

## **BUFFETT INSTITUTE ENDOWED COMMUNITY PROFESSORSHIPS**

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska is establishing four endowed community professorships on the NU campuses. Each professorship focuses on different aspects of early childhood development and reflects the interdisciplinary commitment of the Buffett Institute, a four-campus, university-wide research, practice, outreach, and policy institute. The Institute seeks to reflect the strengths of each campus, resulting in the creation of a remarkable and unprecedented opportunity for scholars, practitioners, community members, and policymakers to come together on behalf of vulnerable young children and their families and the individuals and systems that support them.

The concept of the community professorship suggests a new role for faculty that goes well beyond teaching, research, and service to include campus leadership and responsiveness to the local community through translational and applied research. In many respects the holder of the community professorship is a leader, catalyst, and innovator who serves as a conduit from the university to communities of interest as well as from those communities to the university. The resources and commitment of the Buffett Institute will be made available to the endowed professorships in order to strengthen and magnify their potential impact. They will also benefit from the synergy of working and planning with the senior staff of the Buffett Institute and with one another.

Recruitment is underway, and the planned start date for the endowed professorships is fall 2016.

### **Specific Characteristics of the Appointments**

#### *Endowed and Renewable*

The professorships are conceived as endowed faculty positions with five-year renewable terms. Appointment will be at the associate or full professor level, depending on qualifications, and will be tenured, if possible. Until private funding is secured to permanently endow the position, the Buffett Institute will guarantee the income equivalent of a \$1 million endowment to support each position. In addition to a salary stipend, an annual amount to cover programmatic and research costs will be available.

#### *Time Allocation and Reporting*

The individual who holds this title is campus-based (Kearney, Lincoln, Omaha, and Medical Center), reporting to the chair of his or her home academic unit. Additionally, the holder of the endowed professorship will commit one-quarter of his/her professional effort to working with the Buffett Institute during the academic year, including appropriate presence in the Buffett Institute at the Collaboratorium, a space on UNL's City Campus in Teachers College Hall and/or the Community Engagement Center on the University of Nebraska Omaha campus. The time and scope of work will be negotiated with the Executive Director of the Buffett Institute.

## **Description of Each Position**

### *University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK)*

The Cille and Ron Williams Endowed Community Chair for Early Childhood Education will provide leadership in early childhood teacher education and outreach to the state. The chair will participate in and initiate programs and research in conjunction with the Buffett Institute to enhance the skills and support of those working with children from birth through Grade 3 and their families in Nebraska. The incumbent will report to the Chair of Teacher Education at the UNK College of Education.

### *University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)*

The Endowed Chair in Infant/Child Mental Health will contribute expertise in the areas of mental health and socio-emotional development from birth through age 3. The chair will help educate families and other care providers to support mental and emotional development in young children. This position is established in partnership with the Department of Child, Youth and Family Studies (CYAF) in the College of Education and Human Sciences at UNL.

### *University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO)*

The Weitz Family Endowed Community Chair in Social Work and Early Childhood will lead research and programmatic efforts in child welfare and child development by focusing on children, families, and community-based organizations that serve at-risk families and their children. The chair, established by UNO's College of Public Affairs and Community Service in partnership with the Buffett Institute, will be housed within the Grace Abbott School of Social Work.

### *University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)*

The Endowed Community Professorship in Early Childhood Obesity will lead research and programmatic efforts on childhood obesity, work to address healthy eating and nutrition, and reverse the trend of childhood obesity in Nebraska and the U.S. The professorship is a partnership with the Department of Health Promotion at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Public Health, the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition, the university-wide Food for Health Initiative, and the Buffett Institute.

## **About the Buffett Early Childhood Institute**

The Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska is dedicated to promoting the development and learning of children from birth through age 8, focusing especially on those who are at risk because of poverty, conditions of high stress and familial challenge, or developmental delays. For more information about the Buffett Institute, as well as its signature programs, visit <http://buffettinstitute.nebraska.edu>.

## **For More Information**

Please direct questions about the community professorship program to Rose Edzie at the University of Nebraska Foundation, [rosemary.edzie@nufoundation.org](mailto:rosemary.edzie@nufoundation.org), or (402) 502-4115.