

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:  
“FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS – CONNECTING FACULTY AND STUDENTS AND  
BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS”**

**Action Requested:** Receive the presentation.

**Executive Summary:** First-year seminars are a high impact program at the University of Iowa designed to connect first-year, undergraduate students with faculty. The seminars are primarily taught by tenure-track faculty and senior administrators on a variety of topics. This Fall, the University is offering 131 seminars, serving 2,088 students. With an average class size of 16, these graded, discussion-based courses help build community among the students and provide an interactive setting for communicating the University's academic expectations to first-year students. Participation in a first-year seminar has been linked to increased persistence, particularly for students who are more likely at-risk for attrition. The presenters are student Ali Moss, University College Administrator Angela Lamb, and University College Assistant Dean Andrew Beckett.

Ali Moss is a junior from Muscatine, studying Communication Studies, Human Relations and Leadership Studies; she intends to enter a graduate program in Higher Education and Student Affairs. Ms. Moss is involved in Students to Assist Recruitment (STAR) in Admissions and is a Hawkeye Host for the football program. She has been involved in orientation for two years and is a resident assistant in University Housing and Dining, currently residing in Petersen Hall. She is also on the National Residence Hall Honorary Executive Board and is a member of SALT Company.

Angela Lamb serves as University College Administrator and Course Management/HR Unit Representative in University College. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management from the University of Iowa's Tippie College of Business, holds certification as a Professional in Human Resources, and is a graduate student in a Master of Arts program in Educational Policies and Leadership Studies at the University of Iowa. Prior to joining University College five years ago, Ms. Lamb worked in the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and the Carver College of Medicine for nine years. She has worked with higher education administration and human resources, first-year programs, academic affairs, and teaching and learning. Ms. Lamb is committed to the creation and management of administrative approaches that support and strengthen student success initiatives across campus.

Andrew Beckett is the Assistant Dean in University College. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics at Truman State University, Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from the University of Arizona, and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He previously worked with first-year transitional programs at Miami University (OH) and at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Dr. Beckett currently works with a variety of student success initiatives, including first-year seminars, living-learning communities, orientation services, OnIowa!, and academic support and retention.