



NAME THE SPACE IN THE NEW CENTER FOR NURSING SCIENCE

by Jenna Zeorian

College of Nursing alumni and friends can support nursing education, while adding a personal touch to the new Center for Nursing Science on the UNMC campus.

The center, set to open this fall, will feature five classrooms, nine clinical skills development laboratories, six conference rooms, five research spaces, student interaction spaces, faculty offices and more.

The \$14 million, 43,000 square-foot building was funded entirely through private donations. Omaha philanthropists Ruth and Bill Scott provided the lead gift for the facility – the largest in the history of the college.

Like the Scotts, UNMC alumni and friends have the opportunity to support Nebraska's only public academic health science center. Naming opportunities at the new Center for Nursing Science provide a lasting way to show a personal commitment to the college and its goals.


"Because construction of the Center for Nursing Science has so generously been paid for, we have a unique opportunity to honor those making major gifts in support of faculty, students or technology by recognizing them in this beautiful new facility," said Kathy Wolfe, director of development for the College of Nursing, University of Nebraska Foundation.

Naming opportunities range from \$25,000 to name staff and faculty lounges and student study spaces to \$1 million for an entire floor. The wall of honor, which will be a feature in the facility's entrance, also will recognize founding benefactors who make gifts of \$2,500 or more.

"The UNMC College of Nursing is proud of the support it has received and proud of those who have been drawn to its cause. It would be our great pleasure to add your name to our building and count you as a founding benefactor," said Virginia Tilden, D.N.Sc., dean of the College of Nursing.

The center is opening at a critical time in Nebraska's history as the state faces a visible nursing shortage. Already, 45 of the state's 93 counties have a clear nursing shortage and by 2020 it is expected the state will need nearly 4,000 more registered nurses.

Dr. Tilden said the shortage is due to a growing shortage of faculty, limited and aging buildings, and overcrowded classrooms. In the fall 2009 semester, only 35 percent of qualified applicants were admitted to the UNMC College of Nursing because of limitations on space and educators.

UNMC has taken a proactive approach to solving this problem with construction of the center. The new facility will enable the college to annually enroll 265 additional students by the year 2020 – an increase of nearly 70 percent over the current 385 students. Additionally, 24 more nurse faculty will be added to the current 61, as well as 11 more researchers and staff. 

For information on the Center for Nursing Science and naming opportunities, contact Wolfe at (402) 502-4118 or kwolfe@nufoundation.org