IMPACT IN EDUCATION

Awards

Fanning the flame of education
The Impact in Education Awards recognize the excellent contributions of faculty at UNMC to our educational mission. As UNMC strives to lead the world in instructing and mentoring health science students at all levels, we believe that recognizing faculty who are making a difference in this area is critical to continually fanning the flame of education.

Dr. Dele Davies
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Visionary Leadership in Education

Lynnette Leeseberg Stamler, PhD, DLitt, RN, FAAN
College of Nursing, Omaha Division

Dr. Stamler has served in nursing education for the last several decades. Straddling the U.S.-Canadian border, she has taught in six institutions, taught or worked in four states and three provinces, and been involved with all levels of nursing education from diploma to doctorate.

Dr. Stamler leads the academic programs within the College of Nursing, spanning four distinct degrees and five campuses.

Since arriving at UNMC in 2014, she has overseen five curricular changes and the creation of three additional programs. Currently, there are nine new or expanded programs in various stages of approval and/or implementation. Several of these involve inter- or intra-professional partnerships.

Dr. Stamler is an effective mentor for faculty wishing to improve or develop nursing education practice and scholarship.

The common thread in all that she undertakes is the sustained drive to improve patient care and thus global health through continued evolution, refinement, and expansion of nursing education.

Research in Education Scholar

Paul J. Schenarts MD, FACS
Department of Surgery
College of Medicine

Dr. Schenarts began his educational journey by founding the Student Education Committee while a first-year medical student. This student-lead group was, and 30 years later is still, responsible for student evaluations of the pre-clinical faculty at the University of Connecticut. From that day forward, the major focus of his career has been all aspects of medical education.

Today, Dr. Schenarts is a nationally respected leader in surgical education with particular expertise in teaching and educational scholarship. He is on the faculty of the Association for Surgical Education Research Fellowship and has formally mentored 13 educational researchers. Of his 90 publications, 44 are on educational topics. He is the recipient of the Association for Surgical Education Best Paper Award and the Association of Program Directors in Surgery Best Research Paper Award.

Dr. Schenarts has been visiting professor in education at 12 universities and has been given both the Alexander J. Walt Lectureship in Surgical Education and the Roland Folsie Lectureship. Dr. Schenarts has also won 36 teaching awards including the University of North Carolina, Board of Governors Award as the best teacher within 17 different colleges and universities. He is currently the President of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery and holds senior leadership positions in the Association for Surgical Education and the Educational Division of the American College of Surgeons.
Inspirational Mentor of Educators

Shantaram S. Joshi, PhD
Department of Genetics, Cell Biology & Anatomy
College of Medicine

From being an individual mentor to teaching core lectures, Dr. Joshi’s career has centered around being an educator. Since becoming faculty at UNMC over three decades ago, he has helped shape the thinking of the next generation of clinicians, researchers, and teachers. As an educator, Dr. Joshi believes he must provide the main concepts, appropriate levels of content, and credible main resources. In addition to providing an active learning platform, he also believes in assisting students as needed to excel in their career.

Dr. Joshi has served as director for several graduate courses, is the co-leader for the Blood Organ Block, and has also become involved in the development and improvement of several courses, including playing a critical role in creating a Masters in Medical Anatomy and a Teaching Track PhD program. Dr. Joshi recognized the need to teach our trainees how to become effective teachers themselves. Consequently, he created a team-taught graduate course with help from other faculty.

On a more individual level, Dr. Joshi has served as the primary advisor for numerous students and also serves on the supervisory committees for several MS/PhD students. As a mentor for junior faculty, he has focused on how to assist them progress in their careers, giving them an opportunity to get involved in teaching, creating new teaching tools and providing them leadership roles.

Valor in Educational Service

Robert T. Binhammer, PhD
Department of Genetics, Cell Biology & Anatomy
College of Medicine

For over 60 years, Dr. Binhammer has taught anatomy to medical and allied health students. Chief among his educational philosophy is the belief in bringing content to life. He always emphasizes developing a visual picture of structure, which he believes is far superior to note memorization.

Dr. Binhammer also places an emphasis on student problem solving. This emphasis led to the incorporation of problem solving into the teaching program in the form of Question of the Day and also X-ray of the Day for each laboratory session. It also led to the use of four Mini-case Sessions annually to emphasize clinical application of Anatomical relationships.

Dr. Binhammer has received many awards, including the Golden Apple/Hirschmann Prize (two time winner), M2 Golden Apple, UNMC Award for Distinguished Teaching, Alvin Earle Outstanding Health Science Educator Award, and Basic Science Outstanding Teacher Award (two-time winner), which is further evidence that his teaching efforts have been recognized by his peers as well as his students.
Innovative Practices in Education

Kim Michael, MA, RT(R), RDMS, RVT, FSDMS
Department of Medical Imaging & Therapeutic Sciences
College of Allied Health Professions

As a clinician who transitioned to the role of educator, Kim Michael looks for opportunities to add technology and engagement to her courses; she was instrumental in obtaining the Anatomage Virtual Dissection Table. This opened the door for collaboration, innovation and the opportunity to improve health sciences education at UNMC and the national level. Her current educational research projects include the impact of open book testing on student anxiety and course outcomes, the effect of case study-based e-learning modules on critical thinking, and the influence of the flipped classroom on student learning and satisfaction.

Development of innovative teaching methods has been an important aspect of Tanya Custer’s teaching since she joined the faculty in 2006. Her work with the Flipped Learning Approach, along with the implementation of the Anatomage Table and 53 case-based e-learning modules into the curriculum has led to an emerging reputation at both the regional and national level. She has demonstrated independence, creativity, and leadership evidenced through invitations to speak at the local, state and national levels, through authorship of peer-reviewed publications, and through being the recipient of multiple honors and awards for innovation in teaching.

Interprofessional Education Scholar

Cynthia Ellis, MD, FAAP
Developmental Medicine
Munroe-Meyer Institute

Dr. Cindy Ellis has been actively involved in interprofessional education for over 25 years. She is the Director of the federally-funded Nebraska Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program, bringing millions of dollars to UNMC to train a multitude of students, faculty and community practitioners from 15 different professions to work collaboratively with individuals and their families. In addition, she has received significant federal and other grant funding and partnered with many state and community agencies to expand interprofessional education for students and professionals working in the area of Autism.

Given that interprofessional education requires a collaborative team approach, Dr. Ellis has recruited numerous UNMC and community educators to the LEND Program. She and her team have successfully designed a learning environment that is truly interprofessional in nature, such as a community-based service learning and leadership program, simulated interdisciplinary training clinics, and experiential opportunities with elected officials in the Nebraska Legislature.

Dr. Ellis has also been acknowledged for her leadership by the Department of Education’s Special Education Advisory Committee, the Nebraska State Autism Collaborative, and the Autism Action Partnership. She is a member of the UNMC Women’s Mentoring Program Steering Committee and the UNMC Interprofessional Academy of Educators.
Karen Honeycutt’s active learning educational framework has motivated her to facilitate the conversion of primarily lecture focused courses to flipped-learning, case study, application-based curriculum for medical laboratory science and infectious disease education. Early in her career, she facilitated the process of converting traditional face-to-face curriculum to an online format. The UNMC MLS Program’s distance learning capabilities allows the program to collaborate with other universities to provide their MLS professional education.

Karen Honeycutt strongly advocates that decisions in integrating instructional technology into the learning process be made to best meet expected educational outcomes. Examples include using web-based videoconferencing for small group discussions in distance education courses, using a video platform for students to evaluate technical skill performance as a practice strategy, and incorporating virtual microscopy so students can practice skills outside of a biohazardous laboratory environment.

Being honored with the Clarence and Nelle Gilg Professorship for Teaching Excellence and Innovation in Allied Health allows the MLS team to explore additional pioneering educational strategies to meet the needs of all students. She have served on and chaired national certification examination committees resulting in mastership status in the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Her educational research interests include active learning strategies, the incorporation of instructional technology in distance learning environments and innovative practice strategies.

An effective teacher must be enthusiastic and optimistic; model a lifelong learning commitment; be knowledgeable about best practices in teaching, learning, and evaluation; participate in scholarly activities that add to the educational best-practices literature; and be a content expert able to organize flexible, effective learning activities in supportive, safe learning environments.

An excellent teacher must embrace individual diversity, yet expect, and help each student in realizing and reaching his or her potential as an individual, learner, professional, and member of society.
I established this award to recognize good interprofessional teaching and the role it plays in mentoring young people to be productive, contributing members of society making life better for us all. Starting this award has given me the opportunity to meet wonderful people who are as passionate about education as I am.

Dr. Varner’s lifelong passion for interprofessional education, combined with his love of the intersection between biology, medicine, and engineering, inspired his decision to endow and support the Varner Educator Laureate award. UNMC is honored to be the beneficiary of Dr. Varner’s outstanding legacy.

Dr. Dele Davies
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Jerald Varner, PhD
Associate Professor & Undergraduate Advisor
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

Dr. Varner is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering at UNL.

His career as an educator in the Electrical Engineering Department spans a period of 53 years. His specialization is in the Bioengineering Area, with the hope that his work will make a difference in people's lives.

Dr. Varner was a consultant for the National Institutes of Health for 25 years and actively consulted with other institutions. While active in research, his first priority and love is always in instructing students. To this end, Dr. Varner has received several teaching awards including being awarded Outstanding Professor in Electrical Engineering for two years.

In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Varner is the Head Undergraduate Advisor in Electrical Engineering, which affords him the opportunity and time to spend with students helping them find their place in society and the Engineering Profession.
Previous Award Winners (2016 – 2017)

**Educator Laureate**
*David V. O’Dell, MD, FACP*
Department of Internal Medicine
College of Medicine

**Innovative Practices in Education**
*Paul Paulman, MD*
Department of Family Medicine
College of Medicine

**Research in Education Scholar**
*Gary L. Beck Dallaghan, PhD*
Office of Medical Education
Department of Pediatrics
College of Medicine

**Visionary Leadership in Education**
*Maurice Godfrey, PhD*
Munroe-Meyer Institute

**Inspirational Mentor of Educators**
*Shelby Kutty, MD, PhD, MHCM*
Department of Pediatrics
College of Medicine

**Interprofessional Education Scholar**
*Devin Nickol, MD*
Department of Internal Medicine
College of Medicine

**Valor in Educational Service**
*Alan T. Richards, MD, FACS*
Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
Department of Genetics, Cell Biology & Anatomy
College of Medicine

A Special Thanks

Thank you to **Chancellor Jeffrey P. Gold, MD**, for his support of the Impact in Education Awards and to the **award selection committees** for their service:

- Jeffrey N. Baldwin, PharmD
- Gary L. Beck Dallaghan, PhD
- Jennifer Black, PhD
- David G. Brown, PhD
- Larry D. Crouch, PhD
- Janet Cuddigan, PhD
- Cynthia Ellis, MD, FAAP
- Maurice Godfrey, PhD
- Mary Helms, MS, MA
- Shelby Kutty, MD, PhD, MHCM
- Jay Moore, MD
- Devin Nickol, MD
- David V. O’Dell, MD, FACP
- Paul Paulman, MD
- Alan T. Richards, MD, FACS
- Lynette Smith, PhD
- Susan Wilhelm, PhD

We would also like to extend a special thanks to **Rowen K. Zetterman, MD**, and **Robin Jaeckel** for their excellent logistical support.