

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Membership Luncheon
Nov. 15, 2022
(approved by the Board December 8, 2022.)
Submitted by Kim Hachiya
Secretary

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association met Nov. 15, 2022, at the International Quilt Museum. The meeting was hosted by UNL Chancellor Ronnie Green, NU Foundation's Amber Antholz, and UNL Alumni Association's Director Shelley Zaborowski.

Approximately 125 individuals attended the luncheon, which was catered by UNL Dining Services.

President Pat Crews welcomed the group at 11:45 a.m. She opened the meeting, as is our custom, with a moment of reflection in honor of those who have died since we last convened. A donation in honor of UNL Emeriti and Retirees who passed away during the academic year will be made to the Emeriti & Retirees Scholarship Fund. The names included:

Mary Shipman, Agronomy
Larry Schulze, Extension, Morocco Project and Pesticide Safety Education
Leslie Childs, College of Business Administration
Nicole Church, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Ann Williams, spouse of Vernon Williams, Career Services
Joel Landon Webb, Facilities
Dale Gibbs, Architecture
Norma Wiegert, Housing
Idonna Florell, spouse of Robert Florell, Agricultural Leadership

Earl Hawkey spoke about the Scholarship funds and noted the table fliers that list the fund numbers should people be interested in donation.

Mike Zeleny, chief of staff to the UNL Chancellor, spoke about giving to the Combined Campaign.

Shelley Zaborowski updated the group on activities of the Nebraska Alumni Association.

1. Husker Connects, a project that involves alumni mentoring students, both in Lincoln and in other communities.
2. Affinity-based alumni groups for people of color, LGBTQIA/Pride, First Generation students and alumni
3. Alumni will need volunteers to assist at December 2022 and May 2023 commencements.
4. Thanked and encouraged ERA members to join the Alumni Association

5. She presented the Doc Elliott Award to Barbara DiBernard, professor emerita. “The University of Nebraska-Lincoln English Department hired Barbara DiBernard in 1978 to teach modern British fiction, but soon after she accepted an invitation from the newly established women’s studies program to teach courses in women’s literature. This decision defined the rest of her career. DiBernard taught undergrad and graduate courses in women’s literature and was director of the women’s studies program for several years. She and Joy Ritchie established an LGBTQ/sexuality studies minor for undergrad and graduate students.” For the full citation, go here:

<https://www.huskeralum.org/s/1620/index.aspx?sid=1620&gid=1&pgid=2627>

Barbara thanked the association and others for recognizing her contributions to UNL.

Amber Antholz is the University of Nebraska Foundation’s assistant vice president for development, focusing on UNL. She noted that 334 Emeriti and Retirees Association members have made gifts to the foundation totaling \$6.7 million, including \$1.7 million in student support. Another \$14.2 million has been designated as planned gifts. In the past year more than 10,000 UNL students have received scholarship support (from all donors) totaling \$33 million.

Chancellor Ronnie Green updated the group on a number of items, including:

1. In our 153rd year as an institution we graduated a record number of graduate degrees, and in three of the last four years we have graduated a record number of undergraduates.
2. While enrollments have dipped, our goal is 25,000 students.
3. We are implementing an Experiential Learning Portfolio requirement so that by 2025, every student will complete paid internships and have global and research experiences by graduation.
4. We grew research expenditures during the pandemic when other universities contracted. There has been particular support for creative and humanities disciplines. We moved up to 64th from 77th in number of U.S. patents secured by university researchers.
5. The first \$10 million in Grand Challenges projects have been funded.
6. Nebraska Innovation Campus celebrated its 10th anniversary in October 2022. Notable are the more than 600,000 square feet of finished space, 58 start up companies and the new Scarlet Hotel. Plans continue to site a USDA lab with the Agricultural Research Service focusing on precision agriculture and rural resilience. When federal funding is secured, this will bring 60 scientists to NIC and include a tech transfer partnership, the only one of its kind among USDA labs. Green called out NIC Director Dan Duncan, who is retiring in 2023, for his leadership.
7. He cited numerous building projects saying that by 2025, the total investment in new or renovated infrastructure will exceed \$1.3 billion. These include: Carolyn Pope Edwards building for College of Education and Human Sciences; Veterans’ Tribute; Barkley Center addition and renovation; renovation and renaming of Gwendolyn Newkirk Hall; Scarlet Hotel; Law Library renovation; Architecture Hall

renovation; Hamilton Hall teaching labs; Go Big Hall for athletics (to open in summer 2023); Kiewit Hall (the largest single building in UNL history; \$115 million, all privately funded, all for instructional use, for College of Engineering); Walter Scott rebuild. Under a new plan to use state money for upgrades and renovations, the following projects are set: Westbrook replacement, Kimball Hall renovation, Lied addition, renovation of Military and Naval Science, Bessey renovation, Morrill renovation, Neihardt renovation.

8. Green dropped hints about the size and scope of the Only In Nebraska campaign to be announced Nov. 16. He said that \$836 million for UNL is already secured and that's 60 percent of goal. The primary objectives are student support.

9. He noted that NU Athletics, and all athletics programs, are in a time a transition. He said NU Athletics, including football, are in a good financial position with good leadership as all of college athletics navigates changes. Green added: "Thank God we are in the Big Ten."

10. He closed by thanking Emeriti faculty, retirees and others who support the university, saying, "The University is built on your shoulders. And we are an impactful institution."

After thanking Chancellor Green, Amber, Shelley, Annette Wetzel and University Dining Services, Pat Crews closed the meeting.

The next meeting is Dec. 15 at the Nebraska East Union.