

PANDEMIC SUMMIT  
MAY 22, 2019  
CHIEF JUSTICE MICHAEL G. HEAVICAN

Good Evening. I would like to welcome you all to the National Summit on Pandemic Preparedness. I would especially like to welcome all of you who are visiting from outside of Nebraska.

As you know, this Summit is being conducted to ensure that all governmental agencies work together to effectively meet the needs of the public during a public health crisis, should such a need arise.

As our global economy continues to grow, innovations in modern transit result in the world's once great geographical

separation becoming less significant. Humans are now faced with the dangers of pathogens that were previously left to fiction writers. Therefore, as leaders, we must more than ever be cognizant of the potential dangers posed by communicable diseases.

Over the next few days we will be discussing the collaborative roles of medicine, law, and government administration in addressing these dangers. I look forward to the discussions to follow and ask that as we look to the evolving landscape of the future, we hold fast to those principles deeply rooted in our nation's history and tradition.

It is the responsibility of all leaders to prepare and provide for the general welfare of our citizens -- in good times and in bad -- in the present and in the future. As leaders, when we look to the future we must often look to and learn from the past. It is by studying the past that we can learn from both our successes and shortfalls.

Tonight I am pleased to introduce to you several individuals who have taken time out of their busy schedules to be with us to kick off this event.

First of all, the Governor of the great State of Nebraska, Pete Ricketts.

I am also honored to have the privilege of introducing world-renowned physician and author, Dr. Jeffrey Gold.

Dr. Gold is certified by the American Board of Surgery and by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, specializing in both adult and pediatric cardiac surgery. In addition to Dr. Gold's vast medical expertise, he is also a nationally recognized leader and tireless advocate for transforming higher education, academic medicine, and health care delivery.

Dr. Gold is the eighth chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center and is responsible for all aspects of campus leadership, program quality, and operations.

He presides over seven colleges, numerous institutes, a faculty and staff of about 5,000, and its 3,800 health profession students.

In 2017, Dr. Gold was also named Chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha – which currently has an enrollment of over 12,000 undergraduate students, and 3,000 graduate students.

Please welcome Dr. Gold.