Contact: Rachel Boon

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSIGNMENT REPORTS FOR FY 2026

Committee Action Requested: Receive the professional development assignment reports submitted by the Regent universities for FY 2026.

Executive Summary: Board Policy 2.1.R (a-e) directs the institutions to submit a yearly report of the completed professional development assignments, pursuant to the 2011 Iowa Code, Chapter 122 (HF 45).

In November 2024, the Board approved 104 professional development assignments for 2025-26. At ISU there were five approved PDAs for 2025-26 that are not included (four withdrawn requests, one deferral). Two prior deferrals from ISU are included in this report. Two faculty at SUI who previously deferred an approved PDA completed their assignments in 2025-26 instead, while five approved deferred to a future year and four faculty members declined their PDA award. Two PDAs approved in prior years were completed in 2025-26 and are included in this report.

The combined estimated cost of the professional development assignment program was $284,386 for 2025-26, with actual costs of $279,280. Work done in by the faculty on these PDAs has already resulted in $30.9M in grants and external funding. Total grant proposals submitted and still under consideration because of this work have a cumulative value of over $36.9M of potential future funding. Much of this grant money supports graduate students who engage with faculty on this work, funds associated travel, provides salary replacement for the researchers, support costs for research subjects, and is used to purchase equipment or other materials, often from Iowa businesses. Viewed strictly in terms of financial impact, for every dollar invested in a PDA in 2025-26, the one-year return on investment for the state of Iowa is already $110 with a future potential impact of over $240 on the dollar.

Other outstanding results include articles published or in review, many academic and public presentations, dozens of book chapters or entire books in development or submitted, creative art works completed or performed, students mentored, and many courses updated or new courses developed.

A brief description of each professional development assignment completed in FY 2026 is available in this report, including information about the value added to the students, university, and state from the assignments. This report aligns the Board of Regents Strategic Plan emphasis on excellence in teaching and research, economic development and positive impact on the state of Iowa.

Iowa State University

ARBUCKLE, J. GORDON, Professor, Sociology and Criminal Justice, 19 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Climate smart and precision agriculture in the U.S. and China: Addressing challenges and opportunities toward making innovative practices work for small and medium-scale farms
Arbuckle worked with colleagues at the USDA Economic Research Service and University of Northern Iowa to study Chinese farmers' use of precision agriculture technologies related to soil and water conservation. The results of this work include four papers and manuscripts, two conference presentations, and new interdisciplinary research collaborations.

BEECHER, CONSTANCE, Associate Professor, School of Education, 12 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Exploring a policy, systems, and environment approach to linking kindergarten readiness to public health
Beecher's assignment examined the connection between education and health; particularly how public health interventions can impact kindergarten readiness in early literacy and language development. Outcomes include four publications, three conference presentations, development of a pilot project with Polk County, and $400,000 in external funding proposals.

BRUNA, KATHERINE, Professor, School of Education, 23 years of service, fall 2025
Title: A New Educational Anthropology: The Role of Responsible Agency in Community Engagement
Bruna used her assignment to study how ways of being, believing, and behaving are passed through generations, with a focus on the life of Forest City native Reverend Austin Harper Richardson. Results include articles for academic and lay audiences and a more complete archive of Richardson's life and career.

CAMPBELL, CHRISTINA, Associate Professor, Food Science and Human Nutrition, 17 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Developing Tools and Strategies to Engage Consumers in Sustainable Food Systems for Personal and Planetary Health
Campbell visited the Shetland archipelago in the U.K. during her assignment, developing strategies to enhance public understanding of the interconnectedness of the food system, and supporting healthy eating patterns. Outcomes include content and improvements for Campbell's course on the U.S. food system and new research collaborations.

CHAMBERLIN, MELISSA, Associate Professor, Management and Entrepreneurship, 9 years of service, fall semester
Title: Developing a Theoretical and Practical Understanding of Workplace Inclusion
Chamberlin used the assignment to better understand how employees belong and feel valued in the workplace, a timely and relevant challenge for many businesses. Outcomes of this work included a manuscript submission, development of two additional research projects, and a 2026 Academy of Management conference presentation.

CHAN, JASON, Professor, Psychology, 19 years of service, 2025-2026 academic year
Title: An investigation of cheating effects on exam performance
Chan's project addressed a timely, critical concern in education – the use of AI to cheat on exams and other academic works – by studying behaviors of Iowa state and community college students completing online assessments. This work resulted in a $650,000 NSF funding award.

Outcomes include a journal article and conference presentation, and the preparation of three additional manuscripts.

COWAN, ARNOLD, Professor, Finance, 38 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Environmental Protection Agency Rulemaking and Shareholder Wealth
Cowan's assignment focused on how changes in federal regulations affect businesses, including not only the direct costs of compliance, but also how they alter choices on what to produce or not produce. Outcomes of this work are expected to result in peer-reviewed papers and conference presentations, as well as content for courses in international finance.

DEES, SARAH, Associate Professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies, 7 years of service, 2025-2026 academic year
Title: The Church of Dolly Parton: A Songwriter's Journey from Seeker to Sainthood
Dees used the assignment to launch a religious biography of Dolly Parton, under contract with Eerdmans Press. Additional scholarship performed during the assignment included conference presentations and invited lectures, and contributions to Iowa State courses on Religion in America; Religion, Health, and Medicine; and Religion and Popular Culture.

EIKE, RACHEL, Associate Professor, Apparel, Events, and Hospitality Management, 8 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Revolutionizing Circular Fashion: Transforming Textile Waste into Innovative Solutions
Eike's project focused on diverting textile waste from landfills through conversion into non-woven leather alternatives, as well as potential uses as animal bedding or soil fertilizer. Results include a peer-reviewed journal manuscript, two exhibitions, preparation of research conference abstracts, and $159,000 in external funding proposals.

GALLUS, WILLIAM, Distinguished Professor, Earth, Atmosphere, and Climate, 31 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Improved understanding of climate change impacts on thunderstorm hazards
Gallus used the assignment to learn how to run an emerging weather prediction model, and how the model can predict severe thunderstorm hazards. Outcomes include six articles co-authored with graduate students, one journal manuscript, two conference presentations, and the preparation of external funding proposals.

GHOSH, ARKA, Professor, Statistics, 21 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Graph Models and Study Abroad in Italy
Probability based graph models, including social networks, image/speech recognition, language processing, and recommendation systems, are indispensable in today's data-driven world. Ghosh used the assignment to optimize these models, including research with collaborators in Italy and India. Additional outcomes include an open online course on measure theory for statistics and data science and three papers/conference presentations.

HARTWIG, JONAS, Associate Professor, Mathematics, 11 years of service, 2025-2026 academic year
Title: Representation Theory and Mathematical Physics
Hartwig visited collaborators in the U.S. and Sweden to advance his research programs in representation theory and mathematical physics. Outcomes include the development of a manuscript that may serve as a future textbook on the subject, as well as three publications and four scholarly presentations.

HOPKINS, CHRISTOPHER, Professor, Music and Theatre, 22 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Advanced Musical Expression through Visual Music Composition
Hopkins used the assignment to extend his scholarship in visual music, an innovative field that explores new ways of experiencing music, including both sound and graphical animation. Outcomes will include conference presentations, film festivals and other exhibitions, and curation of a scholarly website for visual music.

HSU, MING-CHEN, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, 13 years of service, spring 2026
Title: AI-Driven Physics-Informed Fluid-Structure Interaction Digital Twins for Biomedical Applications
Hsu's assignment focused on modeling complex cardiovascular interactions using advanced AI techniques to create "digital twins" that replicate patients' unique physiological characteristics. Results include two papers and a $4.67 million Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency funding award.

HUGHES-BELDING, KERE, Professor, Human Development and Family Studies, 23 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Building Belongingness to Promote Recruitment and Retention
Hughes-Belding focused on developing strategies to improve faculty recruitment and retention in the College of Health and Human Sciences during her assignment. Outcomes include the planning and development of eight online courses on a range of topics germane to leadership in higher education.

IANCU, RALUCA, Associate Professor, Art and Visual Culture, 7 years of service, 2025-2026 academic year
Title: Researching Sustainability in Printmaking and Papermaking
Iancu developed non-toxic, sustainable printing practices during the proposed assignment, as well transforming discarded textiles into new materials through hand papermaking. Results included numerous workshops, residencies, and exhibitions; two publications; new Iowa State course materials, and $40,000 in external funding.

IRISH, JULIE, Associate Professor, Interior Design, 8 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Interior Design Textbook for Students about Universal Design
Irish used her assignment to write a textbook for students in interior design and related disciplines. An Introduction to Universal Design: Learning How to Design Environments for Everybody, is based on Irish's graduate-level interior design, and is scheduled to be published in 2028. Irish also presented two conference papers and submitted a peer-reviewed journal article.

KIM, SANG, Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 23 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Integrated Navigation and Communication in Global Navigation Satellite System
Kim used the assignment to develop next-generation global navigation systems, improving services such as precision agriculture, emergency response, and autonomous transportation. This work, in collaboration with the Air Force Research Laboratory, resulted in three publications and new content for Iowa State courses.

LEE, JOHN, Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering, 9 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Design of Environmental Chambers for Soft Matter Electrostatic Levitator Dedicated to Neutron Beamlines/Development of Electromagnetic Rotor for Superfast Creep Measurement of Refractory Materials Using Electrostatic Levitation

Lee completed his assignment at the Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science, developing new soft matter electrostatic levitator chambers to support research and student learning. Outcomes included content for Iowa State courses in machine design and $2 million in funding proposals to NASA, NSF, and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. Lee also received $128,000 from the National Research Foundation of Korea to support his assignment.

MCDANIEL, MARSHALL, Associate Professor, Agronomy, 10 years of service, spring 2026
Title: A "Sabbatical of Practice" to Deepen Knowledge of On-Farm Challenges in Agriculture, Enhance Farmer-to-Scientist Collaboration, and Generate Basic Research
McDaniel combined traditional professional development activities with field experience, working with farmers near Charles City, Iowa to conduct on-farm research trials related to crops, climate and soil on diversified farms. Outcomes include 11 manuscripts prepared and published with graduate students, $3.15 million in research funding proposals, and content for McDaniel's courses on soils and plant growth.

MCDONNELL, LAWRENCE, Associate Professor, History, 17 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Bloody Work: The Civil War and the Making of the American Working Class
McDonnell used the assignment to begin writing a book exploring the impact of the Civil War on modern economic and social relations, including its role on America's transition to capitalism. Additional outcomes include two essays for upcoming collections, and content for Iowa State courses in U.S. and world military history.

MIGUEZ, FERNANDO, Professor, Agronomy, 16 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Developing data science tools for improved performance of agricultural systems in a circular economy while improving natural habitat and biodiversity
Professor Miguez used the assignment to develop algorithms for on-farm trials in agronomic management, including software tools and web-based platforms to better enable experimentation across the state. Additional outcomes include eight peer-reviewed publications, seven abstracts for professional meetings, and three pending USDA funding proposals totaling $11.5 million.

PASSE, ULRIKE, Professor, Architecture, 20 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Development of a book manuscript: Designing Natural Ventilation Strategies using Computational Fluid Dynamics: A Guide for Architects
Passe used the assignment to complete a book manuscript on ventilating interior spaces, with a focus on computational fluid dynamics, including case studies, tools and instructions for architects. The book is scheduled to be published in late 2026 or 2027; its content will support Iowa State undergraduate and graduate architecture courses.

PATRICOLA, CHRISTINA, Associate Professor, Earth, Atmosphere, and Climate, 6 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Future Changes in Tropical Cyclone Intensity and Precipitation: The Role of Atmosphere-Ocean Feedbacks
Patricola used the assignment to investigate how atmosphere-ocean interactions (how strong winds interact with ocean water, for example) can be used to better predict the intensity of storms and their associated rainfall. Results include two journal publications, a book chapter, and $4.62 million in external funding proposals.

PESCHEL, JOSHUA, Associate Professor, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, 9 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Advancing Mathematical Approaches in Cyber-Agricultural Systems

Peschel used the assignment to develop tools that support real-time decision making in cyber-human systems, with the goal of reducing uncertainties in agricultural production, particularly animal production. These included the Ground Observable Bird Barn Local Environment Robot, or GOBBLER, to identify early signs of illness in poultry. Outcomes include new course materials, four invited research presentations, a conference presentation, and a $433,000 USDA funding award.

PETERSON, DAVID, Professor, Political Science, 17 years of service, spring 2026
Title: The Beaten Generation: The Politics and Apolitics of Generation X
Peterson used his assignment to draft a book manuscript, Honing the Choice: Fluid Voters in Nomination Campaigns, which uses data from the 2020 and 2024 Iowa Caucuses to better understand how people make decisions in nomination contests. Additional results include two journal articles, and three additional articles under review.

PRINCE, ANGELA, Associate Professor, School of Education, 9 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Advancing Secondary Transition Research Using Generative Artificial Intelligence
Prince used the assignment to examine how large language models and AI tools may support individualized educational programming for students with disabilities. Outcomes include the submission, resubmission, or development of 15 manuscripts, three conference presentations, service as a reviewer to leading journals, and new course materials for Iowa State's teacher preparation program.

RAMAN, RAJ, Morrill Professor, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, 20 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Developing and testing a holistic framework for quantifying key intangible challenges of novel cropping systems
Raman used his assignment to collaborate with colleagues in Iowa State's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' Nutrient Management Working Group to develop a more coordinated approach to help farmers, policymakers, and other stakeholders understand the strengths and weaknesses of various on-farm nitrate mitigation strategies. Outcomes include course content, a conference presentation, an Extension publication, and readjusting a $5 million U.S. Department of Energy funding award to Iowa State.

RIZO, ELISA, Associate Professor, World Languages and Cultures, 19 years of service, fall 2025
Title: From Cuba to Equatorial Guinea: Tracing Labor and Race in Spanish Colonies
Rizo used the assignment to expand on her Fulbright-funded work focused on racism in the Spanish-speaking world. Outcomes include a submitted publication, conference presentation, and $50,000 in external funding support.

ROE, KEVIN, Associate Professor, Natural Resources Ecology and Management, 11 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Acquiring Training in Analysis of Conservation Genomics Data
Roe used the assignment to develop expertise in genomic data analysis related to conservation, evolutionary, and population studies. Outcomes include two manuscripts, content for Iowa State's course on Genetics for Natural Resource Managers, and $165,000 in funding from the State Wildlife Grant program.

RONGERUDE, JANE, Professor, Community and Regional Planning, 16 years of service, spring 2026

Title: Residential Rental Property Owners and Disasters: A Research Dissemination Strategy
Rongerude's project expanded her research on residential rental property owners into disaster planning and land policy and includes collaborations with the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy and Chicago Federal Reserve Bank. Outcomes included two residencies, five journal articles and manuscripts, and a $336,000 National Science Foundation funding proposal.

RUTHERFORD, CASSANDRA, Associate Professor, Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering, 9 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Innovative materials for soil improvement and 3D printing
Rutherford used the assignment to expand her research in sustainable soil improvement and soil-based additive manufacturing. Results include four research papers and conference presentations, $360,000 in funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and National Science Foundation, and an additional $200,000 in pending proposals.

SCHLEICHER, DEIDRA, Professor, Management and Entrepreneurship, 8 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Managing Academic Talent
Schleicher used the assignment to launch a new scholarly initiative focused on how universities recruit, develop, evaluate, retain, compensate, and lead academic talent. Outcomes of this work include the development of a podcast, Herding Scholars, to discuss the challenges of higher education leadership, as well as material for Ivy College of Business courses in human resources, management, and executive-level education.

SHARP, JONATHAN, Associate Professor, Music and Theatre, 11 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Bounce: A Comprehensive Method for Developing and Mastering Rebound Strokes on Snare Drum
Drum rolls – which appear in nearly every musical setting, from orchestral works to drum solos at rock concerts – is one of the most difficult challenges for percussionists to overcome. Sharp used his assignment to write a comprehensive guide to advance drum roll techniques in both concert and marching settings, including detailed exercises, practice routines and stylistic considerations. The guide was scheduled for publication in October 2026; the work has also been included in Iowa State percussion courses.

SIVILS, MATTHEW, University Professor, English, 18 years of service, 2025-2026 academic year
Title: Spinning the Teetotum: Reading Nineteenth-Century American Board Games
Sivils examined the cultural impact of early American board games, from the period spanning 1822-1904, as part of a book project on the subject. Outcomes included eight chapters of the book, seven peer-reviewed publications and three conference presentations.

TOTH, AMY, Professor, Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, 16 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Strengthening international collaborations for bee conservation using big data
Pollinator declines are a major area of research and public interest, with the potential to severely impact ecosystems and threaten food supply. Professor Toth traveled to Argentina during her assignment to integrate bee conservation with big data, resulting in six publications, $800,000 in external research funding and an additional $1 million in funding proposals.

TRAJCEVSKI, GOCE, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 9 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Query Processing and Data Analytics for Mobile Shapes and Volumes

Trajcevski's assignment focused on enhancing query processing for evolving shapes and values, including such phenomena as mapping crop infestations or the spread of oil spills in oceans. Outcomes of this work include the submission of four publications, three conference presentations and a $200,000 National Science Foundation funding proposal.

WHEELER, ANDREA, Associate Professor, Architecture, 13 years of service, fall 2025
Title: Regenerative Architecture and Intentional Eco-Communities
Wheeler used the assignment to develop an edited collection manuscript that explores the intersections of philosophy, art and architecture, with a focus on contemporary debates surrounding aesthetics, ethics and sustainability in design. This work will also inform the creation of a single-author book proposal on the philosophy of eco-communities. Additional outcomes include a book chapter, two invited presentations and course materials related to sustainable design.

YU, CINDY, Professor, Statistics, 21 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Advancing Financial Risk Management: Integrating Machine Learning and Quantile Regression for High-Dimensional Data Analysis and Portfolio Optimization
Yu's assignment focused on developing machine learning-based methods to model financial asset returns, and applying these methods to challenges in asset pricing, market predictions and option pricing. Results include three journal articles and additional content for graduate courses in statistics.

ZHENG, MAI, Associate Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, 8 years of service, spring 2026
Title: Optimizing the RAS Properties of Large-Scale Storage Systems for Data-Intensive Computing
Zheng worked to improve the reliability, availability, and serviceability (RAS) of large storage systems during his assignment. Outcomes included new course materials on RAS and operating systems, three research publications/presentations and the pending submission of four external funding proposals.

University of Iowa

ADRAIN, JONATHAN M, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Earth & Environmental Sciences, 26 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Coordinated Shallow Marine Species Turnover During the Early History of Animal Life on Earth: Was Early Animal Evolution Regulated by Astronomical Forcing?
Prof. Adrain advanced a major collaborative research project focused on paleontology and stratigraphy. Three papers from this project are in the advanced stages of completion, and a proposal was developed for submission to the National Science Foundation. Six manuscripts were submitted, and multiple others are near submission. Prof. Adrian also submitted a major NSF infrastructure proposal to support future research with teaching activities. Adrian's work directly supported student training through the active involvement of current and recent graduate instruction in paleontology and stratigraphy providing students with exposure to contemporary scientific discovery. This work has the potential to make significant contributions to the field and is being prepared for publication in leading scientific journals, including *Geology*, *Science* and *Nature*.

AMINZARE, ZAHRA, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Mathematics, 7 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Bridging Disciplines: Integrating Mathematics, Neuroscience, and Robotics for Enhanced Understanding of Locomotion
Prof. Aminzare advanced research in mathematical biology, including locomotion, epithelial volume regulation, and neuronal dynamics. She published research, advanced manuscripts, submitted grant proposals, established new interdisciplinary collaborations, presented her work at national and international venues, and mentored graduate students whose research resulted in publication and conference presentations. Aminzare's work strengthened teaching at UI through the redesign of a mathematical biology course for a broader biomedical engineering audience and the development of an AI-supported learning component for a core graduate mathematics course, providing students with interdisciplinary training and opportunities to use emerging technologies responsibly. She will also co-organize two mini-symposia for the American Mathematics Society Joint Meeting at UI, bringing experts in mathematical biology to Iowa and creating opportunities for research exchange and collaboration.

ARNDT, MATTHEW, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Music, 14 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: How Polarity Yields Five Codes of Music
Prof. Arndt finished drafting his book on a cosmic poetics of music. The book generalizes from familiar musical phenomena to all kinds of frequencies, be they human or non-human (such as whale song), and be they sonic or non-sonic (such as the rhythms of the planets). His work included seven videos produced by Rabalais Productions, four collaborative lecture-recitals (three more are planned), and two subsequent book-adjacent articles submitted. His PDA has benefited students at UI by giving Prof. Arndt the opportunity to collimate his theorizing, leading him to refine his teaching. It informed the development of a class on "counterpoint" (combining simultaneous melodies). Prof. Arndt's work has benefitted the state of Iowa generally through the lecture-recitals, which were both well attended and well received.

BELLI, MERIAM N, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-History, 17 years of service, halftime for academic year 2025-2026
Title: Book Manuscript: Death in Transit
Prof. Belli completed three chapters, and initiated a fourth, for the completion of a book focusing on the spatial and social marginalization of the dead (Europe and North Africa). Prof. Belli

presented at the University of Geneva, establishing global connections with researchers working on forensic science and mass death. She attended a seminal conference in Paris. Two of her essays have been accepted in peer-reviewed publications. Prof. Belli developed a curriculum for her history of death course that integrates scholarship and community outreach while examining death and dying through a transnational, multidisciplinary lens. Her research advances understanding of mortality, ethics, community and belief systems, providing valuable perspectives for students and for professionals in healthcare, mental health and social services.

BENNETT, DAVID A, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Geographical and Sustainability Sciences, 25 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: The Provenance of Complex Spatiotemporal Dynamics
Prof. Bennett completed a comprehensive literature review examining applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning to the study of human-environment interactions. He also advanced the development and testing of simulation models based on his previous research and began developing proposals to support future externally funded work, including projects suitable for NSF funding. In addition, Prof. Bennett made significant progress in redesigning a geographic information systems course to strengthen students' problem-solving skills and independent analytical abilities and developed a new course. These efforts advance research on the interaction between people and their environments while enhancing geographic information science instruction and preparing students to apply emerging analytical tools and technologies to complex real world challenges.

BORK, ROBERT, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Art, Art History, & Design, 27 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Designing French Gothic Architecture, 1130-1280
Prof. Bork drafted the text of his new book "*Designing French Gothic Architecture, 1130-1280: A Geometrical Perspective*," and created all 250 of its illustrations. He is now revising its footnotes and will soon submit the book materials to *Brill*. In his new book, Prof. Bork applies computer-aided geometrical analysis to laser-scanned images of major French Gothic churches such as Notre Dame in Paris and the cathedrals of Chartres, Reims and Amiens, thus revealing their design logic. This research directly informs Prof. Bork's classes at UI, including his seminar on geometry and his course on Gothic architecture. Bork also completed several smaller projects, including a short video for "*Gothic by Design*," an exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York that draws heavily on his work. By bolstering Prof. Bork’s standing as a leader in the field of medieval architecture, these projects contribute to the university’s distinction and to the future career prospects of his students.

BROTON, KATHARINE, associate professor, Education-Educational Policy and Leadership, 8 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Understanding the College Experiences of Students Struggling to Make Ends Meet: Insights from New National Data
Over the past decade, there has been growing awareness of the problem of basic needs insecurity among college students. However, our understanding of the ongoing college experiences of students who are struggling to make ends meet remains limited due to a lack of high-quality data. Prof. Broton addressed this gap by publishing four peer-reviewed articles: 1) describing the scope and depth of food insecurity among undergraduate and graduate students using new nationally representative data, 2) investigating the extent to which colleges are meeting students' food and housing needs, 3) challenging the status quo in how universities organize students' basic needs resources and 4) offering research-practice partnerships as an innovative approach for translational impact in higher education. Prof. Broton also launched a new mixed methods funded research study on income-based grade gaps, redesigned a finance

in higher education course to better meet the needs of today's students, and was awarded a new interdisciplinary research grant from the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies.

BROWN, MATTHEW P, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-English, 24 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Learning Murdoch: Character, Composition, and *A Fairly Honorable Defeat*
Prof. Brown completed the essay titled "*Learning Murdoch: Unselfing, Unediting, and *A Fairly Honourable Defeat**." Prof. Brown submitted it for publication to the journal *Textual Cultures*, the leading specialist venue for editorial theory and editorial practice. The essay is a pioneering account of how scholars can work with unpublished manuscripts to understand the creative process of drafting and revision. Prof. Brown uniquely treats Iris Murdoch in this fashion, drawing on rare holdings at the UI Special Collections library. Borne of Prof. Brown's classroom teaching, the essay on Murdoch derives from and credits student researchers. It also shows off the distinctive holdings of UI--no other institution carries these original manuscripts--and the essay will help publicize this scholarly trove.

CAMPBELL, ANN M, professor, Business-Management Sciences, 25 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Optimization for Fifteen Minute Cities
Prof. Campbell expanded international collaborations in transportation and logistics, including an appointment at the University of Liverpool. Her primary project developed a new approach for helping cities decide which streets to convert to pedestrian-only use while balancing economic benefits and business delivery needs. The research, conducted with colleagues at Liverpool, has produced a paper that will soon be submitted for publication and became a chapter of a collaborator's doctoral dissertation. Prof. Campbell also launched projects addressing accessible infrastructure and the community impacts of delivery facilities. These experiences strengthen her teaching in operations and supply chain management by bringing current, real-world transportation problems into the classroom. The research can help Iowa communities make informed decisions about pedestrian access, infrastructure, deliveries and quality of life. The research also motivated Prof. Campbell to organize transportation and logistics expertise across UI through the new Initiative for Multimodal Logistics.

CANIN, ETHAN A, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Creative Writing, 27 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Untitled Novel
Prof. Canin conducted research and continued work on two separate novels, one of which is currently under contract with *Penguin Random House Publishers*, which is now a complete draft. He also undertook a research trip to the far southern province of Puglia, Italy, where the final sections of this novel take place. The second novel details the life of an American man, born in the mid-20th century, from childhood to very old age. The novel is structured around a ritualistic outdoor trip that the narrator takes nearly every year, starting in the early 1970s and ending around the year 2035. Through his changing circumstances each year, we follow the course of his own history, which, by necessity, follows the course of the country's history through these decades of accelerating change. This work will enhance Prof. Canin's teaching of creative writing and literature through the integration of contemporary literary research and practice, and strengthens UI's reputation for excellence in creative writing and by fostering understanding of the personal and cultural forces that shape human experience.

CARREL, MARGARET, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Geographical and Sustainability Sciences, 14 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Impacts of Increased Heat and Extreme Temperatures on Rural Health

Prof. Carrel began several new research projects related to spatial patterns of health outcomes in Iowa and the U.S. The first project concerns the addition of participant residential histories to available data in the national All of Us Research Program. This will enable researchers across the U.S. to examine the role of residential mobility and social and environmental exposures on health outcomes contained in electronic health records. The second project aims to better predict where and when individuals experience out of hospital cardiac arrest across the rural/urban gradient. The third project uses machine learning algorithms to inform decisions about rural maternal care provision in Iowa. The final project examines uptake of hereditary cancer genetic screening in Iowa to inform outreach and education about essential cancer prevention behaviors. These activities support graduate student training, enrich undergraduate instruction in health geography and spatial analysis, and benefit Iowa through improved understanding of rural healthcare needs. The findings will contribute to broader public health initiatives by helping researchers and policymakers develop more effective approaches to improving population health and healthcare delivery.

CHOI, HYAEWEOL, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Religious Studies, 7 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Food and the Life Politics of Domesticity in Global Korea
Prof. Choi's project uses food as a lens for reexamining gender, history, and culture in transpacific Korea in the contexts of colonialism, industrialization, migration and globalization. Through the food stories of mothers, Buddhist nuns, housewives, adoptees, street vendors, and immigrants, she explores how food labor shapes gender, identity, community and everyday life. Choi conducted fieldwork in Korea, New York, and Atlanta and advanced several publications, including a journal article, book chapters, and a monograph under advance contract with the *University of Hawai'i Press*. She also enriched her teaching, resulting in a new course and another in development on meditation. Her research is expanding toward broader questions of health and the human condition, contributing to curricular innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration and public engagement at UI and beyond.

CICHELLA, VENANZIO, associate professor, Engineering-Mechanical Engineering, 7 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Enhancing Disaster Response through Autonomous Drone Navigation: Bridging Theory and Practice
Prof. Cichella developed an autonomous drone navigation system for disaster response, enabling range-sensor-equipped drones to rapidly locate victims in scenarios such as avalanches and earthquakes. His work delivered two integrated components: a sensing and estimation pipeline for high-precision victim detection in complex environments, and motion planning algorithms that navigate disaster zones efficiently while avoiding obstacles and optimizing flight-path energy use. A key result was demonstrating that navigating the drone along specifically designed trajectories improves the speed and accuracy of sensing and estimation. These methods were implemented in a C++/Python software package and validated through simulation and controlled physical trials in the CAS Lab at UI. Vananzio’s project was conducted in collaboration with professors at the University of Bologna, combining their expertise in sensing and estimation with his work in drone navigation. Outcomes include reusable research software, integration into coursework, and a foundation for future publications and funding.

COHEN, MARY L, professor, Education-Teaching & Learning, 18 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Songwriting with a Purpose: Research Investigating Select Songwriting Programs that Support System-Impacted Youth and Adults and Survivors of Crimes

Prof. Cohen developed new research on collaborative songwriting with non-incarcerated and incarcerated musicians. She designed a data-based project, presented research, led community singing events with formerly incarcerated individuals, developed the Inside Outside Collaborative Songwriting (IOCS) Project, and facilitated songwriting and singing in Ohio, North Carolina, and Indiana prisons. She completed four publications, four peer reviewed publications, 10 invited presentations, curated two original songs, participated in 10 creative scholarship activities, completed one podcast interview, and participated in four networking collaborations. Prof. Cohen's work benefits UI through her research class, peacebuilding class, graduate seminar, and music education methods class. Graduate and undergraduate students collaborated on a book chapter about a music program for Iowa youth in detention. The IOCS Project benefits 35 incarcerated Iowans by providing connections with musicians and 40 non-incarcerated musicians by broadening their awareness of their songwriting partners' lives in prison.

COWAN, MICHAEL J, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Cinematic Arts, 5 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: The Kulturfilm: Cinema and Public Knowledge in Weimar Germany
Prof. Cowan completed research for, and began writing, a monograph on the *Kulturfilm*, a pioneering form of educational documentary from the 1920s. In addition, he published two articles, submitted a third, held three scholarly presentations, and curated a major film retrospective to run this fall at the Giornate del Cinema Muto, the leading silent film festival in the world. This work advances understanding of the historical development of educational documentary film and its role in culture and public education. The research enhances instruction in film and media studies, strengthens the UI's profile in international film scholarship, and contributes to the preservation and interpretation of cinematic history for scholars, students and the broader public.

CRAM, E, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Communication Studies, 9 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Disability Ecologies of Care and Memory: The Rhetorical Life of the Johnson County Historic Poor Farm
Prof. Cram expanded archival, fieldwork, and interview-based research on histories of Iowa poor farms and their ongoing significance, as part of multi-stage program of research in the public humanities and community engagement. The research examines how U.S. poor farms were interwoven with state institutions between the late 19th to mid-20th century. Prof. Cram traces how social scientists, agrarians and rural social reformers contributed to the evolution and organization of rural social services. Fieldwork explores efforts to repurpose a former poor farm location into a historic site and for the development of local food economies. Research resulted in production and distribution of a new podcast series that combines archive research, community interviews and farm work to narrate the vast connections between disability and agriculture history, food systems, and community planning. Podcast transcripts will provide the basis for half of the first scholarly book manuscript component of the project. The research details the national significance of Iowa history and provides a new model of engagement in humanities driven community-based research.

CURTIUS, ANNY D, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-French & Italian, 22 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Tidalectical Archives: The Rememory of Slavery in Museums, Memorials, Performances, and Visual Arts
Prof. Curtius's interdisciplinary book project "*Tidalectical Archives*" explores how museums, memorials, contemporary performances, multimedia productions and literature engage

imaginatively with the intergenerational memory of slavery. She examines how the silences on slavery foster creative and critical dynamics for curators, artists, architects, writers and visitors in the U.S., Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean. She completed the last two chapters and the complex theoretical apparatus that such a project requires. She disseminated her work through invited talks, a keynote lecture, publications and her teaching. She achieved her goal of publishing a co-edited book, "*Women, Theory, Praxis, and Performativities: Transoceanic Entanglements in Francophone Settings*". This book is a prelude to *Tidalectical Archives* and offers a larger conversation with 12 contributors (artists and scholars) about the critical intervention of Tidalectical Archives in the Blue Humanities and Critical Ocean Studies. Prof. Curtius's work benefits UI's international mission and the relations between the Global South and the U.S.

DAVIDOVIC, JOVANA, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Philosophy, 13 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Beyond Killer Robots: Ethical Risk Management of AI-Enabled Weapons
Prof. Davidovic worked on research on ethics of AI-enabled weapons. This research focuses on identifying risks behind AI-enabled weapons systems and AI-enabled battlefield decision support systems and ways of mitigating those risks. Her research resulted in a successful book proposal with *Routledge Press*, which included two completed chapters, one of which is also being revised for *AI and Ethics* journal. The research also resulted in two completed and accepted chapters, one on testing and evaluating AI weapons for a *Springer Press* volume, and one on seeking consent for AI-enabled enhancements to special forces. Prof. Davidovic presented at two conferences: RE-AIM–arguably the most consequential conference on AI weapons policy which brings together governments, industry, the U.N., and scholars, and the McCain conference, where Prof. Davidovic was one of only 20 presenters alongside Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs Dan Caine. Prof. Davidovic also developed an Ethics of AI course, bringing AI ethics together with specific skills needed in a range of industries to responsibly use AI. Prof. Davidovic's research contributes to the responsible development and oversight of AI technologies while enhancing instruction in AI ethics and preparing students to address complex ethical challenges in professional practice.

DEDEAUX-NORRIS, TJ, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Art, Art History, & Design, 8 years of service, halftime for academic year 2025-2026
Title: By(e), Tameka!
During work at the American Academy in Rome, one of the world's leading international centers for advanced artistic and scholarly research, Prof. Dedeaux-Norris expanded an interdisciplinary practice through sustained research across Rome and Italy. The work included more than 100 works on paper informed by encounters with Roman art, architecture, archives, archaeological sites, crypts, museums, and public space, as well as video, performance, music, writing and a solo museum exhibition in Florence. This time also supported Prof. Dedeaux-Norris's doctoral research in transformational leadership and coaching, connecting creative practice with research on identity, congruence, leadership and personal transformation. These experiences directly benefit UI students by bringing international research, new creative methodologies, interdisciplinary scholarship, and an expanded professional network into teaching and mentorship.

DIPIETRO, STEPHANIE M, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Sociology and Criminology, 5 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Exploring the Criminogenic Effects of Military Service
Prof. Dipietro's assignment advanced research examining how military service and life-course transitions shape later criminal involvement. Prof. DiPietro synthesized relevant research,

refined the study's theoretical framework, developed survey and interview instruments, and conducted 15 interviews with military veterans to pilot the qualitative component of a larger mixed-methods study. Her work also strengthened a research design and external grant proposal in development focused on veterans of the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq eras. The project will enhance teaching in life-course criminology by providing new research findings and materials for undergraduate and graduate students and creating opportunities for student research involvement. More broadly, Prof. Dipietro's research may inform understanding of veteran reintegration, criminal justice involvement, and the needs of veterans and their communities in Iowa and beyond.

EKDALE, BRIAN R, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Journalism & Mass Communication, 14 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Investigating User and Platform Vulnerabilities to Strategic Information Operations
Prof. Ekdale's proposed PDA project centered on his role as PI for a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense's Minerva Research Initiative. Unfortunately, the Minerva program was discontinued abruptly. Due to this change, Prof. Ekdale focused on writing and submitting manuscripts related to social media and AI. Those efforts resulted in four publications, five manuscripts under second/third review, and four accepted conference submissions. In addition, Prof. Ekdale submitted four funding applications and serves as the principal investigator for a successful application to access large datasets collected by the National Internet Observatory. Prof. Ekdale's research informs his teaching related to digital and social media, and the findings of his research provide valuable insights to Iowans and Americans on how to navigate our increasingly digital society.

FARAJZADEH TEHRANI, MOHAMMAD, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Mathematics, 7 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Divisor and Moduli
Prof. Tehrani's PDA enabled significant progress in research, student mentoring, and new educational initiatives at UI. He and collaborators substantially extended a research project and submitted the results for publication. He collaborated with Prof. Mohan Swaminathan, during which they made major advances on the construction of mathematical structures needed to study moduli spaces of pseudoholomorphic curves. These results will support future research in symplectic geometry and related areas. Prof. Tehrani mentored graduate and undergraduate students, guiding graduate students on research projects and publications and supporting undergraduate students in developing research interests. He helped an undergraduate student obtain an ICRU Fellowship for a project on game theory and is developing this work into a potential general education course. His mentoring and research activities strengthen UI's mathematics program and contribute to the broader mathematical community through publications, presentations and student training.

FORBES, ANDREW A, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Biology, 15 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Why Can Some Parasites Attack Many Host Species While Others Can Only Attack One?
This PDA afforded Prof. Forbes the time to coordinate a large project focused on understanding the ecological dimensions of specialization by parasites. Parasitic insects are critical members of terrestrial ecosystems that can variously be of great economic benefit (i.e., controlling pest insects) or cause great harm (i.e., killing beneficial insects). Thus, understanding them can help pest control and biological diversity efforts. Prof. Forbes oversaw a large collection of oak galls (growths on oaks induced by tiny herbivorous wasps) and characterized the parasite communities associated with each gall type. Prof. Forbes has a National Science Foundation grant for this work which allowed him to sequence genomic datasets for gall wasps and their

parasites so he can discover how these insects and their traits have evolved. Prof. Forbes's work resulted in several scientific papers, improvements to a public naturalist website, and prospects for future publications and research grants. This research improves understanding of ecological interactions that influence biological diversity and natural pest control, benefiting environmental stewardship, agricultural ecosystems and the training of future scientists.

GILLAN, EDWARD G, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Chemistry, 28 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Design and Investigation of Metal Phosphide and Metal Boride Electrocatalysts and Photocatalysts for Renewable Energy and Sustainability Applications
Prof. Gillan assisted and advised graduate students in his research group on their experimental studies and analyses, provided direction for their external presentations, and instructed them on effective writing and revision of external publications. Prof. Gillan reviewed key literature studies for two new research directions for his group, namely electrocatalytic carbon dioxide and nitrogen reduction, which are very desirable but difficult chemical transformations. The students' chemical research and electrocatalysis training and these new directions are beneficial to the state of Iowa since these students can contribute to advanced chemical and materials industries and these projects target ammonia and ethanol synthesis using energy effective chemical strategies. Several external presentations and submitted publications were developed or completed during this period.

HAN, WEIMIN, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Mathematics, 34 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Efficient and Effective Numerical Methods for Hemivariational Inequalities in Fluid Mechanics
Hemivariational inequalities (HVIs) are highly challenging problems due to their nonsmooth and nonconvex features. Prof. Han conducted research on mathematical analysis and numerical solution of HVIs in applications, especially those in fluid mechanics. New methods and techniques were developed for the analysis of time-dependent HVIs in fluid mechanics, and high-order temporal discretization schemes were introduced and studied for efficient numerical solution of time-dependent HVIs. The project provided an excellent opportunity for the training of a Ph.D. student who has published two joint journal papers, with three more journal papers under review, based on Prof. Han's research. The resulting analytical and computational methods contribute to advances in scientific computing and engineering, while supporting graduate student training and the development of future researchers in applied mathematics.

HUCKLEBERRY, ALAN, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Music, 21 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: The Other 50% - Tackling Problems in Piano Pedagogy from Different Perspectives
Prof. Huckleberry used this assignment to research three distinct areas of piano pedagogy. Piano Pedagogy is the field of teaching how to teach piano. Students in the 21st century need to know much more than "just" how to play the piano. Aside from this technical aspect, they also must be aware of social aspects and impacts that music and music instruction has today. They also need to expand their knowledge of child psychology and general education and be able to apply that to piano instruction. Prof. Huckleberry's research covered all three of these topics, focusing mainly on the latter two, as they are underrepresented in contemporary piano pedagogy. In particular, he has found ways to apply a classroom technique "The Question Formulation Technique" (Harvard) to individual music instruction. The results will create more engaged and independent learners, resulting in greater abilities and student retention. Prof. Huckleberry has incorporated the results of his research in his piano pedagogy seminar, as well as his Methods of Piano course.

KELLY, DONIKA, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-English, 5 years of service, halftime for academic year 2025-2026
Title: Fluke: A Poetry Collection
Prof. Kelly completed a full-length poetry collection titled *Fluke*. This poetry collection has two strands. The first interrogates how a mother's death, resuscitation, and memory loss destabilizes a family. The second strand interrogates the effects of human activity on whales and dolphins, focusing specifically on family structures, changes in habitat, and the importance of memory. The two strands are woven together and connect personal loss to large scale environmental changes. Prof. Kelly completed a draft of a full-length manuscript, with several individual poems published in journals and magazines. Prof. Kelly presented her research widely, which contributed to Iowa's prestige for excellence in creative writing and supported the creation of one new undergraduate course.

KUSIAK, ANDREW, professor, Engineering-Industrial Engineering, 37 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Extreme Engineering
Prof. Kusiak conducted research in extreme engineering with a particular emphasis on applied artificial intelligence (AI), especially generative AI. The primary approach involved exploring emerging concepts in generative AI and evaluating their effectiveness through implementation in graduate courses offered to highly motivated students. Graduate student assignments, examinations, and projects provided valuable feedback for teaching and research. The instructional materials developed for two graduate courses can be directly adapted for use in undergraduate and graduate programs at UI. In addition, the experience gained from teaching graduate students and collaborating with faculty in two departments specializing in data science and engineering provided significant opportunities to validate hypotheses regarding industrial applications of generative AI. Beyond the development of course materials and the acquisition of new knowledge, Prof. Kusiak completed several research publications as well as delivered presentations to both academic and industry audiences.

LAMUTA, CATERINA, associate professor, Engineering-Mechanical Engineering, 7 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Development of Soft Robots with Human-like Intelligence and Human-like Motion
During her PDA at the University of Bologna, Prof. Lamuta advanced three complementary lines of work spanning wearable robotics, sustainable water treatment, and bio-inspired robotics. In collaboration with Professors Gianluca Palli and Roberto Meattini, Prof. Lamuta developed a theoretical model for an exoskeleton actuated by artificial muscles, carried out jointly with a graduating Bologna master's student whose thesis formalized the actuator and joint-level dynamics. Prof. Lamuta explored the field of geopolymer-based water treatment, building sufficient domain expertise to co-author and submit an NSF research grant in partnership with the University of Missouri and the University of Tennessee. In collaboration with colleagues from the University of Calgary, the Colorado School of Mines, and the University of Bologna, Prof. Lamuta contributed to a review paper on bio-inspired robotics which is nearing submission. Collectively, these efforts produced a modeling framework for muscle-actuated exoskeletons, a proposal pathway into a new research area, a forthcoming review publication, and durable international collaborations that position further work and external funding. Collectively, these efforts advance the development of wearable robotics, sustainable water treatment technologies, and bio-inspired robotic systems while creating new opportunities for student training, international collaboration and future research with potential benefits to human health, environmental sustainability and engineering innovation.

LLOPART, ANA, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Biology, 17 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Are Transposable Elements Speciation Facilitators?
Prof. Llopart conducted research on the molecular mechanisms involved in the formation of new species. Prof. Llopart completed complex laboratory and computational studies, developed a new research technique, presented findings at an international scientific conference, and generated results for two scientific manuscripts and future NSF and NIH grant proposals. Prof. Llopart mentored graduate and undergraduate students, including hands-on training in research methods and data analysis that contributed to student academic and professional success. These activities strengthen UI's research mission, enhance opportunities for student learning and increase the university's national and international visibility.

LOVAGLIA, MICHAEL J, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Sociology and Criminology, 33 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: A Theory of Legitimacy, Race, and Exclusivity in Higher Education with Application to Public Universities
Prof. Lovaglia wrote the final version of his book on solving the problem of equal access to higher education for students of color while improving learning for all college students. The completed book was then submitted to the publisher, *Routledge*. In addition, he conducted research for a second book on the scientific approach to leadership in organizations which led to the completion of two articles for submission to peer-reviewed journals. Knowledge gained from both projects will be useful in classes related to education, organizations and leadership. Prof. Lovaglia learned new and more effective teaching techniques as a result. Both projects are designed to improve performance in higher education and organizations in general.

MAIERHOFER, WALTRAUD, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-German, 35 years of service, halftime for calendar year 2025
Title: British-German Cultural Transfer in Book Illustrations around 1800
Prof. Maierhofer co-edited two books, one analyzing British-German word-image relations around 1800, at the threshold to modernity, the other on trauma, suicide, and depression in recent German literature. Both are written in German and published with major German publishers. In her chapter in "*Narratives of Mental Health Crises*," she investigated the representation of unplanned pregnancy in Young Adult novels. "*Johann Heinrich Ramberg as Illustrator: Shakespeare, America, Erotic Tales, Celebrities and Royals in the Age of Goethe*" focuses on specific aspects of works by Ramberg, the most prolific German book illustrator of the age who trained in London and contributed to the transfer from British visual culture to the German print and book market. She contributed chapters on portraits and illustrations of the American revolutionary war. "*Narratives of Psychological Crises*" was also the topic at the global congress for Germanic Studies. She proposed a new course for the German major and revised materials for "*German Writers Engaged*." This research enhances teaching in German studies and related fields and contributes to understanding of cultural history, visual media and literary responses to mental health challenges, benefiting students, scholars and the public.

MUNOZ, KRISTINE L, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Interdisciplinary Programs, 30 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: After Havana: Oral Histories of Teenage Motherhood in Colombia
Prof. Muñoz studied Colombian anthropologist Virginia Gutiérrez de Pineda and her role in the history of madres cabeza de familia (MCF), mothers who are heads of households. When it became difficult to recruit participants for planned oral-history interviews about adolescent motherhood in Medellín, she shifted to the wider social, political and historical context of motherhood in Colombia. Between the 1940's and 1970's Gutiérrez de Pineda documented

family arrangements, women's work, and nonmarital relationships that did not fit Colombia's traditional Catholic ideal of a male-led household. Her research challenged colonial and patriarchal views of family life and helped lay the groundwork for later legal protections for women-led households. By bringing greater attention to her work, the project contributes to Latin American studies and the history of anthropology. Prof. Muñoz's research will strengthen teaching in global health, health humanities, and culture and health courses. It helps students examine adolescent motherhood without treating it only as a problem, showing connections between gender, family, violence, work and public policy.

PETERSEN, ISAAC T, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Psychological and Brain Sciences, 9 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Precision Phenotyping of the Externalizing Spectrum on a Developmentally Informed, Common Metric Across Infancy to Adolescence
Externalizing problems, including aggressive and rule-breaking behaviors manifest differently across development. Trajectories to externalizing psychopathology remain poorly understood because available assessments do not consider their developmental changes in manifestation. Until such an approach exists, identifying pathways to externalizing psychopathology will be unattainable. Petersen created a new assessment system that evaluates externalizing problems in comparable and developmentally sensitive ways from infancy to adolescence (ages 1-17) with scoring procedures that link scores across ages. Petersen validated the instrument in a large sample. This work enables earlier identification and better prevention of externalizing psychopathology. It provides preliminary data for an R01 grant to the National Institute of Mental Health, provides new material for undergraduate and graduate courses, and is likely to yield several publications.

RAHMATALLA, SALAM F, professor, Engineering-Civil-Environmental Engineering, 18 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: A Book titled: Health Monitoring and Damage Detection of Structural and Mechanical Systems
Prof. Rahmatalla used the time to achieve the following: (i) drafted a book titled: *Vibration-based Health Monitoring and Damage Detection of Infrastructure Systems: Fundamentals to Applications*. The proposal for the book was submitted to Elsevier for peer-review evaluation. (ii) published and worked on many peer-reviewed articles. (iii) worked on two projects. (iv) supervised two postdocs. (v) reviewed Journal articles. The proposed book is designed to be used as a textbook for students in the areas of civil and mechanical engineering, and as a reference book for researchers in the area of health monitoring of structural and mechanical systems. This work will benefit people in Iowa, the U.S. and the whole world to test and maintain their current infrastructures and maintain transportation safety for their populations.

ROSADO MARZAN, CESAR, professor, Law-Faculty, 5 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Good Faith and Innovation: A Study On Contract Law, Organizations, and Political Economy
Prof. Rosado-Marzán completed six projects. He published "*From the Margins to the Citadel: Domestic Workers and a New Moral Economy of the Labor Market*" in the *Georgetown Law Journal*; finished his book, *A Baseline of Decency*, now in production at the *University of California Press*; began an article on whether the President should be able to fire federal civil servants at will, presenting drafts at the AALS Annual Meeting and Berkeley Law; drafted a co-authored article comparing wage theft enforcement in the U.S. and China; drafted a chapter for a forthcoming *Oxford University Press* volume; and, with coauthors, updated his labor law casebook. Prof. Rosado-Marzán's work benefits Iowa students through updated course materials, a current casebook used in his Labor Law course, and research roles for three

student assistants credited in his published work. His scholarship helps Iowa workers, employers, and policymakers understand the rules governing pay and workplace rights, supporting fairer and more predictable labor markets in the state and beyond.

ROZENCOHN, RONALD M, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Art, Art History, & Design, 34 years of service, halftime for academic year 2025-2026
Title: Motion and Change in the Unmoving Image
Prof. Rozencohn, proposed a year residence in Paris where he embarked on an intensive study of French Modernist Painters, specifically studying the work of artists such as Bonnard and Vuillard. The paintings he engaged conveyed change and passing time in an inherently static medium. He created a series of paintings that built on what he gleaned from their art. He is currently negotiating with galleries in New York, Chicago and Florence to exhibit his paintings. This work recently earned him an award from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation. Rozencohn's study is benefiting his students as he deploys newly developed painting techniques in his own work and in his classes. Rozencohn anchors figurative drawing and painting in the department at UI. His knowledge of historical techniques is a resource for current students and attracts graduate candidates. His new work will engage pressing issues of representation and modernism in contemporary painting.

SCHLESINGER, LISA R, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Theatre Arts, 11 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Enheduanna Rising: An Opera
Prof. Schlesinger wrote the libretto for Enheduanna, a new opera composed by Layale Chaker (Silk Road Ensemble) about the first named author in history. The team developed and performed the work in progress in residency at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Mr. Baryshnikov granted a second residency and will produce the 2027 NYC/World Premiere. Ensemble Ars Nova in Poitiers France will produce the European Premiere. Chaker/Schlesinger's opera, *Ruinous Gods*, (commissioned by and World Premiere Spoleto Festival 2024) will be produced at the Barbican Centre, London. Both operas are part of *The Iphigenia Project*, published/produced at over 45 national/international venues. Schlesinger's artistic research demonstrates excellence in the profession to students, supports UI's mission to expand the performing arts and her position as co-head of the Playwrights Workshop.

SHEA, CHRISTINE E, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Spanish & Portuguese, 13 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Language Attitudes: Expanding the Data
Prof. Shea completed three manuscripts that were submitted to leading journals in the field. She also advanced two collaborative grant projects, including an international partnership with researchers at the University of Toronto and the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Her work included research collaboration in Barcelona to further the development of externally funded projects in Spanish linguistics. In addition, Shea delivered invited and conference presentations that disseminated her research to national and international audiences. This work advances scholarship in Spanish linguistics, strengthens international research collaborations, and enhances graduate student mentoring and instruction by integrating contemporary research findings into teaching and training.

SIMS, BENNETT B, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-English, 7 years of service, halftime for academic year 2025-2026
Title: The Archive
Prof. Sims conducted research for "*The Archive*," a philosophical sci-fi novel about UFOs and ufology. He drafted several chapters and published an excerpt in *Subtropics*, a literary journal.

He also developed this research into a new creative writing course for UI students. He completed many discrete projects as well, from poems and craft essays to literary interviews about his work. He participated in several public literary events, including: the University of Florida's Writers' Festival; the book launch for "*Malleable and True*," an anthology containing his work; and the 92nd Street Y's celebration of David Foster Wallace's "*Infinite Jest*," on its 30th anniversary, in a panel discussion with New Yorker fiction editor Deborah Treisman, author Greg Jackson, and critic Laura Miller. He also traveled to Iceland to participate in "*Sextet Object*," a public art performance during the total solar eclipse, in collaboration with UI Professors Elizabeth McTernan, Tom Lin and Pia Struzzierri. Sims's activities contribute to UI's international reputation as The Writing University and to the English department's reputation as a destination major.

SOLT, FREDERICK, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Political Science, 13 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Comparable Measures for Cross-National Research
Prof. Solt advanced a first draft of a book manuscript on how to proceed when researching concepts for which the available data are sparse (that is, only infrequently observed) or incomparable (measuring related but distinct aspects of the concept) or both, particularly when this research seeks to draw conclusions across different countries. This problem of measurement is fundamental to better understanding politics and the broader social world; research that cannot accurately describe the state of the world has little chance of correctly explaining its contours. Solt's manuscript offers researchers practical techniques for pursuing their work by using models to make the most of all available data while addressing their incomparability. The book will also offer new insights that Prof. Solt will share with his students in his courses on comparative politics and political methodology. Finally, Prof. Solt's work will also provide citizens of Iowa, the U.S. and beyond with better-grounded understandings of the social processes that shape their lives.

SONG, SUYONG, associate professor, Business-Economics, 10 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Machine Learning and Text Analysis in Social and Interfirm Networks
Prof. Song completed his PDA at the Department of Economics at Harvard University and the Department of Economics at Yale University, where he advanced research on how people and firms make decisions through social and business networks. He produced and revised papers on hidden similarities in individual networks, errors in measured peer groups, and CEO messages that may help explain stock market behavior. Prof. Song strengthened his research by combining economics, machine learning, text analysis and network methods and will benefit UI students through new course examples, data exercises, and programming materials in econometrics, machine learning, and data analytics. Prof. Song's work will also benefit UI, Iowa, and society by improving tools for understanding how information spreads through schools, firms, communities and markets.

SOSALE, SUJATHA, associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Journalism & Mass Communication, 22 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Mobile Phones, Electronic Media, and Connectivity Off the Grid: Adaptive Modernizations in Remote Rural Communities in India
Prof. Sosale completed close to five of the six planned chapters of the book entitled, "*Mobile and Electronic Media Use in Rural South India: Adaptive Modernizations at the Edge of the Grid*." Using an oral history-based interviewing method, she examined the relatively recent adoption of mobile and electronic media among extremely rural communities in South India. She secured a contract for her book with *Bristol University Press*. The first full draft of the manuscript has been reviewed and recommended for publication with some suggestions for revisions. She

participated in the interdisciplinary Obermann Symposium, "*Cultivating Rurality: Building Community Around Rural Research*" and shared the benefits of the research method used for her book with researchers working on projects in rural Iowa. She shared how a thorough grasp of local context was vital prior to suggesting changes in communities. Prof. Sosale will include instructional material from this research for undergraduate courses on research methods, global cultures, and travel writing, respectively. This work enhances instruction in research methods and global cultures while contributing to a broader understanding of technology adoption and community change, providing insights relevant to researchers, policymakers, and community leaders working in rural settings in Iowa and beyond.

SPEARS, YOLANDA D, clinical associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Social Work, 8 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Grandparenting in Multigenerational African American Families
Prof. Spears's activities shifted from initial expectations as significant time was devoted to research development, Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, and foundational preparation. An interdisciplinary literature review approach on African American grandparenting, coparenting relationships, multigenerational family systems, and social work practice refined the conceptual framework and clarified the focus on non-crisis multigenerational coparenting in African American families. Research instruments were developed and revised, including focus group protocols, recruitment materials, informed consent forms, and confidentiality procedures to ensure culturally responsive qualitative methods aligned with ethical standards. Prof. Spears networked with scholars and practitioners from the National Association of Black Social Workers and these efforts established a strong ethical and procedural foundation, positioning the project for successful implementation, scholarly productivity, and long-term dissemination of findings. This research will contribute to a deeper understanding of African American family systems, inform culturally responsive social work practice, and support services and policies that strengthen families and communities.

TAI, JUNE, clinical professor, Law-Faculty, 9 years of service, Spring 2026
Title: Designing the Experiential Law Course: Storytelling, Reflection, and Other Considerations
Prof. Tai conducted research on several interrelated areas of experiential learning in law schools. First, she served as co-editor of the fourth edition of *Learning from Practice*, to be published by *West Academic*. This is the primary textbook used in experiential programs at U.S. law schools. As a co-author of two chapters within the book, she completed drafts of the chapters and the associated teacher's manual. Second, she served as one of the researchers for the Center for the Study of Applied Legal Education (CSALE)'s triennial survey of experiential programs. Finally, she co-authored an article on storytelling and reflection in experiential courses. The article will be published in the peer-reviewed journal, *Clinical Law Review*. Collectively, Tai's research adds to the national dialogue on experiential learning in legal education. In addition, the findings will be used in the Field Placement Program at Iowa Law, benefiting Iowa Law students and Iowans who depend on law alumni for legal services.

THOMAS, EMILY B K, clinical associate professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Psychological and Brain Sciences, 6 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Neuropsychiatric Predictors of Perinatal and Infant Health
Prof. Thomas submitted an R01 proposal to the National Institutes of Health utilizing pilot data from her ongoing longitudinal HAPPY Brain Study. The PDA was instrumental in allowing time for pilot analyses and preparation of the R01. The proposal is a large longitudinal study, wherein pregnant women complete six assessments throughout pregnancy and postpartum. The proposed work will allow the team to 1) identify predictors of perinatal mental health, 2) pinpoint neural biomarkers that predict poor health outcomes, and 3) characterize parent-infant

interaction. Findings have the potential to transform maternal mental health and early childhood research. This proposal integrated expertise of multiple faculty laboratories at UI, including opportunities for trainees. Her PDA also allowed Prof. Thomas to lead the first manuscript using the pilot data, submitted to the *Journal of Neuroendocrinology*. These findings used data during the first and third trimesters of pregnancy, identifying psychological symptom domains that were associated with prefrontal connectivity changes during this critical developmental window.

VASI, ION B, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-Sociology and Criminology, 12 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: The Road to Net Zero. How Corporations Manage Climate Change Risks
Prof. Vasi completed a paper that was published and another paper that was presented at three academic conferences and will be submitted for publication. Prof. Vasi collected and analyzed the data that was used to publish a paper and to work on a second paper that was presented at conferences and will be submitted for publication shortly. The findings from this research were presented at three academic conferences and will be incorporated in Prof. Vasi's teaching on corporate social responsibility, which will benefit the state of Iowa and society in general. The findings will be incorporated into teaching on corporate social responsibility and sustainability and will provide valuable insights for businesses, policymakers and communities seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and advance the transition to a more sustainable economy.

WARREN, STEPHEN A, professor, Liberal Arts and Sciences-History, 11 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Mino Bimadiziiwin: Rediscovering the Indigenous Foodways of the Great Lakes
Prof. Warren completed a book-length monograph entitled *Red Codes and Removals: Myaamia Survivance in Nineteenth Century America*, which has been accepted for publication by *University of Oklahoma Press*. Prof. Warren also wrote seven chapters, or roughly 70,000 words, about Potawatomi foodways and the ways in which treaties signed between 1795 and 1833 diminished their access to both healthful foods, and the "good life" more generally. This second book-length project is a prehistory of contemporary Indigenous food sovereignty movements. By documenting the historical foundations of Indigenous food sovereignty, Prof. Warren’s work contributes to broader understanding of Native American history, culture and environmental stewardship while informing scholarship, teaching and contemporary efforts to strengthen Indigenous communities and food systems.

WOOD, SUSANNAH M, professor, Education-Counselor Education, 19 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: The Role of Videogame Play in the Development of Helping Professionals
Prof. Wood advanced a research program focused on counseling, high-ability youth, and the growing role of videogames in the lives of young adults. Prof. Wood completed three new collaborative research projects, expanded national research partnerships, and the development of conference presentations and scholarly publications. Her projects examine grief and anger among high-ability college students, patterns of videogame engagement among high-ability adolescents, and the experiences of college women who engage with relationship simulation games. Prof. Wood’s work will provide new knowledge about emerging social and mental health issues affecting students and young adults. Her findings will enhance the preparation of future counselors and educators, inform student support services, and create new research opportunities for graduate students. By improving understanding of how digital environments influence learning, development and well-being, Prof. Wood’s work supports UI's mission and offers practical benefits for Iowa educators, mental health professionals, students, families and society more broadly.

WORTHINGTON, KRISTAN S, associate professor, Engineering-Biomedical Engineering, 8 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Future Biomanufacturing: Enhanced Mammalian and Microbial Biomanufacturing Through Simulated Microgravity Culture
The use of living systems to create valuable products, known as biomanufacturing, is an emerging national and state priority due to its potential to increase manufacturing safety and sustainability. Prof. Worthington deepened her expertise in biomanufacturing, contributed to important intellectual and economic biomanufacturing infrastructure in Iowa, and extended her research into the translational domain. She contributed to the successful funding of a large, collaborative regional initiative, and submitted several other proposals with high potential for funding. Her work has also resulted in one submitted manuscript, several manuscripts in progress, and multiple conference presentations. Prof. Worthington's activities were tightly integrated with graduate student teaching and mentoring, and she also applied her expertise in biomanufacturing to expand and develop new learning modules for an introductory undergraduate biomedical engineering course. This work advances biomanufacturing research and infrastructure, strengthens student training in biomedical engineering, and contributes to the development of sustainable technologies with potential benefits for industry, public health and the economy.

XIAO, SHAOPING, professor, Engineering-Mechanical Engineering, 22 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: Enhancing Learning-based Decision-Making through Human-AI Interaction
Prof. Xiao reviewed the latest research on how humans interact with AI and guided his graduate students in building AI systems and applying this work to real-world problems. In one project conducted with Iowa farmers, Prof. Xiao and his team analyzed survey responses and built a trust model so that AI suggestions for farming are not only efficient but also practical and acceptable to farmers. In another project, Prof. Xiao and his team developed a large language model to represent community trust in reservoir operations and used it to improve flood-mitigation strategies. These efforts provided graduate students with hands-on research experience and produced research papers and preliminary results for new grant proposals. Prof. Xiao also incorporated the findings into his undergraduate course, AI in Engineering, exposing students to cutting-edge AI developments. Xiao's PDA strengthened his teaching and graduate student mentoring at UI. His work benefits Iowa's agricultural communities and flood-prone areas, while contributing to the goal of creating trustworthy AI that serves society responsibly.

YAO, TONG, professor, Business-Finance, 17 years of service, Fall 2025
Title: A Deep-learning Approach to Extracting Stock Selection Information from Mutual Fund Portfolios
Over 8,000 mutual funds manage $31 trillion in assets in the U.S.; more than half are actively managed. Whether these funds have skills to outperform the market remains a serious academic debate and has profound implications for investors. In his PDA project, Prof. Yao extends his prior work and develops machine-learning approaches to distill stock selection information possessed by active mutual funds. His models combine fund stock holdings, past fund performance, and fund characteristics to predict stock returns and fund performance. The models are empirically successful. For example, a portfolio based on a relatively simple model outperforms the market by more than 1% per quarter. The result suggests substantial value-added by active investing in an increasingly efficient market. The most direct outcome of the project is a research paper intended for journal publication. To benefit teaching, Prof. Yao plans to incorporate parts of the project into the courses on investment and portfolio management. This research also provides practical insights on fund-manager selection and passive-active asset allocation for Iowa's state universities and public pensions.

University of Northern Iowa

FLEMING, WILLIAM, Associate Professor, Family, Aging & Counseling, 18 Years of Service, Fall Semester, Faculty
Title: Engaging Parents of Adolescents in Efforts for Violence Prevention: Understanding Barriers, Facilitators and Messaging
Prof. Fleming explored strategies to more effectively engage parents and caregivers in adolescent violence prevention, focusing on communication about healthy relationships, dating and sexual violence, and related forms of interpersonal harm. Through a review of current research, consultation with key informants, and focus group discussions, the project identified barriers, facilitators, and promising approaches to support parent–adolescent communication and provide accessible prevention resources. The work evolved alongside changes at the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention, including its expanded role in managing the Safe Youth Collaborative, which offers a sustainable platform for sharing evidence-informed materials with families. Related scholarly activity, including supervision of graduate research on digital sexual violence, further informed the project's attention to emerging contexts in which adolescents encounter relationship and sexual harm. Overall, the assignment strengthened integration among scholarship, student research, teaching, and community-engaged prevention efforts at the University of Northern Iowa, while laying groundwork for resources that can assist parents, schools and communities across Iowa in addressing violence affecting adolescents.

HARLOW, RANDALL, Associate Professor, School of Music, 12 Years of Service, Fall Semester, Faculty
Title: Edited Volume: Hyperorgan Art, the Organ as a Voice for our Time
Over the past decade, an international community of musicians, artists, and scholars has emerged around the concept of the "hyperorgan," a term describing pipe organs enhanced by digital technologies that expand expressive possibilities and inspire new forms of musical art addressing contemporary social and political issues. Since 2014, hyperorgan festivals have been established in Europe and North America, while performances, recordings, and scholarship associated with the movement have received critical acclaim and attracted broad audiences. Prof. Harlow helped initiate and co-edit the forthcoming volume *Hyperorgan Art: The Organ as a Voice for Our Time*, the first comprehensive account of the history, current state and future direction of the hyperorgan movement. Working with three co-editors and more than four dozen contributors, we document the movement's development and explore its relevance through the perspectives of its diverse community. This peer-reviewed e-book, scheduled for publication in 2027 through an independent academic press, will feature a media-rich digital platform bringing together scholars, artists, master artisans and arts institutions from around the world. Designed as a "hyper-book," it will not only introduce readers to the movement's interdisciplinary dimensions but also embody its innovative blend of scholarship and artistic practice. This landmark publication will strengthen UNI's role within the global hyperorgan community, highlight Iowa's organ heritage, and help lay the foundation for new musical creativity and community engagement across the state.

LEE, SEI-YOUNG, Associate Professor, Social Work, 6 Years of Service, Academic Year 2025-26, Faculty
Title: Social Media Use and Gender Norms: Predictors of Intimate Partner Violence Among College Students
This mixed-methods project collected quantitative and qualitative data on adverse childhood experiences, social media use, mental health, and gender norms at Sejong University in South Korea for comparison with UNI students in the U.S., where Prof. Lee collected data in 2024. Lee

completed data collection and data analysis and submitted two studies to the regional conference and is currently working on two manuscripts of the findings. This study enhanced the understanding of UNI students' social media use and its impact on mental health and gender norms. It also broadened the understanding of similarities and differences in adverse childhood experiences, social media use, mental health, and gender norms by comparing UNI students with those in South Korea. This knowledge informs teaching in the Human Behavior and the Social Environment class, one of the core courses that prepares students to become social workers. Moreover, this research's findings from South Korean young adults contributed to understanding how adverse childhood experiences and social media use affect gender norms in Korean Americans by investigating the current cultural trends in South Korea and projecting the cultural influence on Korean Americans, as Korean Americans try to maintain the culture of their country of origin while adapting to the U.S. culture. Although Iowa has fewer Korean Americans than other states, the population is estimated to be growing quickly. Prof. Lee works with the Iowa Korean American Association and agencies such as RIVA (Refugee and Immigrant Voices in Action), and provides consulting for Korean Americans and other immigrants and refugees in Iowa. This research helps better serve Iowa citizens, particularly Korean and other ethnic immigrants in Iowa.

MERZ, CHRISTOPHER, Professor, School of Music, 24 Years of Service, Fall Semester, Faculty
Title: Arranging the Music of Phil Haynes
This project focused on creating large jazz ensemble arrangements of works by drummer and composer Phil Haynes. During the fall of 2025, Prof. Merz completed six arrangements totaling approximately 45 minutes of music. These arrangements were premiered by Jazz Band One on April 17, 2026. The full project comprises 10 arrangements, with the remaining four scores scheduled for completion by the end of 2026. Once finished, Merz will travel to New York to conduct a professional ensemble in a recording session documenting the entire project. The initiative has provided UNI students with valuable artistic growth through exposure to challenging orchestration, advanced harmonic language, and improvisational freedom. The broader UNI community experienced these new works during the April concert, which featured Phil Haynes as a guest performer and was publicized through the School of Music and made available to the public both in-person and via livestream. The project's impact will continue beyond Iowa as the remaining works are completed, professionally recorded, and presented through additional performances.

TOWNSLEY, MATT, Associated Professor, Educational Psychology, Foundations and Leadership Studies, 6 Years of Service, Fall Semester, Faculty
Title: Manuscript submission and proposal: Leadership for standards-based grading and reporting (SBG+R) in elementary schools
This project involved three interconnected activities: writing and submitting an empirical research article to a peer-reviewed journal, developing a book proposal for a K-12 education publisher, and supporting a professional conference for Iowa educators. The article, "Becoming 'a Laser Instead of a Lighthouse': Rural Elementary Principals' Perspectives on the Benefits and Challenges of Standards-Based Grading and Reporting," examined the successes and challenges experienced by 14 Iowa elementary school leaders during the implementation of standards-based grading and reporting. The manuscript was submitted for consideration in a peer-reviewed journal. Data collected for the study also served as the foundation for a book proposal designed to support elementary educators beginning the transition to standards-based grading and reporting. The book proposal, Making Report Cards Matter: Standards-Based Reporting in Elementary Schools, was completed with revisions underway. Professional contacts developed through the research components of the project were also recruited to serve

as session facilitators for the UNI Standards-Based Grading Conference held in June 2026. The conference benefitted the state by providing professional learning opportunities for more than 200 Iowa educators, extending the project's impact beyond research and publication.