UNI as an education leader in Iowa's schools

The University of Northern Iowa provides schools in Iowa, the nation and the world with some of the most highly skilled classroom teachers. And, as a state leader in pre-K through 12 education issues, UNI is helping build a solid and secure future for Iowa and its citizens.

- UNI collaborates with the Iowa Department of Education and the state’s other public universities in the development of the statewide Research & Development (R&D) school, housed at UNI. The R&D school aims to raise and sustain the level of educational attainment and personal development of all Iowa pre-K through 12 students. The school will enhance the preparation and professional competence of Iowa educators and focus on research to meet Iowa’s changing educational needs.

- The Iowa Math & Science Education Partnership (IMSEP) is a collaborative effort of the three state universities, led by UNI. IMSEP aims to recruit and retain more math and science educators, enhance student performance in math and science, and promote statewide collaboration and cooperation among public and private organizations. Since 2008, IMSEP has coordinated more than 42 projects in 202 communities in 86 Iowa counties.

- The College of Education has served more than 250 schools, 1,500 educators and 75,000 students through professional development, classroom instruction and student activities.

- UNI teacher education faculty have taken a leadership role in the design, development and implementation of the Iowa Core Curriculum.

- Since 2004 the College of Education secured nearly $30 million in federal and state contracts and grants such as the Center for Early Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (CEESTEM).

- UNI continues its ongoing commitment to bringing education leadership to campus. Speakers include U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Iowa Department of Education Director Judy Jeffery, Governor Romer and His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet.

UNI as a partner in Iowa’s economic, social and cultural development

UNI aims to continually increase its service to the citizens of Iowa through economic, social and cultural development. By increasing these efforts, UNI helps establish Iowa as a state with an exceptional workforce and a high quality of life.

- UNI Business & Community Services (BCS) houses a variety of programs, which emphasize hands-on assistance to meet the needs of Iowa businesses and communities. BCS leverages each $1 invested by the state with $6 in federal funding, grants or private support.

- Last year, BCS programs served more than 4,250 business and community clients in all 99 Iowa counties. Clients of the Institute for Decision Making, a BCS program, report creating approximately 1,500 jobs as a result of local economic development and technical assistance.

- The UNI Regional Business Center/Small Business Development Center incubator programs helped start or expand 160 ventures, creating 277 jobs.

- UNI’s Center for Energy and Environmental Education (CEEE) offers innovative educational and technical advice related to energy, environment and community-based agriculture. Since 1998, CEEE has served 72 counties. CEEE education programs reached 80,000 K-12 students and 4,580 teachers.

- UNI’s Tallgrass Prairie Center has helped restore 15,000 acres of Iowa’s native vegetation along roadways.

- More than 75,000 guests attended the Gallagher-Bluedorn Performing Arts Center’s Artist Series and Kaleidoscope Series for Youth performances.

- Annually, nearly 500,000 guests attended athletic and non-athletic events at the UNI-Dome and McLeod Center.

- The UNI Museums reached more than 78,000 people through in-house and outreach programs last year.
Since 2004, UNI has attracted more than $182 million in federal and state grants, contracts, corporate and foundation support to enhance the lives of Iowans and citizens around the world.

UNI spent more than $56 million in Iowa on goods and services such as food, paper products, services and more.

UNI channels nearly half a billion dollars into the state economy annually, more than five times the state’s appropriation.

UNI’s economic impact supports approximately 7,100 additional jobs.

In the past 10 years UNI has generated more than $167 million of private gift support, of which 72 percent came from Iowans.

In its history, UNI has conferred more than 116,000 bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees.

UNI annually employs about 1,850 faculty and staff and more than 4,000 students.

More than 12,000 alumni educators live in Iowa.

Approximately 13,000 students attend UNI; 91 percent are from Iowa.

Approximately 2,700 students are employed or attending graduate school each year.

Approximately 11,000 UNI graduates take their first job in Iowa.

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