



*Celebrating 10 Years of Collaboration,
Innovation and Scholarship*

University of Nebraska Medical Center
Interprofessional Academy of Educators

The Interprofessional Academy of Educators

For the past decade, the Interprofessional Academy of Educators (IAE) has brought together educators across the University of Nebraska Medical Center to inspire innovation, strengthen teaching excellence and advance educational scholarship.

Through collaboration, service and a forward-looking vision, the IAE has fostered a dynamic community of over 300 educators, scholars and learners dedicated to advancing health professions education in Nebraska and beyond.

Reflecting on 10 Years of the Interprofessional Academy of Educators

"The first letter in IAE stands for interprofessional, and that's what makes us special. From the beginning, we believed the power was in connecting educators across colleges, campuses and disciplines."



Geoffrey Talmon, MD, MEd

College of Medicine – Omaha
Founding Director
Member since 2016





For the past decade, the Interprofessional Academy of Educators has strengthened UNMC's educational mission by bringing together a collaborative, service-oriented community committed to excellence in teaching and learning.

Through faculty development, mentorship, scholarship, collaboration and community-building, the Academy has helped educators, staff members and learners grow as teachers, scholars and leaders. Its impact can be seen not only in the skills of its members, but also in the culture of educational excellence they foster across UNMC.

Since its founding, the Academy has grown from 76 educators to more than 300 members representing UNMC's five campuses, seven colleges and three major partner organizations — Nebraska Medicine, Children's Nebraska and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. This remarkable growth reflects both the strength of

its mission and the visionary leadership of Dr. Geoffrey Talmon, Dr. Brian Boerner and now Dr. Tanya Custer.

The Academy's interprofessional nature reflects a fundamental truth about academic health science centers: We accomplish more when people from different disciplines learn from one another, value one another's expertise and work together toward a shared purpose. Academy members embody those principles every day, strengthening education and helping shape the future of healthcare in Nebraska and beyond.

As we celebrate this 10-year milestone, I offer my congratulations and gratitude to all who have contributed to the Academy's success. I also extend a warm welcome to its newest members. Your expertise, ideas and commitment will help build upon a strong foundation and advance the Academy's impact for years to come.

Chancellor H. Dele Davies, MD, MS, MHCM

BUILDING SOMETHING NEW

A visionary group of educators from across UNMC came together with a shared goal: to elevate educational excellence and create a lasting community dedicated to teaching, innovation and scholarship.

Through years of strategic planning and sustained support from the University of Nebraska's Programs of Excellence initiative, the IAE officially launched in 2016, marking a transformative step in UNMC's educational legacy.

Ten years on, what started as a bold vision has become a vibrant community where educators share ideas, collaborate across disciplines and advance educational scholarship.



The IAE was designed from the beginning to be:



Collaborative

Bringing together UNMC educators across campuses, disciplines and professions.



Service-Oriented

Actively supporting faculty and learners through educational advancement, professional development and recognition.



Future-Focused

Committed to identifying and exploring innovations and scholarship that advance health professions education.



Excellence-Oriented

Recognizing and rewarding excellence in teaching while building a sustainable network of educators committed to improving health professions education.

A GROWING NETWORK

What began as a small cohort of 76 dedicated educators has evolved into one of UNMC's most influential communities focused on teaching and learning. Over 10 years, it has grown into a vibrant organization of more than 300 members across four distinct membership categories.

4 TYPES OF MEMBERS

Academy

Current faculty, staff and clinical preceptors

Associate

Student and resident learners

Affiliate

External faculty and staff

Emeritus

Retired faculty and staff

Membership applications are reviewed annually by subcommittees of Academy members, helping ensure new members demonstrate a commitment to educational excellence and the Academy's mission.

76

Founding Members

300+

Members Today

3

Partner Organizations

7

Colleges Represented

5

UNMC Campuses



2023

"Having the IAE community stretch across the entire state has been incredibly impactful. It's been a great way to meet colleagues from across Nebraska and find opportunities to collaborate with them."

Lisa Moravec, RDH, MSDH, FADHA
College of Dentistry – Gering-Scottsbluff
Member since 2023

Gering-Scottsbluff

Norfolk

Omaha

Kearney

Lincoln

By the Numbers

Innovation in Action

The IAE has served as a catalyst for innovation at UNMC. Members explore new approaches to teaching, clinical practice and assessment through collaborative programs and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Bringing together diverse perspectives united by shared educational interests, these SIGs empower educators to share talents, unlock new ideas, develop expertise and foster collaboration. Participation in SIGs extends beyond members, as all UNMC faculty, staff and learners are welcome to participate.



Current Special Interest Group Communities



AI Innovation in the Clinical Learning Environment



Design Thinking



Cognition & Curriculum



Education Technology Collaboration (ETC)

Advancing Teaching and Learning

Beyond the SIGs, innovation thrives through collaborative programs that support educator development, teaching excellence and educational scholarship.

Key initiatives include:

- **Faculty Development & Teaching Excellence:** Teaching Launchpad, Peer Feedback on Teaching Program, Preceptor Toolkit
- **Innovation & Emerging Practices:** Design Thinking Workshops, Artificial Intelligence Discussions and Applications, Emerging Educational Technologies, Simulation-Based Education
- **Well-Being, Inclusion & Community:** Health Humanities and Wellness, Accessibility Support and Training
- **Scholarship & Dissemination:** InnovatED Symposium, Spotlight on Scholarship and Writing for Publication Workshop

Together, these initiatives provide opportunities for educators to collaborate, innovate and lead change in health professions education.



"IAE is a great way to network with others and connect with people who share similar passions. It helps us stay connected, work toward a common goal and reminds us that we're better together."

McKenzie Behrendt, OTD, OTR/L
College of Allied Health Professions – Kearney
Member since 2023



Interprofessional Education (IPE)



Health Humanities and Wellness



Learner



Simulation



TURNING IDEAS INTO IMPACT

The IAE's strength lies in bringing educators together to address educational challenges and advance teaching and learning through scholarship. By providing support at every stage of the scholarly process, the Academy helps educators transform questions arising from practice into evidence-based innovations that improve educational outcomes.

From idea generation to dissemination, the Academy provides resources that help educators advance scholarship. The *Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Education Journal (IHSEJ)*, launched in 2021, provides a dedicated platform for sharing innovations, research findings and best practices in health professions education with audiences across Nebraska and around the world.

The IAE supports educational scholarship through:

- Research consultations and mentorship
- Education research project development
- Pilot grant support
- Collaborative research networks and partnerships
- Manuscript preparation and publication support
- Abstract and conference presentation development
- Peer feedback and scholarly review
- Dissemination of educational innovations and best practices

IHSEJ BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL DOWNLOADS

19,372 in 151 countries

TOP COUNTRIES

US, Brazil, China, Singapore and Ireland.

TOP ARTICLE DOWNLOADS

Implementing Immersive Virtual Reality into Nursing Curriculum by Sue Schuelke, Krystal Davis and Sue Barnason (1,171 downloads)

Examining Change in Burnout and Empathy Among Physician Assistant Students During the Clinical and Didactic Years by Jannelle Reynolds, Kimberly Gomes, Nicole Sleddens and Jana Wardian (533 downloads)

Immediate vs. Delayed Feedback in a Progressive Musculoskeletal E-module Case for Clinical Reasoning Development by Megan Frazee, Krista Gipson, Elizabeth Lyden and Stephanie Langel (377 downloads)



Explore the IHSEJ

"If we do the educational work but never share what we're learning with the rest of the world, we're missing an important piece. Educational scholarship is about sharing those achievements and innovations so others can benefit from them too."

Elizabeth Beam,
PhD, RN, FAAN

College of Nursing – Omaha
IAE Education Researcher
Member since 2016

Scholarship Pathway

IDEA

GRANT

RESEARCH

PUBLICATION

IMPACT

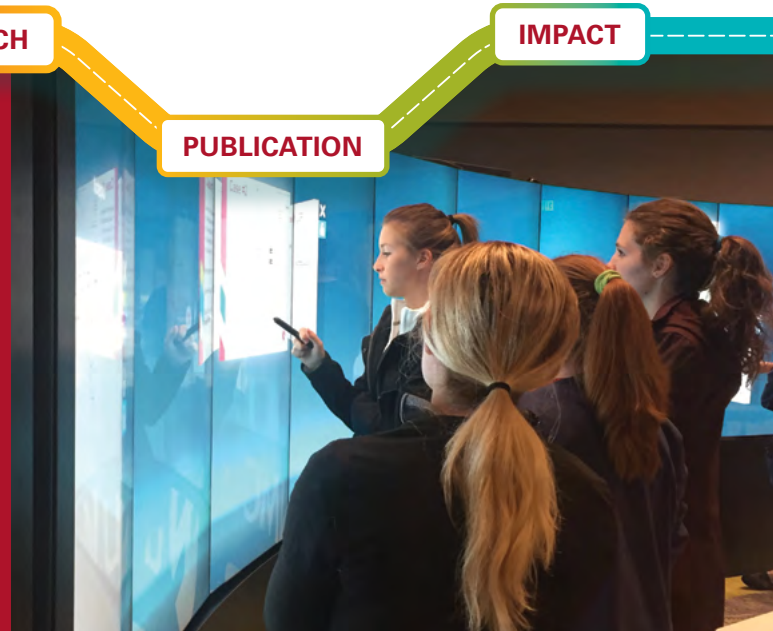
INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION

IAE Education Research Grants foster new innovations by funding pilot education research projects each year. In addition to funding, the IAE provides technical assistance, mentorship and other development resources.

From 2017 to 2026 the IAE has awarded roughly \$100,000 to 28 pilot grants by our members on a range of topics such as simulation, AI, educational strategies and clinical practice.



View the full list of
**Education
Research Projects**



2025

"The grants are incredibly important because they foster research opportunities that might not otherwise be possible. They give faculty, especially those who are early in their careers, a chance to develop and pursue their research interests."

Faruq Pradhan, MBBCH, FRCPC

College of Medicine – Omaha
Member since 2025



CELEBRATING OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS

Recognition has always been a core mission of the IAE. Through prestigious honors and awards, the Academy highlights the educators whose dedication, leadership and mentorship have shaped learners and colleagues across UNMC.

Recognition programs include:

- Impact in Education Awards
- Catalyst for Education Award
- Distinguished Educator designation
- Academy Honors and Celebrations
- Member Spotlights

The **Impact in Education Awards** recognize the highest levels of achievement and innovation in education at UNMC. Each year, the awards recognize emerging and seasoned educators who are teaching and mentoring the next generation of scholars and healthcare professionals.

In 2024, the **Distinguished Educator** designation was created to celebrate and recognize outstanding faculty who consistently demonstrate excellence in teaching and mentorship to promote the development of the next wave of future teachers. The designation represents the Academy's highest honor of excellence in teaching, mentorship and educational leadership.

For many recipients, recognition represents more than an individual achievement—it reflects years of mentorship, leadership and commitment to educational excellence.

"I think the Distinguished Educator designation, along with the Impact in Education Awards, has really elevated the recognition of educators on campus. We've long celebrated research through awards, but IAE has created a similar level of recognition for education. No matter who receives them, these awards help elevate education to the same level as many of our research accomplishments."

Kristen M. Cook, PharmD, BCACP

College of Pharmacy – Omaha
Distinguished Educator, 2025
Member since 2016



DISTINGUISHED EDUCATORS

Betsy Becker, DPT, PhD (2024)

College of Allied Health Professions - Omaha (former)

Nancy E. Krusen, PhD, OTR/L (2024)

College of Allied Health Professions - Omaha

Justin Mott, MD, PhD (2024)

College of Medicine - Omaha

Geoffrey Talmon, MD, MEd (2024)

College of Medicine - Omaha

Teresa M. Cochran, DPT, PhD (2025)

College of Allied Health Professions - Kearney

Kristen M. Cook, PharmD, BCACP (2025)

College of Pharmacy - Omaha

Established in 2017, the **Catalyst for Education Award** recognizes educational support staff whose essential contributions advance UNMC's educational mission by fostering a premier learning environment and supporting the success of all trainees.



"The Catalyst Award was especially meaningful to me because it validated much of the work I've done at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. It was truly touching to hear from faculty I've worked with over the years and receive their feedback on the impact of our work."

Paul Dye, MEd (2026)

iEXCEL – Omaha
Member since 2025



LOOKING AHEAD

As health professions education continues to evolve, the Academy is well positioned to lead the next generation of innovation, collaboration and educational excellence.

Key focus areas for the next decade include:

- Advancing the thoughtful integration of artificial intelligence in teaching, learning and educational scholarship
- Enhancing interprofessional education to strengthen teamwork, communication and collaborative practice
- Expanding cross-campus and cross-disciplinary faculty collaboration and innovation
- Exploring new models of teaching, learning and assessment that support learner success
- Advancing educational scholarship and research through mentorship, collaboration and dissemination opportunities
- Leveraging emerging technologies to improve accessibility, engagement and learning outcomes

The Academy's next chapter will build upon a strong foundation while embracing emerging opportunities that strengthen educators, enhance learning and improve outcomes.



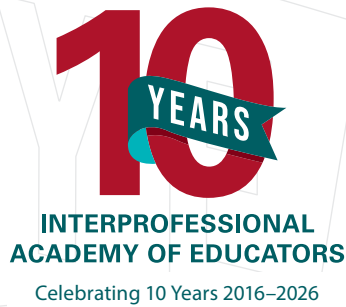
"Over the last 10 years, the Academy has built a strong foundation of collaboration, scholarship and educational excellence. As we begin our next decade, we remain committed to strengthening interprofessional education, exploring new ideas, leveraging emerging technologies and creating opportunities for educators to learn, innovate and lead."

Tanya Custer, PhD, MS, RT(R)(T)ARRT
College of Allied Health Professions – Omaha
IAE Director
Member since 2016

LOOKING FORWARD

The first decade of the IAE has built a strong foundation. The next decade offers even greater opportunities to inspire educators, transform learning and shape the future of health professions education.





Advancing the future of health professions education, together.



From L-R: Jana Wardian, Analisa McMillan, Tanya Custer, Maha Farid, Elizabeth Beam and Rebecca Baker

Interprofessional Academy of Educators Leadership

Tanya Custer, PhD, MS, RT(R)(T), ARRT

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