UNIFYING GOAL:

STUDENT SUCCESS

Develop and support engaged learning experiences, dynamic and high-quality academic programs, and outstanding faculty and staff to foster student success.

SUPPORTING GOAL 1:

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Provide a campus culture that reflects and values the evolving diversity of society and promotes inclusion.

FY2017 INITIATIVES:

- Eighty-two graduate students presented their research and creative works at the 10th Annual UNI Graduate Student Symposium. Twenty-six graduate faculty served as judges for the event.
- Four departments across three academic colleges collaborated on a number of courses focused on a Tiny House project. Students constructed two tiny homes, designed appropriate materials and sound systems for the homes, studied ways to make tiny home communities more sustainable, and examined the ethics of tiny home communities.
- In an effort to provide additional support to students, UNI increased the number of Supportive Seminars available to students taking general education courses that have typically been difficult, such as Humanities. Difficult courses are those that have a high rate of D or F grades, incompletes, and withdrawals. These seminars are part of an academic assistance program that provides regularly scheduled, out-of-class, peer-facilitated sessions designed to increase student performance and retention.

FY2017 INITIATIVES:

- Assistive technology in Rod Library was enhanced in response to user requests for access to the technology anywhere in the building, including in group study rooms.
- The Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, with the support of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, The Office of the President, and the Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning offered eight colloquia on issues related to diversity during the 2016-2017 academic year. Over four hundred people from the university and the broader community attended the events. The series began with a presentation by Joshua Canavan, J.D. of Arch City Defenders on “Race, Poverty, and the Criminal Justice System: Protecting the Rights of the Accused in the St. Louis Area.” There were also colloquia on the different types of mentoring, the 2016 elections, the “war on drugs,” men of color and the criminal justice system, immigration, and service learning.

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SUPPORTING GOAL 2: CAMPUS VITALITY

Enhance resource and facility development to provide an enriched campus life experience which is both environmentally and fiscally responsible.

FY2017 INITIATIVES:

- In March of 2017, the newly renovated Schindler Education Center was presented to the community. The home of the College of Education underwent a complete transformation, creating a facility perfect for 21st century teaching and learning. According to Gaëtane Jean-Marie, dean of the College of Education, “The college has been transformed into a vibrant, modern learning environment - inspiring collaboration, strengthening a sense of community and heralding a new beginning for preparing teacher educators.”

- Michael Childers (history) was selected as the inaugural Provost’s Fellow for Sustainability. After conducting a series of one-on-one conversations with faculty and staff, he discovered that, while sustainability enjoyed broad support across campus, a lack of awareness and cohesion hindered sustainability education efforts and other initiatives. Childers established a faculty sustainability board which will work to expand UNI’s Sustainability Certificate and provide leadership for environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability necessary for all UNI graduates.

SUPPORTING GOAL 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Create opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to build external relationships that enhance local and global learning experiences and contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of the Cedar Valley and Iowa.

FY2017 INITIATIVES:

- UNI offered 4 Robotics summer camps in FY2017 to provide attendees with a progression of programing (coding) and building skills. All of these camps combined personal responsibility with collaboration skills to develop future STEM leaders.

- For the second consecutive year, UNI surpassed 15,000 enrollments (duplicated) in distance education courses, with students enrolled in all of Iowa’s 99 counties.

- In 2016, UNI was awarded the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in the category of Economic Empowerment for 2015. This prestigious award was granted in large part for work done by the Institute for Decision Making (IDM), particularly their leadership in economic and neighborhood development in Northeast Waterloo. IDM continues their role as a designated Economic Development Administration (EDA) University Center and in 2016 expanded their regional entrepreneurship project to South Central Iowa. The project is stimulating economic growth in Iowa by working with local entrepreneurs and small businesses.
Offering personalized attention to students, the University of Northern Iowa will be a diverse and inclusive campus community that provides an engaged education empowering students to lead locally and globally.

Within a challenging and supportive environment, the University of Northern Iowa engages students in high-quality and high-impact learning experiences and emphasizes excellence in teaching and scholarship.

As a university community we are guided by the following core values:

**Academic Freedom**
The freedom of inquiry and expression in teaching and scholarship.

**Access**
An inclusive educational environment that is accessible and affordable.

**Accountability**
A commitment to integrity, responsibility, and the highest ethical standards integrated into all University practices.

**Collaboration**
A commitment to work together to achieve our shared vision, mission, and goals.

**Community**
A caring and safe community, characterized by civility and respect, which stands in solidarity against any actions that exclude, discriminate against, or silence members of our community.

**Diversity**
The cultivation of a diverse and inclusive learning and work environment.

**Engagement**
Active participation in transformative, innovative, and lifelong learning in service to humanity.

**Excellence**
A commitment to the pursuit of excellence in individual and collective endeavors.

**Sustainability**
A vibrant community and campus that is economically sound, environmentally responsible, and socially just.

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**UNIFYING GOAL: STUDENT SUCCESS**

- Rachael Johnson, a University of Northern Iowa junior majoring in elementary and middle level education from Sioux City, is one of only 62 students nationwide to be named a 2017 Truman Scholar. Johnson is the first student from UNI who has received the Truman Scholarship since the foundation awarded its first scholarship in the 1977-78 academic year.
- Two UNI real estate students recognized with Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) scholarships—out of only 15 awarded nationally
- Deedee Heistad, Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, was a recipient of the Outstanding First-Year Student Advocates Award in 2017. Heistad, along with nine other recipients, was honored at the 36th Annual Conference on the First-Year Experience in February. Recipients, selected by a national panel of distinguished educators, were all higher education educators recognized for their exceptional work in the areas of student learning, development and success.
- UNI was announced as an Excellence and Innovation Award winner by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). UNI received the Student Success and College Completion Award for its course-embedded mentor program, which creates a supportive environment inside and outside the classroom.
SUPPORTING GOAL 1: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- The Waterloo, Iowa YWCA offered a full-day, summer long program for girls ages 11-13 in June that provided a variety of activities/topics including leadership skills, healthy relationships, healthy choices, fun with fitness/nutrition, STEM activities, service learning projects, and career exploration. In collaboration with the YWCA summer program, UNI hosted the Wize Girlz UNI Day Camp: Fashion and STEM that exposed girls to a material science testing lab and computer aided design through a creative design process. Camp activities engaged participants into thinking through fashion as an empowerment strategy. Camp activities engaged participants into thinking through fashion as an empowerment strategy. Working in partnership with Target Corporation, girls were exposed to the career paths available in the fashion industry. Their efforts were recognized in their community through the participation of the Waterloo Mayor’s Office, with Mayor Hart.

- Fifth grade girls at Becker Elementary School in Waterloo made dioramas of Diverse Women Mathematicians, a year-long project conducted by UNI Faculty Dana Atwood-Blaine, Audrey Rule, and Clayton Edwards partnering with Mindy Gordon from Waterloo Schools. Fifth graders made a display for the school’s Multicultural Fair.

SUPPORTING GOAL 2: CAMPUS VITALITY

- Bingqing Liang (geography) and Andrey Petrov (geography) received a $408,857 grant from the National Science Foundation to support the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program. The project introduces undergraduates to a highly interdisciplinary research environment with a unifying theme of fundamental and applied research in hyperspectral imaging (HI) in eight different STEM disciplines. The program offers an 8-week summer school for a total of 30 students over three years. With a focus on field- and lab-based HI applications, students are engaged in researcher-directed collaborative interdisciplinary research projects and team-based problem solving activities. Program participants from diverse backgrounds are recruited nationally each year from institutions and groups underrepresented in science or engineering.

- The Central Community School in Elkader, Iowa was ready to make a change when it came to food waste. Without a landfill in Clayton County, the school was facing expensive landfill tipping and hauling fees just to get rid of their trash. In a combined effort from the Global Science Class at Central and the Central Green Team to increase sustainability and cut costs, Central Community School set up a composting site. With help from Jenny Trent, an environmental specialist with the UNI Iowa Waste Reduction Center, the students at Central Community School were able to make modifications to their composting operations and ramp up their efficiency. While visiting the site, Trent was able to troubleshoot problems and suggest an ideal composting location.

SUPPORTING GOAL 3: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dr. Sarah Montgomery implemented a Professional Development School (PDS) project in the Cedar Falls Lincoln Elementary School. This year-long program provides four courses (two each semester) taught by Montgomery. Students then plan and teach related lessons to students in the 2nd grade in the fall semester, and 6th grade in the spring semester. At the end of each semester, Lincoln students provide presentations for both parents and school personnel highlighting what they have learned in the process of working with UNI students. Lincoln Elementary is an iPad based program and UNI students learned new ways of integrating technology into their teaching.

No. 1 entrepreneurship program in the world
Inaugural award from International Business Innovation Association

UNI was recently named as one of the 10 Best Engineering Summer Camps for Middle School Students by Insider Monkey