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UNK's observatory, industrial distribution lab to upgrade

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KEARNEY - The University of Nebraska at Kearney received almost \$129,000 for new telescopes and accessories for its new observatory and \$50,000 to equip an industrial distribution laboratory.

Both grants were awarded by the University of Nebraska Foundation.

The new observatory is under construction at Bruner Hall of Science and is expected to be completed in October.



The planetarium is part of a \$14.5 million project at Bruner Hall that also includes renovating about half of the 87,500-square-foot building to state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories and research space and building a 26,000-square-foot addition with new laboratories, classrooms and a herbarium.

The observatory, which also was funded with a \$552,000 NASA grant, is used by more than 300 university students each year and is accessible to high school students and community groups across the state.

The industrial distribution lab will mimic the settings in which industrial distribution students will be working.

The academic program, which is the only undergraduate program of its kind in Nebraska, prepares students for careers at companies that distribute electrical supplies, machine and power tools, safety equipment and other wholesale industrial items.

"Much of what we do at UNK is dependent upon the generosity of friends and alumni and, of course, the university foundation," Chancellor Doug Kristensen said. "Taxes alone cannot bear the entire financial burden; therefore, we are especially grateful for the recent funding to support projects that will advance our priorities, enrich opportunities for students and enhance teaching capabilities."

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