THE GLOBAL CENTER FOR ADVANCED INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING (iEXCEL): TRANSFORMING THE STATEWIDE AND GLOBAL HEALTH CARE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH LANDSCAPE FOR NEBRASKA

The Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning (Global Center) at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) is home of iEXCEL a game changer in health care education, training, and research. As a catalyst for interprofessional and industry collaboration, iEXCEL will drive the Nebraska economy today and in the future. The program is designed to be an engine of economic growth for the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the surrounding region. The potential of this one-of-a-kind center to advance economic growth is unlimited both immediately and for decades into the future.

This study only captures measurable economic impacts and does not quantify the prestige and attraction power that a first in class caliber program such as iEXCEL will have for UNMC and Nebraska. This initiative is an opportunity to be at the cutting edge of healthcare education and training, research and development, 3D/Virtual Immersive Reality content development, and technology transfer drawing in global corporations, and high quality faculty, researchers and students, as well as new investments to the state. The potential is boundless. UNMC commissioned Tripp Umbach, an independent third-party economic impact expert, to quantify the projected economic impact, job creation, workforce development, tax revenue and the overall impact of the proposed Global Center, at the 5 year mark. This study is a conservative estimate of annual expected economic impacts while the lasting value of this initiative could be many times greater than estimated as the center will be the only place in the world where academic healthcare and industry are fully integrated.

The annual economic impact of iEXCEL will be $39.3 million ($11.6 million from operations, $9.6 million from research grants, contracts, industry collaborations, workshops, commercialization activity and simulation training, and $18.1 million from visitors).

As a result of the operational impacts of organization and related spending, visitors training at the center, suppliers, federal contracts, workshops, innovation, entrepreneurship and commercialization activity, and employee spending, the annual impact of the training center will generate a significant impact in the economy. The direct impact of iEXCEL’s activities is $10.6 million and the indirect and induced impact totals $28.7 million.

These numbers while impressive do not alone capture the prestige, visibility and attraction power that the Global Center will have for UNMC and the state of Nebraska.

iEXCEL will serve as the core of a distributed system for human performance and effectiveness forming a network of simulation centers across Nebraska. The Global Center will provide enhancements in continuing education, clinical research, increased professional education, defense and preparedness, and the fostering of innovation & entrepreneurship allowing Nebraska to lead the way.

The Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning will create and support 325 permanent jobs throughout Nebraska. Additional jobs at UNMC beyond the direct employees hired to work at the Global Center on a day-to-day basis will also be created and supported utilizing the center for research as well as to facilitate and provide support for evening and weekend training sessions. It is projected that 125 jobs will be supported directly at the Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning and an additional 200 jobs will be created throughout the state (indirect and induced jobs).

Beyond the estimated number of jobs supported and created, the contributions to broader workforce development include training researchers, health care workers, modeling and simulation experts, bio-scientists, human factors researchers, educational assessment specialists, biocontainment experts, computer programmers and code writers, 3D and VIR visualization experts, and leaders in simulation center design, construction and development. This center will be a catalyst for interdisciplinary collaboration at UNMC, Nebraska Medicine and University of Nebraska business units and also for the growth and development of the workforce in Nebraska and globally.
Annual state and local governmental revenues attributable to the presence of the iEXCEL Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning are projected to total $2.4 million ($0.59 million direct and $1.8 million indirect and induced). Through their state and local spending, as well as direct and indirect support of jobs, the development of the Global Center will strengthen and expand the local and statewide tax base.

Impacts associated with the construction of the iEXCEL Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning are significant. Construction costs alone are projected to be $56.9 million with additional project costs totaling $41.1 million. The economic impact over the construction and initial project phase will be $137.7 million ($81.6 million direct). As a result of construction and project costs, 895 jobs (460 direct) will be supported during this initial phase.

Each provider trained at the iEXCEL Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning would realize savings of $1,400 each year. Healthcare cost savings from Nebraska-based providers who train at the Global Center will alone save the State of Nebraska $7 million (or $7 for every $1 invested by the state in the operations of the Global Center. In 10 years, 3 companies should be formed due to commercialization spin-off with a total annual impact of $10.8 million and 138 total jobs will be supported or sustained.

INDEPENDENCE + METHODOLOGY

The University of Nebraska Medical Center commissioned an independent third party, Tripp Umbach, to conduct this economic impact study. Tripp Umbach has conducted more than 300 customized economic impact studies for major corporations, healthcare organizations, universities, medical schools, and health insurance companies.

To fully quantify the impact of the proposed iEXCEL Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning within Nebraska, Tripp Umbach established a comprehensive, yet conservative, methodology to estimate the operational impact based on information compiled using uniform and consistent techniques that could be replicated in the future. Using IMPLAN (IMpact analysis for PLANning) data and software, Tripp Umbach conducted a classic input-output analysis in combination with regional specific Social Accounting Matrices and Multiplier Models. The approach utilized in this study was decidedly conservative. Multipliers in this analysis, derived by IMPLAN, range from 1.87 to 2.1. The University of Nebraska Medical Center supplied data for this project and industry standard operational spending and employee salaries were utilized in the study. All impacts are presented in 2015 dollars.

Tripp Umbach is a consulting firm headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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