



UNMC Chancellor Harold M. and Beverly Maurer stand in front of the new College of Public Health building named in their honor.

Maurer Center for Public Health opens

All roads lead to public health and in May, Omaha streets led hundreds to the grand opening of the building that houses UNMC's first college since 1968 – the College of Public Health.

"Today, we have done a good thing for people," said UNMC Chancellor Harold M. Maurer, M.D., at the opening ceremony.

The new home for the college, formed in 2007, was named the Harold M. and Beverly Maurer Center for Public Health to acknowledge the vision of UNMC Chancellor Maurer, M.D., and his wife, who saw a need to improve the public's health.

The Maurer Center was made possible thanks to several benefactors including Ruth and Bill Scott, who made the lead gift and named the building in honor of the Maurers.

Two years ago, Dr. Maurer selected Ayman El-Mohandes, M.D., M.P.H., as dean of the new college. An energetic leader, Dr. El-Mohandes has doubled the number of faculty

and students and increased research awards by 40 percent since his arrival.

An expert in the reduction of infant and maternal mortality in resource-poor nations and underserved populations, he has served as a senior consultant to the United States Agency for International Development and is a funded researcher by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development on projects in various countries and in the nation's capital.

Dr. El-Mohandes practiced neonatology in his home country of Egypt, France and the United States for the past 30 years. He was not convinced that treating the problem was the only approach, especially after witnessing recurring health problems that could be traced back to the community "I saw that public health could provide solutions, so to that end I have dedicated my life." ©



Gail Walling Yanney, M.D., '61, and her husband Michael celebrate the opening of the public health building with Dean Ayman El-Mohandes, M.D., M.P.H.



Scottish artist Mark Gilbert explains one of his portraits of a cancer patient. His is one of 59 pieces of original art on display in and around the building.



Nothing is official until the ribbon is cut – from left: University of Nebraska Board of Regent Bob Whitehouse; Bill and Ruth Scott; Dr. and Mrs. Maurer; and Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman.



Watch a slideshow of the opening ceremony events.
Download a copy of the "All Roads Lead to Public Health" poster.
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