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Academic Affairs Update, August 2014

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

Academic Affairs Update

University of Northern Iowa



Greetings from the Provost's Office!

By Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Mike Licari

Welcome back! I hope you had an opportunity to get in some R&R over the past few months in order to recharge your batteries. For those new to campus, welcome to UNI! You will find this campus to be full of knowledgeable, helpful and friendly people. Also, welcome to the first edition of our newly-revised newsletter format. I want to make a concerted effort to continue to improve communication on campus, and so you'll find this newsletter in your inboxes on a monthly basis.

Speaking of "new," I am about seven weeks into the position of Interim Executive Vice President and Provost. I am enjoying the work and the challenges, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve UNI in this new way. My eyes and ears are open, so if you have thoughts, suggestions or concerns, you know where to find me. (Actually, you may not—in mid-July, the offices of the president and the provost switched suites in Seerley Hall, so you will find me in Seerley 20.)

Sticking with the "new" theme, there are two new projects that we will have to tackle in Academic Affairs this year. They are Phase II of the TIER efficiency review for academics and beginning the development of an academic master plan.

For the second phase of the academic efficiency review, a number of working groups have been set up (one for each college, a campus-wide group, and groups for IT and distance education). Each of the groups has faculty and student representation, so I think this process will work best if everyone is engaged and attentive, so that we have thoughtful input as conclusions are made. This will be important if the results are to have meaning on campus.

Even small adjustments, when added up across campus and over time, can lead to significant savings. For example, when we moved the provost's office into Seerley 20, I took the opportunity to eliminate all desktop printers, even mine. We went from 13 printers to three without any real disruptions to our work.

The development of an academic master plan will require input from all divisions of Academic Affairs. This initiative also will have to be coordinated with the development of the other master plans across campus, particularly those for enrollment management, information technology and facilities. As faculty, staff and

Save the Date: UNI-NCBI Workshop on "Controversial Issues"

This fall, the UNI-NCBI (National Coalition Building Institute) team, which begins its fifth year on campus, will facilitate a new workshop Tuesday, Oct. 28, from 1-5 p.m. at the Center for Multicultural Education. The workshop, focusing on "Controversial Issues," develops leadership skills to constructively navigate difficult situations and conflicts, and is applicable to interpersonal, group, organizational and social issues.

The skills developed during this workshop are particularly useful for class, student organization, department and residence hall contexts.

Participants will learn to develop more confidence in addressing potentially divisive situations; learn a unique process to move people forward during such situations; articulate a perspective in ways that others can productively hear; and listen effectively to alternative viewpoints.

The workshop is facilitated by the UNI-NCBI, a team of certified volunteers from across campus. There are no prerequisites for participating.

For scheduling conflicts or more information, contact Dr. Harry Brod or Ms. Colice

students return to campus for fall semester, watch for more information about this process.

Finally, I want to mention enrollment management specifically. Matt Kroeger, our new Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, started July 31. He will sit on the Academic Affairs Council, and so he will be in regular communication with the deans; this will greatly enhance communication with academic departments. One of the key things we will be doing is looking for ways to support academic departments as they work to recruit and retain students. As president Ruud has said, enrollment is everybody's business, so we in Academic Affairs will have an important role in the development of an enrollment management plan.

Good luck as you start the fall semester, and thank you in advance for your hard work and dedication!

*Academic Affairs Report is edited by Dr. Adrienne Lamberti
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Sanders, or visit the [UNI-NCBI website](#). The NCBI office can be reached at 273-3210 or 273-2519

UNI-NCBI is a campus-wide program seeking to create a more welcoming community to which everyone wants to belong.