



*Division of Student Affairs*

March 2014

Dear colleagues,

I hear there may be a real thaw in our future! I appreciate everyone maintaining smiles and positive attitudes while we work our way through a difficult winter. Trust me, sunshine and warmth are on the way. Here is some division news that might interest you:

### **Search underway for Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management**

Dr. Pat Geadelmann, special assistant to the President, is chairing a search committee that will assist us in hiring an Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. The new position will guide university efforts to grow enrollment and will report jointly to the Provost and the Vice President for Student Affairs. It is anticipated that the position will be filled by summer. Search committee members will be determined soon and will include a number of representatives of Student Affairs departments. More to come . . .

### **New Student Assistance and Outreach Coordinator named**

Allyson Rafanello recently joined the Division of Student Affairs as the Student Assistance and Outreach Coordinator in the Dean of Students Office. Allyson will coordinate principal support and intervention for students of concern; administer the student conduct system; and support strategic initiatives, including LGBT\* outreach and assistance. Allyson received her Master's degree in Student Affairs Administration from Ball State University and her BA from Indiana University. She spent the last eight years working in Student Affairs and has experience in residence life, student conduct, student crisis, and diversity initiatives. Allyson can be reached at [allyson.rafanello@uni.edu](mailto:allyson.rafanello@uni.edu) or [319-273-7153](tel:319-273-7153). Please join me in welcoming Allyson to UNI.

### **Insights for Effectiveness: Community Action Poverty Simulation set**

The Student Affairs Diversity Committee will host the next "Insights for Effectiveness" program on Wednesday, March 26 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Center for Multicultural Education. The program will feature the Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS).

Millions of Americans, many of whom are children under the age of 18, live in poverty every day. Many more have incomes above the poverty line, but their

incomes are still low enough to qualify for programs like Food Stamps and Medicaid. The recent economic downturn has seen unemployment rates rise and the use of emergency food pantries increase. The CAPS provides participants with the opportunity to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget.

Registration closes at noon on Friday, March 14. Learn more about the program event and register for the event [here](#).

### **Weiglein to present on "Leadership Essentials"**

The Student Affairs Professional Development Committee will offer a lunch and learn opportunity on "Leadership Essentials" presented by Mike Weiglein, Piazza Manager. This session will be held on Thursday, March 27th from 12:00-1:30 p.m. in the CME room 109. You can register at: <http://uni.edu/studentaffairs/node/855>

### **Staff to join faculty to attend institute on learning communities**

Student Affairs staffers will join a group of faculty to participate in the National Summer Institute on Learning Communities at Evergreen State University in Washington. The goal of the effort is to assist in the development of UNI's learning communities initiatives. The participants hope attendance at the institute will lead to ongoing discussions regarding which kinds of learning communities best serve students at UNI. More information about the institute may found [here](#).

Learning communities contribute to fostering student engagement; connecting students with faculty and staff; making classroom learning more immediate, relevant and meaningful for students; and impacting student retention. Learning communities have continued to develop and evolve in a variety of ways across the country over the past 20 years.

Some learning communities are residential in nature; while others strive to involve off campus students who are often underperforming and at higher risk than their peers living on campus. Some learning communities are first-year in nature; some are part of a sophomore-year experience; and yet others permit students to participate regardless of their classification. Some learning communities are discipline-specific; some are interdisciplinary in nature; and yet others cluster courses around contemporary issues like inclusive excellence, sustainability, or global politics.

### **UNI community gathers for celebration of First Year Experience efforts**

In 2008, UNI was selected to participate in the national higher education project "Foundations of Excellence® (FOE) First-Year." As a result of this extensive self-study, many university-wide initiatives to improve the first-year college experience at

UNI were implemented. On March 5 in the Commons Ballroom, members from across campus came together to celebrate these initiatives and the individuals who have worked to make them successful. Included are the First-Year Cornerstone Class, the MAP-Works early alert initiative, the common reading, ALEKS math placement testing and more. During the celebration's ceremony, UNI faculty, staff, administrators, and students spoke on the variety of experiences, opportunities, and foundational skills UNI provides to help students succeed.

Special acknowledgment goes to Dean of Student Leslie Williams and Assistant Dean of Students Kristin Woods who lead Student Affairs' involvement in our partnership with Academic Affairs.

### **Department of Residence now accepting summer housing contracts**

The Department of Residence is now accepting summer housing contracts in ROTH and Panther Village. Enrollment in summer school is not required. Meal plans are optional and all utilities are included. Continuous housing through August is available to students who have a contract for fall semester housing. Those without a fall semester contract may contract to live on campus from May 10 through August 1. There is a 15 percent discount for a full summer contract housing May 10 through August 1. The minimum stay is one week. Student who are currently living off-campus are also welcome to apply for summer housing on-campus.

Summer housing provides an accessible housing option for students who wish to stay in Cedar Falls during the summer months for student employment, research, off-campus jobs, internships, and summer classes. Glenn Gray, Executive Director of Residence, said, "We know many students need full time summer employment to earn money for the academic year expenses." He added, "This also elevates our level of service to current residents who may need continuous housing during the years they are attending UNI."

Please help make your students aware of this summer housing option. More information on summer housing may found [here](#).

Thanks for all you do to help students succeed!

Terry Hogan  
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