INTERDEPARTMENTAL SPIRES OF EXCELLENCE

A final outcome of the strategic planning process is that the College has identified four spires of excellence to which every department contributes. These spires are:

- Early Childhood
- Global Engagement
- 21st Century Teaching and Learning
- Innovative Inquiry

Topics identified as college-wide spires of excellence demonstrate ALL of the following characteristics. Each spire:

- provides a value added dimension to the programs we offer,
- involves individuals from every department,
- involves a critical mass of people and activities,
- addresses all three parts of our mission – teaching, research and creative work, outreach and Extension,
- generates new opportunities for growth, development, and discovery,
- was prompted by genuine enthusiasm among faculty and staff, and,
- provides state-level value while also having national/international scope.

The four CEHS interdepartmental spires of excellence were derived from data collected through the CEHS e-ARFA and the unit planning documents. We believe that working together to achieve outcomes and impacts within a few thematic areas adds power to our work and builds on the potential of our mission. These college-wide spires provide an organizing factor around which individuals from very different disciplines may find reasons to work together for the benefit of individuals, families, schools and communities. It is not expected that everyone will contribute to every spire or that all work in CEHS will be spire-related. Additional spires may be identified in the future. A visual depiction of the four spires of excellence is presented in Figures 1 (Early Childhood), 2 (International Education), 3 (21st Century Teaching and Learning) and, Figure 4 (Innovative Inquiry).
Figure 1  Early Childhood Spire

26 Externally Funded Research Projects

7 CEHS Research Centers Targeting Early Childhood Development & Intervention

Nature Education

Diverse Learners

Reflective Practice & Documentation

8 Masters Degrees

5 Doctoral Specialties

Graduate Programs

Ruth Staples Child Development Laboratory

Early Childhood (Birth To Age 8)

Instruction: New Projects

K-3 Math Specialization

0-5 Certification

Inclusive Early Childhood

Undergraduate Programs

100 Courses

3 Degree Programs

6 Endorsements

UNL Extension

The Learning Child Action Team

Healthy Nutrition

USDA-Funded Research

2x2 Agreements With Community Colleges

UNL Extension

Military Families

Early Childhood

80 Courses

Graduate Programs

Community Partnerships

Head Start

Public Schools

Medical Center

Community Partnerships

Educare

NDE

DHHS

Speech & Language Development/Disorders

Early Literacy & Numeracy

Science Education

Healthy Development & Nutrition

Empowering Parents

Special Needs

Autism

Brain Development
Figure 3  
Teaching and Learning for the 21st Century Spire
Figure 4  Innovative Inquiry Spire

Innovative Inquiry

CYFS
Quantitative Resource Center
CEHS Research Office Support
Integration of Research Technology
Qualitative Resource Center
Buros

IQSCM
Brain Studies
Faculty & Student Research & Creative Activity
UCARE
Qualitative Interest Group
School Improvement Certificate
Math in the Middle & Math Matters
Grant Partnership with Statistics
Childhood Nutrition Education Program
QQPM MA & PhD

Center For Child & Family Well Being
Mixed Methods Certificate
Nebraska Gateway to Nutrigenomics
Scholarly Enhancement

Methods Speaker Series
Grant Support
Assessment Literacy
Biaco On-Line
Buros On-Line
MMYB

Adult
Child
Student Research Conference

UCARE