What others are saying

“As a former rescue squad member, I am well aware of the importance of quality training for rural volunteers. Providing our rural first responders with the ability to train on mobile high-tech simulation trucks is not only convenient for volunteers, who are already committing many hours to the department, but also a great opportunity to receive ‘real life,’ high-quality, hands-on training. After leading a study of rural EMS issues last interim, any assistance the state can offer to volunteers in rural areas is greatly needed considering the difficulties they are up against in retaining their squad members. I applaud the Helmsley Charitable Trust and UNMC for their partnership in this program, which will benefit rural emergency medical responders and rural hospitals across the state.”

**Nebraska State Sen. Dan Watermeier, Syracuse (District #1)**

“This program will help strengthen Nebraska’s emergency medical services system. It’s an opportunity for rural EMS providers to enhance their skills in a setting that provides lifelike experiences. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services looks forward to working with UNMC to bring this hands-on training to EMS providers and hospitals across the state.”

**Courtney Phillips, CEO, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services**

“This is an incredible opportunity for rural Nebraskans to gain new skills and sharpen existing skills with state-of-the art simulation equipment. Rural communities rely on first responders to cover large distances to provide medical care and ultimately save lives. The mobility of these simulation units allows for a more futuristic approach to health delivery that can create more safe and robust rural communities."

**Chuck Schroeder, director of the Rural Futures Institute at the University of Nebraska**

“Nebraska has a long and important role in improving emergency health care training dating back several decades. Nebraska now is facing an aging and dwindling group of emergency medical technicians in rural areas. We thank the Helmsley Charitable Trust and commend UNMC for this extremely important step for emergency care throughout the great state of Nebraska.”

**Joel Johnson, M.D., of Kearney, retired surgeon and former state senator**

“The Simulation in Motion program allows us to bring state-of-the-art training to all areas of Nebraska. It is difficult for rural EMS providers, many who are volunteers, to travel hours to a central location for training. We can now bring essential training to them.”

**Jennifer Adams, M.D., director of medical simulation, UNMC Department of Anesthesiology and associate director, Sorrell Clinical Simulation Lab**

“The mobile simulation units are an incredible tool that will truly allow us to better the education and training of our first responders. Technology that was once housed at colleges and universities can now be put on the front lines and reach those in our predominantly rural state. I look forward to the future educational opportunities these tools provide us to enhance and move forward the state of pre-hospital medicine.”

**Eric Ernest, M.D., medical director of the Nebraska Emergency Medical System and assistant professor, UNMC Department of Emergency Medicine**

Continued
“As a first responder in a rural volunteer department, having access to affordable continuing education hours in emergency medical services (EMS) is imperative to maintaining EMS licensure. Each responder must obtain 72 hours every two years to maintain their National Registry license. With department budgets already stretched thin, many responders must pay for these from their own pocket.”
Jen Wolsleben, nationally registered emergency medical technician, Cedar Bluffs Fire & Rescue

“The main thing that hits home with this project is never in my 25 years of doing emergency medical services (EMS) have we had the opportunity for something like this in Nebraska. I’m so excited about it. This will promote more teamwork between EMS and health providers in critical care hospitals, which will enhance patient care. In my work at UNMC with medical students, I see how much training with simulation has helped them and how much quicker they achieve medical and critical thinking skills.”
Debbie Von Seggern, president, Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association and UNMC College of Medicine Continuing Education emergency services coordinator

“I’m excited about the fact that we will start integrating emergency medical services training and use simulation in real-life scenarios. The situations our people come across are hard to teach. The ability to go out and practice these critical skills will be invaluable to the community and people we serve. I think this is going to be huge in helping build skills and confidence especially in small critical care hospitals.”
Mike Bailey, volunteer firefighter and paramedic, Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services and Nebraska Trauma Advisory Board

“Simulation in Motion in North Dakota has been a tremendous benefit to the EMS personnel in our state. The hands-on education and realistic scenarios provides the learners with the ability to practice skills they might not be using frequently and gain confidence in their abilities. The education provided helps improve patient safety and therefore better treatment and outcomes for all residents of North Dakota.”
Amy Malheim, Program Director SIM-ND, ND STAR Center for Healthcare Education, University of North Dakota