October 25, 2019

Dear Educator,

For nearly 30 years, UNMC and our partner institutions have worked diligently through the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) and Kearney Health Opportunities Program (KHOP) to develop a pipeline of future healthcare professionals from rural communities – allowing students from rural Nebraska interested in becoming a healthcare professional a streamlined way to realize their dream.

The RHOP and KHOP programs are cooperative ventures of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), the University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK), Chadron State College (CSC), Peru State College (PSC) and Wayne State College (WSC).

The programs recruit, educate and graduate leaders from Nebraska who are committed to returning to the state’s rural areas to practice healthcare. These programs represent a commitment and dedication to developing a healthcare workforce that will enhance access to healthcare in the state’s rural areas and improve health.

We are reaching out now because the December 1, 2019, deadline for high school seniors to submit their application materials to the undergraduate institution(s) of their choice is quickly approaching.

Students accepted into the program have their full tuition covered at the undergraduate institution, are guaranteed admission to UNMC in one of nine (9) professional programs of their choice, and receive multiple opportunities to interact with UNMC as an undergraduate.

The professional fields available at each undergraduate institution may vary but include:

- Dental Hygiene
- Dentistry
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Physician Assistant
- Radiography

Attached, please find a half-page informational sheet that provides additional details, including contact information for each primary contact at the undergraduate institutions as well as the team at UNMC. This information may be shared with interested students or their families, and we are willing to send printed copies for distribution upon your request. Additional information about the programs may also be found on UNMC’s website by clicking here.

Please contact me via email at ncarritt@unmc.edu or by phone at (402) 559-2921 should you have any questions about the program or to request printed materials.

Thank you for the vital work you do each day in helping students achieve their best and for being a critical partner in this effort.

Respectfully,

Nicole Carritt, MPH
Director, Rural Health Initiatives