

**Supercomputer coming to UNO
Machine touted as research magnet
Holland Computing Center at UNO**

One of the world's most powerful supercomputers will soon be housed on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus, and some of the world's most powerful companies may follow it to Omaha.

Construction is under way on the Holland Computing Center, expected to open on the first floor of the Peter Kiewit Institute in September, Winnie Callahan, the institute's director, said Tuesday.

The supercomputer will rev university research to previously unimaginable levels, Callahan said.

It is being paid for by \$4.5 million in donations, the vast majority from Omaha philanthropist Richard Holland, and the rest from a slew of as-yet-unannounced corporate partnerships. The Holland computer is expected to be among the 50 most powerful computers in the world when finished.

"To be honest with you, I think we'll do a lot better than that," Callahan said.

The supercomputer will also rev economic development: Several companies are looking to relocate to Omaha at least partly because of the chance to use the Holland Computing Center, Callahan said.

She wouldn't name those companies but said several partnerships with businesses inside and outside Omaha would be announced in the coming months.

"For Joe Q. Public, who wouldn't necessarily be involved in the work here, the economic development part of this matters to him," Callahan said. "This has an impact on the state, on the ability of the city of Omaha to prosper.

"It's going to bring a whole lot of money into this state, I can tell you that."

The Holland Computing Center will occupy a glass-enclosed room inside the Peter Kiewit Institute building at 67th and Pacific Streets on UNO's South Campus.

A chunk of the computing center's 2,000 square feet of space will be taken up by the machine itself: A cluster of Dell computers cooled and secured by a cutting-edge data center expected to be larger than a similar design at Harvard Medical School.

Companies will be clamoring to use that type of computer power, according to Callahan.

An insurance company may use it to do cutting-edge data mining, she said. A large transportation company could use it as well. So could genetics researchers at the Henry Doorly Zoo, researchers studying protein strands at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln and UNO undergraduate and graduate students already enrolled at the Peter Kiewit Institute.

"With high-performance computing, there's a certain excitement and aura with working with the latest, the fastest, the greatest," Callahan said. "Consequentially that bodes very well for us, thanks to Mr. Holland's gift.

"Our students learn where industry is going, not where it's been."

The Peter Kiewit Institute is a partnership between UNO's College of Information Science and Technology and UNL's College of Engineering, funded primarily by donations and more than 800 partnerships with companies worldwide.

The new computing center will spur even more corporate partnerships, even if those companies don't move to Omaha, Callahan said.

A Tuesday press release mentioned possible partnerships "with defense, medicine and life science entities."

The release also heaped praise on Richard Holland, a retired advertising executive and early investor in Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway. Holland and his late wife, Mary, were the largest donors toward the \$90 million performing arts center in downtown Omaha that bears the family name.

Now another Holland Foundation donation has provided the University of Nebraska with a supercomputer that "literally takes us to a new plateau" said Walter Scott, chairman of the Peter Kiewit Institute's board of policy advisers.

"With this new project (Holland) has truly outdone himself," Scott said in the release. "When I think about the size and scope of this development . . . I think Dick has shown once again why Omaha is developing into a hot spot for technological innovation and growth."

Holland Computing Center at UNO

What: A supercomputer expected to be one of the 50 most powerful computers in the world

Where: Peter Kiewit Institute, University of Nebraska at Omaha campus

When: September

How: \$4.5 million in donations, most from Omaha philanthropist Richard Holland, and the rest from corporate partners.

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