

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**FACULTY PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA**  
**“CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH”**

**Action Requested:** Receive the presentation.

**Executive Summary:** The UNI Center for Social and Behavioral Research (CSBR) has been conducting applied social research since 1967. During that time, there have been more than 600 externally-funded studies for public organizations and for local, state, and federal agencies, as well as internal projects for faculty and staff. Approximately 500,000 adult Iowans (the equivalent of almost one in five Iowans) have been interviewed using telephone, mail, web, and focus group methods.

Recent projects have addressed issues of public health, including behavioral health risks, tobacco (prevention, use, cessation), problem gambling, asthma, maternal and child health (reproductive health, prenatal health care), health disparities, cancer screening, environment (recycling, waste disposal, bottle deposit), human services (Medicaid, child welfare protection), and technology impacts (math and science). Project results are used to improve services and advance public policy. An additional benefit is to provide direct research experience to research assistants and student interviewers. In FY 2008, the CSBR budget for externally funded projects totaled \$4.8 million.

Professor Gene Lutz’s presentation will highlight three project areas – behavioral health risks; tobacco use prevention and control; and the Iowa Initiative Research Program on reproductive health and unintended pregnancy. Dr. Lutz holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from Iowa State University and is professor of sociology at the University of Northern Iowa. He has been director of the Center for Social and Behavioral Research since 1988. Dr. Lutz has been the principal investigator for more than 70 studies of public health and other topics at the Center. He is also an adjunct clinical professor at the University of Iowa Department of Community and Behavioral Health.