

Health Sciences  
**Renovation & Expansion**

Opening Early in 2026



**Western Nebraska**  
Community College

# Healthcare Needs

## Aging Population Surge in the Panhandle

All Nebraska Panhandle counties are expected to see significant increases in the number of adults over age 65. By 2030, the Nebraska Panhandle population age 65 or older is expected to increase by 44.7%\*

*\*2020 Panhandle Public Health District Panhandle Community Health Assessment*



## Healthcare Access Shortage

A looming healthcare crisis in the Panhandle is also the result of availability of healthcare services. 11 of the 12 counties in the Nebraska Panhandle are designated, completely or in part, as "Health Professional Shortage Areas."\*

*\*2023 Rural Health Information Hub*



## Rising Healthcare Job Vacancies



Individuals leaving health and social assistance positions is at an all-time high. Healthcare and social assistance job vacancies have increased 29.2% since the COVID-19 pandemic.\*

*\*May 2023 Peterson-KFF group report*

## Growing Demand for Long-Term Care

Much of the demand will be on nursing and allied healthcare professionals with a greater dependency on long-term and home healthcare as older adults age. The number of adults age 85 and older will nearly quadruple between 2000 and 2040.\*

*\*June 2019 Rural Health Information Hub*



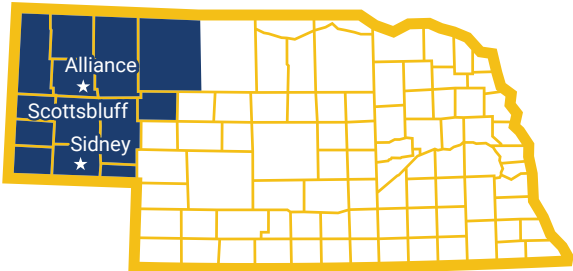
## Healthcare Jobs on the Rise

Healthcare occupations are projected to add more jobs (2.6 million) than any other occupational group. Healthcare occupations are projected to grow 16% nationally from 2020 to 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations.\*

*\*September 2021 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report*

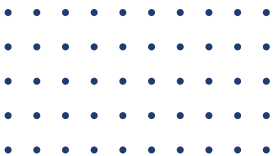


# A Project of Partnerships



**In 2022, a listening tour of all 13 counties in the WNCC service area found healthcare workforce shortages to be one of the major concerns:**

- The region has a profound shortage of nurses and other healthcare professionals.
- Recruiting to the region from outside the area is difficult.
- WNCC health professional graduates contribute significantly to the Panhandle workforce and more are needed.



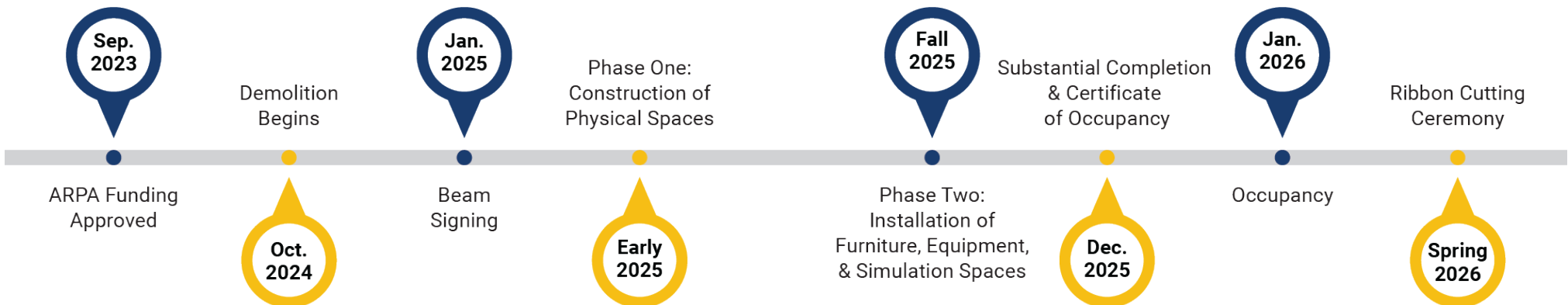
**During the 2023-24 academic year, WNCC leadership made visits to many hospitals and other healthcare facilities in the region to learn more about the needs and how the Health Sciences Renovation and Expansion could help meet those needs. Several themes and ideas emerged:**

- An increased need for simulation space, which would allow those coming for clinical rotations to have more hands-on skills at arrival.
- A need to refine offerings as hiring practices change to meet needs – constant communication is vital, and advisory committees made up of regional partners play an important role.
- Opportunities to join forces in recruiting exists, such as the partnerships between WNCC and Panhandle-area medical facilities.



# Solution

- The renovation and expansion of the John N. Harms Center will ensure adequate space is available to train nursing and allied health professionals to meet the workforce demands of the Panhandle. This space will enable accredited Health Sciences programs to grow by an anticipated 15% by 2026 and beyond.
- With limited, accessible clinical sites in the Panhandle, dedicated simulated laboratory space will allow WNCC to provide realistic and essential training to students.
- Phase One of the project will be the construction of six general classrooms, an EMT Paramedic lab, a simulated operating room and surgery center, Nursing simulation lab, dedicated storage, 17 offices, conference/study rooms, and support spaces.
- A vestibule addition to the southeast of the existing building will improve access to the lower-level spaces to help identify a program hub for Health Sciences occupational areas.



# Naming Opportunities

Phase Two of the project will equip the classrooms and labs with the latest technology and simulation equipment. Local healthcare industry partners and advisory board support will be vital to expanding programs that meet the needs of the Nebraska Panhandle workforce in the healthcare industry.

- **Simulated Operating Room & Surgical Center** - \$50,000 will help equip this space with Skytron Elite surgical tables, Amico LED surgical lighting systems, Stryker Laparoscopy/Endoscopy towers, and surgical patient simulators.
- **Nursing Labs** - \$30,000 each will help equip three nursing labs with Graham-Field full beds with electrical packages, Standard Manikins, Standard Nursing Kid Simpads, and a Hill-Rom Affinity IV Birthing Bed.
- **Medical Laboratory Technology & Phlebotomy Lab** - \$25,000 will help equip this space with an Labconco Lab Hood, Fisherbrand Microbiological Incubator, Weslake Commercial Refrigerator, and more.
- **EMS/EMT Lab** - \$25,000 will help equip this space with a Power Cot, Adult Airway Trainer, Pediatric Airway Trainer, and Philips Heart Monitor.
- **Basic Nursing Assistant Lab** - \$20,000 will help equip this space with four Graham-Field Synergy 5000 Basic Training Beds, A EomfortEZ 3-Position Recliner with Tray, and a Pocket Nurse Wireless Call System.



# Matching Opportunity & Donor Recognition Levels

Legislative Bill 1412 gives funding to community colleges in Nebraska for career readiness and workforce development expansion projects such as this one; however, this funding is contingent on matching donations. To make use of these funds, we need your help to support this project! In addition to doubling your donation with this funding match, local donations give us an opportunity to apply for private foundation grant funding earmarked for matching community funds.

- Named space donors will be recognized with a door plaque on the room and with a logo on the donor recognition wall in the main atrium area of the Health Sciences Center.
- Gifts \$20,000 and above will be recognized with a logo or name displayed prominently on the donor recognition wall in the main atrium area of the Health Sciences Center.
- Gifts \$10,000 – \$19,999 will be recognized with name listed in large font on the donor recognition wall in the main atrium area of the Health Sciences Center.
- Gifts \$2,500 – \$9,999 will be recognized with name listed in medium-large font on the donor recognition wall in the main atrium area of the Health Sciences Center.
- Gifts \$1000 - \$2,499 will be recognized with name listed in medium font on the donor recognition wall in the main atrium area of the Health Sciences Center.





Western Nebraska Community College

**FOUNDATION**

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