

Contact: Rachel Boon

PRESENTATION BY UNI: ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND SUPPORT OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

Executive Summary: This presentation will highlight some of the academic successes of student-athletes at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) and explain the resources and support provided to them through the Office of Student-Athlete Development.

Presenters:



Stacia Eggers -- Stacia is the Associate Athletic Director for Student Services and is in her 11th year of service in the Panther athletic department. Stacia oversees the Office of Student-Athlete Development, which includes athletics academic advising and the Life Skills program. She advises the football and men's basketball teams and has added oversight of the strength and conditioning and athletic training programs, which includes coordinating and monitoring health insurance for student-athletes.



Dr. Elaine Eshbaugh -- Dr. Elaine Eshbaugh is a professor of Gerontology and Family Studies and has coordinated UNI's Gerontology program since 2008. Her research interests include family-perceived health care quality among individuals living with dementia, depression among family caregivers, and end-of-life decision-making processes in dementia care.

She is currently on the executive board of the Northeast Iowa Agency on Aging and has collaborated with various continuing care communities, adult day services and hospices. Dr. Eshbaugh maintains an active public speaking and community outreach schedule and does education on dementia for communities, families, and organizations. In 2015, Dr. Eshbaugh was appointed by the President of UNI to the role of Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA.



David Harris -- David is in his fourth year as the Director of Athletics at the University of Northern Iowa. During his short time at UNI, David has built a culture of success in the field of play, in the classroom and in the community. He has also distinguished himself as a leader in the Missouri Valley Conference and the NCAA. Under David's leadership, UNI Athletics announced Panthers Rising, a strategic plan to achieve unprecedented success in academics, competition and all of its endeavors.



Brawntae Wells -- Brawntae is a redshirt junior on the UNI football team originally from Des Moines, IA. He majors in Family Services with a minor in Criminology. The Institute for Sport and Social Justice named Wells the October Playmaker of the Month for his work on the field and in the community. "I'm committed to changing lives and making a positive impact in our community," Wells said. "I understand that as a student-athlete, I have a unique platform that I can use to really help people."

His passion is to build relationships and guide young men of color, teaching them how to make better life choices and get out of the judicial system.

Wells also volunteers at Tomorrow's Leaders/Uplift Foundation, Center of Attention where he has designed weekly curriculum to help young participants understand the importance of goal setting, responsible social media use, building healthy relationships and good decision-making skills.

He serves on the Minority Student-Athlete Leadership Team at UNI. This team is responsible for assisting in strengthening the student-athlete community, growing personal and professional networks, and encouraging multicultural student-athletes through hosting social activities and guest speakers.