**UNC’S GROWING LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Number of ACADEMIC PROGRAMS with specialized accreditation: 16**

**Vibrant Health, P.E., and Recreation program: 37% growth**

**Large, highly ranked AACSB-accredited MBA program**

S

tate funding is not at an equitable level for all universities. That is certainly the case for the University of Northwest Colorado. In the long run, equality in state funding would allow UNC to offer more competitive scholarships, update facilities, and support faculty and staff with the resources they need to serve students. An increase in state dollars would also help limit future tuition increases, according to UNC President Jacobs.

UNC HAS A $316 MILLION PER YEAR ECONOMIC IMPACT ON SHADES VALLEY.

Provost Arden said this push for adequate funding is important for the entire Shades Valley area.

“There was a report just last year from our Center for Innovation and Economic Development which concluded that UNC has a $316 million dollar per year economic impact on Shades Valley,” Arden said. “We are a huge economic driver in this region. Any additional funding that we get only expands that footprint.”

While the focus of Project 102 is on regular and recurring state dollars, the University is casting its net broadly in search of greater public support. Last year, UNC officials applied for and received $5 million in the form of a local, non-recurring grant from the Shades Valley Economic Development Authority (SVEDA). UNC received another one-time contribution from the Governor’s office totaling $3 million. Both of these awards are tied to specific projects that assist with workforce development and regional economic development.

Arden said a significant part of this new funding is allocated to assist with O’Neal Hall, the future home of O’Neal College of Nursing. Another portion will provide for the addition in Fall 2018 of a chemical engineering option in the Department of Engineering Technology. The program in Engineering Technology has already attracted 65 student majors in only its second year of operation.

This departmental growth is just one aspect of UNC’s growing list of accomplishments. For example, the O’Neal College of Nursing recently posted the highest National Council Licensure Examination pass rate in the state. The College of Business is home to the largest Masters in Business Administration program in Colorado. And in Athletics, the Bears continue to build on a championship tradition even as coaches and student athletes prepare for the transition to the Division I ranks in the fall of 2022.



Jacobs is quick to point out that the record of success flows from the talent and hard work of UNC’s faculty, staff, and students. “We’re doing great things now,” Jacobs said. “Think about what we could do at UNC if we were funded at a fair level.”

Arden agrees. “Imagine what we could do with equitable funding, where our brag points would almost be too many to remember, and we could facilitate even more and further expansion and growth and opportunities for students,” he said.

Jacobs’ background as a professor of political science is useful in dealing with this complex issue.

“We have the right president who can advocate for UNC—mobilizing our alumni, lobbying the legislators on these key committees, and spending a lot of time in front of those decision makers in Denver,” Arden said.

Jacobs said he wants all those who care about UNC to realize the depth of his concern on this issue and to understand that it will take many years of hard work to bring the University alongside its peers when it comes to funding.

“I see it as my job to take care of politics and external relationships for UNC so that our faculty and staff can do what they do well,” Jacobs said. “They make great things happen for our students, and they deserve to have access to the same resources as every other university in the state. It is a simple question of fairness.”