

8.e.. Workforce Factors – Institutions of Higher Education

Provide a list of the institutions of higher education or other training providers that offer education or certification programs for the related health care fields. Including a description of the programs offered, the admissions process or the specialized training opportunities that would support the workforce at the site. Provide letters of support for workforce development of employees at the site.

Workforce Report provided by Enquire Research Lincoln, Nebraska

Note: Information in this section describes the programs and the admission processes. For detailed information on the number of current graduates and projections based on new and expanded programs and the workforce implications, see section D.

University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Kearney Division

UNMC's College of Nursing is among the top tier of U.S. nursing schools, as measured by both academic standing and federal research funding. The College of Nursing is the largest and most far reaching -- in terms of students, programs, and campuses -- of UNMC's six health colleges.

UNMC's School of Allied Health Professions is Nebraska's only public academic health science center. It offers education programs leading to careers in thirteen healthcare fields and boasts engaging faculty and collaborative research environments.

College of Nursing

Summary of Degree Programs

The College of Nursing offers the following degree programs:

Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN): The traditional BSN program is a four-semester program spanning two years.

Accelerated Bachelor's (ABSBN): The Accelerated BSN program is an intense 12-month program offered to students already holding a Bachelor's degree in another field.

RN to BSN: The RN to BSN program is an online program for current RNs with an Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) or a Diploma in Nursing. The program can be completed on a full- or part-time basis.

Master's of Science of Nursing (MSN): The MSN program offers six specialty tracks designed to increase expertise, expand skills, and develop credentials for career advancement. The specialty tracks include Adult-Gerontology and Primary Care, Family, Nurse Leader/Executive, Pediatrics Primary Care, Family Psychiatric Mental Health, and Women's Health. UNMC's MSN is available for full- or part-time study; most students pursue the degree on a part-time basis. Students may take up to five years to complete the degree program.

Postmaster's Certificate (PMC): This program prepares students for advanced practice, leadership, administration, and teaching in existing specialty areas. Specialty areas match those available in the MSN program (see above), and also include Nurse Educator

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Training. Those who complete the PMC program are qualified to sit for Nurse Practitioner (NP) and Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) certification exams. The PMC program is available on a full- or part-time basis, and clinical requirements may be satisfied in the local community or at one of UNMC’s local preceptors.

Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP): The DNP is the highest practice-focused degree in nursing. It is designed to prepare experts in specialized advanced practice nursing. It is a 35-credit, 500-practice-hour program available for either full- or part-time study.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): The PhD program prepares scholars for leadership roles in research, education, practice, health policy, and administration. Research areas include promoting and managing health for at-risk populations, health systems and quality, and nursing education. Most PhD candidates are part-time and finish their degree in four to five years. Full-time students finish in three to four years, and a fast-track BSN to PhD option runs four to five years.

Program Locations

The College of Nursing offers its degree programs at the campus locations shown in **Table 13**:

Degree Program	Location of Campus				
	Omaha	Lincoln	Scottsbluff	Kearney	Norfolk
BSN	X	X	X	X	X
Accelerated BSN	X	X	X		
RN to BSN (Online)	X	X	X	X	X
Master of Science in Nursing	X	X	X	X	X
Postmaster’s Certificate	X	X	X	X	X
Doctor of Nursing Practice	X	X	X	X	X
Doctor of Philosophy	X	X	X	X	X

Workforce-Specific Training Opportunities

UNMC’s College of Nursing offers Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) programs designed for registered nurses with advanced professional degrees. CNEs include live programs and educational activities delivered through state-of-the-art, technology-based modalities that can be completed anytime, anywhere. Topics range from Women’s Health to Agricultural Medicine to Pharmacology.

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Admissions Requirements

The program-specific admission requirements for the College of Nursing degree programs are summarized in **Table 14**:

Table 14. UNMC College of Nursing Admissions Information	
Degree	Program-Specific Admissions Requirements
BSN*	<p>Program start date: August</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online application, • Official transcripts reflecting 2.5 cumulative GPA for all prior coursework, and • Two letters of reference.
Accelerated BSN*	<p>Program start date: May</p> <p>Requirements: Same as BSN, but transcripts must reflect completed Bachelor's degree.</p>
RN to BSN*	<p>Program start date: August</p> <p>Requirements: Same as BSN, applicants must also submit proof of RN licensure.</p>
Master of Science in Nursing	<p>Program start date: Varies depending on specialty area</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online application, • Official transcripts reflecting 3.0 cumulative GPA for all prior coursework, • Three letters of reference, • Proof of RN licensure, and • Personal statement.
Postmaster's Certificate	<p>Program start date: Varies depending on specialty area</p> <p>Requirements: Same as MSN, but applicant must submit biographical sketch in lieu of personal statement.</p>
Doctor of Nursing Practice	<p>Program start date: May</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online application processed through NursingCAS, • Official transcripts, • Three letters of reference, and • Personal statement.
Doctor of Philosophy	<p>Program start date: May</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online application, • Official transcripts showing MSN degree with 3.2 cumulative GPA, • GRE scores, • Statement of education and professional goals and area of research interest, • Curriculum vitae, • Three letters of reference, • Two scholarly writing samples, and • Documentation of RN licensure.

Note: All programs have special requirements for international applicants.

* Special requirements for honors (guaranteed) admission.

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UNMC School of Allied Health

Summary of Degree Programs

The UNMC School of Allied Health will be offering degree programs at its Kearney Division starting in 2015. Undergraduate degrees will be offered in Clinical Laboratory Science and Radiation Science and professional degrees will be offered in Physical Therapy Education and Physician Assistant. UNMC's Kearney Division will also offer a one-year internship in medical nutrition leading to advanced credentials for registered dietitians.

Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science (BSCLS): The Clinical Laboratory Science program prepares individuals to work in many different environments, ranging from hospitals and clinics to public health and industry. Students in the program have the option of obtaining their clinical hours at one of UNMC's affiliated sites (located in Kearney, Hastings, and Grand Island, among others). This is a 43-semester-hour program that occurs in three phases: one student laboratory and two clinicals. The program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

Radiation Science Technology: This 21-month program consists of lecture, demonstrations, labs, and clinical instruction. Upon completion, students are eligible to sit for the national examination for certification in Radiography. Graduates earn a Bachelor's Degree of Radiation Science Technology.

Physical Therapy Education: This three-year program includes learning opportunities through lecture-laboratory courses, seminars, independent study opportunities, laboratory practical examinations, and supervised clinics. The clinical education component of the curriculum involves 34 weeks over the course of the three years. Graduates earn a Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Physician Assistant: This is an entry-level Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) degree.

Medical Nutrition Education: This degree program includes both a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Dietetics and a Master of Science in Nutrition Education.

Workforce-Specific Training Opportunities

The Veterans Home offers opportunities for clinical training for Nurses and Allied Health professionals. According to Kyle Meyer, Senior Associate Dean of Allied Health at UNMC, clinical training and internships provide benefits to current employees in the form of new information and ideas that students bring to the workplace. Relationships between educators and facility staff can also lead to more specific on-site professional development programs. (Personal conversation with Kyle Meyer, June 3, 2013.)

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Admissions Requirements

The program-specific admission requirements for the School of Allied Health degree programs are summarized in **Table 15**:

Table 15. UNMC School of Allied Health Admissions Information	
General Admission Requirements	
In addition to the program-specific requirements listed below, all applicants for admission must submit (1) an application form and fee, (2) official transcripts from all prior institutions.	
Undergraduate Programs	
BSCLS	<p>Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit transcripts demonstrating a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher in all prerequisite courses, • Demonstrate capability in upper-level science courses, • Submit two letters of reference, and • Submit a written personal narrative.
Radiation Science Technology	<p>Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit transcripts establishing completion of certain prerequisite courses, • Submit three letters of reference, and • Submit a written personal narrative.
Graduate Programs	
Physical Therapy	<p>Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have three years of undergraduate student education prior to application, and • Submit official transcript of completion of prerequisite courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher; no less than a 'C-' grade in prior courses.
Physician Assistant (MPAS)	<p>Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit official transcript demonstrating completion of certain prerequisite courses and showing a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, • Submit GRE scores, and • Submit three letters of reference.
Medical Nutrition	<p>Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit official transcript demonstrating completion of certain prerequisite courses, • Submit three letters of reference, and • Submit a written personal narrative.

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University of Nebraska at Kearney

The Health Sciences department at UNK offers three degree programs and various healthcare-related pre-professional areas of study. UNK's three degree programs are Medical Technology, Respiratory Therapy, and Radiology. Among the pre-professional programs relevant to workforce development for the Central Nebraska Veterans Home site are Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant. The pre-professional programs are pursued concurrently with any undergraduate major area of study and may lead to participation in degree programs at UNMC's Kearney Division College of Nursing or School of Allied Health.

Summary of Degree Programs

The following is a summary of UNK's three degree programs.

Medical Technology: Students in this program will receive a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology after completing the three-year program at UNK and a fourth year clinical program at an affiliated institution. Students who complete the fourth year clinical program at UNMC will receive their Bachelor's degree from UNMC. A series of prerequisite courses are listed on the program website.

Respiratory Therapy: This 85-credit program also consists of three years at UNK and a fourth clinical year at an affiliated School of Respiratory Therapy. Students completing the program will receive a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy Technology from UNK. A series of prerequisite courses are listed on the program website. Affiliated institutions within Nebraska include Alegent Health and Nebraska Methodist College, both in Omaha.

Radiography: This program consists of 65 semester hours of pre-radiography coursework and a two-year clinical training program at an affiliated school of radiography. A series of prerequisite courses are listed on the program website. Affiliated institutions within Nebraska include Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital in Hastings, UNMC, and Alegent Health in Omaha. Students who choose to complete their clinical requirement at UNMC will receive a Bachelor's of Radiography from UNMC. Students who complete their clinical requirements at other affiliated sites will receive their degree from UNK.

Workforce-Specific Training Opportunities

UNK's pre-professional programs permit students pursuing undergraduate work in other areas of study to engage in healthcare-related advising and coursework during their career at UNK. The pre-professional programs may then lead participating students to participate in degree programs at affiliated institutions, including UNMC and Mary Lanning.

UNK's degree programs also rely heavily on institutional affiliations with UNMC, Mary Lanning, and other Nebraska institutions. Most students begin their coursework at UNK and move on to complete clinical training and other degree requirements at UNMC. Note that those students, while initially enrolled at UNK, receive their degrees from UNMC.

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Admissions Requirements

The following table summarizes the requirements for admissions into UNK’s three degree programs.

Table 16. UNK Admissions Information	
General Admission Requirements	
All applicants for admission to UNK’s health science programs must submit (1) an application form and fee, and (2) official transcripts from all prior institutions. The following summarizes the additional application requirements for clinical training years.	
Medical Technology	<p>Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit official transcript showing cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and grades of C or higher in all prerequisite courses, • Complete at least 40 hours of shadowing in the student’s selected profession, • Submit letters of reference from faculty member, healthcare practitioner, academic advisor, or employer, and • Complete a personal interview.
Respiratory Therapy	<p>Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit official transcript showing cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and grades of C or higher in all prerequisite courses, and • Complete at least 40 hours of shadowing in the student’s selected profession, • Submit letters of reference from faculty member, respiratory therapist, academic advisor, or employer, and • Complete a personal interview.
Radiography	<p>Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit official transcript showing cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and grades of C or higher in all prerequisite courses, • Complete at least 20 hours of shadowing in the student’s selected profession and submit required shadowing documentation, • Submit HOBET entrance exam scores, if required from affiliated institution, • Submit letters of reference from faculty member, healthcare practitioner, academic advisor, or employer, and • Complete a personal interview.

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Central Community College

Central Community College (CCC) has nursing programs on three campuses: Grand Island, Kearney, and Columbus.

Summary of Degree Programs

CCC offers the following degree programs:

Practical Nursing (PN): The CCC PN program is approved by the Nebraska Board of Nursing. It is offered at the Kearney Center and at the Columbus and Grand Island campuses. The PN program may be completed in one or two years and comprises 42-48 credits. Graduates are eligible to sit for NCLEX-PN exam to become a LPN.

Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN): This 72-credit program is offered at the Grand Island campus, but the first year of the program and certain clinical rotations may be completed at either the Kearney Center or the Columbus campus. Graduates are eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN exam.

Advanced Placement ADN: This advanced program is offered for current LPNs and permits them to enter the ADN program in the second year of coursework.

Workforce-Specific Training Opportunities

CCC provides a **Licensed Practical Nurse-Certified (LPN-C)** course for an expanded scope of practice, including IV therapy, NG insertion, and associated assessment/interventions. The LPN-C course is offered in Kearney, Grand Island, and Columbus.

CCC's Extended Learning Services program also offers **Nurse Aide** and **Medication Aide** courses:

Nurse Aide: This course trains beginning nursing assistants to provide safe, effective, and caring services to residents of LTC facilities. Classes are taught by qualified instructors who use Nebraska Health and Human Services (NHHS) curricula. This is a 76-hour course, and individuals who complete the course may sit for required exams to be listed on the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Nursing Assistant Registry.

Medication Aide: This course trains Certified Nursing Assistants to administer medications to those who are not able to take medications alone. Classes are taught by qualified instructors who use NHHS curricula. This is a 48-hour course, and CCC will administer required testing for those who complete the course to be listed on the Nebraska Medication Aide Registry.

Admissions Requirements

Applicants for the ADN and PN programs must:

- (1) Submit an application to CCC and Nursing Program,
- (2) Submit official transcripts and show transferable coursework, and
- (3) Take ACT, COMPASS, and ASSET assessments.

To maintain status as a CCC student, an individual must:

- (1) Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.8 for ADN students or 2.0 for PN students,
- (2) Maintain grades of C or higher, and
- (3) Successfully complete a Nurse Aide course and be listed on the Nebraska Nurse Aide Registry (AP ADN students excepted).

Bellevue University

Bellevue University is a non-profit, regionally accredited institution with a campus in Bellevue. It serves 16,000 students annually both online and at nine locations in three states.

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Summary of Degree Programs

Bellevue University offers the following undergraduate and graduate degree programs:

Undergraduate degrees

RN to BSN: This program is designed for individuals who currently practice or who have previously practiced as an RN. The program is entirely online with no clinical requirement, and relies heavily on applying what students learn in day-to-day interactions with patients and coworkers. It focuses on professional development, management and leadership skills development, and developing an understanding of social, economic, political, and cultural issues in healthcare services and patient outcomes. This 127-credit program is 66 weeks long (54 weeks of instruction; 12-week additional cluster course requirement).

Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management: This is an online, 66-week program (54 weeks of instruction; 12 week additional cluster course requirement) focusing on organizational systems and leadership.

Bachelor of Arts in Health Science: This is an online, two-year program focusing on developing skills related to science of health and illness, prevention strategies for life, and active engagement of self-care and community outreach.

Graduate degrees

MBA with Healthcare Concentration (MBA)

Master of Science in Clinical Counseling (MSCC): This 60-credit program requires 100 practicum and 900 clinical internship hours. The program is offered through both residential and online curricula.

Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA): This 12-course degree program includes a capstone research project and 8-12 hours/week out-of-classroom, course-related activities. The program is entirely online. Applicants must have two years of prior healthcare experience and work a minimum of 20 hours/week within a healthcare organization.

Master of Arts in Human Services (MAHS): This is a non-licensure, 36-credit degree program. The program has a prerequisite requirement of 6 credits hours in the behavioral sciences.

Workforce-Specific Training Opportunities

Bellevue University boasts online-only programs, which permit working professionals to participate in an interactive education experience and use real-world, day-to-day interactions with patients and coworkers to supplement and engage coursework.

Bellevue University also offers “**Certificates of Completion**” through innovative, cost-effective professional programs geared toward specific workforces. Certificates are offered in:

- Residential care and assisted living
- Home and hospice care
- Nursing home care

Admissions Requirements

The program-specific admission requirements for Bellevue University’s degree programs are summarized in **Table 16**.

Table 17. Bellevue University Admissions Information
Undergraduate Programs
In addition to the program-specific requirements listed below, all applicants for undergraduate admission must submit (1) an application form and fee, (2) official transcripts from all prior

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institutions, and (3) documentation of high school completion. Special requirements for transfer or international student admission are shown at http://www.bellevue.edu/undergraduate/admissions	
RN to BSN	<p>Applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a current, unrestricted RN license to practice in the U.S., • Currently practice as a licensed RN or have a minimum of one year of practice as a licensed RN, and • Submit transcripts showing C grade or higher in all prerequisite courses.
BA in Health Science	No additional requirements.
BS in Healthcare Management	Applicant must currently work at least 20 hours within the healthcare industry or provide the University with a Letter of Commitment from an organization that will support the applicant through the program.
Graduate Programs	
MBA with Healthcare Concentration	<p>All graduate program applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit application forms and fees, • Hold an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university, • Submit transcripts showing a GPA of 2.5 or higher from most recent 60 credits of undergraduate coursework and GPA of 3.0 or higher from any prior graduate work, and • Submit letters of reference, if specific program requires.
Master of Science in Clinical Counseling	
Master of Arts in Human Services	
Master of Healthcare Administration	

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Hastings College

Hastings College's Health Systems programs include cooperative curricula with degrees in Nursing and Radiologic Technology. The programs are designed to allow students to spend a portion of the program at Creighton University's nearby Mary Lanning Campus and receive a four-year degree from Hastings College.

Summary of Degree Programs

Bachelor of Arts in Health Systems: This undergraduate program includes 31 hours of biology and psychology courses and includes additional requirements for those interested in pursuing further coursework in Hastings College's nursing or radiology programs.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN): The nursing program at Hastings College is a cooperative program with Creighton University's Mary Lanning Campus. Hastings College offers a four-year nursing curriculum that prepares students for a one-year accelerated BSN program at Mary Lanning. When students complete the one-year accelerated program, the program transfers back to Hastings College to fulfill the student's degree requirements. Creighton's Mary Lanning Campus reserves seats in its accelerated BSN program for Hastings College students.

Workforce-Specific Training Opportunities

For training opportunities offered through Hastings College, see the summary of opportunities provided through Creighton University's Mary-Lanning Campus on page 31.

Admissions Requirements

Hastings College requires applicants to submit the following information:

- Application form,
- Official transcripts of high school and prior college coursework,
- ACT or SAT exam scores, and
- For transfer students, a Statement of Academic Standing.

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Doane College

Doane College is a private liberal arts college. The college is organized into two schools, the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Graduate and Professional Studies. Grand Island has a full-service campus under the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, serving non-traditional students. Degree programs, staff, and services are designed to meet the needs of working adults.

Summary of Degree Programs

Doane College offers the following degree programs on its Grand Island campus:

RN to BSN: This program is designed to meet the needs of area medical facilities. Doane College performed research into the RN shortage, the desire of hospitals to earn magnet status, and best practices. The first BSN class graduated on May 19, 2013 and included nine nurses. The program currently serves 60 active students.

Bachelor of Science in Health Science: This program will be added at the beginning of the 2013-2014 academic year. The program will offer degree completion for the persons holding an Associate's degree in a healthcare-related field and wishing to complete a Bachelor's degree to provide career and professional advancement.

Workforce-Specific Training Opportunities

Doane College is willing to offer courses at any site where there are enough students and where space permits. The Grand Island campus discussed offering BSN classes at two different hospitals. At this time, however, nurses who are in the program prefer to come to campus, where they have a variety of classes to choose from and where they can work with students from different healthcare facilities and in different degree programs. (Information provided by Doane College.)

Admissions Requirements

In order to take classes at the Doane College School of Graduate and Professional Studies, a student must complete an application and register. In order to be fully admitted into the BSN program, a student must provide a high school transcript, college transcripts, and a current nursing license.

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Creighton University School of Nursing Mary Lanning Campus (Hastings College)

Creighton University's Mary Lanning is located in Hastings on the Hastings College campus.

Summary of Degree Programs

BSN and Accelerated BSN: The College of Nursing on the Mary Lanning Campus offers two tracks for undergraduate study leading to a BSN degree: a traditional curriculum for qualified high school graduates and college transfer students, and the Accelerated Nursing Curriculum (ANC) for individuals with non-nursing Bachelor's or higher degrees. Both are offered on the Mary Lanning Campus, but certain courses are delivered through distance learning between Omaha and Hastings. Upon completion of either program, students are eligible to take the Registered Nurse licensure examination (NCLEX-RN).

Workforce-Specific Training Opportunities

Mary Lanning Healthcare is an approved provider of continuing medical education (CME) by the Nebraska Nurses Association.

Admissions Requirements

Admission into Creighton University's College of Nursing requires:

- Submit online application and required fee,
- Submit official transcripts showing certain prerequisite courses and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in prior coursework,
- Personal statement,
- Three letters of reference, and
- Submit Safety and Technical Standards forms.



May 31st, 2013

The State of Nebraska
Attn: Department of Administrative Services
State Capitol, Room 1315
Lincoln, NE 68509

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Bellevue University-Bellevue, NE it is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Central Nebraska Replacement Veterans Home-Request for Statement of Interest and Offer proposal for the City of Kearney, NE. We have been supporting the Kearney area for over 23 years in helping students and community members achieve their higher education goals.

We are in full support (to the best of our professional abilities) for Section 8, Workforce Factors (Tab 7), Item E, onsite support for workforce development of employees at the site of the new Veterans Home in Kearney, NE. Bellevue University can assist the new Central Nebraska Veterans Home in achieving their business goals through innovative, cost effective, professionally taught programs and technical certificates geared for today's workforce. Bellevue University can customize training programs to suit the Central Nebraska Veterans Home's needs, whether it's onsite or online.

In addition, we put existing training programs online, giving employees access to learning programs from any location at times more convenient for them. Many companies offer learning and training programs to corporations, but only accredited universities can offer college credit for that learning. Bellevue University can develop credit-worthy learning opportunities for your Central Nebraska Veterans Home workforce in Kearney, NE and 100% online.

Bellevue University looks forward to collaborating with the Central Nebraska Veterans Home in Kearney, NE. We are excited to provide full support for helping the workforce become more educated and trained to meet the needs of the great veterans of our nation.

Sincerely,

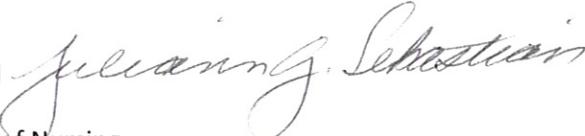
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bradley Keasling".

Bradley Keasling
Bellevue University
Community College Outreach Manager
3134 West Highway 34
Grand Island, NE 68802

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 10, 2013

TO: Darren Robinson

FROM: Juliann G. Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN 
Dean and Professor, UNMC College of Nursing

SUBJECT: Data related to Health Sciences Education building at UNK

In response to your request for information about the program expansions the new UNK Health Sciences Education building will make possible, I attached the fact sheet we use to explain this project. We are grateful to the Governor and the legislature for making possible the opportunity to expand capacity in the central region of Nebraska through the addition of this new building to the UNK campus.



University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing, Kearney Division School of Allied Health Professions

We are grateful to Governor Heineman and the legislature for supporting the *Building a Healthier Nebraska* initiative, which includes a \$15 million appropriation to build a new Health Sciences Education Building on the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) campus. This facility, tentatively scheduled to open for classes in the fall of 2015, will provide significant new opportunities for UNMC programs in Nursing and the Allied Health Professions to meet the needs of the State of Nebraska. The initiative will allow the College of Nursing to expand its current undergraduate and graduate programs at UNK, and will allow the UNMC School of Allied Health Professions to bring six of its programs to the UNK campus. The result of this partnership between UNMC and UNK will be an unprecedented opportunity for interprofessional education of health professionals to help meet the healthcare needs of central and western Nebraska.

UNMC College of Nursing – Kearney Division

- Initiated in 1991
- 15 faculty, 5 staff
- Admitting undergraduate student GPA – 3.24
- Up to 31% of qualified BSN applicants turned away in FY 12
- Total annual enrollment approximately 96 BSN and 24 MSN. MSN students are currently taught by faculty at the Omaha Division using IP video and online strategies, but they complete clinical practica in the Kearney area.
- BSN graduates per year: Approximately 42
- Master's graduates become the future *faculty* workforce for central Nebraska area nursing colleges and become *nurse practitioners* who practice in primary care settings.
- Annual projected enrollment with a new facility: 168 students

UNMC School of Allied Health Professions (at UNMC)

- Founded in 1972 on the UNMC campus in Omaha
- 58 faculty, 28 staff
- Mean GPA of matriculants – 3.6
- Has grown to nearly 400 students in 13 educational programs on the UNMC campus
- UNK expansion includes 7 programs and projected annual enrollment of at least 86 students

For over twenty years, the Kearney Division of the UNMC College of Nursing has educated students who become the registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and faculty members for central and southern Nebraska. The increased capacity provided by the new building will make it possible to reduce the shortages of nurses and allied health professionals that disproportionately affect rural areas, and will foster stronger community partnerships and interprofessional education opportunities that will help students learn to practice contemporary, team-based health care. Current shortages of primary care providers, including advanced practice nurses and physician assistants who will be educated in the new building, are expected to increase as more



people gain access to care through health reform and as needs for health promotion, illness prevention and chronic care management continue to grow. The Bureau for Labor Statistics (BLS) projects (2012) a shortage of 1.2 million registered nurses by 2020. Vacant positions will result from retirements and from newly created demand. Graduate education in the new facility will provide training for new nursing faculty to address the faculty shortage that is a principal reason behind the current U.S. nursing shortage.

The Nebraska Center for Nursing projects that the shortage of registered nurses will more than double by 2020. They estimate a shortage of 3,838 registered nurses by 2020. In Nebraska, registered nurses make up more than 40% of the health care workforce (NE Center for Nursing, 2010). This is nearly a 20% shortage, compared with today's 7.2% shortage of RNs in Nebraska. The shortage of registered nurses, like other health professionals in Nebraska, disproportionately affects rural areas.

Allied health professionals who will receive their education at the new site are also in high demand. The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects national employment demand will increase 44 percent for diagnostic medical sonographers, 39 percent for physical therapists, 30 percent for physician assistants, 28 percent for radiographers, and 13 percent for clinical laboratory scientists during this decade (USBLS data accessed 1/10/2013 at <http://www.bls.gov/home.htm>).

New Kearney Health Sciences Education Building

In addition to more traditional classrooms, the new Health Sciences Education building will house a variety of educational spaces supporting the interactive, team-based learning approaches that the faculty are pioneering, including media classrooms designed for "flipping the classroom" as described by Salman Khan in *The One World Schoolhouse* (2012). Teaching laboratories will provide state-of-the-art learning spaces for interprofessional groups of learners. These areas include a simulation suite equipped with high-fidelity mannequins, health assessment and skills labs, specialized labs for learning physical therapy and imaging techniques, and an anatomy lab that will augment traditional teaching methods with a state-of-the-art "virtual anatomy" table.

Spaces shared by the College of Nursing and the School of Allied Health Professions will increase efficiency while promoting interprofessional collaboration. Office and research support space for faculty, graduate students and research staff will enable clinical research teams to engage in team science addressing problems particularly relevant to rural populations, and will aid in national recruitment of additional faculty. The UNMC Health Sciences Education Building at UNK will be marked by cooperation on many levels, including initial funding from both state (\$15 million) and private (\$4 million) sources, new collaborations between UNMC and UNK, and unprecedented opportunities for interprofessional healthcare education, all aimed at improving the health of greater Nebraska.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Economic News Release, *Table 6: The 30 Occupations With the Largest Projected Employment Growth*. posted Feb. 12, 2012, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/ecopro.t06.htm>.

Nebraska Center for Nursing. (2011). *Nebraska Center for Nursing Annual Report, 2010*. DHHS: Lincoln, NE.