



Annual Report
September 1,
2019—
August 31,
2020

**A Year of
Innovation
and Growth
Amidst
a Global
Pandemic**



**NORTHWESTERN
HEALTH SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY**

Educate. Innovate. Integrate.



Letter from the President

At Northwestern Health Sciences University, we live in the crossroads of healthcare and education, two fields that have been tested in ways that were unimaginable a year ago. Together, we have been pushed to navigate teaching, learning, and providing natural care in a global pandemic; I am so proud of the resilience I've witnessed this year. Our response has not been "how do we survive until things go back to normal," but "how do we seize this moment to build lasting solutions?"

We have known for 80 years that integrative care is the future, and that both healthcare and education are in need of innovation and change. This has been an opportunity to prove it. There is no returning to early 2020, and our NWHSU community has embraced that challenge in so many ways. This is not to say that it hasn't been difficult. Our faculty, staff, and students have shown great dedication, adaptability, and care as we navigate ever-changing circumstances together. Guided by our mission and values, we continue to grow, innovate, and cultivate community.

As we built more accessible hybrid programs and welcomed our largest incoming class, the importance of our mission to transform healthcare was on display in the wider community. Our alumni are providing vital care to COVID patients and frontline health workers, and advancing integrative care in diverse and exciting ways; we'll share some of those inspiring stories throughout this report. It feels clearer than ever that the future of healthcare is integrative, and that there is work to be done to ensure that this future is accessible to all people.

This was a year of challenges. This was also a year of growth and success. A year that advanced our mission towards integrative, patient-centered healthcare; a year that accelerated technological advances beyond what we could have imagined; and a year that pushed us to introspect and act for equity in our field.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Bushway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Deborah" being more prominent than the last name "Bushway".

Dr. Deborah Bushway, Ph.D.
President and CEO of Northwestern Health Sciences University

Our mission in action

Leaders in care, innovation, and generosity

This year has showcased the dedication, passion, and ingenuity of our NWHSU community: faculty, staff, students, alumni, and supporters. In telling the story of our year, we highlight a few of our collective and individual accomplishments. And in doing that, it becomes clear that, together, we are leading a movement: advancing healthcare for all.

As a supporter of this important mission, you are part of this story, and with your support, we have bold plans for the future.

Pivoting to hybrid-learning with innovation and adaptability

Our incredible faculty members worked around the clock to completely rethink their curriculum as the pandemic forced learning online. Their creativity and dedication has led to successes that were unimaginable a year ago.

Due to that hard work and commitment to excellence, our hybrid-model is proving to be incredibly effective. Students immerse themselves in lectures and interactive activities from home and apply that learning in small, hands-on lab experiences. The pandemic pushed us to innovate faster than we thought possible, and we are better positioned for the future because of it.



Addressing inequity and serving our community

The events of this summer surrounding the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis brought out incredible generosity and introspection in the NWHSU community. We created space for conversation and action around unconscious bias and racism and renewed our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We are building a new Belonging campaign, which will serve these goals in an ongoing and essential effort.

To serve our wider community, we partnered with the Racial Agency Initiative and the Powderhorn Neighborhood Association to host two pop-up fairs in South Minneapolis to offer food, healing conversation, chiropractic consultations, massage, and acupuncture. Both events were a resounding success and there is a clear need for more.



“

My motivation was to try to be a part in helping our sports community heal. I am honored to be a part of helping to create wellness of body, mind, and spirit during this global crisis.”

-Dr. Hiran NajafBagy

Changing the game in one patient's fight against COVID-19

NWHSU prepared Hiran NajafBagy, D.C. for a successful career as a sports chiropractor, treating professional sports teams and building his own practice. But this year, his whole-person philosophy served him in a new way: treating a soccer coach battling COVID-19. He co-published a case report in the Journal of Community Hospital Internal Medicine Perspectives about his unconventional role in the case.

Leveraging integrative care providers in times of crisis

In June our Center for Healthcare Innovation and Policy published a policy statement outlining and advocating for ways complementary and integrative healthcare providers can be activated in times of healthcare crisis, and contribute to a more dynamic, holistic oriented cross-sector workforce.

Responding to student needs as a community

COVID-19 created financial hardship for so many people, including our students. In response, we reached out to alumni, faculty, staff, and supporters and asked if you would give to the Student Emergency Food Fund. We hoped to raise \$5,000 for our students, and because of your incredible generosity we raised over \$10,000, doubling our impact and providing much needed relief to 77 hardworking students.



Welcoming NWHSU's largest class ever

A record number of students enrolled at NWHSU in the fall, due to both growth in existing programs, and the addition of the five allied health programs.



“

Students from many disciplines are now learning and working together, just as health professionals do at hospitals, clinics, and other places where people seek care.”

-Dale Healey, D.C., Ph.D., dean of the College of Health and Wellness



Advocating for patients & providing thought leadership

A group of chiropractic students and senior leaders traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend the American Chiropractic Association (ACA) Engage 2020 conference and advocate on Capitol Hill.

This trip, which has been an NWHSU tradition for 30 years, is part of a larger strategy of the University to advocate for integrative care, as well as build our reputation as thought-leaders in the local and national community.

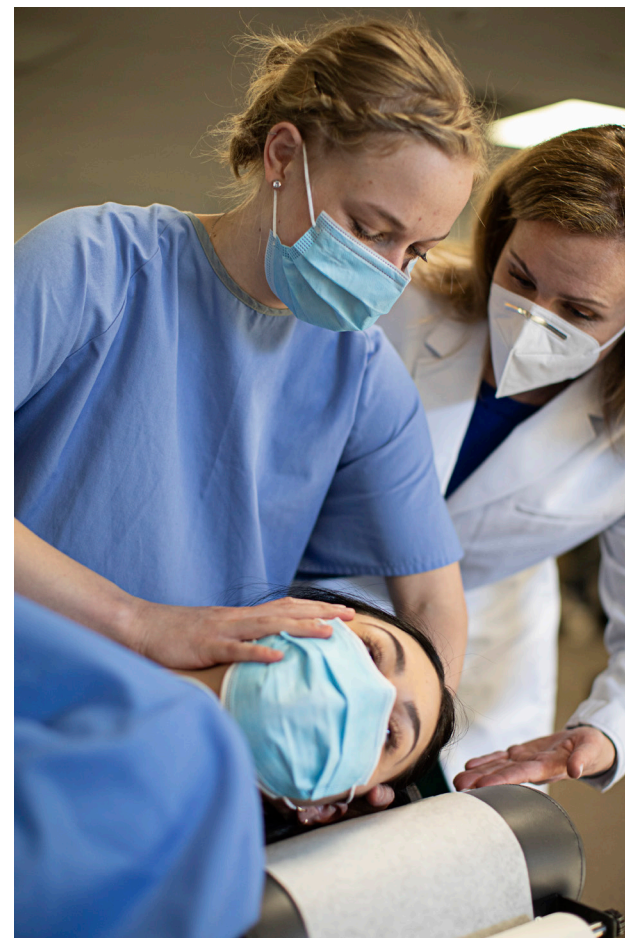
Making an impact with a lifetime of giving

Debbie Peterson has given to NWHSU in so many ways: through her talent as a staff member from 1979-2017, her time as a consultant and volunteer in the years since then, and through an amazing 768 donations over the years. Debbie's continued gifts of time and institutional knowledge exemplify the difference one person can make.

“

I give because Northwestern matters to me. I saw that what Northwestern did helped improve peoples' day-to-day lives. The students want to make a difference and it made me feel it was important to support that.”

-Debbie Peterson



Preparing to be an M.D. in the future of medicine

Max Oberlander chose the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Health Program at NWHSU because it was uniquely suited to prepare a “wandering political science major” for medical school. What he didn't know was that the integrative environment of NWHSU would set him apart.

During the program, Max did research that incorporated Traditional Chinese Medicine.

His hard work paid off, and Max is now a student at his dream school: New York University - Long Island School of Medicine, where he received a full scholarship.



“

Every single medical school that I interviewed at asked me about my research, because it was talking about Traditional Chinese Medicine and the field of medicine is moving that direction.”

-Max Oberlander

Building a foundation in integrative care

To further emphasize our commitment to collaborative, whole-person care, we've added the course “Foundations of Integrative Care” to our curriculum, in which students from diverse disciplines learn side-by-side. They learn from each other and develop a shared understanding of how to work together. This course is the foundation of preparing our students to be leaders in the future of healthcare.

Graduating during a pandemic with big dreams

Spring 2020 graduates faced unprecedented challenges due to the pandemic, but it hasn't stopped them. Neysi Ocampo Sorto, D.C. plans to open her own integrative healing practice: focusing on pediatric care and nutrition.

Her education at NWHHSU gave Dr. Neysi—who immigrated to the U.S. from Honduras as a young girl—the confidence to pursue this dream. "I'm the first doctor in my whole entire family, and that made it more difficult," she said, but that couldn't stop her.



Northwestern helped me grow into the doctor I hoped to be and in the process I became more bold and confident.” -Dr. Neysi Ocampo Sorto



Removing barriers to create new pathways

In April 2020, NWHHSU received an \$18,000 grant from the WCA Foundation to provide scholarships for low-income and minority students, with a special preference for female students. This grant represents the University's efforts to remove barriers women may encounter while pursuing a new degree or certificate at NWHHSU. Scholarship support provides a pathway to help students graduate and join or start their own practice and achieve self-sufficiency.

Laying ambitious plans for the new College of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine

In March, NWHHSU re-established the College of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine (which had been part of the College of Health and Wellness), and alumna Jessica Frier, DAOM was appointed dean.

"Being taken from a program into a college is a sign of growth, an outward step that signals to everyone that acupuncture and Chinese medicine are growing," said Dr. Frier. Her vision is for the college to be the national leader

in integrative care, bridging East and West. And she is confident that vision can be the reality.

"As a growing program in a multi-discipline university, we have a number of resources that most other acupuncture programs do not, such as a cadaver lab and a research library. Our clinic-based internships, including those at hospitals, are some of the best in the country."



Affirming a commitment to excellence through re-accreditation

NWHHSU earned reaffirmation of accreditation from the Institutional Actions Council (IAC) of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), meeting 100 percent of all requirements and signifying stable leadership and a pathway for future growth.

Pushing the limits of patient-centered care

In July, the Sweere Clinic opened its doors at NWHSU with a mission to treat and heal complex conditions. In a truly patient-centered model, practitioners of chiropractic, acupuncture, and functional neurology work together—aided by the latest technology—to create individualized treatment plans for patients who have often tried everything else with no success.

“The opening of the Sweere Clinic is the fulfillment of a dream my late wife Mary and I conceptualized many years ago,” said Dr. Joseph Sweere.



Funding a generous bridge to the future

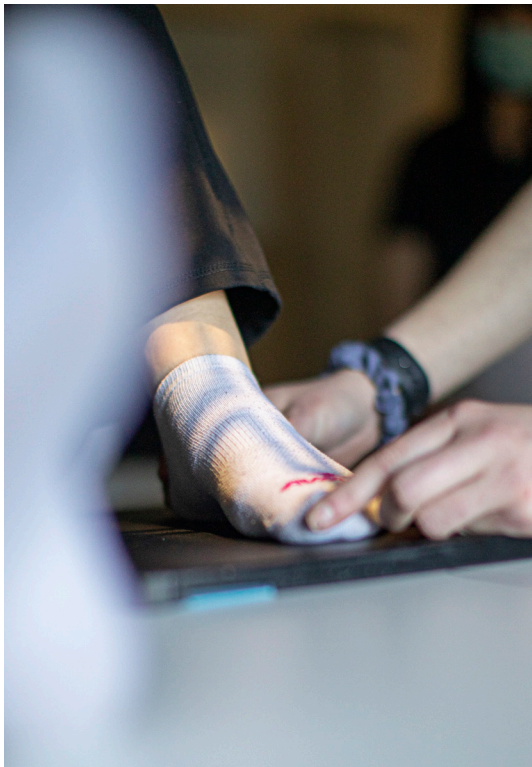
In August, the Harry & Jan Sweere Foundation awarded a one million dollar grant to NWHSU to support the work of Sweere Clinic. This grant was given in honor of Dr. Joseph Sweere and Mary Sweere’s significant contributions to health, wellness, and the chiropractic profession. This incredible gift will provide a vital bridge to the future for the clinic, supporting its vision and allowing time for it to become self-sustaining.

“

Our mission is to empower our patients as active participants in their own health care, with the goal of providing relief from suffering and pain.”

-Dr. Joseph Sweere

Dive deeper into these stories at nwhealth.edu/annualreport



Our vision is bold

NWHSU sits at the intersection of healthcare and education, two sectors in dire need of innovation. We have the expertise and passion to imagine a new future and train the next generation of practitioners.

We know the path forward, but we cannot get there alone; your financial support can bring our vision to life.

In 2021, as we celebrate 80 years of this remarkable institution, we will lay the foundation for the future with a focus on four key priorities. With your support, we will:



Recruit the right mix of students to ensure the diversity and success of our student body.

Scholarships are key to ensuring that an NWHSU education is accessible to the next generation of healthcare leaders.



Build an inviting and engaging campus community with an eye to the future.

Our curriculum evolves to stay in step with the latest research, and our learning spaces must too. We must update our laboratories with new technology, enhance our bookstore and classroom spaces, and add a community gathering space to serve our students into the future.



Foster the excellence and innovation of our faculty and educational offerings.

NWHSU students regularly report that their professors are a key differentiator of our school, and go above and beyond. To recognize and retain our outstanding academic leaders, we seek the funds to support faculty research and teaching, professional development, and participation in professional conferences.



Create a thriving clinical and retail experience for students, the public, and the profession.

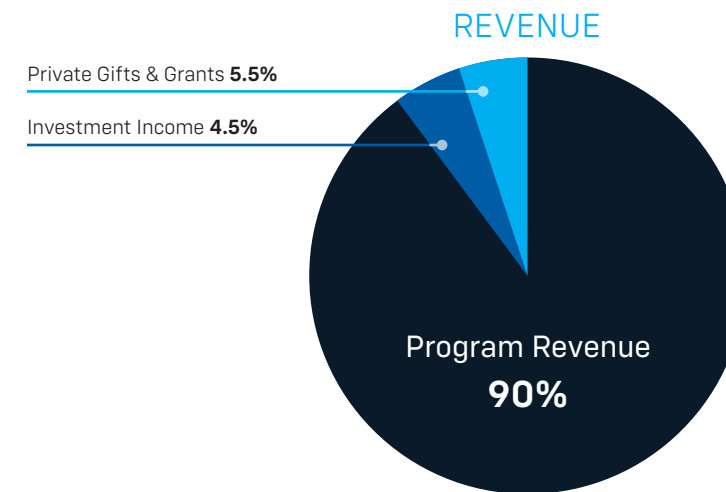
We operate clinics throughout the Twin Cities, where students get unmatched real-world experience as we bring integrative care to diverse Minnesota communities. We hope to grow the number of patients we serve from our current 59,000 to 80,000 by 2024.

Positioning NWHSU for Innovation and Growth

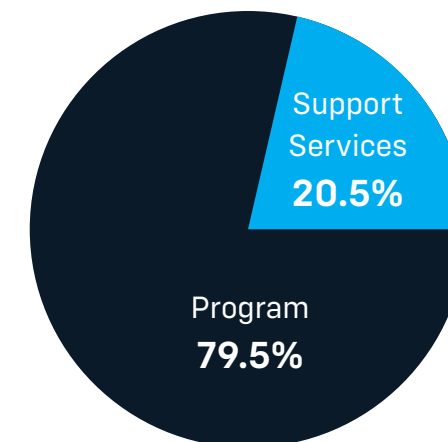
Significant investment income, along with a one-time restricted major gift resulted in **a strong financial year for NWHSU**.

The balance sheet remains strong, and we are well positioned to look to the future. Despite the added challenges of the pandemic, we've moved forward positively because we are focused and disciplined.

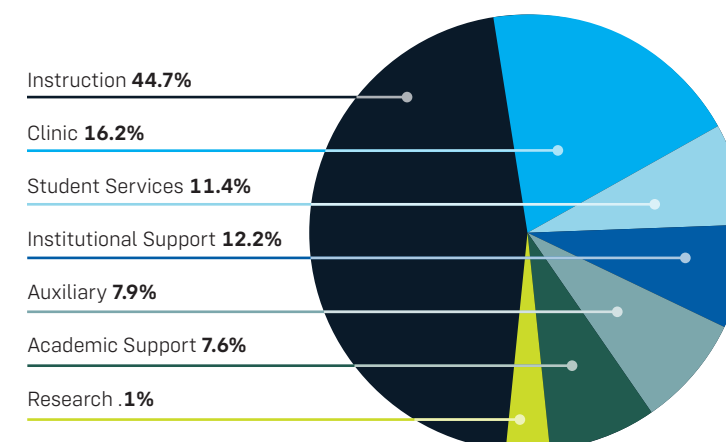
As you've seen, our vision for the future is ambitious; cementing NWHSU as the leader in integrative care. Your generosity is critical as we advance our mission.



OPERATING EXPENSES



PROGRAM EXPENSES



FINANCIALS:

September 1, 2019-August 31, 2020

INCOME & EXPENSE

Revenue

Program Revenue	27,817,411
Private Gifts & Grants	1,595,387
Investment Income	1,462,220
Other	0

Total Revenue **\$30,875,018**

Expense

PROGRAM:

Instruction	10,706,303
Clinic	3,870,583
Research	16,933
Academic Support	1,815,154
Student Services	2,736,119
Institutional Support	2,912,996
Auxiliary	1,888,359
Total Program	\$23,946,447

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Management & General	5,660,664
Fundraising Expenses	496,088
Other	4,195
Total Support Services	\$6,160,947

Total Expense **\$30,107,394**

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Total Assets **38,389,648**

Liabilities

Total Liabilities **14,050,070**

Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions (<i>Undesignated</i>)	14,867,258
Without Donor Restrictions (<i>Board designated</i>)	4,591,303
With Donor Restrictions	4,881,017
Total Net Assets	\$24,339,578

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$38,389,648**

Change in Net Assets **\$767,624**

Supporters of NWHHSU

We are celebrating our 80th year in 2021. We've grown from three students and a vision into a premier health sciences university. Over the years, generous gifts from faithful donors have helped us build a school with nearly 9,500 alumni, 11 academic fields, over 1,100 students, and multiple Twin Cities clinics.

To honor the mission-advancing donors who have helped us reach this point, **we're excited to announce our Donor Recognition Circles.** These circles gather like-minded individuals and help us live one of our University promises: **"We bring generosity of spirit to our work and take joy in what we do together."**



WOLFE LEGACY SOCIETY

NORTHWESTERN HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

The Wolfe Legacy Society recognizes visionaries who have included NWHHSU in their charitable and estate plans with gifts over **\$25,000**.

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Karlene Berish, D.C.
Marilyn Berry*
Gary Blom, D.C.
Kurt Bogseth
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NORTHWESTERN HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

The NWHHSU Leaders Circle recognizes donors that make lifetime gifts **over \$25,000**.

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Performance Health
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NORTHWESTERN HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

The NWHHSU President's Circle recognizes donors that make annual gifts of **\$1,000-\$24,999**.

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Kathleen Just Bannigan
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Plant a Seed

\$1-\$999

Annual Fund. Plant a Seed.

Annual Giving is the foundation of giving back to NWHSU, providing resources each and every year that help sustain our leadership in the field of natural and integrative healthcare. Annual Fund dollars help support many things including student scholarships, campus upgrades, and student services.

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*Deceased **Current NWHSU Trustee Faculty and Staff Italicized

Educate. Innovate. Integrate.

Northwestern Health Sciences University is **a premier health sciences university leading the movement toward integrative care**. Through diverse areas of study, clinics, and retail operation, our passionate community works collaboratively to transform health care through patient-centered, evidence-based practices that optimize health and well-being.

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Maddi Grette, CNMT, BCTM

Leonard Moore, W.I. LMT, CMT

Demetrius Hill, NMT

The portraits featured on the cover of this annual report are students from across our programs at NWHSU. Reflecting on this year, it felt important to highlight the strength, resilience, and dedication of students committed to advancing their futures in integrative care through a global pandemic.



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