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Student Affairs Newsletter, August 2013

University of Northern Iowa. Division of Student Affairs.

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Division of Student Affairs

August 2013

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the beginning of the new school year; I hope you are surviving the heat!

I appreciate how much each of you is doing to make new students feel welcome and supported. In many cases, their perceptions of what their UNI experience will be over the next four years is shaped by their early interactions with you. So, each of you play an important role in their success and in our university's success. Thanks for doing your part so well.

Here are some updates that might of interest to you.

Reminder – Faculty and Staff Welcome Back Picnic

I hope to see you at the Welcome Back Picnic for all faculty and staff on Thursday, 4:30 to 7 pm at the south lawn of the President's House. Dress is casual, so shorts, sandals and other forms of cool clothing are encouraged!

Professional development “Lunch and Learn” scheduled

The Division of Student Affairs Professional Development Committee has announced that its next “Lunch and Learn” session will be on Friday, August 30 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Center for Multicultural Education 109A. This session, “Admissions 101,” is being presented by Jenny Connolly, Assistant Director of Admissions/Outreach, and Dan Schofield, Associate Director of Admissions/High School Relations. Attendees will learn about UNI's recruitment strategies, the admissions process, and have the opportunity to become a partner in increasing UNI's enrollment. Please feel free to bring your lunch to the session. If you plan to attend, register at <http://www.uni.edu/studentaffairs/webform/admissions-101>

Opportunities available for student involvement

Over the course of the next several weeks, there are numerous opportunities for students to get involved. Please encourage students you come in contact with to attend these events:

September 4: Student Organization Fair, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Maucker Union Plaza

September 5: Volunteer Fair, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Maucker Union Ballroom

September 11: Rainbow Reception, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. GBPAC Lobby

September 16: Fall Career Fair, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., McLeod Center

September 18: International Opportunities Fair, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Maucker

Union

National College Health Assessment results reported

The spring of 2013 was the fourth time University Health Services (UHS) has administered the National College Health Assessment (NCHA). UHS key performance indicators may be viewed [here](#) and the spring 2013 NCHA Executive Summary may be found [here](#). Wellness and Recreation Services' (WRS) partnership with the Cornerstone first-year experience course and the CHAMPS new student athlete course is ongoing. Additionally, WRS will offer the alcohol and marijuana "eCheck-Up To Go" online programs for the second year in a row.

The Healthy Campus Coalition (HCC) also had a productive first year analyzing the NCHA data and comparing that with national Healthy Campus 2020 benchmarks to identify areas needing improvement within the UNI community. In addition, the HCC conducted focus groups with a diverse cross-section of students during the spring 2013 term. Out of both of these efforts, five priority issues emerged: stress/anxiety, nutrition, sleep, alcohol abuse, and lack of willingness to seek help. The HCC has developed an action plan to focus on addressing these health/wellness struggles faced by many of UNI's students.

Special thanks to Kathy Green for her leadership and to all involved for this forward-thinking and comprehensive approach to improving student health.

Counseling Center staff receive training on working with vets

Veteran Student Services Coordinator Julia Heuer and six members of the Counseling Center staff -- Priscilla Villarreal, Jennifer Murra, Stephanie Germann, Stephanie Harken, Gretchen Honsell, and David Towle -- traveled to Illinois State University in May to attend a training session on working with military service members and veterans on campus. The training session, conducted by psychologists from the Center for Deployment Psychology, covered a range of topics including the culture and experience of service members and veterans on campus, the impact of the deployment cycle on students, reintegration to campus, outreach strategies, and treatments for PTSD.

Connolly named Rising Star

Jenny Connolly, Assistant Director of Admissions, was named an Iowa Rising Star by the Iowa Association for College Admission Counseling during the May state conference held in Sioux City, IA. The award recognizes and encourages the work of admission counselors in their first five years in the profession who are impacting and creating new programs for students in transition. Jenny calls her position her "dream job" and that comes through in the frequent feedback from visitors who applaud her excellence. She continuously seeks to improve programming and has succeeded in involving people campus-wide. Jenny has shaped specific programs for academic colleges, actively engaged students in program delivery, and collaborated to improve diversity initiatives. Congratulations, Jenny!

Thank you to the Iowa State Fair volunteers!

Thanks to all of the staff from across the Division of Student Affairs (and the Honors Program) who helped to make the first major Iowa State Fair push such a huge success. A special thank you to Ryan Puhrman of Admissions for his leadership and to volunteers: Leslie Williams, Matt Nuese, Mark Rowe-Barth, Brittany Warren, Libby Vanderwall, Jessica Moon, Phil Patton, Joyce Morrow, Sarah Goblirsch, Kathy Green, Jennifer Suchan, Laura Wilson and Pat Beck.

Participating from Admissions were Director Christie Kangas along with Dan Schofield, Tom Reburn, Paul Sapp, Jo Loonan, Jamie Rathjen, Lisa Nicole Smith, Jesus Lizarraga, Sean Hartnett, Colby Reinking, Jessica DeWall, Kristi Marchesani, Jenny Connolly, Danielle Weide and Amy Schipper. And a final thanks to students in SAA, CATs, STARs and to Team TC.

Thanks for all you do to help students succeed!

Terry Hogan
Vice President for Student Affairs

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