



University of
Northern Iowa™



FEDERAL PRIORITIES

ACCESS, AFFORDABILITY AND STUDENT SUCCESS

- Invest in TRIO, GEAR UP and Educational Opportunity Centers
- Invest in Educator Preparation Grants to Higher Education Institutions
- Invest in Educator Preparation Grants to States
- Improve the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program
- Invest in and Strengthen the TEACH Grant Program.
- Invest in need-based federal student aid through the Pell Grant Program, Federal Work Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants
- Educators for America

Invest in TRIO, GEAR UP and Educational Opportunity Centers.

TRIO, GEAR UP and Educational Opportunity Centers provide resources and support services to individuals from a wide variety of underserved backgrounds—low income students, first generation students, military-connected students, individuals with disabilities and those who need to complete a secondary credential, to name a few. UNI appreciates Congress' increased investments to these programs in recent years and encourages the continuation of federal support.

Invest in Educator Preparation Grants to Higher Education Institutions.

While maintaining Teacher Quality Partnership Grants to colleges and universities, Congress should also invest in teacher recruitment and completion, professional development programs for school leaders, and school resiliency grants to provide adequate resources for educators to educate America's youth.

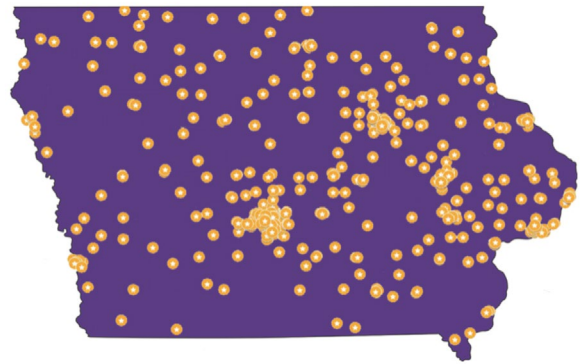
Invest in Educator Preparation Grants to States.

Congress should also assist the state's authority to govern educator preparation by providing funds to address educator shortages through innovative licensure and certification pathways and mentorship networks. Further, grants should support the development of an appropriate and useful accountability and quality assurance framework that affirms the state and local role in education.

Improve the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program.

Educators should see a monthly co-payment equivalent to the monthly principal and interest over a five-year repayment schedule not to exceed \$5,000 toward the original principal balance for all qualifying educators, or \$17,500 toward the original principal balance for all qualifying educators in STEM fields. For educators whose loan balances exceed the thresholds in the Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program, apply a similar monthly copayment under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to fully repay the principal and interest over a 10-year amortization schedule.

Distribution of UNI Teach Grant Recipient Alumni Across Iowa



Invest in and Strengthen the TEACH Grant Program. The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant program has provided an affordable option for preparing individuals to teach in high-need subject areas in low-income schools. Nationally, UNI ranks 8th among public universities in the number of TEACH Grant recipients—translating to an investment of more than \$14.2 million in federal grant aid to UNI educators who serve high-need schools. UNI is a leader in administering the TEACH Grant—with only 34% compared to the national conversion rate of 63%.

Through the 2021-22 academic year, 1,874 UNI students have completed the service obligation of the TEACH Grant, or are currently on track to do so. The figure above represents the vast scope of school districts in which former TEACH Grant recipients are currently teaching. UNI proposes to work with Congress to strengthen the program to foster greater accountability and stewardship of the TEACH Grant by participating institutions.

Invest in need-based federal student aid through the Pell Grant Program, Federal Work Study and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants.

Congress' investment in at least the same level of federal student aid is vital for the success of low-income students at UNI. Approximately 29% of UNI undergraduate students qualify for a Pell Grant each year. The maximum award available to Pell Grant (in 2022-23) recipients is \$6,895, which only covers 73% of total undergraduate resident tuition and fees at UNI. The average Federal Work Study student receives nearly \$1,500 in funds through the program, and SEOG recipients average \$855 at UNI. Continuous investment in need-based federal aid—including flexible options such as year-round eligibility—is critically important to provide an affordable education to students with financial need.

Educators for America. Educator preparation in America is in crisis. As Iowa's leading educator preparation institution, UNI is taking the initiative to strengthen the federal government's role in educator preparation. We are partnering with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, and the Teacher Education Council for State Colleges and Universities to grow, diversify, retain, and support our nation's educators through a comprehensive educator preparation reform package—titled EDUCATORS for America—to enhance federal teacher loan forgiveness programs, the TEACH Grant, and professional development and resiliency grants to states and higher education institutions.



Oksana Grybovych Hafermann

Interim Chief of Staff, Board and
Governmental Relations

oksana.grybovych@uni.edu

319-273-2570

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY INNOVATION

Spray Technique Analysis and Research for Defense. Corrosion costs the Department of Defense (DoD) between \$10-\$20 billion each year, affecting military readiness and safety. Increased corrosion prevention and control efforts are needed to adequately address the wide-ranging and expensive effects of corrosion on tactical equipment and weapons systems. Having properly trained coating applicators is one of the most cost effective and impactful ways of mitigating this problem. The Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC) at UNI has established Spray Technique Analysis and Research for Defense (STAR4D) as the premier comprehensive coating applicator training program in the United States for the DoD and its contractors. More than 4,600 DoD and contract employees from all branches of service have been certified by STAR4D. Increased investments to the DoD Corrosion Policy and Oversight Office in the FY22 NOAA provided the opportunity to conduct and evaluate the effectiveness of STAR4D training, demonstrating a 12% savings while also decreasing costly rework and increasing mission readiness.

Foundry 4.0 Center. The Metal Casting and Foundry 4.0 Centers at the University of Northern Iowa have demonstrated the combined approach of providing applied research as well as advanced manufacturing technology. The University is located in the center of the nation within 300 miles of five of the largest manufacturing regions in the United States as well as a large percentage of operating metal casters. UNI operates two casting-related centers that have provided services to the industry for more than 30 years. UNI has one of the longest-running foundry educational and process developments is used to advance the industry's technical expertise and allow the industry to stay competitive worldwide. The centers have played a critical role in moving the casting industry toward adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies, such as automation, IoT and sensors, investment casting and additive manufacturing. The centers have assisted approximately 1,500 companies with their research and have gained program support from the American Foundry Society, Steel Founders Society of America, and small foundry specific, and the Iowa, Illinois, and Nebraska Foundry Associations.

Regional Food Waste Reduction Centers. Food waste is a national problem with severe negative economic, social and environmental impacts. It's estimated that at least 35 million tons or 24% of all municipal solid waste in landfills in the US is food tossed every year, while one in eight Americans are food insecure. This landfilled food waste is also a significant contributor of methane emissions, a powerful greenhouse gas. For the last decade, UNI's Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC) has used a multifaceted approach to work with businesses, municipalities, and institutions to tackle this issue across the Midwest, including assistance with prevention, rescue and donation, feeding animals, composting and waste-to-energy. The creation of strategically located regional food waste centers, as proposed in the National Food Waste Reduction Act, will allow for on-site diversion assistance, information sharing, research, best practices and successes to flow freely through the regions and have maximum impact. Support for the National Food Waste Reduction Act to be included in the FY23 Farm Bill would allow for the creation of these regional centers, including one at UNI.



- Spray Technique Analysis and Research for Defense
- Regional Food Waste Reduction Centers
- Foundry 4.0 Center
- Ongoing Support for the Economic Development Administration University Center Program

Ongoing Support for the Economic Development Administration University Center Program. The purpose of the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) University Center program is to enable higher education institutions to leverage their assets to build regional economic ecosystems that support innovation and high-growth entrepreneurship, resiliency, and inclusiveness. For nearly a decade the EDA University Center at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) has worked to enhance local economic development business retention, expansion and innovation programming, and directly supported the expansion of entrepreneurship, innovation and R&D within firms, family businesses and supply chains across Iowa. As part of UNI's EDA University Center, the Institute for Decision Making (IDM), Strategic Marketing Services (SMS) and Center for Business Growth & Innovation (CBGI) have partnered with local economic development organizations, community colleges, state agencies and other economic development allies, along with other departments and programs within the University, to foster regional economic growth in Iowa. UNI encourages continue federal support for the EDA University Center program and work of the higher education institutions supported through the program.

Additionally, UNI supports the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration and its role in facilitating regional economic development efforts in communities across the nation.

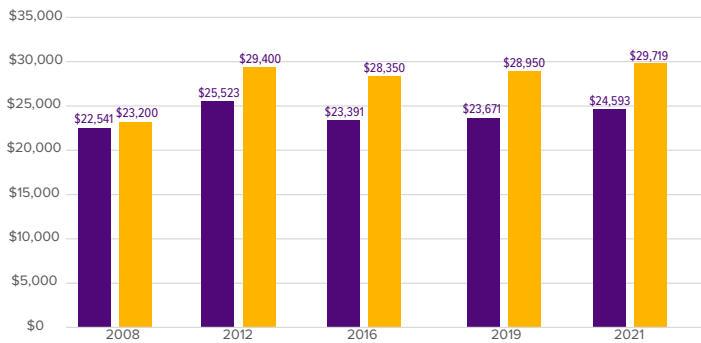


Randy Pilkington
Executive Director, UNI Business and Community Services
randy.pilkington@uni.edu
319-273-6945



Drew Conrad
Director, UNI Institute for Decision Making
andrew.conrad@uni.edu
319-273-6977

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT DEBT



Breaking away from national trends in student borrowing, the University of Northern Iowa has seen its average student loan indebtedness decrease by 8% since 2011. UNI is \$5,000 below the national average on student debt.

UNI
National Average



STUDENT SUCCESS

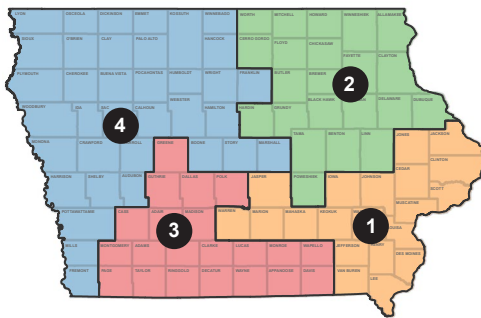
86% of UNI graduates from Iowa **stay in the state**

55% of UNI undergrads from **outside** of Iowa **stay in the state**

90% of UNI transfer student graduates **stay in Iowa** to live and work after degree completion.

- **94%** of UNI bachelors graduates are employed or pursuing advanced study within six months of graduation
- **92%** of UNI undergrads **come from Iowa**, representing all 99 counties
- **92%** of graduates enter the workforce with experience in their field from UNI's robust internship program, field experiences and pre-professional part time jobs.
- **98%** of first-year students receive aid at UNI.
- UNI is the **most affordable** 4-year public university in Iowa

TITLE IV FUNDING IN IOWA



UNI TOTALS:

Federal Pell Grant

2,592
\$9,867,959

SEOG

443
\$403,225

Federal Work Study

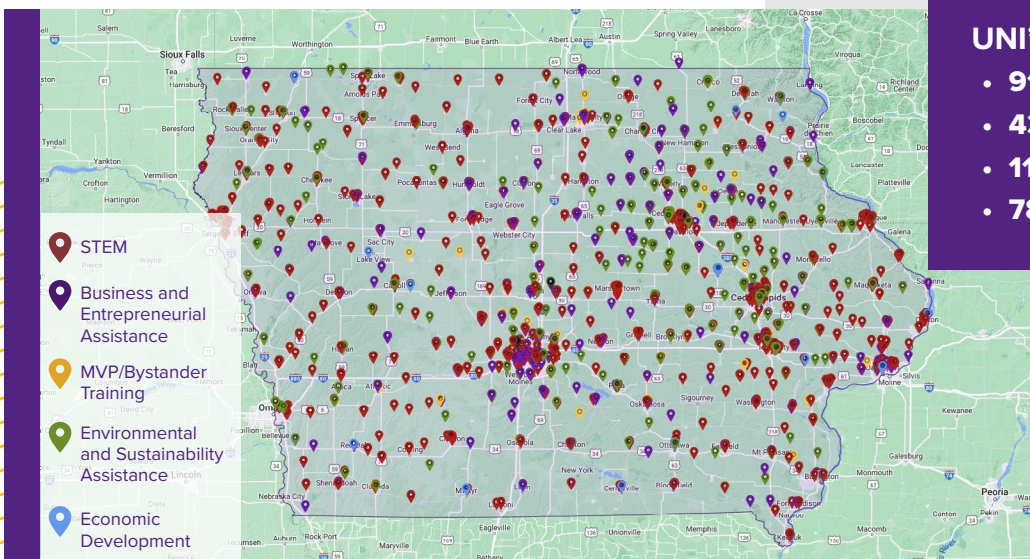
384
\$588,900.12

Region	Federal Pell Grant	SEOG	Federal Work Study
1	1,173 \$4,413,860.74	187 \$166,538	141 \$212,318.66
2	421 \$1,647,995	77 \$72,375	81 \$125,957.43
3	303 \$1,188,737	52 \$47,562	66 \$101,977.86
4	695 \$2,617,367	127 \$116,750	96 \$148,646.17

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)

UNI'S OUTREACH ACROSS IOWA

- **91%** of enrolled students are Iowans
- **438** Student Teachers
- **11,366** Alumni Educators in Iowa
- **78,026** Alumni in Iowa



Mark Nook
President
mark.nook@uni.edu
319-273-2566