



20 Years of the Rural Health Education Network

Patrik Johansson, M.D., M.P.H, Director,
Rural Health Education Network, Special Programs
UNMC College of Public Health
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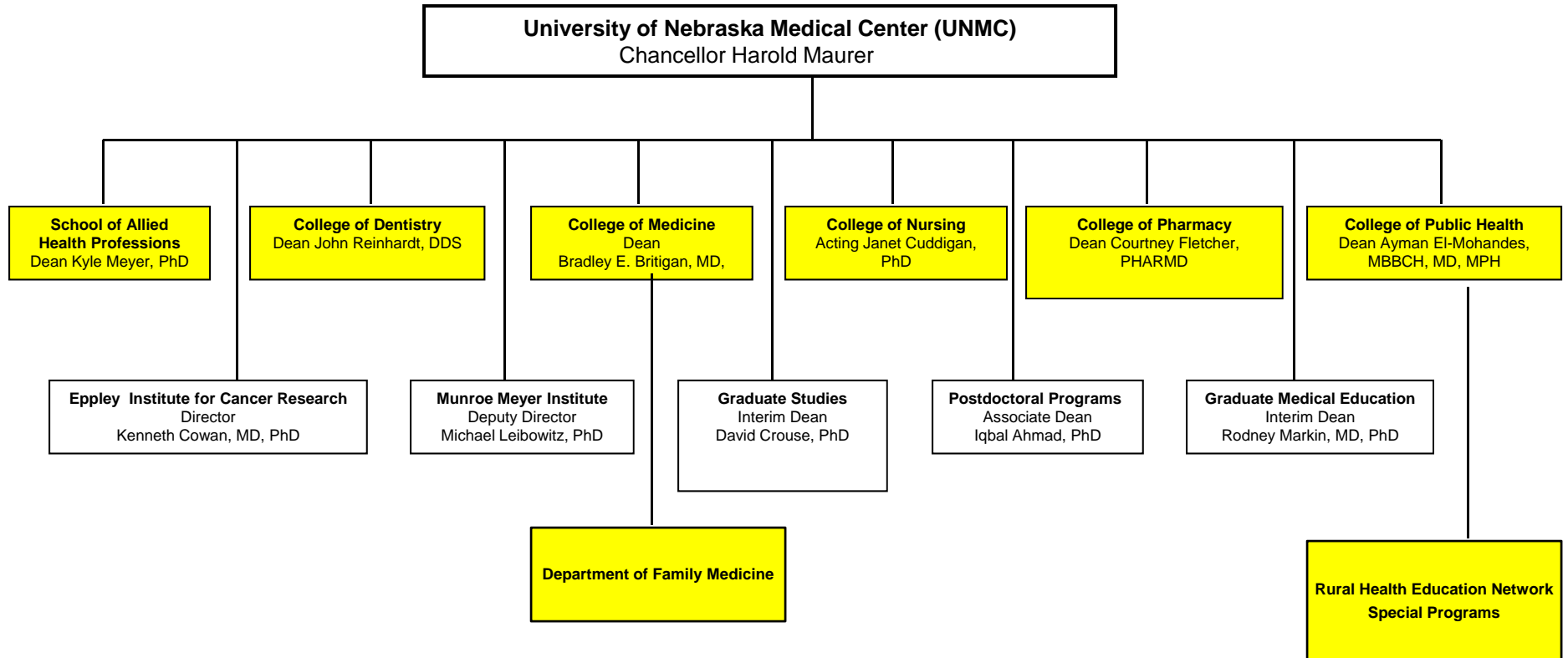
The Rural Health Education Network

History:

In 1991, with the passage of LB 625e, Nebraska Legislature created the Rural Health Education Network with the intent "...to support this experimental/model program for the establishment of clinical sites cooperative delivery of undergraduate, graduate, and professional education of physicians, pharmacists, allied health professionals and other health and medical related fields of instruction..." to serve rural Nebraska.



University of Nebraska Medical Center RHEN Partners





RHEN

Vision:

The Rural Health Education Network at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health will be recognized as a national and international leader in workforce development with regards to addressing health care workforce shortages in rural communities.

Mission:

The Rural Health Education Network at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health is committed to building strong partnerships at local, state, and national levels to develop a workforce of professionals to meet the health care needs of people living in rural and underserved communities in Nebraska.



“Nebraska should act now on current health workforce needs and on future projections, particularly because of the mal distribution of the work-force and expected growth of the elderly population and coverage of the uninsured.”

(Mueller, K.J., Nayar, P., Shaw-Sutherland, K., Nguyen, A., Xu, L., Vanosdel, N., Hummel, D. *“A Critical Match Nebraska’s Health Workforce Planning Project,”* Nebraska Center for Rural Health Research, UNMC College of Public Health, 2009)



The “Critical Match” report recommendation that “*Pipeline programs aimed at provider shortage areas and primary care should be expanded*” is consistent with the purpose and trajectory of RHEN pipeline programs.



RHOP Benefits to Nebraska

The majority of Nebraska's 93 counties are considered a primary health care professions shortage area. These shortages in rural Nebraska are magnified by:

- Higher proportion of pre-retirement age health professionals 55 and older.
- An increase in aging patients.
- Impending changes in the health care system that will take place under HR 3590 Patient Protection and Affordability Act (health care reform) which seeks to increase health care access to previously uninsured individual.



"I feel that the RHOP program facilitated my return to a more rural setting and definitely helps promote the return of physicians to these areas that traditionally experience a shortage of providers."

Jeff King, M.D. '97
Grand Island, NE

"Being a participant in the RHOP program helped me keep my long-term focus on returning to a rural area. I also spent a little more time on certain areas of my pharmacy curriculum when the subject matter was related to rural pharmacy issues."

Niki Salomon, '02
Gothenburg, NE





RHOP by Discipline

- Clinical laboratory science
- Dental hygiene
- Dentistry
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Physician assistant
- Physical therapy
- Radiography



RHOP by the Numbers

340 Practicing graduates who have completed residency

176 Working in rural Nebraska

69 Working in urban Nebraska

233 providers in 61 Nebraska communities

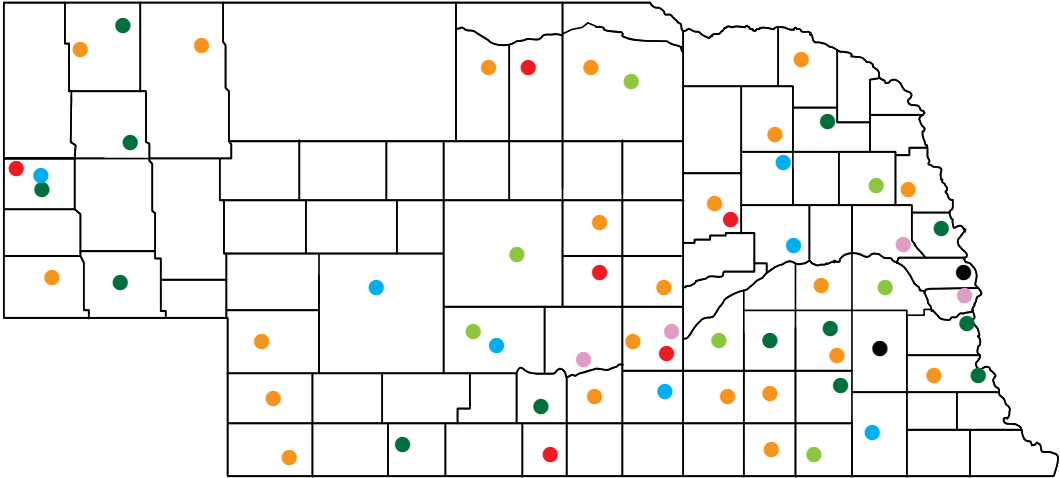
74% of graduates have practiced in a rural setting at some point in their career.

52% in rural Nebraska and 8% in rural across the U.S.

= 60% RURAL!



RHOP Graduate Practice Sites



<u>SIZE OF TOWN</u>	<u># of Grads</u>	<u># of Towns</u>	<u>SIZE OF TOWN</u>	<u># of Grads</u>	<u># of Towns</u>
● less than 1,000	7	7	● 10,000 - 24,999	60	8
● 1,000 - 2,999	33	24	● 25,000 - 49,999	26	4
● 3,000 - 4,999	14	8	● + 50,000	65	2
● 5,000 - 9,999	39	13			



RHOP – Pharmacy

- History of participation with Chadron State College & Wayne State College since inception of the program
 1. Up to 3 slots in pharmacy program allocated to each College annually
 2. Strong interest by students for each College
- Expansion in 2011 to include Peru State College
 - Strong support by healthcare providers in southeast Nebraska area



Rural Pharmacy Practice Educational Initiative (RPPEI)

➤ Purpose

- To provide for early acceptance to the College of Pharmacy to qualified students with a stated commitment to returning to rural NE to practice pharmacy

➤ Description

- Available for students attending public/private educational institutions located in rural NE & students from rural NE counties (population <25,000)
- May admit up to five (5) students annually
 - In existence for at least 10 years; a total of approximately 20 students have entered pharmacy utilizing this pathway



Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP)

- 2010 partnership between UNK and COPh, COM, CON, and SAHP
- Based on RHOP model where students gain provisional acceptance into medicine, nursing, pharmacy, clinical laboratory science, and radiography – tuition waiver at Kearney
- Nontraditional track – medicine only



College of Nursing





Family Medicine Rural Residency Training Tracks

- Since the inception of the UNMC Department of Family Medicine Rural Residency Tracks in Grand Island and Kearney 35 out of 45 (78%) graduates practice in rural Nebraska



The Public Health Early Admission Student Track (PHEAST)

Purpose

- To create a pipeline for a cadre of public health professionals who will practice in Nebraska

Partners

- The UNMC College of Public Health,
- Chadron State College,
- Peru State College,
- Wayne State College, and
- the University of Nebraska Kearney



The Public Health Early Admission Student Track (PHEAST)

Methods

- PHEAST students will gain provisional acceptance to the Masters of Public Health Program (MPH) CoPH following the completion of their sophomore year. The CoPH will provisionally accept three PHEAST students per academic institution for a potential total of 12 students per year.
- The undergraduate institutions will waive tuition for students accepted into PHEAST during their junior and senior years.
- The CoPH College of Public Health will offer scholarships to PHEAST students to take the “Foundations of Public Health” during the students’ senior year. Upon the students’ matriculation into the College of Public Health, the three semester-credit hours from this course will be used towards the forty-five (45) credit hours required for the MPH.
- Assigned CoPH staff, faculty, and alumni will mentor students during the students’ junior and senior years.



The Public Health Early Admission Student Track (PHEAST)

Eligibility

- Nebraska residents in the second semester of their sophomore year at the State colleges and UNK
- A minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.3
- Recommended scores of 24 or higher on the ACT, or 1680 or higher on the SAT



The Public Health Early Admission Student Track (PHEAST)

Program Requirements - Prior to matriculation into the MPH program, PHEAST students are required to

- Visit the UNMC campus and mentors in the fall of their junior and senior years
- Successfully complete the three semester-credit hour UNMC CoPH “Foundations in Public Health” course, delivered via distance education modalities
- Declare their concentration and meet individual MPH concentration admission requirements
- Successfully complete an entry level statistics course regardless of concentration
- Obtain a recommended score of 1,000 or higher on the GRE



In partnership with communities across the state, through RHEN, UNMC has developed a network of volunteer faculty, who serve as rural preceptors for health profession students.

In 2010, more than 530 UNMC students participated in 854 rural rotations in 74 Nebraska communities with health professionals who volunteer as preceptors.





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