

Contact: Rachel Boon

PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA:
“ACCELERATING TO EXCEL AT IOWA”

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: The week prior to the beginning of the fall semester, *On Iowa!* serves as an immersion program for new students to assist with their transition into the University of Iowa community. All first-year students are expected to attend the EXCEL session in a large lecture hall. Award-winning faculty members share inside tips for academic success – especially since we know college is a lot different from high school. Students say this session makes them feel more confident when classes start.

Russell Ganim is Professor of French and Director of the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures. His research interests include early modern French literature and culture, as well as media studies. He has held a number of leadership roles on campus and currently serves as the Vice President of the University of Iowa Faculty Senate.

Kate Sojka is the Director of the *On Iowa!* Program, and has been with the program since its inception (2010). Kate has worked for the University of Iowa for 12.5 years and has worn many hats in both the Division of Student Life and the Office of the Provost. She is known for taking ideas, diligently collaborating with campus partners, and developing the ideas into campus programs, such as Tutor Iowa and the Academic Resource Center.