UNMC Rural Health 2030: 2019-2020 Action Plan

Introduction:

With this Action Plan for 2019-2020, UNMC is committed to playing a vital role in working side by side with rural Nebraska to accommodate and even embrace the disruptive changes in health care that lie ahead. We have come together to develop the UNMC Rural Health 2030: 2019-2020 Action Plan which identifies timely priorities that ensure we are developing a health workforce, patient care, health education, technology, and research that result in the highest quality of health care as close to home as possible.

This action plan is a living document, understanding that the priorities and action steps identified within are based on the needs of patients, people, and Nebraska’s rural communities.

Through new and forward thinking, hard work and strategic collaboration, UNMC and rural Nebraskans are shaping a new vision for a healthy rural future.
UNMC Rural Health 2030:
2019-2020 Action Plan

GOAL A: Support rural health care providers to address disruptive change and thrive in their practices.

2019-2020 Action Items:

1) Create an interprofessional rural practitioner leadership group to advise UNMC in identifying current and future clinical needs, opportunities, and measures of success.

2) Develop a portfolio of training resources that meet day-to-day office and overall practice needs of rural practitioners and their support teams.

3) Expand use of UNMC’s mentoring toolkit for rural clinical preceptors.

4) Collaborate with rural hospitals and practices to develop and evaluate innovative practice models including but not limited to health care cooperatives or community care teams.

GOAL B: Enhance education and training programs that improve rural health care workforce preparation, distribution, and retention.

2019-2020 Action Items:

1) Collaboratively revitalize and enhance UNMC’s rural guaranteed admissions pathway programs by addressing system requirements; eligibility, enrollment and retention; inclusivity and diversity; student connections to UNMC; and, data collection and reporting.

2) Develop and utilize a centralized online tracking tool to capture UNMC rural student rotation and other structured educational programming data to inform current and future educational needs and opportunities.

3) Pilot the uBEATS eLearning project with at least two rural Nebraska high schools.

GOAL C: Support the research and utilization of emerging technologies in rural Nebraska to expand the accessibility of health education, outreach, care, and research.

2019-2020 Action Items:

1) Expand access to specialty clinical services across Nebraska via telehealth, as resources permit.

2) Implement a statewide demonstration project using interactive technology (e.g., iWall) to provide continuing education for rural health care providers.

3) Support existing efforts to expand the use of patient facing applications and home (including wearable) monitoring devices with Nebraska Medicine.
GOAL D: Refresh UNMC’s rural health brand and maximize the organizational structure to facilitate open communication, coordination, and collaboration.

2019-2020 Action Items:

1) Establish the UNMC Office of Rural Health Initiatives and develop a communications strategy to broadly promote the office and its role related to rural health workforce, education, and research to stakeholders.

2) Establish a Rural Health Advisory Committee to provide advice to UNMC that is representative of the views of multiple constituencies to improve rural health in Nebraska.

3) Partner with strategic stakeholders and partners to support a one-day summit on rural health workforce matters.

4) Influence policy and support advocacy efforts where appropriate at the local, state, and federal levels related to rural health.