

2-2015

## Academic Affairs Update, February 2015

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

# Academic Affairs Update

**University of Northern Iowa**



## Professional Development Assignments Propel UNI's Contributions to Scholarship and Iowa

Every fall, a committee comprised of one faculty representative each from CBA, COE, and CSBS, and two representatives from CHAS, evaluates applications for Professional Development Assignments (PDA). A PDA provides full regular salary for one semester or half-salary for an academic year.

During their PDA, award recipients devote their full time to their proposed projects and do not teach or perform other UNI responsibilities. At the end of their projects, recipients compose a report describing their work.

Full-time faculty holding tenure, or full-time probationary faculty who have received a successful third-year review by the time of application, are eligible to apply for these competitive awards. While there are no quotas per college, department, new faculty or senior scholars, tenured faculty applicants are prioritized.

PDA recipients' work is directed by the Master Agreement's Article Seven, including their agreement "to return to full-time employment for a period twice as long as the assignment following the year of the award."

The application deadline is fairly early in the fall semester, so faculty often start planning the application during the summer. Faculty research, creative activities, and completion of a terminal degree all qualify as potential projects for PDA funding.

No matter their form, funded projects are meant to benefit not just UNI, but Iowa citizens. PDA applications must describe a proposed project's contributions to a discipline, how the work will be disseminated (such as via scholarly presentation, publication, or performance), and possible external funding that can enable expansion of the project.

Visit the [Funding/Awards page](#) for more information.

## 2015-2016 PDA Recipients

### Gretta Berghammer

Theatre

*A Spectrum of Collaboration: A Visionary Approach to University and Professional Youth Theatres Working Together to Create, Implement and Sustain Theatre for Youth with Autism*

### Christina Curran

Special Education

*Integrating UDL and Accessible, Assistive Mobile Technologies in Teacher Education*

### William Downs

Social Work

*Partnership between the UNI Integrative Services Project and the National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Mental Health*

### Suzanne Freedman

Educational Psychology and Foundations

*Introduction of Forgiveness Education: Evaluation of Forgiveness Education with 5th Grade Students*

### Soo C. Hostetler

Art

*East Meets West: Exploring and Sharing Culture, Spirit and Tradition*

### Oksana Matvienko

HPELS

*Nutrition Related Messages in Children's Books*

### Atul Mitra

Management

*The Investigating Merit Pay Across Cultures and Territories (IMPACT) Project*

### Jihwa Noh

Mathematics

*Teacher Fidelity Decisions and Their Impact on Lesson Enactment*

### Chris W. Ogbondah

Communication Studies

*A Critical Analysis of Media Coverage of Terrorism in Africa*

### Andrey N. Petrov

Geography

*Remote Sustainabilities: Improving Understandings and Applications of Sustainable Development in the Arctic and Other Remote Regions*

### Aleksandar Poleksic

Computer Science

*Applications of Digital Signal Processing in Drug Discovery*

### M. D. Salim

Technology

*A Web-Based Decision Support System for Optimizing Snow Removal Assets in Varying Temperatures*

### Kathleen G. Scholl

HPELS

*College Campus Landscapes as a Mechanism for Student Learning and Creativity*

**Jeremy Schraffenberger**

Languages and Literatures

*What Passes: Poems and Lyric Essays of Memory and the Body*

**Theresa A. Spradling**

Biology

*Testing Geographic Range-Expansion Models: Population Genetics of a Colonizing Parasite*

**Siegrun Wildner**

Languages and Literatures

*Holocaust Survivor Testimony and Narrative Representation: The Mauthausen Experience*

**Academic Affairs Update** is edited by Dr. Adrienne Lamberti

(UNI Department of Languages and Literatures)

February 2015

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