

A PIPELINE TO BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

by Lisa Spellman



From undergraduate to graduate students and faculty associates to researchers, INBRE is represented by a spectrum of the brightest young scientific minds in the state. **1.** Jim Turpen, Ph.D., director, UNMC **2.** Penni Davis, grant coordinator, UNMC **3.** Ana Laura Morales, INBRE scholar, College of Saint Mary **4.** Troy Hubbard, INBRE scholar, Creighton **5.** Karin van Dijk, Ph.D., faculty associate, Creighton **6.** Myron Toews, Ph.D., mentor, UNMC **7.** Steven Ready, INBRE scholar, UNO **8.** Paul Davis, Ph.D., faculty associate, UNO **9.** Gloria Borgstahl, Ph.D., mentor, UNMC **10.** Erin Rosenbaugh, graduate student, UNMC **11.** Bill Chaney, Ph.D., program coordinator, UNMC **12.** Brooke Sullivan, INBRE scholar, UNO **13.** Christine Gilling, graduate student, UNMC **14.** Brena Mauck, Ph.D., faculty associate, College of Saint Mary



The INBRE pipeline includes 12 institutions in eight communities across the state.



A decade ago, UNMC built a pipeline across Nebraska — a pipeline for scientists.

Since its inception, the Nebraska INBRE program has opened the door to careers in biomedical research for hundreds of talented youths across the state.

The pipeline program reaches into community colleges, undergraduate universities and one tribal college to introduce students to research and mentoring opportunities that otherwise would be out of reach.

“INBRE graduates contribute to the scientific workforce for Nebraska industry,” said James Turpen, Ph.D., principal investigator on the grant. “They pursue advanced degrees in biomedical-related areas such as science, medicine and other health profession programs.”

More than 250 undergraduate students have taken part in the program, which is funded by a \$17.2 million grant from the Institutional Development Award Program Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), a division of the National Institutes of Health. It is the state’s largest grant.

INBRE’s success can be measured by its numbers:

- 42 percent of participants have gone on to graduate school;
- 37 percent have gone on to professional school; and
- 16 percent have entered the scientific workforce in some capacity.

“These numbers would not be possible without the support of the faculty and administration at the participating institutions,” Dr. Turpen said. “Each recognizes the importance of providing research opportunities to undergraduate students.”

The 12 participating institutions are:

- Creighton University
- College of Saint Mary
- Doane College
- Little Priest Tribal College
- Nebraska Wesleyan University
- University of Nebraska at Kearney
- University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO)
- University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Wayne State College
- Chadron State College
- Western Nebraska Community College