



New virology building to be named for NU supporter Morrison

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Lincoln, Neb., June 8, 2006 -- University of Nebraska-Lincoln's new virology research building will be named the Ken Morrison Life Sciences Research Center in honor of Hastings resident and University of Nebraska supporter Kenneth Morrison, pending approval by the NU Board of Regents.

Morrison, a longtime university advocate and University of Nebraska Foundation trustee, has provided the lead gift for the planned center, which will house the Nebraska Center for Virology. This is the latest of Morrison's numerous contributions to the university, which have included establishing the Morrison Biotechnology Fund, supporting UNL's microscopy research facility at the George W. Beadle Center for Genetics and Research, and funding the Kenneth Morrison Professorship in Food Engineering.

Construction of the new structure is slated to begin this fall, on East Campus near the Veterinary Diagnostic Center. The Regents will consider the Ken Morrison Life Sciences Research Center naming at their June 15 meeting. Morrison is a general partner and business manager of Morrison Enterprises, a Nebraska-based agricultural company engaged in alfalfa production and marketing, grain storage, livestock production, farmland development and management, aquaculture and cotton and feed grain production. A longtime promoter of biotechnology, Morrison has played a major role in making UNL's biotechnology program capabilities truly impressive, chancellor Harvey Perlman said.

"Ken's record of generosity toward the university is admirable and enviable," Perlman said. "The Morrison Biotechnology Fund and the Kenneth Morrison Distinguished Professorship in Food Engineering have advanced the university immensely. His support of biotechnology and molecular biology research is unmatched.

"It's fitting then that we honor his contributions by naming this virology center after a person responsible for advancing life sciences research in Nebraska."

The \$18.6 million, 70,000-square-foot building will house laboratory and offices for the Nebraska Center for Virology. The building will provide a state-of-the-art research facility designed to foster interaction and collaboration among researchers, visiting fellows, students and staff. It will include full laboratories for 12 scientists plus separate spaces for tissue culture work, a Polymerase Chain Reaction suite, cold and dark rooms, shared microscopy and cell-flow cytometry facilities and a Biological Safety Level-3 research laboratory suite. The building will provide virology center researchers much needed space to continue and expand on research under way at the UNL Beadle Center where the center is now headquartered.

The Nebraska Center for Virology was established in 2000 as a Center for Biomedical Research Excellence with a five-year, \$10.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. In 2005 the center received a second \$10.6 million grant to support the center over the next five years. The center links scientists at UNL, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University. Center researchers are working to understand the molecular mechanisms that diverse viruses employ to cause diseases. Charles Wood, a molecular virologist and Lehr/3M university professor

at UNL, directs the center.

Morrison grew up in Kansas and attended McPherson College. In 1947 he and his wife Marjorie moved to Hastings where he and other family members began their ag business ventures. Recognized by Ak-Sar-Ben as a Leader in Business and Industry, he received the UNL Builders Award in 1991. He has had memberships in the university's Chancellor's and President's clubs. He also has helped fund a computer lab for UNMC's College of Dentistry, the Lois G. Roskens Professorship in Educational Administration at UNO, and has been a strong supporter of university athletics.

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[Kenneth Morrison](#)

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