

## Center for Community Health Partnerships

# 2024 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IMPACT REPORT

Nebraska Methodist College (NMC) has a longstanding commitment to positively influencing the health and well-being of the community. Building upon a long history of community involvement and community-based learning, the Center for Community Health Partnerships (CCHP) works to build a culture of belonging and engagement, reflective of the greater community we serve. The Center coordinates meaningful and mutually beneficial community engagement experiences to create positive social change towards equitable health and cultivate engaged educated citizens.

The CCHP collaborates with organizations exchanging knowledge and resources to address health disparities in our populations.

Center for Community Health Partnerships alone helped coordinate approximately 11,284 documented hours of service and 7,282 people were served in 2024.

## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

- Mobile Diabetes Center
- Childhood Lead Screening
- Childhood Developmental Milestone & Social Determinant of Health Screening
- Childhood Hearing & Vision Screenings
- Community Care Coordination Clinics
- Basic First Aid: Services & Education



Check Out Our Upcoming Events!

## EVENTS

For more details on the events:





# MOBILE DIABETES CENTER



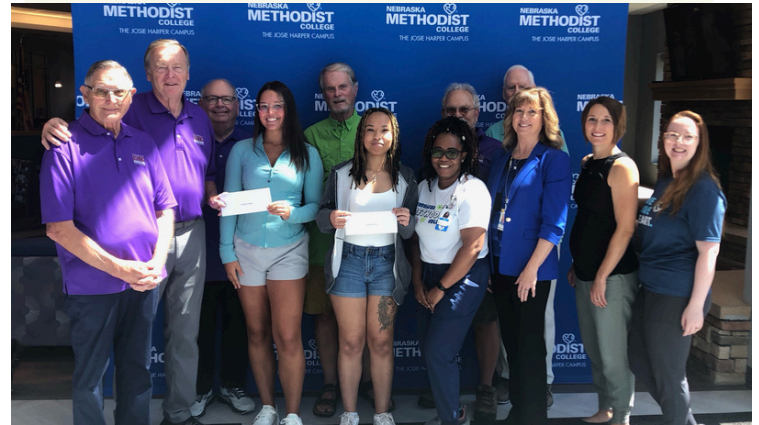
## Services offered in 2024 included:

- Attended 130+ clinics
- 2,361 People served for diabetes screenings
- 2,188 Blood glucose screens
- 1,210 A1C's
- 607 Cholesterols
- 456 Influenza vaccine doses administered
- Influenza and COVID vaccines administered in collaboration with Douglas County Health Department :90 COVID, 84 flu
- Lydia House - 105 referrals based on SDOH screening tool results
- Youth Emergency Services - 46 clinics, 67 guests served, 32 cases, and 36 referrals
- Caring for our Communities Collaboration - 199 cases, 69 internal referrals

## Scholarships Awarded!

Brean Buchholz and Elizabeth Cordes were both honored with a \$1,000 Cornbelt Diabetes Coalition scholarship each!

These students demonstrated their commitment to servicing the community through extra volunteer hours of the MDC.



## PARTNERS SERVED:

- African Immigrant Family Services (AIFS)
- All Peoples Food Pantry
- Antioch Baptist Church
- Bethel AME Church
- Bethesda Church
- Binational Health Fair
- Black Family Health and Wellness Association health fair (BFHWA)
- Bluebird Cultural Initiative
- Brew Ha-ha Festival
- Buena Vista High School
- Care Corps LifeHouse
- Christ Cathedral Church
- Community Alliance
- Completely Kids
- Cornbelt Diabetes Connection
- Dear Diabetes
- Families in Action
- Get up Get Moving Festival
- Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)
- Healthy Aging Expo Health Fair
- Healthy Living Expo in Niobrara
- Heart Ministry Center
- Heartland Family Health Fair
- Heartland Hope Mission
- Hispanic Festival
- Homelessness Fair
- Intercultural Senior Center
- Intertribal Powwow
- John C Fremont Days Festival
- Judah Kingdom Center
- Juneteenth Freedom Festival
- Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church
- Micah House
- Morning Star Baptist Church
- Mount Moriah Church-Family Wellness Health Fair
- New Visions Joshua House
- Notre Dame Housing
- Omaha Housing Authority
- One World Community Health Center
- Open Door Mission
- Open Door Mission Lydia House
- Pride Festival
- Project 2024
- QLI Rehabilitation Center
- Restoring Dignity Health Fair
- Revolution of Love Academy
- Salem Village
- Salvation Army Kroc Center
- Sancta Health Fair
- Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Special Olympics
- St. James Methodist Church
- St. Mark Baptist Church
- St. Paul Benson Church
- Stephen Center •Stroke Community Service
- Stroke Community Service Together Incorporated
- Tyson Foods
- Waterloo Health Fair
- Women's Connect
- World Refugee Day
- Youth Emergency Services

# PRIDE IN OUR PROGRAMMING: UPDATES!

## Sprinter Van



- Lead Screenings – Niobrara Health Fair, Sarpy County Head Start, Heartland Hope Mission, YES, Lydia House
- Hearing & Vision – Special Olympics, Binational Health Fair, Heartland Hope Mission, YES, Lydia House
- Mobile Diabetes Screenings – Heartland Hope Mission, Street Outreach
- First Aid Events – Brewhaha Festival
- Developmental Milestones – Lydia House
- Community Care Coordination – Street Outreach and Youth Emergency Services

## Poverty Simulation

- Integrated into Undergraduate Nursing, Radiography, Sonography, Respiratory, Occupational and Physical Therapy programs. Community partners such as QLI have also participated in the simulation.

## Pediatric Lead

- 771 total screenings
- Expansion into Cass & Knox Counties Nebraska
- Took sprinter van to Niobrara for lead
- Collaboration with Firefly – NMC assisted with 20 lead screenings in Council Bluffs and Harlan Iowa
- 78 referrals to local County Health Departments for follow-up

## Developmental Milestone & Social Determinants of Health Screening

Initially launched at Open Door Mission's Lydia House, now **expanded** to MICAH House's Child Development Center. Both sites have **included** occupational therapy students, in addition to nursing students, to deliver more comprehensive care.

### **Developmental Milestone Screenings & Interventions**

- Assessment of children's learning, speech, movement, and behavior through play.
- Identifies potential developmental delays & coordinates intervention through community resources.

### **Supporting Families & Overcoming Barriers**

- Connects families with medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare services.
- Assists with appointment scheduling, transportation, and educational resources.
- Addresses critical healthcare gaps for families facing homelessness or near-homelessness.





## Caring for Our Communities: New Visions Homeless Services Clinics

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“Many individuals were not seeing any improvement in their symptoms of asthma or COPD due to not having access to their necessary medications or maybe not having a safe or secure spot to place their meds. Lack of money to spend on their meds and their living circumstances were therefore determining the severity of their condition. With future patients I plan on keeping the understanding that some people want their health condition to improve and it isn't for a lack of trying but they don't have the means to do so. I hope in these cases I can direct patients to resources/programs that will help.” - Student

”

- Nebraska Methodist College continues their partnership with Caring for Our Communities and New Visions Homeless Services to bring health care, education, and navigation services to those who cannot easily access it. At least twice a month, NMC nursing students and CDCE staff host pop-up clinics to provide the various health care services, including: Diabetes and Hypertension screenings, First aid & wound care, Healthcare navigation & establishing primary care, Health education & medication reviews

### New Visions Joshua House

Respiratory Therapy students offered COPD screenings with free incentive spirometry testing, respiratory assessment, medication review, establishing care assistance, flu vaccine administration and handed out COVID swabs.

Occupational Therapy students offered weekly recreational activities, including: painting, volleyball, line dancing, yoga, and collected board games to donate to Joshua House guests.



### Street Outreach

NMC's Sprinter Van partnered with New Visions' Donna Project mobile food pantry, shower, and services



### MICAH House

NMC offered mobile diabetes and care coordination services to the adults at MICAH House. For the children and adolescents; developmental milestone, hearing, vision, and dental screening were offered in collaboration with Firefly



“The clinical experience that our nursing, respiratory, and occupational therapy students gain through their time at New Visions is invaluable. It gives them first-hand experience of providing trauma-informed care, prioritizing patient values, triaging, and healthcare navigation. With the population of individuals experiencing homelessness on the rise, as well as the increasing age and multimorbidities - complex care coordination and compassion is needed more than ever.” - Alicia Whitehill

# YOUTH EMERGENCY SERVICES (YES)



Youth Emergency Services (YES) is an organization that offers a variety of services to youth and young adults aged 16–25 facing housing insecurity in Omaha. YES provides clothing, hot meals, showers, hygiene products, pantry items, laundry services, and a safe space to connect.

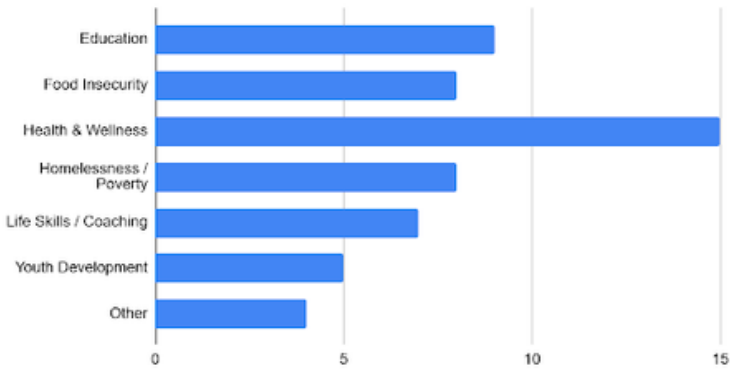
Every Wednesday, an NMC nurse and nursing students provide essential health screenings and services to guests who visit YES. In 2024 alone, NMC facilitated *46 clinics*, serving *67 guests*, and generating *30 UniteUs referrals* to connect individuals with additional community resources. Services offered by NMC include general health screenings (height, weight, blood pressure, health history), mental health screenings, substance use screenings, environmental health assessments, menstrual health education and supplies, STI education and condoms, as well as lead, hemoglobin, cholesterol, and blood sugar testing. Additionally, NMC helps guests schedule medical, dental, vision, and specialty health appointments while offering personalized health guidance and education tailored to their needs.

NMC recognizes the significant impact social determinants of health have on youth and young adults. Our partnership with YES aims to create a compassionate space where guests can access critical health resources in their community. This commitment is echoed by the staff at YES, emphasizing the importance of NMC's presence:

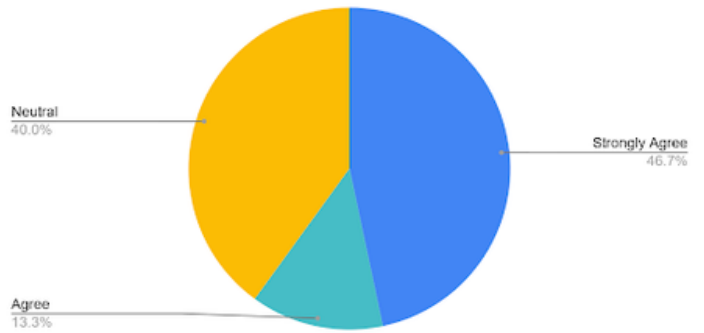
*"The Methodist nurses that visit our location are valuable because they are dependable and meet the immediate health needs of any guest that comes through the door," shared Pattie Smith, Street Outreach Coordinator.*

# COMMUNITY PARTNER SURVEY RESULTS

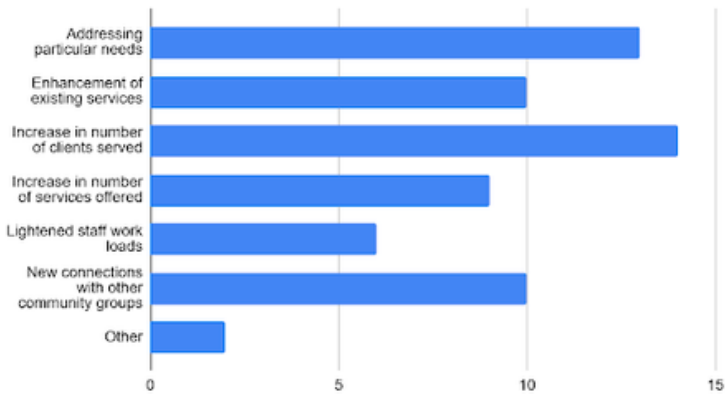
What are the community concerns/needs addressed by your organization?



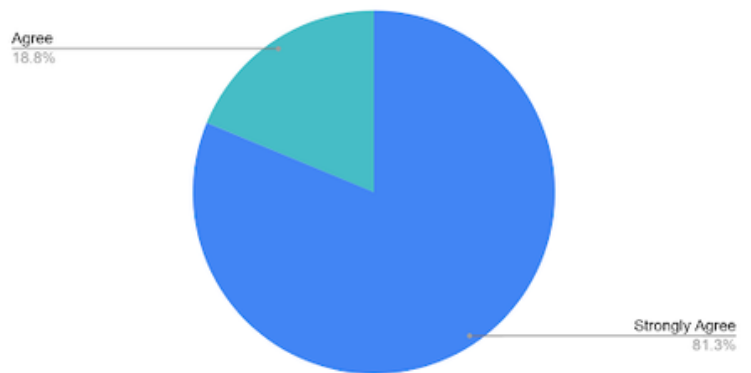
Participation in the partnership produced economic benefits for my organization



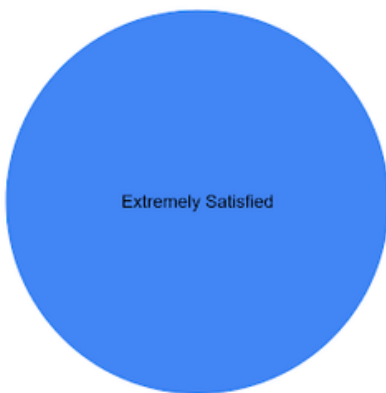
Partnerships Impact on your Organization



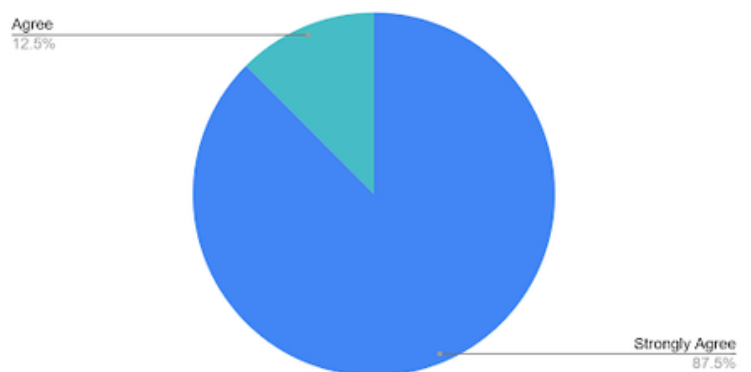
Participation in the partnership had valuable benefits for my organization in addressing needs



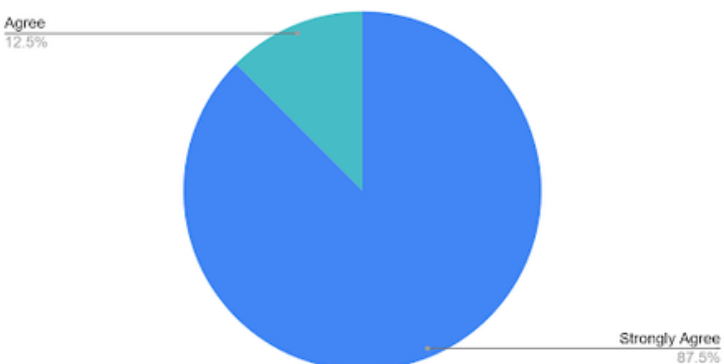
Level of satisfaction with Overall Communication



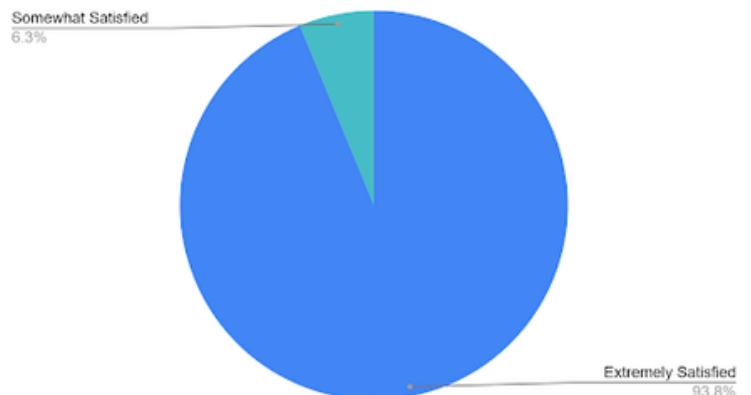
The community served by my organization benefited from the partnership



The community served by my organization benefited from the partnership



Level of satisfaction with Overall Experience in Partnership

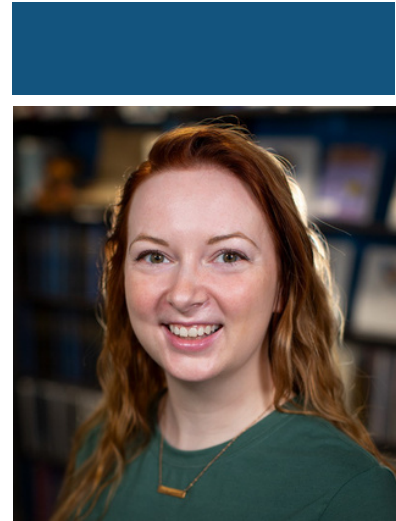


# EXCITING CHANGES FROM THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

## **Stronger Together: Introducing the Center for Community Health Partnerships** *New name, same passion—because thriving communities start with strong partnerships.*

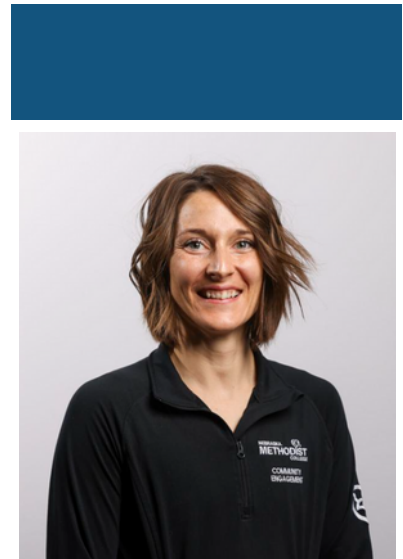
In November 2024, Alicia Whitehill was selected as the new Director of the Center for Community Partnerships upon graduating with Masters in Nursing Care Coordination.

*"The heart of this work lies in connecting with and uplifting communities, crossing barriers that will lead to better health outcomes and health equity. I am at my happiest working in the variety of clinics we provide, and across the modalities of healthcare students at NMC. I'm grateful for the chance to contribute to a legacy of impact, while shaping a future of continued growth and service," - Alicia Whitehill*



In November 2024, Dr. Kiley Petersmith transitioned to a new role as assistant professor and coordinator of the Public Health Policy tracks for the Doctor of Nursing and Doctor of Education programs.

*"Throughout my career, I have focused on, witnessed and worked to address access to equitable and preventative healthcare services and the social determinants of health. This work has given me a deep understanding of the systemic challenges that marginalized communities face, as well as practical insights into how policy can drive meaningful change. This new role will allow me to translate this real-world experience into actionable knowledge for students, empowering them to think critically about how they can influence systems to promote health equity that create transformative impact at local, national, and global levels."*



### **Dr. Kiley Petersmith Brings Healthcare to the Community**

Good health starts outside hospital walls. Kiley Petersmith, DNP, RN, advocates for prevention through community-based care. As Director of Diversity and Community Engagement at Nebraska Methodist College, she leads mobile health outreach, providing screenings, vaccines, and education to thousands. A former ER nurse, her perspective shifted after a child died from an asthma attack due to lack of access to a rescue inhaler.

Now, she integrates community health into education, ensuring future providers understand social determinants of health. Recently honored with a *Nurses – Heart of Healthcare award*, Petersmith remains committed to breaking barriers and improving healthcare access.

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PLATTSMOUTH NATURE ACADEMY PROJECT



## Nature, Movement, Creativity: NMC Nature Academy



The Plattsmouth Community Foundation Fund grant has supported a remarkable collaboration between Nebraska Methodist College (NMC) and the Diversity and Community Engagement department for the past four years. This partnership has made a significant impact on the Plattsmouth community by creating an unforgettable Outdoor Classroom experience for 450 elementary students in grades K-4.

Over two days, the NMC Nature Academy project brought learning to life through engaging, nature-based play activities designed and facilitated by Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) students. Highlights included arts and crafts projects centered on plants and plant life cycles, encouraging creativity and hands-on learning while emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship.



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED AND PARTICIPATED IN THIS PROGRAM—WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!

This initiative would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the MOT faculty and first-year students, who poured their creativity and passion into delivering an enriching experience for the children. Their efforts truly exemplify the core values of our college and the power of collaboration in driving meaningful community impact.



# AFRICAN IMMIGRANT FAMILY SERVICES (AIFS)

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

We are proud to announce that Nebraska Methodist College (NMC), through the Center for Diversity and Community Engagement (CDCE), has been recognized for its outstanding contributions toward advancing the health and well-being of immigrant and refugee families. This award highlights the powerful partnership between NMC and the American Institute for Foreign Service (AIFS), which has significantly enhanced the reach and impact of our collective efforts.

NMC's unwavering commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion has not only provided direct benefits to the populations we serve but has also strengthened AIFS' ability to deliver critical services to vulnerable communities. Through initiatives like the Community Health and Wellness Fair—where NMC delivered vital health screenings—and the invitation to include AIFS in community resource fairs, our collaboration has expanded access to essential care and resources.

This partnership exemplifies the power of working together to address complex community needs. The recognition is a testament to the dedication, passion, and impact of the entire NMC team and their role in creating meaningful change.

We extend our deepest gratitude for the continued collaboration and are honored to celebrate this achievement alongside our community partners. The Annual Success Celebration, held on November 23, 2024, served as a moment to reflect on and honor these shared accomplishments. Together, we look forward to continuing our mission of fostering health, wellness, and inclusivity in the communities we serve.

### **Celebrating Excellence: NMC's Impact Through the Center for Diversity and Community Engagement**

“Receiving the Community Partnership award from the African Immigrant Family Services organization is an incredible honor for NMC and the community engagement team. It reflects our shared commitment to improving the health and well-being of vulnerable populations, especially within immigrant communities,” - Alicia Whitehill, Director of Community Engagement.



# NMC Belonging Strategic Plan

In 2024, NMC DEI Advisory Board has been working with Inclusive Communities to develop our 5-year DEI Belonging Strategic plan. These sessions have consisted of team building/DEI exploration (definition exploration of DEI principles, describing belonging) as well as time working on our strategic plan. We have been intentional to have synergy and alignment with NMC strategic plan. Work has been conducted in both large and small groups to set goals, outcomes, actionable/measurable and achievable metrics mapped to each outcome as well as action items pulling in key stakeholders to ensure sustainability.

## MISSION

As a health professions institution, Nebraska Methodist College provides educational experiences for the development of individuals in order that they may positively influence the health and well-being of the community.

## CORE VALUES

Caring

Excellence

Holism

Learning

Respect

## OUR COMMITMENT

The Nebraska Methodist College community respects the dignity and inherent worth of all people. We proclaim our belief that we are all more compassionate when we see our common humanity in one another. We seek to foster a community that values, respects, welcomes and promotes a sense of belonging where all may flourish. We value inclusion, diversity, equity, social justice and human rights. In the service of humanity, we embrace the plurality of humanity that comprises our community including, but not limited to, age, race, language, ethnic origin, religion, gender identity, and sexual orientation. As an institution, we accept the responsibility to educate individuals to foster cultural diversity and inclusivity in their professional practice.



## OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

NMC's Belonging Strategic Plan, which aligns with Nebraska Methodist College's institutional strategic plan, is grounded in the principles of diversifying our community while promoting access, opportunity, and belonging to enhance the experiences of our students, staff, and faculty and their contributions to the larger community. To achieve this, our plan outlines valuable and intentional goals and action items that aim to diversify our community, promote a culture of belonging, and establish mutually beneficial relationships within our community. The results of these efforts will be shared with our community through annual program reports and yearly updates from the Advisory Board.

### Diversify students, faculty, employees, and future healthcare community

- Increase % of BIPOC students (27.5% of enrollment will be BIPOC in 5 years and 34% of NMC enrollment will be BIPOC in 10 years)
- Increase % of BIPOC employees (5% increase over 5 years to total 17% of NMC employees will be BIPOC)

### Create a culture of belonging that promotes student success

- Increase retention and persistence rates of students who are Black, low-income, & first-generation. (Increase from current 62.5% to 73% in 5 years)
- Faculty and staff demonstrate knowledge and commitment to Access, Opportunity and Belonging principles and best practices for creating a culture of belonging. (100% of Directors will submit annual goals on Annual Reports by May 2028)
- Identify & implement areas of support needed for BIPOC students (2 support programs/initiatives implemented in 5 years)

### Establish mutually beneficial relationships with diverse community partners

- Establish 1 new key partnership yearly to expose students, faculty, and staff to diverse communities.
- 90% of community engagement participants report valuable benefits in community engagement activities yearly
- Improve access to health care for underrepresented members of our community (# of people served by community outreach programs)
- Establish 1 new key partnership each year to serve as a pipeline to NMC program

### Diversify our students, faculty, employees, and future healthcare community

- Create audit mapping to determine essential pipeline programs
- Increase presence and enrollment from current program opportunities including summer camps, TRIO SSS program, Upward Bound events, CNA and LPN programs, and Associate of Science of Pre-Health Professions
- Expand scholarship opportunities for low-income, first generation, and/or BIPOC students for certificate and degree programs
- Expand job posting sites to reach a more diverse candidate pool
- Create an inclusive hiring guide for NMC hiring managers
- Create implicit bias training for hiring managers
- Diversify graduate student enrollment as a recruitment initiative for faculty

### Create a culture of belonging that promotes student success

- Analyze current data related to retention and persistence for BIPOC students
- Review New Student Survey data
- Implement "Exit Interviews" with students who leave the institution to identify top reasons BIPOC students and employees are not retained
- Develop belonging, access, and opportunity trainings for faculty and staff
- Propose the addition of belonging "goals" as part of faculty/staff Contribution Reviews and/or "AOR".
- Audit mapping of current support resources for BIPOC students
- Collect data from students, faculty, staff on perceived barriers to success for BIPOC students

### Establish mutually beneficial relationships with diverse community partners

- Sponsorships
- Networking with community organizations, coalitions, and professional organizations
- Build relationships for future pipeline programs
- Collaborate with NMHS community benefits and HR teams
- Develop interdisciplinary community engagement activities
- Align asset-based community engagement and belonging training principles to dove credits and annual training opportunities
- Survey community partner needs and review 2024 Community Needs Assessment for Douglas County and surrounding counties served by NMHS health system
- Identify key funding source(s) and allocate resources to support the needs of community partners

# 2025 GOALS

- Screen at least 2,000 individuals using the mobile diabetes services.
- Identify one new partner for Mobile Business Health in collaboration with NMC's Director of Business Development
- Identify three new community partners to expand MDC screening opportunities.
- Expand the pediatric lead screening model to three new communities.
- Identify and collaborate with a community organization that can assist in more expansive vaccine administration.
- Identify and collaborate with a community organization that can assist with warm hand-offs to primary care for all clinic types.



**“Remember, there’s no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end,” ~  
Scott Adams**