

Howard Liu, MD MBA Biosketch: Updated 3.17.21

Howard Liu, MD, MBA, is a nationally recognized psychiatrist, educator, workforce expert, social media innovator, equity advocate and health care leader at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). He serves as the Chair of the UNMC Department of Psychiatry, a Professor with Tenure in the UNMC College of Medicine, and as the President of the Association of Directors of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry (ADMSEP). Previous roles include state workforce director, psychiatry clerkship director and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Faculty Development.

Dr. Liu graduated magna cum laude from Northwestern University, completed medical school and adult psychiatry residency at the University of Michigan, and graduated with a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship from the Massachusetts General Hospital/McLean Hospital. He also completed an Executive MBA in Health Administration at the University of Colorado Denver Business School.

As chair of psychiatry, Dr. Liu was instrumental in the creation of a new UNMC adult psychiatry residency program, which was approved by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in 2019. He also secured funding for a new addiction medicine fellowship and addiction medicine executive fellowship to expand the substance use workforce. He led the creation of the first Adult Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) in Nebraska, which opened in 2020.

Under his leadership as Director of the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN), the center became nationally regarded as a best practice in workforce development. During Dr. Liu's tenure, the state's licensed behavioral health workforce increased by over 10% in less than a decade and extramural funding more than doubled. BHECN received national workforce awards from the National Council for Behavioral Health and the Annapolis Coalition for the Behavioral Health Workforce. Dr. Liu is a frequent consultant on healthcare workforce and serves as a member of the National Advisory Council for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Clinical Scholars Program and previously served on the Consortium for the HRSA/SAMHSA funded Behavioral Health Workforce Research Center. He co-edited a white paper on the national psychiatrist shortage with the Medical Directors Institute for the National Council for Behavioral Health.

Dr. Liu is an innovative teacher and an expert on social media, medical education and professional development. Nationally and internationally, Dr. Liu has presented 87 peer-reviewed abstracts and is a frequent keynote speaker. He is a co-founder of the Clinical Simulation Initiative for the Association of Directors of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry (ADMSEP); a national peer-reviewed curriculum which has been viewed more than 500,000 times in 122 countries. He co-chairs the Medical Student Working Group for the World Psychiatric Association. During his tenure as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Faculty Development, he co-founded the Interprofessional Academy of Educators at UNMC and helped launch an E-Learning and a Faculty Coaching Program. As a social media expert, he is the founding chair of the Social Media Committee for the American Academy of Chairs of Departments of Psychiatry (AACDP) and a member of the Council on Communications for the American Psychiatric Association (APA). Dr. Liu previously served in educational leadership roles at the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Group on Faculty Affairs. He is a recipient of numerous educational awards including the Outstanding Teacher Award from the UNMC Faculty Senate, the Innovations Award from ADMSEP and the Creativity in Psychiatric Education Award from the American College of Psychiatrists (ACP).

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