

Organizations cannot be successful if they don't plan. This axiom is true of academic medical centers, and we've taken it to heart at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. In this issue of *UNMC Discover*, you'll read about our facilities development plan. The plan charts a course for the facilities that we'll need over the next several years if we are to achieve our ultimate goal – becoming a world-class academic health sciences center.

Our facilities development plan is significant because it provides long-range targets for what we're trying to accomplish, and it forces us to focus on the means through which we'll achieve our goal, even when we're faced with obstacles and naysayers. As we formulate our facilities development plan, foremost in our minds is our mission to educate students at a superior level, to provide the best care for patients, to conduct innovative research, to serve the underserved in our state, to embrace the richness of diversity to build unity and to create economic growth.

The facilities development plan, while vast and complete, is just one tool that we use for planning at UNMC. Each year, we thoroughly review our strategic planning document, revisiting our successes and gaps while setting new goals. This year, we formally added economic growth to our vision statement, which helps to shape our strategic plan. As an economic engine for the state of Nebraska and the Midwest region, we need to blend economic development into all of our activities and embed it into our missions of teaching, research and outreach.

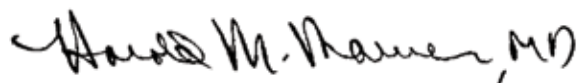
One example of our role as an economic driver is our research enterprise. Currently, we have \$80 million in research funding, which adds about 2,600 jobs to the Omaha economy, according to estimates from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. This research is nearly triple our total of \$30 million eight years ago, and we aspire to achieve a \$200

million level in the next five years.

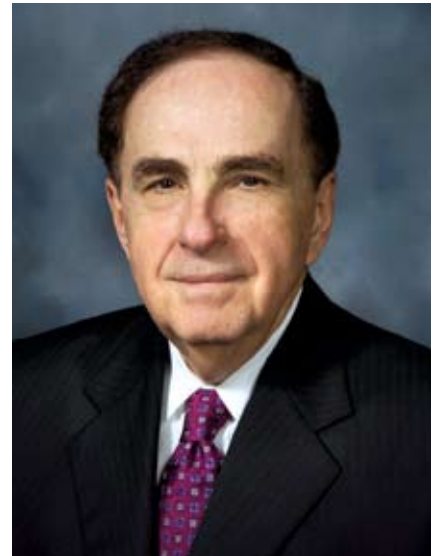
This growth would not have been achievable without careful planning and execution. Our medical scientists and top research administrators are to be congratulated for their success.

Another topic that is addressed in this *UNMC Discover* issue is the tremendous potential for stem cell research, specifically from embryonic stem cells. Since 2005, UNMC has conducted embryonic stem cell research using cell lines approved by President Bush. I, along with a strong majority of medical scientists, support the expansion of this research to include embryonic stem cells other than those approved by President Bush. I believe that these cells hold the key to treatments and cures of many of the most debilitating diseases and illnesses facing humankind. This issue is politically charged, but I'm hopeful and confident that lawmakers will agree on the promise of this research and its potential for cures and treatments. UNMC has been a leader in adult stem cell research and will continue to be such. Embryonic stem cell research also is a viable research avenue and one that we should pursue.

Again, thank you for reading this issue of *UNMC Discover*.



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