



Giant strides forward.

UNMC College of Nursing | 2010-2011 overview



Propelling the future of nursing.

Thanks to extraordinary effort by faculty and staff, and to exceptional generosity by donors – truly remarkable given our nation’s depressed economy – the UNMC College of Nursing has taken giant strides forward.

Presented herein is an overview of accomplishments – and our continuing imperatives in the year ahead. All are focused on solving the shortage of nurses and nursing faculty. All propel the future of nursing through progressive education, evidence-based practice, care quality and safety, innovative collaboration and research that yields **breakthroughs for life**.

In my last year here as dean, let me express the College’s profound gratitude to all with a hand in our work. *Thanks to you, the future is brighter than ever.*



Virginia Tilden, RN, DNSc, FAAN
Dean and Professor



Above: Dr. Janet Cuddigan (right) conducts ICU clinical training. Now entering its 94th year, the College of Nursing is the largest and most far-flung of UNMC’s health colleges, with over 1,000 students at five campuses serving Nebraska border to border.



Unprecedented construction: big boost in student capacity.

The past year marked a building boom unrivalled in the College's nine-decade history. In a difficult time of budget scarcity, this happy result owes to an abundance of donor vision and generosity.

Nationwide, the nursing shortage sprang from insufficient capacity – cramped, outdated facilities and not enough teachers. In addition to facilities upgrades at our **Scottsbluff** and **Kearney** campuses, donor funds enabled us to open a new structure in **Omaha** (right). To launch a 5th division in **Norfolk** in a new \$11.9 million collaborative nursing education center, the fruit of an amazing partnership among area residents, the region's health system, its community college and UNMC – a nursing-needs partnership that could serve as a national model of public-private cooperation.

NU Regents assigned highest priority to a new nursing building in **Lincoln**. We expect that project to proceed when the economic outlook improves.



Funded entirely by private donations, the \$14-million, 43,500-square-foot Center for Nursing Science adjoins our existing facility on the Omaha campus. This state-of-the-art facility allows us to educate more students, train more nursing faculty and strengthen research activity.



Top-ranked academics, gold-standard curriculum.

We've educated more than half of Nebraska's bachelor-degreed RNs. Our BSN graduates have a 93% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam, well above state and national average. We continue to be ranked in the **top 8% of graduate programs** by U.S. News and World Report.

Our entire BSN-MSN-PhD curriculum now embeds benchmarks suggested by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, The Institute of Medicine, the Carnegie Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation – all leading advocates of progressive, evidence-based health care education. Curriculum evolution will continue, seeking constant improvement, with focus on dynamic learning, critical thinking, clinical decision-making, care quality, patient safety, systems efficiency, and team-based care.

We're leaders in learning technologies, including high-fidelity patient manikins; interactive, virtual-reality training; online learning resources; and advanced applications in web-based distance education.



Our BSN curriculum trains tomorrow's nurses to be nimble leaders – ready for change, quick to adapt, fast to respond. It prepares them to be sentinels of care quality and patient safety, ever alert to prevent, spot and remedy errors within their patients' entire health care delivery.



Top-tier federal funding: service, research and educational grants.

The College places in the top quartile of National Institutes of Health grants, ranking 27th of 126 major nursing schools that receive NIH funding.

UNMC has long been known for innovation and leadership in nursing research. We recently won a \$1.5 million grant for a P20 Interdisciplinary Healthy Heart Center, which studies and combats heart disease in rural populations via distance technologies. It is one of just 10 developmental research centers in the U.S. funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research.

Recent Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funding totals nearly \$6 million, including for Type 2 diabetes research and educational grants in four vastly underserved areas: geriatrics, psychiatric mental health, nursing faculty preparation and nurse leader/executive training.

In addition, the College won two highly competitive Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grants – for geriatric nursing advancement and delirium assessment. ■ We intend to double research funding by 2020.



Above: from left: Dr. Marlene Cohen, Associate Dean for Research, faculty member Dr. Pamela Jones and PhD students plan a research approach.

At right: Dr. Bernice Yates won a federal grant to study effects of a cardiac rehabilitation exercise program that includes spouses.



Shaping tomorrow's nursing. Tomorrow's nurses. Tomorrow's teachers.

By exceptional education, research and practice, through prodigious publication and grant funding, our faculty are shaping not only tomorrow's nurses but also tomorrow's teachers and nursing advances for generations to come.

Among those blazing the path ahead — in the front rank of nursing leadership — are our professors in **endowed chairs and professorships**.

These nurse scientists are nationally recognized authorities often cited for advancing their fields, for moving nursing forward, for elevating care:

- **Ann Berger**, RN, PhD, AOCN, FAAN, Director, Doctoral Program, *Dorothy Hodges Olson Chair in Nursing* — oncology nursing, including fatigue and sleep disturbances in breast cancer chemotherapy patients.
- **Marlene Cohen**, RN, PhD, FAAN, Associate Dean for Research, *Kenneth E. Morehead Endowed Chair in Nursing* — patient/family perceptions and reactions to cancer diagnosis, symptoms and treatment.
- **Sarah Thompson**, RN, PhD, FAAN, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, *Florence Niedfelt Professor* — nursing faculty education / palliative and end-of-life care.
- **Sheila Ryan**, RN, PhD, FAAN, Director, International Programs, *Charlotte Peck Lienemann & Alumni Distinguished Chair* — international nursing / collaborative education with partner universities / national quality improvement initiatives.



Above: Members of the HEROES team (Healthcare and Emergency Responder Organization Education through Simulation) demonstrate toxic exposure triage using a sim patient. HEROES provides regional training for police, fire and other first responders throughout the region.

At right: Dr. Ann Berger (center), Director, Doctoral Program and Dorothy Hodges Olson Chair in Nursing, and a PhD student (right) explain a wrist actigraphy device to a breast cancer patient.

The device measures sleep disturbances from chemotherapy.



Yaewon Seo, RN, PhD, conducts clinical training for BSN students. A native of South Korea, Dr. Seo has research interests in cardiac nursing. Her studies examine heart failure symptom management, restorative exercise and daily living activity disabilities.



Endless dividends in better care.

Numbered in the top tier of major U.S. nursing schools, the UNMC College of Nursing has attracted award-winning teachers, practitioners and scientists — with particular expertise in the areas of health promotion, health systems, care quality, symptom management and cancer, cardiac, wound and palliative care.

Their research produces evidence. That evidence is used to improve care, prompt intervention, raise efficiency, cut costs, correct problems, influence policy, propel better systems and create better outcomes.

Research by nurse scientists produces some stunning breakthroughs and many advancements, big and small.

To individual patients and their families, all are huge.

- Nursing is the **frontline** of health. Nurses are the **face** of patient care. *What could be more important?*

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