THE INTERPROFESSIONAL ACADEMY OF EDUCATORS
INCLUSIVE, COLLABORATIVE, INNOVATIVE

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Issue to be addressed: To elevate the educational mission of the institution, UNMC established the Interprofessional Academy of Educators in 2016. Designed by educators for educators, this interprofessional community strives to improve health professions education by encouraging curricular innovation, supporting educational scholarship & offering mentorship for early career and seasoned educators.

Method: The inaugural class included a unique blend of medical scholars from 8 Colleges, 2 Institutes, Academic Affairs, IT Services, and Library Sciences. Members span a 500-mile wide campus. Eight SIGs foster interprofessional collaboration & scholarship. An academically diverse leadership team of five oversees the Academy.

Outcomes/Conclusion
Outcomes: The SIGs drive educational projects. Each Special Interest Group has a specific focus with like-minded members determining & accomplishing desired goals. In-progress projects include a peer-evaluation rubric for clinical teaching, a campus-wide technology inventory with recommended best practices, a wellness conference to recognize rural clinical preceptors & a premiere education banquet centered on critical thinking.

Conclusion: The Interprofessional Academy of Educators is connecting scholars across the campus. A reflection on the first year finds advancement of educational projects, more opportunities for innovation & improved collaboration for educational scholarship.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

- Clinical Teaching
  - Fosters cooperation in the development & implementation of best practice, evidence-based strategies & tools for bedside & clinical teaching.

- Curricular Design, Instructional Methods, Assessment & Evaluation
  - Provides expertise on design practices, instructional theory application, research tools & the utilization of appropriate assessment/evaluation modalities.

- Education Technology Collaboration
  - Shares best practices for integrating technology in education & fostering collaboration to develop innovative projects & scholarship.

- Simulation
  - Offers a network for simulation ideas & issues, support when adding simulation to curricula & expert insight on simulation technology.

- The Science of Learning
  - Supports the purposeful application of knowledge garnered from cognitive theory, adult learning & research in health professions education.

- Rural Health Care Education
  - Committed to identifying, developing & promoting educational opportunities related to rural education.

- Interprofessional Education
  - Assists educators in identifying opportunities for IPE, while creating an environment to nurture the development & implementation of teaching activities that promote collaboration & teamwork.

- Learning Environment/Wellness
  - Examines ways to work together to create, support & facilitate a learning environment centered on respect, collegiality, kindness & cooperation.