In 1991, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) received an NSF Statewide Systemic Initiative (SSI) award. One product resulting from the SSI grant was the establishment of UNL’s Center for Science Mathematics and Computer Education (CSMCE). Over the past 20 years, the CSMCE has provided the foundation for a collaborative infrastructure that has led to partnerships among UNL, other Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) and K-12 school districts across the state and several major NSF grants. We will discuss the CSMCE’s role in increasing capacity for mathematics and mathematics education faculty at UNL to develop strong partnerships with both other IHEs and Nebraska school districts and compete successfully for NSF grants. (Received September 24, 2017)