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Academic Affairs Update, February 2016

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*From the Office of the Provost and
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Academic Affairs Update

University of Northern Iowa



Local Students Are Full STE(A)M Ahead

**By Dr. Annette Lynch, School of Applied
Human Sciences Director and Professor
(Textiles and Apparel)**

Earlier this month, the STEM in the Arts Urban Outreach Initiative introduced the world of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to underrepresented junior high school girls in the Cedar Valley, many of whom participate in the YWCA of Black Hawk County's Wize Girlz program.

Located at UNI's Computer Aided Design and Textile Materials Testing Lab, this innovative fashion and arts program utilized creative concepts to impact students' lives, by helping them learn about technology through hands-on projects as well as how technology plays a role in design, fashion, and music production.

Additionally, students who attended this workshop received individualized mentoring experiences and created a one-of-a-kind sample of work, to display during the UNI Black Student Union's Fashion 4 Action Style Showcase at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center.

Gabriela Olivares Named UNI-NCBI Diversity Fellow



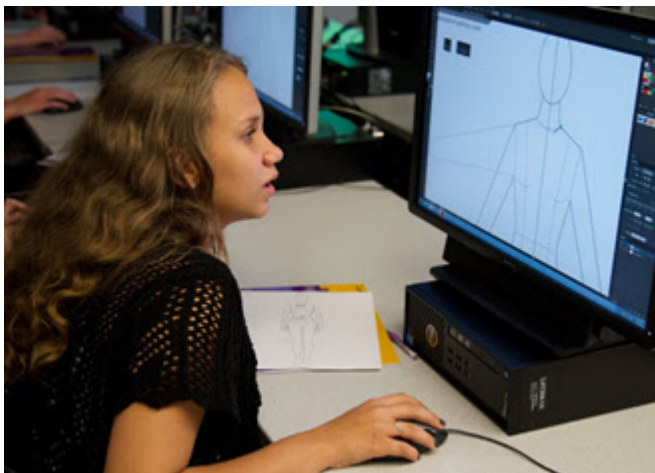
In Fall 2015, Associate Professor Gabriela Olivares (Languages and Literatures) was named the Administrative Fellow for Diversity in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President. Olivares helps with faculty recruitment and retention with an eye on diversity and assists with the UNI National Coalition Building Institute. Among her initiatives is the creation of new Affinity Groups serving the interests of Hispanic and Asian communities at UNI.

Inspired by her bilingual education at Santiago College in Chile, Olivares became a high school English teacher, then in graduate school developed an

Increasing young women's engagement with STEM subjects can change the students' futures, by showing how the arts are intertwined with STEM via careers (such as designers and audio engineers) in fashion, music, and entertainment industries—and especially the challenging and rewarding experiences these fields offer.

Initiative partners included the UNI Textiles and Apparel Program, the YWCA, the UNI STEM Department, Design Her Life, LeaderValley™ (a subsidiary of Leader in Me™) and Infiniti Enterprises.

For more information on the Initiative, contact [Dr. Annette Lynch](#), or YWCA of Black Hawk County Marketing and Development Director [Joy Briscoe](#).



A participant in the February 2016 STEM in the Arts Urban Outreach Initiative works on a piece for UNI's Fashion 4 Action Style Showcase

interest in the field of language learning factors (this topic remains one of her main areas of research).

Since joining UNI in 2007, Olivares has served as a board member with El Centro Latino Americano and an organizer of Latin Fest, and gives presentations on Latino culture to area elementary classes. She also coordinates UNI's Modern Language programs.

For more information on UNI-NCBI, visit their [website](#).

Harry Brod Named UNI-NCBI Director



Professor Harry Brod (Sociology, Anthropology and Criminology) assumed the Director position of UNI-NCBI in Fall 2015, having been involved with the initiative since its launch. Brod provides diversity support for faculty, including new faculty from underrepresented groups, and acts as Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs liaison to UNI's African American Affinity Group. In addition to his teaching and research, Brod serves as Associate Editor of the

journal *Men and Masculinities* and on the Board of Directors of the state's National Endowment for the Humanities' Affiliate Council, Humanities Iowa.

February 2016

Academic Affairs Update is edited by Dr. Adrienne Lamberti
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