Partnering to Prepare Iowa’s Future Teachers

“Learning to read is the most important aspect of education and the foundation for all subsequent learning,” said Des Moines businessman Richard O. Jacobson. “UNI has long been known for excellence in preparing teachers — especially teachers in reading. I am pleased to partner with UNI to impact the children of Iowa.”

And what an impact this partnership will make. In August, Jacobson pledged $11 million to create the Richard O. Jacobson Center for Literacy at UNI. The center will focus on educating, coaching, and mentoring teachers and administrators to develop effective instructional practices.

“To have a non-alum and business leader of his stature invest in UNI is the strongest affirmation to our vision of being the nation’s leading resource on pre-K through 12 issues,” said UNI President Ben Allen.

Transitioning Malcolm Price Laboratory School into an R&D School

More than 100 educators, policy makers, UNI faculty members, parents and students attended UNI’s Research and Development Education Summit on Saturday, Oct. 9. UNI is in its second year of a three-year transition plan to transform Malcolm Price Laboratory School into a statewide Research, Development and Dissemination school.

Representatives from four national R&D schools spanning New York, Florida and Indiana shared their best practices in student learning, teaching and research.

Guests had an opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions for the new R&D school. This information will be used by the newly created R&D strategic planning committee that is charged with creating a statewide strategic plan for the school. For more information about the R&D summit and presentations, including the keynote from Sharon Robinson, president and CEO of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, visit www.uni.edu/rdschool/.

Grant Helps Improve Reading Skills

More than 10,000 Iowa first-graders who struggle with reading will receive intensive one-on-one assistance during the next five years, thanks to a nearly $3.1 million Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. UNI’s Reading Recovery Center is the recipient of this grant.

Reading Recovery prepares specialized teachers to work with students who fall in the lowest quarter of their class and who have the greatest difficulty learning to read. The i3 grant will allow UNI, along with 14 other colleges and universities with Reading Recovery Training Centers, to give more attention to schools with low-achieving or high-poverty rural areas, schools identified for Title I corrective action and schools with large proportions of English Language Learner students.

To receive the federal award, the Department of Education requires documentation showing a 20 percent private-sector match of $9.1 million from the 15 schools involved. The Department of Education provided $2,446,025 of the grant awarded to UNI; the R.J. McElroy Trust supplied $150,000 toward the university’s matching-funds goal.
College of Education – Making an Impact

For nearly 135 years, UNI has done its part to prepare graduates who excel as educators and school administrators. Nearly 17,000 alumni educators teach worldwide. If you think that number is impressive, here are a few more to consider:

- More than 12,000 UNI alumni teach in Iowa.
- Of Iowa’s 32 teacher education programs, UNI’s is the largest, typically graduating 50 percent more teachers per year than the next largest program.
- UNI graduates 500 new teachers every year.
- Eighteen Iowa School Administrator of the Year recipients received their administrative preparation at UNI.
- UNI has the most math and science education majors (combined) of any Iowa college or university.
- UNI’s Department of Special Education has a graduate placement rate of nearly 100 percent.
- Since 1994, more than 1,500 student teachers have participated in the out-of-state or international student teaching program.
- UNI’s Overseas Teacher Recruiting Fair is the oldest and largest in the world, attracting schools from more than 60 countries.
- During the past six years, the College of Education has secured nearly $45 million in special contracts and grants from federal and state sources.
- The Iowa Math and Science Education Partnership (www.iomathscience.org/) initiative, led by UNI in partnership with Iowa State University and the University of Iowa, is working to improve Iowa students’ performance in math and science; prepare more high-quality math and science teachers for Iowa’s schools; and promote statewide collaboration and cooperation.
- UNI’s Reading Recovery Center is one of 22 in the U.S. and the only center in Iowa. Reading Recovery prepares specialized teachers to work with students who have the greatest difficulty learning to read.
- At any given time, between 2,500 and 3,000 UNI students are declared teaching majors, making the program the largest in the state.

Faculty Acclamations

Awards/Service

Lyn Countryman, Malcolm Price Laboratory School, was a finalist for the 2010 Iowa Women of Innovation in Academic Innovation and Post-Secondary Leadership award.

Rodney Dieser, health, physical education & leisure services, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Leisure Academy during the October National Recreation and Park Association General Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., recognizing him as an outstanding scholar in the recreation and leisure service field.

Christopher Edginton, health, physical education & leisure services, was named a Senior Fellow of the World Leisure Academy; he also won UNI’s Diversity Matters award.

Susan Etscheidt, special education, was inducted into the Iowa Academy of Education at the academy’s annual meeting at Iowa State University.

Gloria Kirkland Holmes, curriculum & instruction, hosts the weekly children’s and family radio show “Family Rewards of Life” on KBBG, Saturdays at 11:30 a.m.

Susan Hudson, health, physical education & leisure services, received UNI’s University Regents Award 2009-2010.

Sarah Montgomery, curriculum & instruction, serves as a leader in UNI’s College of Education Service-Learning Ambassadors and is a delegate for University Partnership Development with National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan. She is also a member of the Black Hawk Elementary School Partners in Education committee and a UNI facilitator for the Grout Museum Service-Learning Partnership.

Nick Pace, educational leadership, counseling & postsecondary education, received a civil rights award in October from Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc.

Susan Roberts-Dobie, health, physical education & leisure services, received the 20 Under 40 award from the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier. Roberts-Dobie also received funding for the Speak UP! Salon Project.

Audrey Rule, curriculum & instruction, received the 2010 Outstanding Faculty Award in Scholarship and Research for the College of Education.

Kathleen Scholl, health, physical education & leisure services, received UNI’s Panther First Award for Service Excellence.

Clare Struck, Malcolm Price Laboratory School, has been asked to serve on the 2011 Vision in Action: The ASCD Whole Child Award Selection Committee.

Denise Tallakson, curriculum & instruction, received the 2010 Gold Star Teaching Award.
Jennifer Waldron, health, physical education & leisure services, received the Mabel Lee Award conferred by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Betty Zan, director of the Regents’ Center for Early Developmental Education, received the 2010 Innovation Award from First Children’s Finance for the Empowering Preschool Quality Project.

Leigh Zeitz, curriculum & instruction, received the Local Technology Leadership Award from the Iowa Technology and Education Connection.

Elizabeth Zwanziger, Malcolm Price Laboratory School, received the Iowa Language Matters award for exemplary teaching from the Iowa World Language Association.

Publications

Rodney Dieser and Kathleen Scholl, both from health, physical education & leisure services, co-authored “Inclusive Recreation History and Legislation” in Human Kinetics’ Inclusive Recreation: Programs and Services for Diverse Populations.

Rodney Dieser and Oksana Grybovych, health, physical education & leisure services, co-authored “Happiness and Leisure; An Ethnodrama, Act I” in Leisure/Loisir.

Rodney Dieser and Jennifer Jo Waldron, health, physical education & leisure services, co-authored “Perspectives of Fitness and Health in College Men and Women” in the Journal of College Student Development.


Christopher Edginton, Julianne Gassman and Angela Gorsuch, all from health, physical education & leisure services, authored the book “Managing for Excellence: Programs of Distinction for Children and Youth.”


Edginton’s international professional articles have appeared in such publications as World Leisure Journal and Hong Kong Recreational Review; his proceedings and abstracts have appeared in the 11th World Leisure Congress ChunCheon 2010 Abstract Book, Proceedings of the III International Conference of Sports Sciences, and the Conference Programme of the III International Conference of Sports Sciences.

Christopher Edginton and Ming Kai Chin, health, physical education & leisure services, M.S. Tang, K.W. Phau and J.Z. Yang wrote the chapter “School and Community-Based Physical Education and Healthy Active Living Programs: Holistic Practices in Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States” in the book Global Perspectives on Childhood Obesity: Current Status, Consequences and Prevention.

Christopher Edginton and Walter R. Heinecke, health, physical education & leisure services, co-wrote the chapter “Leadership and Ethics” in the book Managing for Excellence: Programs of Distinction for Children and Youth.

Anthony Gabriele’s, educational psychology & foundations, research on peer collaboration was highlighted in the Annual Review of Psychology, 2010. Gabriele was appointed web master of the American Evaluation Association’s Quantitative Methods special interest group.


Julianne Gassman, Christopher Edginton and Angela Gorsuch, all from health, physical education & leisure services, authored the book Managing for Excellence: Programs of Distinction for Children and Youth. In this same book, Gassman authored the chapter “Organizational Culture: Defining our Uniqueness” and “Managing Outcomes: Evaluation and Assessment.”

Julianne Gassman and Christopher Edginton co-authored the journal article “Building and Maintaining Organizational Culture” in Hong Kong Recreation Review. She co-authored the technical report “The Impact of the Recent Economic Downturn on Nonprofit Organization in the Cedar Valley” in American Humanics with Angela Gorsuch, health, physical education & leisure services, A. Costliow and K. McCann.

Tim Gilson, educational leadership, counseling & postsecondary education, and Leigh Martin, student field experiences, published the article “Does Student Teaching Abroad Impact Teacher


Hudson, Olsen and A. Donaldson co-authored “Online Professional Development: Choices for Early Childhood Educators” in Dimensions of Early Childhood.

Christopher Kowalski and Samuel Lankford, both from health, physical education & leisure services, co-wrote “A Comparative Study Examining Constraints to Leisure and Recreation Opportunities for Youth Living in Remote and Isolated Communities” in World Leisure Journal.


Christopher Kowalski and J. Harris co-authored “Unique Partnerships that Work” in Provider. He also authored “Promoting Cultural Diversity” and co-authored with A. Balongo “Risk Management” in Managing for Excellence: The Camp Adventure Child & Youth Services Way.


Lankford, R. Branderhorst, B. Whitney and J. Lankford co-authored the Humboldt County Trails Master Plan for the county and city of Humboldt, Iowa.

Sue Joseph Mattison, health, physical education & leisure services, and colleagues co-authored the article “Age and Axillary Lymph Node Ratio in Postmenopausal Women” in The Oncologist. Joseph Mattison serves as a member of the International Nodal Ratio Working Group, an independent nonprofit discussion group that investigates the lymph node ratio in cancer.


Heather Olsen authored “Searching for Hidden Treasure: Using Geocaching to Introduce Students to the Outdoors” in the AEE eNews Update and co-authored with L. Major “Children’s Play Areas Vital to Iowa Parks” in Iowa Board Member.

Audrey Rule, Greg Stefanich, both from curriculum & instruction, Rob Boody, educational psychology & foundations, and B. Peiffer, former graduate student, published the article “Impact of Adaptive Materials on Teachers and Their Students with Visual Impairments in Secondary Science and Mathematics Classes” in International Journal of Science Education.


Audrey Rule, curriculum & instruction, Frank Darrah and Amy Lokhart, both from Malcolm Price Laboratory School,
Faculty Acclamations, continued

and Lois Lindell, graduate student, co-authored “Cereal Box Dioramas of Native American Cultures: A Collaborative Project” in Social Studies Research and Practice.

Kathleen Scholl, health, physical education & leisure services, and T. Dunlap co-authored the chapter “Staff Training for Inclusion” in Inclusive Recreation. In this same book, she and Rodney Dieser co-authored the chapter “History, Legislation and Standards.”


Dwight C. Watson, dean, published the article “Formula for Success: Recruiting Students of Color to Traditionally White Campuses Comes Down to Three Things” in Diverse Education, July 2010. He also published the article “Exploring Social Connectivity Through the Use of Adolescent Queer Literature” in the American Journal of Sexuality Education.

Jean Donham, curriculum & instruction, presented workshops with the Iowa Department of Education in all Area Education Agencies for teacher librarians on the topic of concept-based inquiry. She also presented “Concept-Based Inquiry” at the Leadership Academy for School Administrators of Iowa in June.

Christopher Edginton, Bin Ruan and Ming Kai Chin, all from health, physical education & leisure services, presented the paper “Bok’s Undergraduate Educational Framework of Core Competencies Among Camp Adventure Youth Services Staff” at the 11th World Leisure Congress in Chuncheon, Korea. Edginton also presented the following papers at the congress: “Host a World Leisure Congress: Strategies, Procedures and Successful Bids,” “World Leisure Chapters” and “The World Leisure Organization: Policies, Programs and Services.” He was a three-time presenter at the third International Conference of Sports Sciences in Singapore. Additionally, he presented papers at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China, and at the Seoul School of Integrated Sciences & Technologies in Chuncheon City, Korea. Stateside, he presented “A Model for Preparing 21st Century Physical Education Teachers” at the Global Forum for Physical Education Pedagogy 2010 in Grundy Center, Iowa.

Suzanne Freedman, educational psychology & foundations, delivered the workshop “The Power of Forgiveness: An Opportunity to Learn and Reflect” in October for the Nehemiah Project. She also keynoted “The Power of Forgiveness.”

Julianne Gassman, health, physical education & leisure services, presented “Advocacy 101” and “Camp Adventure™ Child and Youth Services: An International Service Learning Opportunity” at the American Humanities Management Institute in Phoenix, Ariz.

Melissa Heston, teacher education, presented “Teacher Education at UNI: Current Realities and Challenges” to the Cedar Falls Kiwanis Club in March.

Susan Hudson, health, physical education & leisure services, presented “Playground Safety” at the Camp Adventure Training Program in Cedar Falls and “SAFE Play Areas” at the Navy-Air Force Joint Childcare Conference in Dallas, Texas. She also presented workshops at the National Playground Safety School in Cedar Falls, the California Employees Union in Sacramento, and the National Playground Safety School, Bureau of Indian Affairs, in Bismarck, N.D., and Chinle, Ariz. She presented a National Early Childhood Assessment Workshop, INN CRA, and “Assessing Outdoor Play Areas for Early Childhood,” both in Bloomington, Ill.; “SAFE Maintenance Practices,” Clients of Sapp Insurance, in Clinton, Mich.; and “SAFE Play Areas,” Safe Kids of Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb.

Heather Olsen, health, physical education & leisure services, presented “Planning Safe and Quality Outdoor Play Environments for Children” and “Engaging Outdoor Learning Environments: Using Accreditation Standards to Develop Safe and Quality Learning Spaces” at the National Head Start Conference in Dallas, Texas. At the state level, she presented “Transforming your Playgrounds to Outdoor Learning Environments” at the Iowa Child Care Council; “Child Safety in the Outdoor Play and Learning Environment” as an ICN broadcast for the Iowa Department of Human Services, Healthy Childcare Iowa, Iowa Public Television, K-12 Connections; and “Playground Safety” at Mercy Medical Center.

Susan Roberts-Dobie, health, physical education & leisure services, presented “Strategies for Working with Clients with Low Health Literacy Levels” at the
September annual meeting of the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Audrey Rule, curriculum & instruction, co-presented “Reading Scientific Graphs” at the Annual Summer Institute of the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State, N.Y., in August. Rule and Sarah Montgomery, curriculum & instruction, presented “Supporting Reading Comprehension by Integrating Social Studies Map Making” at UNI’s Elementary Literacy and Reading Conference in April.

Jean Schneider and Audrey Rule, both from curriculum & instruction, presented the workshop “Using Form and Function, a Unifying Theme of Science, and Animal Adaptations to Make Creative Inventions and Innovations” at the Iowa Talented and Gifted Conference in October.

Kathleen Scholl, Samuel Lankford, and Christopher Kowalski, all from health, physical education & leisure services, and G. Giese presented “Understanding Parental Involvement in Youth Sports through Serious Leisure” at the National Recreation and Park Association Congress in Minneapolis, Minn. At the same congress, Scholl co-presented with L. Rod-Welsh “Leisure and Aging Content Analysis of Leisure Textbooks and Leisure Academic Journal Articles.”

Scholl and S. Lund co-presented “Planning for People: Implementation of Inclusive Practices from the Start” for the Mid-West Regional National Park Service in Omaha, Neb., and “Successful Family Partnership: Communicating with Parents and Advocating for Community Inclusion” at the Iowa Therapeutic Recreation Annual Workshop in Cedar Falls. Scholl was the sole presenter of “Landowners’ Perceptions of Storm Water Quality Issues” at the IDNR Water Monitoring Conference & IOWATER Open Forum in Ames.

Grants/Contracts Completed


Sarah Montgomery, curriculum & instruction, received the ComServ Iowa 2010 Area Education Agency and Iowa Coalition for the Integration of Service-Learning grant from the Iowa Department of Education.

Heather Olsen, Susan Hudson, and Donna Thompson, all from health, physical education & leisure services, received the following grants/contracts: $61,290 – Online Professional Development Courses, National Program for Playground Safety; $24,750 – $15,383: United States Air Force. Individually, Olsen received $500 from the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Kathleen Scholl, health, physical education & leisure services, received the following grants and contracts: $24,000 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources, IOWATER Assessment and Curriculum Development; $24,000 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Paired Watershed Planning and Assessment; $5,760 – Robinson Engineering Co., Landowner Watershed Assessment for Sink Creek in Waterloo; $4,000 – Iowa Conservation Education Coalition, Winter Solstice Conference Evaluation; $3,000 – National Park Service Midwest Regional Office, Planning for People Inclusion Workshop; $2,000 – Iowa Conservation Education Coalition, 2010 Governor’s Conference on Environmental Education Evaluation; $1,000 – Cedar Valley Resource Conservation and Development, Upper Wapsi WILDS Promotion – Linking Nature, People, Businesses and Communities.
The University of Northern Iowa’s College of Education will be noted nationally and internationally as the premier professional college of education. We value leadership and excellence in the preparation of educational and human service professionals, innovations in best professional practice, and strong collaborative relationships with the professions and communities we serve.