Happy New Year!

As we ring in 2013, I am pleased to share some of what’s been happening in Finance & Business Services:

UNMC’s global outreach continues to expand. In August, Jeff Miller, Assistant Controller, and I traveled to Nigeria to set up bank accounts for the International Foundation Against Infectious Diseases in Nigeria, in connection with NIH and Gates Foundation grants of Dr. Stephen Obaro. Dr. Obaro recently joined UNMC as a researcher in pediatric infectious diseases and it was important to establish these accounts in order for his work to continue seamlessly as he transitioned from another major university. This is UNMC’s first Gates Grant and first work in sub-Saharan Africa.

Also in August, UNMC hosted the 8th International Student Research Forum, which brought over 100 international visitors to UNMC. Keith Swarts led the planning efforts for this event and many people in Business & Finance assisted with everything from arranging student lodging, special events throughout their stay in Omaha, transportation, and overall making sure UNMC put its best foot forward as the host of this prestigious event. The Forum was established as a way for students from around the world to build relationships with international colleagues as well as forge relationships that can positively yield scientific advances which affect countless peoples around the world.

Finally, in 2012 came to a close, we distributed FICA checks to some 1,500 former UNMC residents, as it took the IRS almost two decades to rectify the error, we were glad to see it come to a positive conclusion.

It was a tremendous effort by staff in Finance and Business Services, Budget, General Accounting, Procurement, and Mail Services, as well as Legal Services. As you can see, Finance & Business Services encompasses much more than our name implies. We are.

DIVERSITY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Diversity is not just about individuals and their differences, but also about how groups work together despite differences. Building competency in diversity and inclusion leads to a competitive advantage for individual and organizations.

Employees are more engaged in environments where they feel valued. Workplaces where employees have opportunities to utilize and build on their diverse strengths create, stronger, more effective, and innovative teams. Developing leadership, improving cross-cultural communication skills, increasing awareness, managing change, and addressing expectations all lead to increased competency in diversity and inclusion.

Diversity Management: Diversity Management helps organizes leverage the experiences, talents and perspectives of diverse teams. Developing leadership, improving cross-cultural communication skills, increasing awareness, managing change, and addressing expectations all lead to increased competency in diversity and inclusion.

As we ring in 2013, I am pleased to share some of what’s been happening in Finance & Business Services:

UNMC is a world class academic health science center and these skills and competencies are an integral part of our business practice.

The division of Employee Relations, Organizational Development and Diversity:

• Is a campus resource in diversity management and provides strategies to help leadership and managers find creative ways to utilize and manage diversity for the benefit of employees and the customers we serve.

• Develops and delivers customized diversity training courses and presentations (instructor for student courses in cultural competence in healthcare; co-developed the mandatory cultural competence compliance module).

• Provides leadership on task forces and diversity councils.

• Provides support to identify and address recruitment and retention strategies in relation to UNMC’s diversity objectives.

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