

## **Questions/Responses**

Here are some questions that have been raised by faculty, students and/or alums in the past few days and Dean Kostelnik's responses to those questions so far.

### **Why are we doing this?**

We are doing this to maintain a strong national presence in the Human Sciences and to better serve the citizens of Nebraska.

### **Does the UNL Central Administration support this proposal?**

This proposal has the support of the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellors, and the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

### **Who is taking over whom?**

No one is taking over anyone. CHRFS is not being absorbed by Teachers College – Teachers College is not being absorbed by CHRFS. Instead, the two colleges are forming an alliance to create a bigger college with a broader scope than either college currently has on its own.

### **Will CHRFS lose its identity?**

Locally and nationally, the new college will be clearly associated with the Human Sciences and with the 100-year history of CHRFS at UNL. Content and programs associated with CHRFS will continue to thrive in the new college. The roots of the new college will remain closely tied to its originating colleges. CHRFS students, faculty, alums and community stakeholders will continue to find a comfortable home in the new entity.

### **Would the new college maintain its relationship with the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources?**

The new college would continue to have a strong relationship with IANR and would retain its research and cooperative extension programs in Family & Consumer Sciences, in Nutritional Science & Dietetics, and in Textiles, Clothing & Design.

### **What will happen to some of the 'special' programs in CHRFS?**

Special programs in CHRFS such as the International Quilt Study Center, the Ruth Staples Child Development Laboratory, the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery, the Family Resource Center, and the Textile Testing Service will continue as important elements of the new college. For instance, we have every intention of moving forward with plans to obtain a new building for the IQSC, to create the Angeline Anderson garden at the lab school, and to continue hosting cultural events at the Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery.

### **How does this proposal relate to upcoming budget reductions at UNL?**

The new college consolidates two colleges into one, which could be a cost saving measure over time. For instance, there will be one dean instead of two. Some other efficiencies may develop as faculty and staff come together to form a unified whole.

The new college will not be exempt from the budget reductions demanded of UNL. Whatever reductions are made will be the same ones each unit would have had to make regardless of whether the colleges came together or not.

### **Where do the laboratory scientists fit in?**

Laboratory science will fit in the new college just like it fits into CHRFS now. One of the distinguishing features of the three CHRFS units is that each one encompasses a continuum of scientific inquiry that ranges from laboratory based research to research implemented in the community. Laboratory science is vital to enhancing the quality of people's lives and serves as a foundation for other work in each department. There is a similar range of inquiry (from theory building and model development to community application) in units in Teachers College. The new college will continue to rely on and embrace a wide array of scientific methods based in the physical as well as the social sciences.

### **Have any other Colleges of 'Home Economics' formed alliances like this one?**

Yes. Looking around the country, we see programs in Oregon, North Dakota, Colorado, West Virginia and Tennessee that have also strengthened their colleges of Home Economics through alliances with education and/or health.

### **Why CHRFS and Teachers College?**

Both colleges focus on enhancing people's quality of life. Both colleges are accredited by their relevant professional societies (AAFCS and NCATE) and both have programs that enjoy national recognition. Philosophically, CHRFS and TC both emphasize holistic, interdisciplinary approaches to research, teaching and outreach, and both are known for building connections between scholarship and practice. Both colleges take a proactive, positive view of human development and learning and both recognize the importance of studying the interactions among systems. Between them, CHRFS and TC have a critical mass of faculty whose work addresses the needs of families, schools and communities. These commonalities provide a strong foundation for a successful alliance. At the same time, the two colleges complement, but do not duplicate each other's work. This also provides a good rationale for combining forces.

Other units and individuals may join this effort over time. The total combination should enhance our effectiveness in addressing people's needs in Nebraska and beyond.

**Will a greater emphasis on schools and the connections among families, schools and communities mean people can't work on projects that do not directly relate to schooling?**

No. Currently, CHRFS provides an academic environment in which work as diverse as creating a new fashion design, quilt history, research on heart disease, and studies of immigrant families all fit comfortably under the same mission. Similarly, divergent majors like child development, family financial planning, dietetics, culinology, merchandising management, and textile science all fit together, not because they are alike, but because they complement one another in the community. Adding a greater emphasis on schools enriches the mix and increases the possibilities of collaboration. It does not preclude people from pursuing work that is not directly related to schooling.

**What about the CHRFS 'Talent' campaign to recruit more students to CHRFS majors?**

The CHRFS Talent campaign has gotten off to a great start and will continue for the next three years as planned. These are great majors for students to explore and we will continue to do all we can to encourage students to enroll in those programs.

**What will be the name of the new college?**

We do not yet know what the name will be. However, everyone recognizes the importance of a name and much thought and participation will go into choosing one.