Setting the course for UNI

A look at budget year 2012-2013
Over the past three years, UNI's state appropriations decreased by more than 23 percent from slightly more than $98 million to just under $75 million.

As a result, we did our best to maintain the integrity of our educational programs while making cuts across the university.

Establishment of the Richard O. Jacobson Center for Comprehensive Literacy

The naming of the University of Northern Iowa’s Richard O. Jacobson Center for Comprehensive Literacy was approved by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa in 2011. The center is outlining plans for the next two years that focus on educating, coaching and mentoring teachers and administrators to develop effective instructional practices.

An $11 million gift donated by businessman Richard O. Jacobson established an initial start-up support of $1 million to train UNI faculty and literacy coaches in select partner model schools. An endowment of $10 million will support the expansion of the program to schools throughout Iowa as well as continue to strengthen UNI’s work in preparing new teachers.

Phase one of the Jacobson Center will develop three model school sites in Iowa by 2012. Phase two hopes to bring on a minimum of six to eight new Iowa schools each year, beginning in 2012.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to unite UNI’s Literacy Education faculty and students with practicing teachers and administrators to work toward our common goal—helping children improve as readers, writers, thinkers and learners,” said Rick Traw, associate professor of curriculum and instruction and co-director of the Jacobson Center. “We know that this is a critical factor in providing them with the greatest chance of securing a rich fulfilling life.”
Throughout the difficult economic times of the past few years, UNI has remained committed to making decisions strategically. These decisions created an opportunity to strategically reallocate $4.6 million. While the past three years were difficult, we remain committed to the vision of a stronger University of Northern Iowa.

During the legislative session, the Iowa General Assembly approved a 3.2 percent appropriation increase for UNI, along with an additional $4 million special request. This special request was the first of a three-year request.

We are grateful to the Iowa General Assembly, Gov. Branstad and the citizens of Iowa for understanding the value of public higher education in general, and specifically the unique role UNI plays in educating Iowa students and serving the state.

UNI is designated as a GI-Friendly institution

The University of Northern Iowa was selected by G.I. Jobs Magazine as a Military Friendly School for 2011, an honor placing the university in the top 15 percent of schools doing the most to embrace America’s veterans as students.

The list honors the top colleges, universities and trade schools that share a priority for recruiting students with military experience.

“We are pleased to be recognized for our support of veterans, particularly those returning from current overseas conflicts,” said Terry Hogan, UNI vice president for student affairs. “At the same time, we are working continually to improve the services and support we provide. We think we’re a great place for vets to pursue and achieve their educational goals.”
The following categories represent where these new and reallocated funds will be used for fiscal 2013:

1. **Enhance Academic programs (approx. $5,501,000)**
   - Hire additional faculty
   - Develop research & development initiative in education
   - Strengthen student-teaching clinical experiences
   - Hire additional academic advisers
   - Enhance International Programs
   - Increase library resources
   - Enhance Study Abroad
   - Strengthen teaching and learning initiatives

---

**We have three Fulbright scholars**

Three University of Northern Iowa faculty members have been named Fulbright scholars for 2012-2013. Professors Bettina Fabos, Kevin Finn and Tammy Gregersen were selected as recipients to undertake advanced research or teach abroad.

The Fulbright Program, one of the most prestigious award programs in the world, provides merit-based grants for international educational exchange. Fabos, associate professor of communication studies; and Finn, associate professor of health, physical education and leisure services, will conduct research in Hungary, while Gregersen, associate professor of languages and literatures, will teach a graduate course in language assessment at the University of Santiago in Chile.

*Capstone group at Stonehenge, English countryside of Wiltshire*
2. **Strengthen student recruitment and retention (approx. $539,000)**
   - Bolster domestic student recruitment
   - Expand international student recruitment
   - Boost veteran services

3. **Invest in critical infrastructure, campus safety and operations (approx. $1,136,000)**
   - Supplement building repair funds
   - Enhance hiring practices for faculty and staff (jobs@UNI)
   - Upgrade IT infrastructure
   - Improve sustainable lighting on campus
   - Upgrade safety equipment and security
   - Enhance Title IX practices
   - Fund increase in cost of utilities

---

The Bartlett Hall renovation has begun

In June 2011, University of Northern Iowa officials presented a report to the Board of Regents, State of Iowa. The report recommended the demolition of Baker Hall and the conversion of the remaining residence hall units in Bartlett Hall to offices and laboratory space.

The last student residents of Bartlett Hall moved out at the close of the spring 2012 semester; soon after, work began on the space. Work is scheduled to be completed in 2014. The building served UNI well as a residence hall for 97 years.
4. Support salary increases for faculty and staff along with related benefits and health insurance (approx. $4,041,000)

U.S. Ambassador – UNI graduate

Nancy J. Powell, a 1970 B.A. degree graduate of the University of Northern Iowa, was sworn in as the first U.S. woman Ambassador to India in April 2012.

A Cedar Falls native, Powell majored in history teaching at UNI and taught high school social studies in Dayton, Iowa. She most recently served as the director general of the Foreign Service and director of human resources in Washington, D.C. Earlier in her career, Powell served as the U.S. Ambassador to Nepal, Pakistan, Ghana and Uganda.

During her time in India, Powell plans to be a “frequent flyer to all corners of India, enjoying their famous hospitality and hopes to be able to connect with the people in person.”
Looking ahead

As we move forward, we will continue to position UNI to educate students and serve the citizens of the state. Internally, we also will refine our budgeting process to actively seek broader input and enhance communication. This new approach will be tied to the emerging needs of the state. Some of this process began in planning for fiscal 2013 as meetings were held with the Faculty Senate and other constituencies.

As always, thank you for your ongoing work to serve our students and the state of Iowa.

Sincerely,

Ben Allen
President

500+ students in Study Abroad

The University of Northern Iowa’s Study Abroad Center offers many types of programs from which students can choose. More than 500 UNI students studied abroad during the 2010-2011 academic year. Students have visited a total of 42 countries since the summer of 2000.

UNI’s Study Abroad Program also ranked fourth in Abroad 101’s Top 10 Academic Programs in 2012.