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## **New UNMC pharmacy building features world-leading lab, educational facilities**

### **Latest Med Center jewel built with \$35 million in private donations**

Why did we build the UNMC Center for Drug Discovery and Lozier Center for Pharmacy Sciences and Education?

How did Nebraska get this magnificent \$35 million cathedral to science, yet another state-of-the-art jewel on the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Omaha campus?

It happened because Omaha philanthropists Ruth and Bill Scott, lead donors for the UNMC Center for Drug Discovery, became convinced that UNMC, and Nebraska, must step forward to take the lead in the global fight against new "superbugs" and other infectious diseases that continue to confound treatment and ravage the world.

It happened because Dianne and Allan Lozier determined that the future pharmacists educated at UNMC must be given every opportunity and tool to be among the best prepared in the U.S.

And it happened because distinguished alum Joseph Williams, a former major pharmaceutical company CEO, and so many other donors, large and small, believed in the power of pharmacy to improve lives.

As incoming first-year pharmacy student Anthony Donovan, of Kearney, Neb., put it, pharmacists can have a huge impact on patients. And pharmaceutical-science researchers can potentially impact all mankind.

The 85,000-square-foot new building houses both state-of-the-art research space, and state-of-the-art education space with next-generation technology to prepare future pharmacists for the changing health care landscape, using UNMC's innovative educational model.

Donovan watched the building take shape, while working in UNMC's summer undergraduate research program in 2015. Back in Omaha again this past summer, he even helped his research mentor, Jonathan Vennerstrom, Ph.D., move into the new digs.

Dr. Vennerstrom, a pioneer in developing drugs to treat malaria, has now turned his attention to schistosomiasis or "snail fever," a tropical parasitic disease that may affect as many as 440 million individuals worldwide.

The type of work done on the new building's third floor is the embodiment of the medical center's mission to lead the world in transforming lives to create a healthy future for all individuals and communities.

"A focus on drug discovery in infectious diseases is critically important to global human health," said Courtney Fletcher, Pharm.D., the College of Pharmacy's dean.

Experiential learning spaces, like a model pharmacy, simulation suites, a compounding lab and a sterile product preparation lab, will enhance the educational experience of those trained here. But, said Donovan, so will inspiration from the research going on just upstairs.

"Having all that in the same building where I'll be going to school is really cool," Donovan said.