 million of research funding creates 31 new jobs. As a result, UNMC's research enterprise supports more than 2,400 jobs. That number will continue to grow in the coming years.

All told, I believe the study showed what we've said for some time. That is, the medical center is a primary player in the state's economy, and we're doing more than our share to grow the economy and to make our state flourish.

Thank you for reading this initial issue of "UNMC Connect," a new publication at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. This publication incorporates news about many of our major campus initiatives, as well as class notes and other information that traditionally have been sent via individual alumni newsletters. The editors of this publication and I are excited to hear and read your feedback.

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Harold M. Maurer, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

HAROLD M. MAURER, M.D.
Chancellor