

UNMC High School Alliance
A Health Sciences Enrichment Program for High School Students

ANNUAL REPORT

2017 – 2018



Heidi Kaschke
Program Coordinator

Message from the Director

On behalf of the UNMC High School Alliance program, it is a pleasure to provide this annual report. Whether you are a community partner, an alumni member of the program, a current student, a parent, or a UNMC employee, we invite you to read about the accomplishments our program has achieved over the past eight years.

Our primary mission continues to immerse highly motivated, secondary students from varying educational and socioeconomic backgrounds into an environment which will introduce them to health professions leading to a more diverse Nebraska workforce.

As the director for the UNMC High School Alliance, it is a privilege for me to work with a staff of outstanding and dedicated professionals in the areas of education and healthcare. Together we are able to create new and innovative ways to inspire high school students to become the next generation of world-renown health care professionals here at UNMC, Nebraska Medicine, and beyond.

The High School Alliance remains grateful to The Sherwood Foundation for its continued support of the program, the Omaha Public Schools for the certified high school teachers, the UNMC faculty, staff, and students who give their time to the program, all of the participating school districts who share their talented and fantastic students with us, and our alumni who make this program shine.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The UNMC High School Alliance (HSA) is a program designed and implemented through UNMC as an enrichment program to immerse highly motivated, secondary students from varying educational and socioeconomic backgrounds into an environment that will introduce them to health professions leading to a more diverse Nebraska workforce.

Specific program goals include:

- A rigorous and challenging curriculum that motivates the High School Alliance students to pursue a health profession throughout college and into their careers.
- Students participating in the UNMC HSA will:
 - Learn, practice, and demonstrate cooperation and teambuilding while being exposed to the interdisciplinary aspects of health professions as well as how those professions interact to provide quality patient care.
 - Learn and subscribe to the values of health care professionalism.
- The UNMC HSA will build partnerships with local and regional educational institutions and the community to align educational resources for its students from high school to undergraduate school to professional school.

HIGHLIGHTS AND FUTURE PROGRAMMING

- The Biology and Prevention of Cancer class launched in the fall semester of 2017. This brings the total number of courses offered to 10.
- The UNMC High School Alliance will begin formalizing its student portfolio projects during the 2017-2018 school year. This will give students an opportunity to organize all of the information they receive from the program and sharpen their writing and speaking skills.
- The opportunity for a select group of juniors will continue to be available to return for a second year of the program.
- The UNMC professional and graduate students continue to facilitate the Lunch and Learn series with the high school alliance students.
- The UNMC professional and graduate students continue to assist with the hands-on classroom and laboratory activities as well as teaching content in select classes.
- Jaynie Bird with the Omaha Public Schools returned to the program as a certified high school teacher in 2017-2018.
- The UNMC HOSA chapter continues to volunteer in our community, and will compete at the State HOSA Conference.
- The Annual HOSA State Leadership Conference returns to UNMC in March 2018.
- Nebraska Medicine has developed new job shadowing opportunities for the High School Alliance students.
- The new Urban Health Opportunities Program (UHOP) partnership with the University of Nebraska Omaha gives UNMC High School Alliance students a pathway to medical school.
- With the generous support from the Sherwood Foundation and private donors, the UNMC High School Alliance will begin to develop eLearning modules based on our curriculum and the modules will be available across the State of Nebraska.



95%

COMPLETION RATE

At the end of the 2016-2017 school year, 428 students will have completed the program

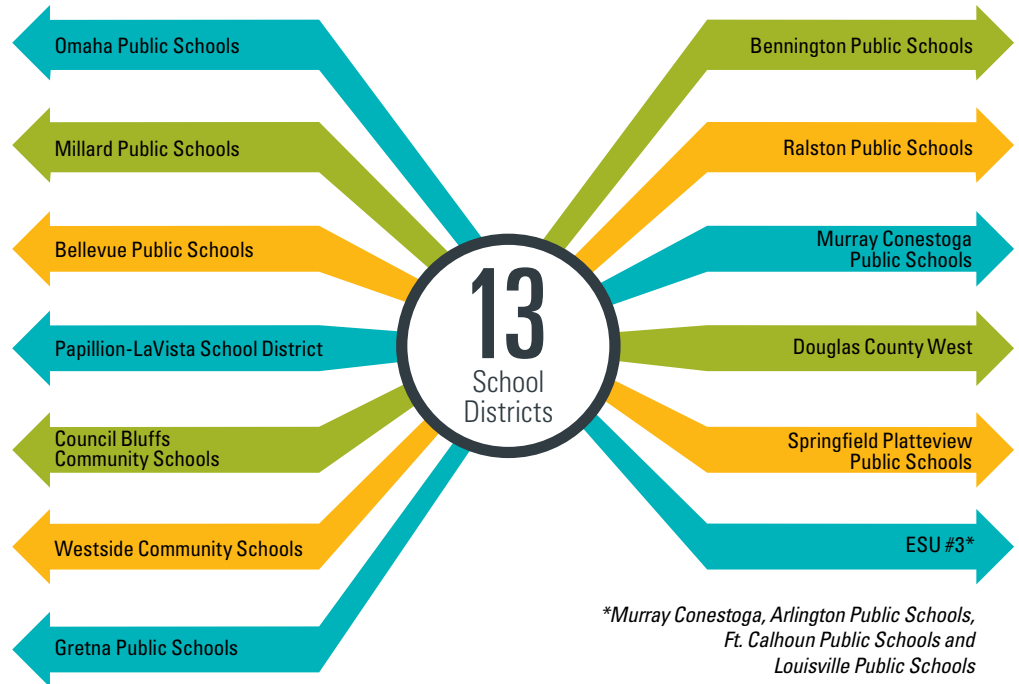
5% did not complete the program because they either graduated from high school early or withdrew from the program for personal reasons

35-40%

of graduated students qualified for free and reduced lunch

SCHOOL AND STUDENTS

24

 participating high schools

**Murray Conestoga, Arlington Public Schools, Ft. Calhoun Public Schools and Louisville Public Schools*

COLLEGE BOUND

75%

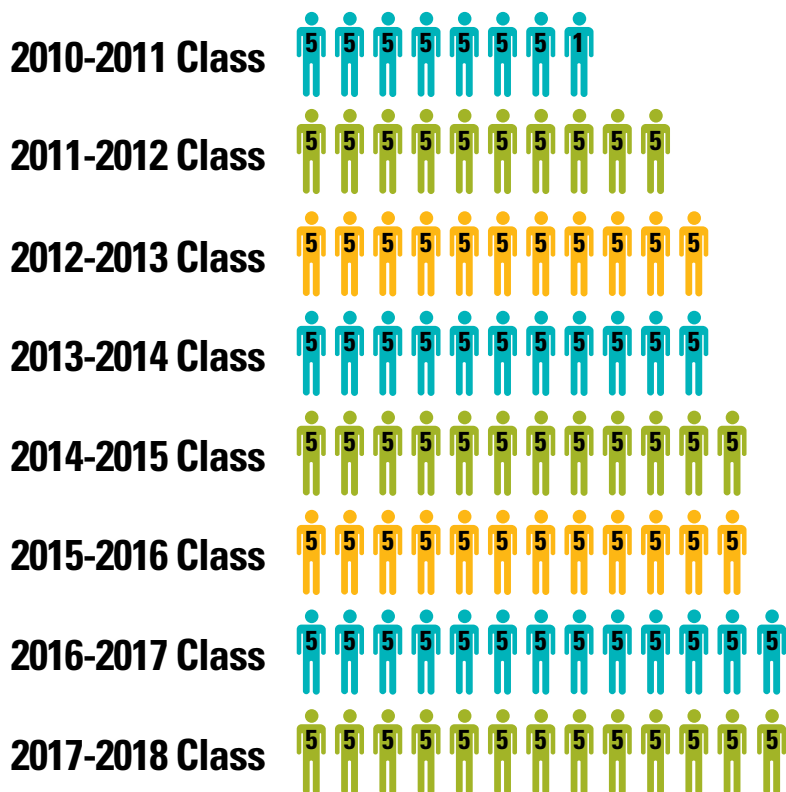
 of all students remain in Nebraska for college

74% of those students attend the University of Nebraska system (Omaha, Lincoln or Kearney)

22% attend college out of state

4% are not attending college or did not respond to our inquiries

466 enrolled students

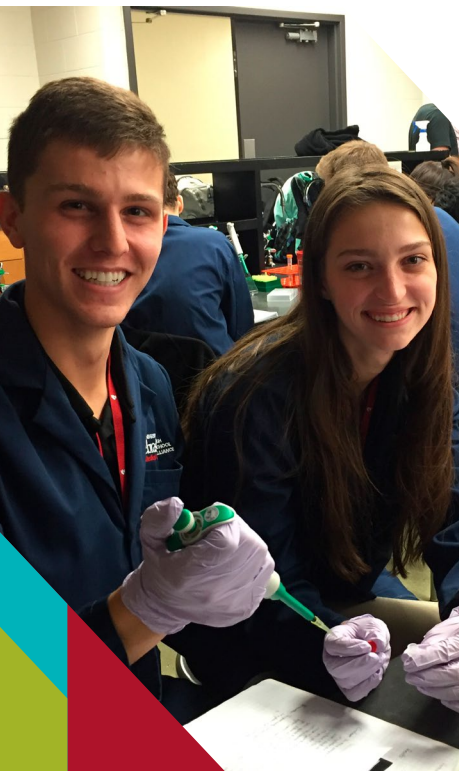


FIELD OF STUDY

70% of students who have completed the program indicate they are pursuing a health STEM majors in college

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|---|--|
| 88 Biology, Microbiology, Pre-Med | 51 Non-health care related majors
i.e. Business, Journalism,
International Studies, Languages |
| 34 Nursing, Pre-Nursing | |
| 25 Chemistry, Pre-Pharmacy | |
| 15 Bioengineering, Bioinformatics,
Biophysics, Biotechnology | 46 Undeclared or undecided majors,
not attending college, entered
the workforce, or unknown |
| 65 Other health care related
majors (i.e. Exercise Science,
Public Health, Psychology,
Animal Health) | |





LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION

- Dr. Geoff Talmon and Heidi Kaschke presented at the National Career Academy Coalition Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee in October 2017.
- Also in October 2017 The UNMC High School Alliance with Nebraska Medicine hosted 50 high school science teachers from across the country as part of the National Consortium for Health Science Education's Institute for Educational Excellence.
- Dr. Geoff Talmon and Heidi Kaschke have submitted an abstract for consideration to present at the AAMC Annual Convention in Austin, Texas in November 2018.
- The UNMC High School Alliance and Nebraska Medicine hosted 40 high school students from the South Central Unified School District on campus for a day of exploring health care careers.

Feedback from Students and Parents

"Taking the classes that I did, helped me learn a lot about professions I didn't really know about and it helped me learn how to manage my time. The program has been an amazing contribution toward my goal of wanting to be a physician and helping people in the future. This program has given me the information and the resources to understand and know how to approach medical school. I loved every day of the program."

A student from the Class of 2017

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the High School Alliance and I wouldn't change anything about it. I would like to thank all of the staff for the hard work they do to ensure that this program runs smoothly. I truly appreciated it and I am incredibly grateful for my time in the program."

A student from the Class of 2017

"I loved being a part of this program. The academic rigor and curriculum was something I enjoyed and found challenging. I like the atmosphere at UNMC and how the maturity level of the majority of students is at a higher level. Thank you for such an outstanding opportunity and a great year!"

A student from the Class of 2017

"You have taught my son some amazing things and helped him realize what his passion is. Thank you to the entire staff!"

A parent of a student from the Class of 2017

"Thank you to all of the faculty and staff at the UNMC High School Alliance for giving my daughter the once in a lifetime experiences that she will always remember! She now knows that she definitely wants to pursue a career in a healthcare profession due to all of your dedication to these students and allowing them the opportunity to see your love and passion for what you do every day. Thank you!"

A parent of a student from the Class of 2017

"This is an amazing program and I am thoroughly impressed by the students, the staff, and the community partnerships that exist. It is a model that should be duplicated and all involved should feel extremely proud of their work. Well done!"

A parent of a student from the Class of 2017



Feedback from Alumni

"The past two years I have had doors open to opportunities I could have never imagined. Between the classes, the research, the shadowing, and the connections I slowly started to unfold what I believe is my calling. Without the help of this program, I am not sure that I would be starting down the path that I am now. I truly appreciate the support, mentoring, and guidance that this program provided me."

*Sydney Kirkpatrick
UNMC High School Alliance Class of 2016
Stellar Senior Class of 2017
(Omaha Burke High School)
Creighton University Class of 2021*

"I want to say thank you so much for making this program so successful. I really enjoyed the High School Alliance and I recommend it to people I know. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to pursue our interests in healthcare. Biomedical science or genetics are the two areas I want to continue to learn about. Thank you for making an impact on the lives of many students."

*Rizwan Siddiqui
UNMC High School Alliance Class of 2017
(Millard North High School)
Creighton University Class of 2021*



Thank You

EXTRA ORDINARY SUPPORT

The UNMC High School Alliance would like to extend a special thank you to The Sherwood Foundation and the Omaha Public Schools

THANK YOU TO

The UNMC Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Allied Health Professions, and Public Health. The Munroe Meyer Institute. The departments of Pathology and Microbiology, Genetics and Cell Biology and Anatomy, Academic Affairs, Recruitment and Student Engagement, the Office of Graduate Studies, BHECN, and Public Relations.

ADDITIONAL THANK YOU

All of the participating school districts, their administrations, counselors, teachers, and staff.



We Stay Connected

- Annual reunions in the summer for all UNMC High School Alliance alumni
- Facebook page "UNMC High School Alliance"
- Summer research opportunities at UNMC after completion of the program and during students' undergraduate careers
- Survey of former students: "Where are you now?"
- Two newsletters throughout the year with at least one featuring an alum of the program

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Medical Center

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