**FACILITIES & OTHER RESOURCES**

***I. Profile of the students at UNO:***

There are just over 15,000 students (~12k undergraduate, ~3k graduate) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and 87% of them come from Nebraska (with 88.5% of those from Omaha). UNO shares important STEM pipeline considerations with the Omaha Public Schools; 87% of UNO students are from Nebraska and of those, 88.5% are from the Omaha metropolitan area and 34% are graduates of OPS During the last 5 years, between 127 and 173 students have graduated annually with a Bachelor degree in a life science area at UNO. Approximately 125 students (~25 per year) have received academic or professional doctoral degrees in health-related sciences in the last 5 years.

***II. Description of the Special Characteristics of UNO and appropriateness for a collaborative NIH SEPA award:***

## University of Nebraska at Omaha

The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) is a metropolitan university focused on engaging with the larger metropolitan area and across the state of Nebraska to provide on-going educational opportunities. We have an innovative campus with “Research” and “STEM” as two of our 5 institutional priorities as outlined in the Campus Vision (<http://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/information/docs/Strategic%20Plan%20for%202020.pdf>).

UNO is actively increasing its organizational capacity to prepare additional STEM professionals, as evidenced by several previous developments on campus, including the elevation of UNO’s Carnegie Classification from “Master’s Large” to “Doctoral/Research” (2010), the formation of a Fund for Undergraduate Scholarly Experiences (FUSE) supporting undergraduate students engaged in research and graduate students in Graduate research and creative activity (GRACA) (2011), and the creation of four named community chairs with leadership responsibilities in STEM (2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014).

The project team will work within UNO’s newly approved (2019) STEM Teaching, Research, and Inquiry-based Learning (TRAIL) Center. Importantly, the STEM TRAIL Center includes the Omaha Citywide STEM Ecosystem, which partners with a large network of 76 citywide STEM Ecosystems across the country. Therefore, information gleaned from this work will be disseminated via academic publications as well as Ecosystem events (amongst others) across the country within this community of practice.

It’s important to note that in addition to traditional research experiences and that of coursework, students at UNO receive training for careers in biomedical disciplines for long-term success. At UNO, there are more than 1,311 majors in the College of Arts & Sciences (in biomedical disciplines as well as behavioral disciplines) with increases in student enrollment of an average of 10.5% from 2007 to present. On a metropolitan campus, extracurricular opportunities such as participation in Journal Clubs as well as pre-professional training programs involving teaching, research, and mentorship are critical to student development. At UNO, we have **the only pre-professional training program in the country boasting a three-fold model of teaching, research, and mentorship** **for direct benefit of our undergraduate participants,** **as well as the socioeconomically disadvantaged youth in the Omaha area that they serve through our NE STEM 4U program.** The NE STEM 4U program is a student-run, faculty-led, and grant-supported program whereby UNO students provide engaging, hands-on STEM experiences for youth in the afterschool context every day of the academic year. UNO students have already committed more than 12,000 hours to this work since its inception in 2013, and up to 65 undergraduates participate annually serving approximately 2,000 area youth (150 undergraduates and 6,000 youth have completed the program as of spring, 2020).

## University of Nebraska at Kearney (or any subaward entity)

The University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) is one of four institutions in the University of Nebraska system. UNK enrolls over 6,200 students annually and has over 320 full-time faculty. UNK is a mid-sized, comprehensive university that is especially noted for small classes, a scholarly faculty devoted to quality teaching, and an enviable location in a thriving regional population center. UNK is uniquely positioned for its size as evidenced through system-wide research programs like INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) and EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research). Additionally, UNK has made substantial updates to its facilities.

The NIH SEPA award would allow for collaborative implementation and dissemination of a well-assessed and documented intervention focused on... The collaboration could impact…