

# Leadership Profile

## Dean, College of Business Administration

June 2025



*Leadership Profile*

Position	Dean, College of Business Administration
Organization	University of Nebraska at Omaha
Reports To	Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Location	Omaha, Nebraska
Website	<a href="http://unomaha.edu">unomaha.edu</a>

*Table of Contents*

Overview of the Opportunity.....	02
The UNO College of Business Administration.....	03
Role Summary .....	05
Candidate Profile .....	08
Search Team .....	11
Appendix A: University of Nebraska Omaha	
Institutional Overview .....	12



### *Overview of the Opportunity*

The University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) seeks a visionary and growth-oriented leader to serve as Dean of the [College of Business Administration](#) (CBA). Situated in Omaha, home to eleven Fortune 500 and Fortune 1000 companies, including iconic Berkshire Hathaway, Union Pacific, Peter Kiewit Sons, and Mutual of Omaha, CBA provides an unparalleled opportunity for an entrepreneurial leader to leverage these assets to create opportunities for students and faculty, to serve the University's mission as an urban community-engaged university, and to bolster UNO's role as an engine for workforce development in the Omaha region.

UNO seeks a Dean for CBA who combines strategic leadership with respected scholarship and/or professional accomplishments, outstanding interpersonal and communication skills, collaboration, creative energy, entrepreneurial ambition, well-honed fundraising skills, and a strong growth orientation. CBA's next leader will nurture and strengthen the College's excellent teaching, research, and collegial culture while driving innovation, technological growth, and partnerships with the business community.

Founded in 1908, UNO is Nebraska's premier metropolitan university and one of four campuses of the University of Nebraska. With over 15,000 students enrolled in more than 200 programs of study, UNO is recognized nationally for its strengths in undergraduate, graduate, and online education, military friendliness, and community engagement. Embracing its identity as a metropolitan university, UNO is guided by its dedication to excellence, engagement, inclusion, discovery, integrity; its Maverick spirit of resilience,

independent thinking and entrepreneurship; and its focus on student-centeredness and opportunity for social mobility.

### ***The UNO College of Business Administration***

The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) College of Business Administration was established in 1931 as the Department of Business Administration at the Municipal University of Omaha and became the College of Business Administration in the early 1950's, retaining this name through the Municipal University of Omaha's 1968 merger with the University of Nebraska system to become the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

CBA maintains AACSB International accreditation, having achieved initial accreditation in 1965. AACSB accreditation was reaffirmed in 2021 with the next review in March 2026. The School of Accounting has maintained supplemental AACSB accounting accreditation since 2013.

### **Mission, Vision, and Strategic Focus**

The vision of the UNO College of Business Administration (CBA) is to be the business school of choice for hard-working learners of all backgrounds. CBA's mission (below) emphasizes innovative and career-focused learning, transformative research, business collaboration, and community engagement.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the UNO College of Business Administration is to teach and inspire diverse learners and connect them to organizations within and beyond the classroom, emphasizing innovative and career-focused learning, combined with transformative research, business collaboration, and community engagement that advance individual and regional prosperity.*

CBA takes seriously its aspiration to enhance affordability and access for all learners, including underrepresented groups, to high-quality business education by identifying and reducing barriers and ensuring a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

### **Academic Organization, Programs, and Administration**

CBA aims to produce graduates who are well-rounded, knowledgeable, and adaptable professionals. Students are equipped with a strong foundation in business fundamentals, analytical skills, and communication abilities, as well as an understanding of global business issues and ethical considerations. The degree programs emphasize the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation, preparing students for diverse and evolving career paths.

CBA's academic units include the School of Accounting and Departments of Economics; Finance, Banking & Real Estate; Management; and Marketing & Entrepreneurship. At the undergraduate level, CBA offers a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with 15 concentrations, eight minors for non-business

students, and a Cross-Sector Collaborative Leadership minor with the College of Public Affairs and Community Service.

At the graduate level, CBA offers an MBA, an Executive MBA, a Master of Accounting, a Master of Science in Economics, and a recently introduced Master of Science in Healthcare Logistics and Supply Chain Management. CBA does not currently have a doctoral program.

CBA's programs have received national recognition: The overall undergraduate program was ranked #144 in 2025 in *US News & World Report*, which also ranked the part-time MBA program #80 and the online Bachelor's in Business Administration program #41.

CBA hosts a varied array of centers that support student success, faculty research, and collaboration with regional business and community partners. These centers include:

- [The CBA Career Center](#)
- [The Center for Real Estate & Asset Management](#)
- [The Center for Economic Education](#)
- [The Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Franchising](#)
- [The Center for Professional Sales](#)
- [The Center for International Business Initiatives](#)
- [The Koraleski Commerce & Applied Behavioral \(Research\) Lab](#)
- [The Nebraska Business Development Center](#)

CBA also offers enrichment programs for students such as the [CBA Scholars Academy](#), the [CBA Capstone Cup](#) (undergraduate competition), [CBA Prep Academy](#), the [Entrepreneurial Living Learning Community](#), study abroad opportunities, and over a dozen student organizations.

## Faculty and Students

In Fall 2024, CBA enrolled approximately 2,000 undergraduate students, roughly 16% of UNO's undergraduate student body, and 580 graduate students, which is 18% of UNO's graduate student body. Around 80% of UNO students come from the Omaha metropolitan area and a high percentage stay in the region following graduation. CBA employs 73 full-time faculty, of whom approximately 73% are classified as tenured or tenure-track. CBA has a number of instructors and lecturers with industry experience. Most tenured and tenure-track faculty carry a 3/3 teaching load. CBA employs 35 full-time staff. Many full-time faculty, including instructors and lecturers as well as adjunct faculty, have industry experience. The faculty are represented in collective bargaining by the AAUP.

## Budget and Finances

CBA's operating budget of approximately \$16 million is generated by tuition, state appropriation, development, and other programmatic income. UNO operates on a central budgetary model at the undergraduate level and is working towards a revenue-sharing model for graduate and online program

tuition. UNO is in the midst of a \$300 million campaign that is part of the University of Nebraska System's \$3 billion "[Only in Nebraska](#)" campaign. UNO has already exceeded its targeted goal with two years remaining before the campaign concludes in fall 2027. Within the campaign, CBA has raised \$35.4 million towards a \$55 million goal, with more than 2,700 donors contributing. CBA's endowment funds, with a market value of over \$38.48 million, support student scholarships and success initiatives, faculty professorships and research, academic programs and CBA centers, and various outreach events and initiatives.

## Facilities

CBA programs are housed in [Mammel Hall](#), which opened in fall 2010. Made possible by the largest single donation in UNO's history, Mammel Hall is a hub of learning, collaboration, and community engagement. Theater-style classrooms hold up to 52 students, and the largest flexible-seating classrooms hold up to 44 students. Students may reserve collaborative breakout rooms for team projects or study sessions, study independently in open areas or smaller spaces, and visit with tutors in dedicated tutoring labs. Internal and community events for larger groups take place in the two-story auditorium, the Business Activity Center, and the atria and hallways throughout the building. Mammel Hall students, employees, and visitors can grab coffee, fountain soda, snacks, and more at Stedman's Café, supported by the Center for Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Franchising.



## Advisory Boards

The Dean works with a National Advisory Board, consisting of alumni and key business and community leaders, who provide support in strategic planning, fundraising and special projects, opportunities for students, and enhancing the profile of the College. The Dean also works closely with a Recent Alumni Advisory Board that meets regularly throughout the year. In addition, academic departments and programs have advisory boards that support their work.

## *Role Summary*

Reporting to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Dean serves as the chief academic and administrative officer of the College of Business Administration and as a member of the UNO Council of Deans. The Dean is accountable for the quality of CBA's academic programs and faculty and the alignment of CBA's strategic priorities with those of the University. The Dean is an advocate for CBA's full array of disciplines and programs, employees, and students, and is responsible for the development of an overarching vision and a collaborative spirit that will pull these components into an integrated whole.

The Dean is expected to provide visionary leadership to align with the strategic goals and commitments of the University's strategic plan. The Dean is expected to recruit, develop, and retain strong tenure-line faculty, outstanding practitioner faculty and lecturers, and excellent staff; to increase undergraduate and graduate offerings and enrollment; to continue to elevate the caliber and impact of research activity as befits UNO's identity as a Carnegie High Doctoral Research institution; and to lead substantial development and fundraising efforts to secure resources necessary to fulfill CBA's strategic priorities.

The Dean has general administrative responsibility for CBA, including its compliance with accreditation standards, business community outreach, fundraising, marketing and enrollment, interdisciplinary initiatives, global outreach, and the effective management of its administrative and financial affairs. The Dean consults with faculty in designing CBA's strategic plan and sets the tone for the College in encouraging excellence, recognizing achievement, and supporting appointments and promotions based on merit. The Dean is responsible for increasing research, growing entrepreneurial activity and innovation, establishing partnerships to support faculty and student needs, creating opportunities for students, fostering a collaborative spirit within the College, and securing philanthropic resources and other revenue.

The Dean oversees an office staff consisting of Associate Deans for Faculty, Research, and Planning and for Academic Programs, Curricula, and Assessment, and Assistant Deans for Operations and Facilities and for Student Success and Recruitment. The Dean oversees chairs/director of the five academic units and leads the College's Executive Council, consisting of the chairs and other senior leadership. The Dean also works closely with a University of Nebraska Foundation development officer assigned to support CBA.

## Opportunities Ahead

The new Dean will inherit a strong school that is eager for growth. The Dean will have the opportunity to lead an organization that is committed to serving communities, locally, regionally, and statewide. CBA offers an array of assets upon which to build:

- A well-qualified and caring faculty able to balance efforts in the areas of teaching, research, and service and an outstanding staff committed to supporting and serving the best interests of students;
- A student body that is diverse, hard-working, and eager for opportunity;
- A stunning state-of-the-art building that can serve as a hub for building community and collaboration;
- UNO's location in Omaha, a vibrant city of 1.2 million people with a strong business community, home to eleven Fortune 500 and Fortune 1000 companies that offer a wealth of opportunity and connection;
- AACSB International accreditation, including supplemental accounting accreditation;
- A cadre of collegial, collaborative, and supportive deans, department chairs, and school director as colleagues.

Within this context, the new Dean will be expected to:

- **Lead the faculty in creating a shared vision for growth as a metropolitan-serving business school:** The new Dean and the faculty will be collaborative, interdisciplinary, international, multicultural, and technology-enhanced as they pursue CBA's vision to be the business school of

choice for hard-working learners of all backgrounds. To achieve CBA's strategic goals, the Dean must work with faculty on crafting a distinctive and strategic vision and plan for the future that aligns with UNO's four pillars of educating all learners, pragmatic research and discovery, community engagement, development, and partnerships, and workforce and economic development.

- **Promote excellent teaching and experiential and innovative learning:** At UNO and CBA, teaching is valued as part of a transformative learning environment that provides opportunities for students to have hands-on experiences with practice, global experiences, consulting experiences, and simulation experiences. The new Dean will prioritize expanding these opportunities and fostering faculty engagement in teaching that enhances their impact.
- **Be a leader in enhancing workforce development and advancement in the region:** The new Dean will lead the College in promoting curricular innovation to drive workforce advancement and in engaging with the business community to drive growth. CBA has provided a pipeline of students for Omaha's largest employers, and the Dean must ensure that CBA's curriculum stays abreast of local and regional employer needs. CBA is well positioned to lead in micro-credentialing and workforce up-skilling, serving as a key partner to the business community in building a strong regional economy.
- **Build recognition and philanthropic support:** The Dean will play a pivotal role in securing resources and advancing recognition for the impactful work of the College of Business Administration. The Dean will engage CBA's alumni network, strengthen relationships with corporate partners, and work to grow CBA's philanthropic resources. Key focus areas include advocacy and branding, strategic fundraising leadership, resource stewardship, and enhanced volunteer engagement.
- **Build a culture of collaboration, innovation, entrepreneurship, and engagement:** The new Dean must be a collaborative leader who promotes a common direction and purpose in CBA, communication and collaboration throughout the College, synergy with corresponding programs within the NU System, and strong ties between CBA and UNO's other colleges, especially programs that leverage business with technology and innovation. The Dean will engage with alumni and the College's various advisory boards to leverage their expertise, ideas, and commitment to create and implement new initiatives and collaborative partnerships.
- **Increase revenue through program development and innovation:** Many business schools have had success in building innovative and creative new graduate and professional programs or executive programs that draw on new segments of the market, particularly through online programs. Such programs may produce revenue support for the College's priorities, and further growth in these areas will produce increased flexibility for investment in CBA's strategic priorities.
- **Promote student success within an environment of community, belonging, and opportunity:** The new Dean will continue to ensure that CBA is attracting, supporting, retaining, and graduating career-ready students. CBA enrolls a high percentage of first-generation, Pell-eligible students, many of whom are adult students working in full and part-time jobs. The Dean must be creative and resourceful in developing programs, opportunities, and meaningful connections to support these

students, improve retention, and enable all students to thrive. The new Dean will provide direction in recruiting, retaining, and supporting excellent faculty and staff committed to positively impacting student success and increasing students' sense of belonging,

These opportunities require a Dean with broad intellectual interests, passion and boundless energy, strong external relations and fundraising skills, creativity, entrepreneurial instincts, an open-minded approach, and the ability to inspire creativity, innovation, and form collaborative partnerships within and beyond CBA to help the College fully realize its potential.

## *Candidate Profile*

### **Required Qualifications:**

- Demonstrated experience as an intellectual leader with the breadth of vision necessary to represent all areas of the College of Business Administration, develop a shared vision for the future, and build programs of excellence within the college.
- Exemplary academic and/or professional achievements, strategic leadership ability, outstanding interpersonal and communication skills, entrepreneurial spirit and high energy; and passion for the unique metropolitan mission of UNO.
- Demonstrated skill and ability to work effectively with and inspire a broad range of constituents (including senior leadership, faculty, students, staff, alumni, donors and external partners, and business community leaders), forge connections among constituents, and bring them together to pursue mission-driven goals and raise CBA's reputation within and beyond the university.
- A strong desire and skill to serve as both the internal face and the external face of CBA with a bold vision for the College's important role in advancing social mobility, workforce development, innovation, and the creation of an entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- A background of substantive recognized leadership within higher education, the business community, or the public sector with a strong understanding of how a business school within a public research university functions.
- While many successful candidates will hold an earned doctorate from an accredited institution and will have academic qualifications that merit appointment as a tenured full professor in an academic discipline represented within the College of Business Administration, we are equally interested in exceptional candidates who have cultivated equivalent knowledge and impact through significant executive-level experience and hold advanced degrees in business or a related field.

**Portfolio-enhancing qualifications:**

In addition, the new Dean will bring a preponderance of the following experiences and qualifications:

- A strong record of distinguished leadership. In higher education, this would include successful leadership at the dean, chair, director or equivalent leadership level that involves leading an executive team, hiring and supporting faculty and staff, supporting research, and building programs in undergraduate, masters, doctoral, and online education.
- Enthusiasm and the ability to lead a school within the culturally and economically diverse urban environment of this metropolitan public research university, and excitement about the possibilities for the College of Business Administration and its continued growth.
- A proven track record of successful fundraising.
- Ability to articulate CBA's vision and mission with passion; to elevate CBA's profile within the national and international business community, and to grow relationships with corporate and community partners.
- Demonstrated commitment to building an inclusive community for faculty, staff, and students, along with an understanding of how to advance a culture that promotes inclusion and welcomes and encourages dialogue.
- Demonstrated success in cultivating a workplace culture that honors the contributions of faculty, staff, and departments; recognizes excellence; advances development opportunities; inspires and fosters innovation; and sustains a positive service-oriented environment.
- A commitment to student success, appreciation for the challenges faced by adult learners, and openness to global education and increasing global engagement opportunities for students.
- A commitment to scholarship and research as the foundation for learning, teaching, and practical application, including experience with strategies to increase high-quality scholarship and an understanding of how to support faculty research efforts.
- An understanding of technology, including the impact of AI, and the ability to harness its utilization in preparing students for future success.
- Demonstrated expertise in strategic planning, fiscal management, resource allocation and program evaluation; aligning academic and budgetary priorities, utilizing data for decision-making, and allocating facilities, resources, and budgets to meet current and future program needs.
- Personal and professional integrity, strength of character, a strong sense of stewardship, and ethical qualities of the highest order.
- Ability to set priorities and make and explain tough decisions; strong problem-solving skills; ability to collaborate with, connect, and convene multiple stakeholders.

- Exceptional collegiality and communication (including listening) skills that reflect an open and transparent approach to communications, a commitment to shared governance, consultation and participatory decision-making, and the humility to admit mistakes. Experience working within a culture of collective bargaining would be a plus.

*The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment.*



## ***Compensation and Application***

This is a full-time position that will be performed on site in Omaha, Nebraska. Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Screening will begin immediately and continue until an appointment is made. Completed applications should include a CV and a cover letter addressing interest and should be submitted using [DSG's candidate portal](#).

Nominations and inquiries should be directed electronically to [UNOBusinessDean@divsearch.com](mailto:UNOBusinessDean@divsearch.com).

The expected start date for this position is July 2026 or earlier.

## ***Search Team***

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***\*\*This leadership profile is not exhaustive and may be subject to change. While every effort has been made to confirm information at the date of publication, the accuracy or completeness of the information provided herein cannot be guaranteed.***



## **APPENDIX A: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA: INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW**

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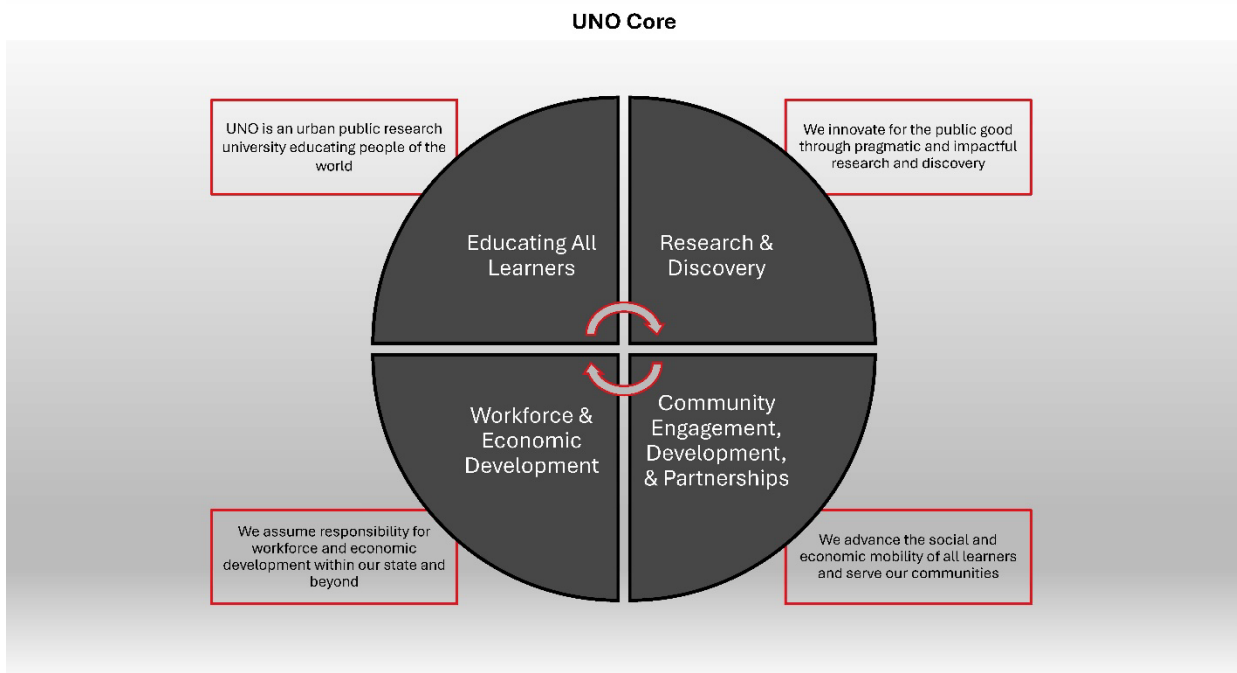
The University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) is the University of Nebraska's metropolitan campus. A comprehensive university with a Carnegie classification as a doctoral high research, high access/medium earnings university and located in Nebraska's largest metropolitan area, UNO provides undergraduate instructional programs based on a strong liberal arts foundation; graduate programs, research, and creative activity; and a strong focus on public service. UNO's six colleges offer bachelors, master's, and doctoral degree programs, while UNO's strategic goals focus on student-centeredness, academic excellence, community engagement, and high institutional quality.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is fueled by its historical ties to Omaha. UNO was founded in 1908 by the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Omaha. As the first municipal university in Omaha, the early founders' goal was to make higher education accessible and affordable for the city's residents. In 1968, the campus joined the University of Nebraska system and today has the unique role of serving as the state's metropolitan campus.

## UNO Mission, Vision, and Core



The UNO Core encompasses the values and aspirations of the University of Nebraska at Omaha:



Today, the campus is known for its student-centered environment, its community engagement, and its dedication to embracing students from all types of backgrounds. The campus has built strong partnerships with local business, education, government, arts, and civic organizations in the city. UNO's commitment to community engagement has landed UNO on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for seven consecutive years—the highest federal recognition a school can receive for civic engagement. UNO was among the first institutions to receive the Carnegie designation for community engagement.

This honor is but one of many points of pride for UNO. Nearly 90 percent of UNO's 15,000 plus students are from Nebraska, and roughly 60 percent of recent alumni surveyed report graduating with no debt or less than \$5,000 in debt. UNO takes great pride in providing students with global education opportunities yet is also

known for its personal and close-knit campus culture, where students come first and partnerships with the community grow every day.

UNO offers nationally recognized bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees that meet the diverse needs of traditional and nontraditional students. UNO's more than 200 programs are offered through six colleges – College of Arts and Sciences; College of Business Administration; College of Communication, Fine Arts, and Media; College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences; College of Information Science & Technology; and College of Public Affairs and Community Service.

In addition to program-specific accreditation, UNO is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The University's HLC accreditation status was last reaffirmed in a 10-year comprehensive accreditation report in 2018. UNO is also a member of the American Association of State Colleges & Universities (AASCU), American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU), Coalition of Urban & Metropolitan Universities (CUMU), Engaged Scholarship Consortium (ESC), Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), and the Metropolitan Omaha Education Consortium (MOEC), among others.

## **UNO Students**

UNO is a vibrant and culturally rich campus community. Approximately 4% of students are international students who hail from more than 70 countries around the world. Approximately 40% of UNO students are first generation students and nearly 30% of UNO students are students of color. UNO enrolls both traditional students and adult learners with around 29% of students attending UNO part-time. UNO has close ties to Offutt Air Force Base, enrolling about 125 active-duty students each year. UNO students are taught by 650 full-time and more than 540 part-time faculty and supported by 1,300 staff members.

UNO is also home to two major full-tuition financial need-based scholarship programs that make its high-quality undergraduate education as broadly accessible as possible. The Goodrich Scholarship Program was created almost 50 years ago, and of the approximately 230 current student scholars, more than 70% are first-generation, and 65% are students of color. Funded by the Buffett Foundation, the Thompson Learning Community also provides full-ride scholarships to students with financial need. Nearly (1) in nine (9) (around 1,150) UNO undergraduate students are part of TLC, and like the Goodrich Scholarship Program, many are first-generation (65%), and more than 65% are students of color.

## **Campus Resources**

The Criss Library strives to create physical and virtual environments that foster the university's goals for teaching, learning, and research. The library serves the entire campus and is a hub of innovation housing the Creative Production Lab, Center for Faculty Excellence, and Office of Digital Learning along with traditional library services and supports for students and faculty. Recently renovated, the library is a common campus destination with study areas for students, a coffee and snack shop, a faculty study lounge, and meeting spaces.

The Division of Innovative and Learning-Centric Initiatives supports the campus in the growth and development of online courses, teaching and learning support, and academic and non-credit programs.

The university strives to foster a broad culture of student achievement and well-being by offering an array of both academic and cocurricular supports intended to provide holistic support for students both in and outside of the classroom. The Office of International Programs provides full-service, wrap around support to international students from the first point of contact with UNO all the way through graduation. Academic support and tutoring are available through four teaching-learning centers: Writing Center, Speech Center, Math and Science Learning Center, and the Computer Science Tutoring Lab. Cocurricular supports are provided through the Division of Student Life and Wellbeing, which helps students connect, get help, and take care through offices such as Counseling and Psychological Services, Accessibility Services Center, the Maverick Food Pantry, Health Center, Student Leadership, Involvement, and Inclusion, Hardship Support, Advocacy Services, and Campus Recreation and Wellness.

### **Innovative, Engaged Research**

UNO is known for innovative and engaged research. The University is home to the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center of Excellence (NCITE), a national leader in counterterrorism research driven by an interdisciplinary team of faculty from Psychology, Political Science, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Interdisciplinary Informatics, and Management.

The Division of Biomechanics houses all research conducted by the Department of Biomechanics, the Center for Research in Human Movement Variability, and associated programs. The Division is an interdisciplinary enterprise that features a collaboration between scientists, engineers, surgeons, and clinicians to advance the understanding of health and disease.

NCITE and biomechanics boast international renowned, state-of-the-art facilities that enable groundbreaking research with both scholarly and practical applications that significantly impact people's lives. Research programs in biomechanics and NCITE have contributed to the enormous growth in sponsored research funding at UNO, which surpassed \$42 million in 2023.

The Office of Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) provides campus-wide support focused on sponsored programs, research compliance, internal funding, and research development. ORCA also supports student engagement in research and creative activity through the Funding for Undergraduate Scholarly Experience (FUSE) and Graduate Research and Creative Activity (GRACA) programs that provide mentored learning opportunities for students. ORCA also sponsors the Annual Student Research and Creative Activity Fair that showcases student scholastic endeavors and achievements. In 2024, nearly 200 undergraduate and graduate students participated with engagement across all six of UNO's colleges.

## Facilities

UNO has added 832,000 total square feet of facilities and renovated more than half of its academic space in recent years. These projects also include a state-of-the-art 160,000 SF home for the College of Business Administration, a new building for the unique and nationally renowned Biomechanics program, new student



housing, a 60,000 SF Community Engagement Center that supports and expands university-community partnerships, as well as renovations to many other campus buildings. Capital improvements have also been prioritized through the Only in Nebraska campaign being led by the University of Nebraska Foundation and include the

renovation and expansion of STEM education facilities as well as human futures-focused space for the Samuel Bak Museum, Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy, Goldstein Center for Human Rights, and Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies. UNO has also added a new sports arena and a new baseball and softball complex. UNO now participates in NCAA Division 1 athletics in the Summit League and plays hockey in the National Collegiate Hockey Conference.

## Omaha: A City of Opportunity

In the 2025 Best States ranking by *US News and World Report*, Nebraska proudly holds the #5 spot nationally. The state has garnered commendable positions in various categories: #1 in infrastructure, #6 in fiscal stability, and #11 in natural environment. Additionally, Nebraska ranks #11 in long-term fiscal stability and #12 in affordability.

Located on the eastern border of Nebraska near the Missouri River, Omaha is a center of creativity, business, and philanthropy. The growing metropolitan population is the fastest-growing region in the state, according to the most recent U.S. census data. UNO and Omaha enjoy a dynamic, fruitful, long-term partnership with a shared goal: changing the lives of students and residents while enriching the global community.

Home to around 1.1 million people, Omaha is a vibrant, thriving, culturally diverse metropolitan area with a warm and welcoming character. Omaha resides on the past, present, and future treaty homelands of the Omaha [UmoNhoN] and Otoe-Missouria Tribal Nations, and in the region of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska, and 170+ other tribes. The city truly functions as part of the UNO campus, which spans more than 150 acres in the heart of Omaha. With an economic impact on the city of more than \$605 million through direct, indirect, and charitable services, the relationship between UNO and Omaha offers unlimited opportunities for collaboration.

Omaha is home to four Fortune 500 companies, including Berkshire Hathaway, Mutual of Omaha, Peter Kiewit Corporation, and Union Pacific, as well as four Fortune 1000 companies: Valmont Industries, Green Plains Renewable Energy, Werner Enterprises, and First National of Nebraska. The number of tech jobs in Omaha has earned the region the nickname “Silicon Prairie,” and the low cost of living is attractive to those

looking to start their own companies. Omaha is increasingly attracting people in the information technology and computer science fields. The University's partnership with the city provides students with opportunities for internships, careers, and other forms of engagement.

## Culture, Events, and Entertainment

In recent years, the Omaha riverfront and downtown area have experienced tremendous growth with over two billion dollars in new development. Residents and visitors can take in a concert at the CHI Health Center Omaha or the world-famous Holland Performing Arts Center, catch an art house film at the internationally recognized Film Streams, visit the nationally known Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, stroll the more than 100 acres at the Lauritzen Gardens, or shop and dine in the Old Market, Midtown Crossing, or Aksarben Village. The landmark Bob Kerrey Bridge connects Omaha with Iowa and offers a memorable view of Omaha's skyline.

Signature events hosted in Omaha span a wide array of interests, including the NCAA College World Series (CWS), NCAA Basketball Tournament, U.S. Senior Golf Open, U.S. Olympic Swim Trials (2008, 2012, 2016), U.S. Olympic Curling Trials, U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Big Omaha, Berkshire Hathaway Annual Meetings, and a score of cultural events, such as national movie premiers, concerts and plays.

Omaha residents enjoy a wide culinary array of dining experiences that range from innovative chef-created cuisine, vegan dining, seafood, sidewalk cafes, a downtown arts and dining district called the Old Market, local breweries and roasters, and ethnic favorites such as Mexican, Italian, French, German, Greek, Indian, and Asian, as well as steakhouses. (For more information about living in Omaha, visit the [Omaha Chamber](#).)

## University Leadership



The University is led by Chancellor Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA, who assumed her duties as UNO's sixteenth Chancellor in July 2021. Dr. Li previously served as dean of the College of Business at Florida International University, the nation's fourth largest public university. She is the first woman of color to serve as UNO Chancellor and the first Asian-American in the history of the University of Nebraska system to hold an executive leadership role.

A first-generation college student who went on to graduate *summa cum laude*, Dr. Li is deeply committed to students and the mission of public higher education with a demonstrated record in improving student outcomes, growing enrollment and programs, enhancing diversity and inclusion, fundraising, and building community partnerships. Learn more about Joanne Li and the Chancellor's office [here](#).

Ni (Phil) He, Ph.D. is Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and serves as UNO's chief academic officer. As Senior Vice Chancellor, Dr. He provides leadership for UNO's six colleges and library and guides academic initiatives within UNO's strategic plan. Dr. He also has oversight of UNO's scholarship and research initiatives, global partnerships and engagement efforts, and UNO's commitment to excellence across undergraduate, graduate, professional, and online programs. Dr. He is an alumnus of UNO and prior to returning to UNO in January 2023, he served in a variety of academic leadership roles at Northeastern University in Boston, including Vice Provost of Faculty Diversity, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Vice Provost for Graduate Education, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Education, and Associate Dean for the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Learn more about Phil He [here](#).

