



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTERSM **ALUMNI**

**COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
ALUMNI COUNCIL NEWS**

[OUR ALUMNI COUNCIL](#)

A Message from the Alumni Council President; Amy Hornig, Pharm.D. '07



Congratulations to the Class of 2018!

On behalf of the College of Pharmacy Alumni Council, it is my pleasure to congratulate and welcome the class of 2018 to the UNMC Alumni Association. On Saturday, May 5th, the students from the College of Pharmacy received their diplomas during UNMC's commencement ceremony at Baxter Arena. A Convocation ceremony was held at the Holland Center on May 4th. (To see a listing of students, click [here](#).)

As an Alumni Council, we are dedicated to fostering and sustaining relationships between the college, students, and alumni. Active alumni members are essential to the current and future success of the College and our university. Please continue to stay engaged through our events, volunteer opportunities, and through social media. Best wishes to the graduates as you embark on this next chapter in your career.

College of Pharmacy News

Message from Dean Courtney V. Fletcher, Pharm.D.



I have had the privilege to serve as the dean of the UNMC College of Pharmacy since November 2007 and doing so has been a highlight of my professional career. The long list of accomplishments and cultural and physical transformation that have been remarkable. They are achievements that you the alumni, the faculty, staff, students, and all friends of the College of Pharmacy have made possible, through your willingness to embrace change, hard work, and support. My ten years as dean have been challenging and rewarding and enough. This is simply the right time for me to step aside and for the College of Pharmacy and UNMC to recruit new leadership. I shall step down as dean effective later this year, and will look forward to making continuing contributions, as a professor, to our College.

With my deepest gratitude for the support you have provided and with my warmest personal regards.

Courtney V. Fletcher, Pharm.D.
Dean & Professor, UNMC College of Pharmacy

Major Accomplishments During Dean Fletcher's Tenure



The new UNMC Center for Drug Discovery - Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education was far from the only accomplishment under Dr. Fletcher (tour the new building [here](#)). Some of the other landmark achievements for the college included:

- Realizing a 99.5 percent increase in National Institute of Health (NIH) funding and ranking number 11 out of the more than 145 colleges and schools of pharmacy in the U.S. in terms of NIH research funding.
- Ranking number 4 out of all colleges and schools of pharmacy in the U.S. in NIH research funding per FTE faculty and being in the top 10 in this measure for the past nine years.

- Averaging 98.6 percent over the past five years for pharmacy students passing the licensure exam on their first attempt, one of the highest pass rates in the country.
- Increasing annual grant submissions by 162 percent, annual publications by 53 percent, and annual invention notifications by 93 percent.
- Becoming the first college of pharmacy in the U.S. to develop an affiliation with the Chinese Scholarship Council for the Pharm.D. program and the first to graduate a CSC student.
- Being the first UNMC college to move to a paperless education program and launching a digital initiative that provides all students with an iPad, to transform the classroom experience.

Next Steps

Chancellor Jeffrey Gold has established a search committee chaired by Kyle Meyer, Dean, UNMC College of Allied Health Professions, to begin the process of searching for the next dean of the COP. The UNMC search committee is being assisted by the search firm, Witt / Kieffer. Consultants Jeff Schroetlin and Joyce De Leo were on the UNMC campus May 14-15 to hear from COP faculty and staff, as well as other stakeholders. They will develop a position description and announcement and over the next several weeks to engage in the process of national recruitment.

We appreciate our vast alumni network and invite your participation in the search process. Please feel free to share information about the search with your colleagues. In addition, we invite your nominations. Names of potential candidates may be forwarded to a joint email account at Witt / Kieffer specifically established for the UNMC COP dean search at UNMCPharmacy@wittkieffer.com or Witt / Kieffer consultants Jeff Schroetlin (630-575-6972) and Joyce De Leo (630-575-6177) may be contacted directly.

Save the Date: Preceptor Development Retreat

Friday, August 10, 2018, the College of Pharmacy will host the 9th Annual Preceptor Development Retreat. Space is limited. Email invites will be sent in June. The Preceptor Retreat is organized by the College's Office of Experiential Education. For the second year, the Pharmacy Alumni Council will help sponsor the retreat.

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Preceptor Took-Kit Now Available

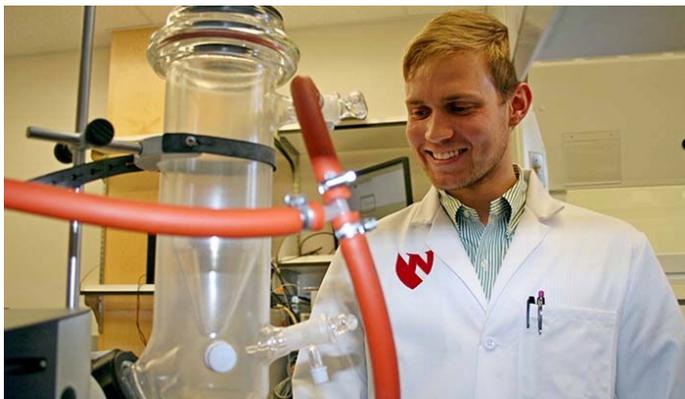
UNMC's Interprofessional Academy of Educators (IAE), also sometimes referred to as the Teaching Academy, has recently made available a [Preceptor Tool-Kit](#). The Tool-Kit is a resource available for clinical preceptors to access resources focused on basic skills and "just in time" resources. The tool-kit is a combination of short videos on topics such as: "Being an Effective Preceptor," "Sounding," "Evaluation and Grading," and much more.

The tool-kit is accessible online [here](#). Learn more about the work of the IAE [here](#). Alumni preceptors are also eligible to apply for induction into the Academy. Learn more [here](#).

Clinical Assistant Professor Contributes to UNMC's E-Learning Program

Linda Sobeski, Pharm.D. '86, '92, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmacy Practice, was a contributor to the content in the UNMC E-Learning Program "When Students Teach Students" and it was featured in the January 24, 2018 digital issue of *Inside Higher Ed*. Read more [here](#).

UNMC Student Picked as Pipeline Spotlight Entrepreneur



William Payne, a doctoral student of pharmaceutical sciences at UNMC, was selected as the University of Nebraska's top choice to present his business plan at the largest entrepreneurial conference in the region in early 2018.

Payne's business plan rose to the top of a selection process that pulled the best proposals from all University of Nebraska campuses. He joined three

other "Pipeline Spotlight Entrepreneurs" who pitched their ideas during Pipeline's annual Innovation Awards in Kansas City.

Payne partnered with his veterinarian father, Bert, to formulate the idea for his startup company, Simple Vet Solutions. The company offers secure and compliant management of veterinary prescriptions and feed directives for any size of livestock operation, veterinary practice, or feed distributor. The company's software service eliminates the extra time and energy required to meet FDA regulations for animal medications.

"William has already accomplished something that many entrepreneurs struggle with," said UNeMed President and CEO Michael Dixon, Ph.D., who also serves as a mentor for Pipeline. "He went out and identified a real problem, then he created a real solution. And, he already has people that are paying real money for that solution. Sounds simple enough, but those are three critical elements that don't always come together for entrepreneurs."

Pharmacy student wins national competition

Jacob Duncan, a third-year Pharm.D. candidate at the UNMC College of Pharmacy, won first place in the national Pharmacy Student Point-of-Care Disease Management Competition at the ninth-annual Next Generation Dx Summit in Washington, D.C.

Duncan finished in the top five in last year's inaugural edition of the national competition for pharmacy students. The competition tests expertise in point-of-care patient counseling and collaborative practice. Read more [here](#).



Four College of Pharmacy Faculty Members Receive Campus Recognition

In February, four UNMC College of Pharmacy Faculty members were recognized for their contributions to research.

- Aaron Mohs, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences was named a New Investigator. Read more [here](#).
- Corey Hopkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named one of nine Distinguished Scientists. Read more [here](#).
- Joseph Vetro, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was named one of nine Distinguished Scientists. Read more [here](#).
- Sam Sanderson, Ph.D., was recognized posthumously as one of UNMC's Distinguished Scientists for 2017. Read more [here](#).

U.S. News rankings released

In the 2017 U.S. News & World Report, the UNMC College of Pharmacy is ranked 25th, in the top 20%, among 125 colleges of pharmacy in the nation. [Read more](#).

Message for the Classes of 2013, 2014 and 2015

Last week, you should have received an invitation to complete the AACP PharmD Alumni Survey. The College of Pharmacy utilizes the survey results as part of the PharmD curriculum review and for the college's accreditation. Your identity will remain anonymous, as your name will not be associated with your responses. The survey should take no more than 20 minutes to complete. If you did not receive an invitation to complete this, please [contact Chris Ullman](#) to update your email address.

Alumni Council News

College of Pharmacy Alumni Gather for a Night of Hockey

Saturday, February 17th, 40 College of Pharmacy alumni and friends gathered for a pre-game social at Dudley's Pizza & Tavern in Aksarben Village in Omaha before heading to Baxter Arena to watch the UNO Mavericks take on the North Dakota Fighting Hawks.



Alumni Council Hosts P3 Send Off Party

Monday, April 23, students from the class of 2019 gathered to enjoy a bbq lunch and share memories together before they head out on their rotations. Students shared their most memorable moments from the first three years of pharmacy school.



Alumni Gather for Tailgate & Baseball at Annual Showdown in O-Town



On Tuesday, May 8th, 140 UNMC alumni and friends enjoyed the 8th Annual Showdown in O-Town at TD Ameritrade Park in Omaha. Pharmacy alumni had the opportunity to network with colleagues and meet fellow alumni from UNMC's other colleges.

The night kicked off with a tailgate dinner at the Diamond Room, across the street from the stadium, where guests enjoyed a cookout dinner catered by the Old Mattress Factory. The crowd proceeded to the stadium for their group seating to watch the 6:30 PM showdown of Nebraska vs. Creighton baseball.

The UNMCAA hosts this event each year in early May, as a part of outreach activities for alumni sports fans.

Support our work through the Pharmacy Alumni Innovation Fund

In the New Era of Alumni Engagement, College of Pharmacy Alumni are all welcomed into our organization with automatic membership. This enables us to focus our work on serving and engaging graduates, disseminating effective communications, forming meaningful connections between alumni and students, and facilitating opportunities for alumni to invest in their UNMC passions. Alumni who wish to give back and support the work of the Alumni Council may do so through the [Pharmacy Alumni Innovation Fund](#).

We ask for your continued support in the form of time, talent, and treasure. As we value our fellow alumni who came before us and made our University stronger, we now have an important opportunity to make a real difference for the next generation of proud health sciences students at UNMC. Thank you to all the alumni who have supported our work.

Request Credentials for the UNMC Alumni Directory

The [UNMC Alumni Directory](#) is now online and is available for professional networking. Interested alumni can request their credentials and log-in to the UNMC Alumni Directory. To request your credentials, please [send us an email](#). Once you log-in, be sure to visit the Update Your Profile link to input your current contact information, employment information, and select what information you would like to be made viewable to other alumni directory users. The more information that is available, the more robust this tool will become.

Submit your news for Class Notes

The UNMC Alumni Relations Office publishes class notes in the UNMC [CONNECT magazine](#). We want to hear your stories.

Please consider [using this link](#) to provide your personal or professional news, including:

- Employment news: new job, promotion, or retirement
- Awards: Professional or service related recognition
- Personal: Weddings and births

[Submit your class notes](#) and based on publication space, we will share your good news in an upcoming issue of Connect.

Engage With Us On Social Media



[College of Pharmacy Alumni Facebook](#)

[College of Pharmacy Facebook](#)

[UNMC Alumni Association Facebook](#)

UNMC News

NU President Hank Bounds, state leaders unveil Blueprint Nebraska

University of Nebraska President Hank Bounds, Ph.D., on Friday joined leaders in business, agriculture and government to launch [Blueprint Nebraska](#), a citizen-led, statewide economic development initiative.

The effort seeks to establish a comprehensive and pro-active plan to stimulate the state's economic growth, competitiveness and prosperity, while building on its many strengths. [Read more.](#)

Legislative Update

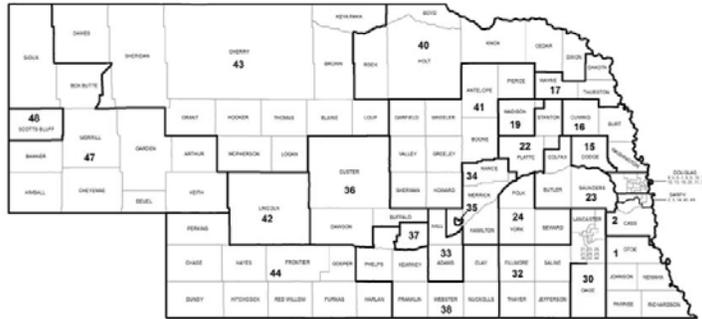
On Wednesday, April 4th, Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts signed the state budget package approved by the legislature with no vetoes. Under the budget, the University of Nebraska's funding will be reduced about \$11 million in the current year, and next year's appropriation will be cut about \$6 million. An original proposal had called for a \$23 million cut to NU for 2018-2019.

President Hank Bounds, Ph.D., issued the following statement thanking the many Nebraskans who have spoken out in support of the University over the past few months: "This budget puts the University of Nebraska in a much better place than where we were a few months ago. I am extraordinarily grateful to the thousands of students, faculty and staff, business and agricultural leaders, and Nebraskans across this state who have lifted up their voices for an affordable, competitive public University that transforms lives and grows the economy. The chancellors and I are humbled by their support.

Read more [here](#). To continue to stay informed, alumni are welcome to sign up for the [University of Nebraska Advocate](#) program.

UNMC's Impact on Nebraska's Legislative Districts

As Nebraska's only public academic health science center, UNMC is committed to the education of a 21st century health care workforce, to improving the health of Nebraska and beyond through its premier educational programs, innovative research and the highest quality patient care, and to serving the state and its communities through award-winning outreach. Click [here](#) to view UNMC's impact in Nebraska.



UNMC Hosts the Society of Student-Run Free Clinics Conferences

In February, UNMC hosted the 2018 annual national conference of the Society of Student-Run Free Clinics, where more than 300 attendees from across the U.S. attended. Students and faculty involved in the SHARING Clinic from the colleges of medicine, allied health professions, public health, pharmacy and nursing were the hosts for the interprofessional conference, which presented separate tracks for students and faculty. There were workshops, poster presentations, and oral presentations where students and faculty had the opportunity to present their clinic models with student-run free clinics from various institutions.

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