2022-2023
ANNUAL REPORT

“MAKE A MARK ON THE WORLD THAT CAN’T BE ERASED.”
- Maya Angelou
During my 14-year tenure as dean, working with incredible students, faculty, and staff has been the honor of a lifetime. From preparing new generations of educators for careers in Nebraska classrooms to leading the charge in emerging health fields, together we have tackled ambitious and meaningful work.

I would like to share with you that my career is coming full circle. This summer I will be stepping down as dean, and following a sabbatical year, I will return to teaching in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. Dr. Neal Grandgenett will lead the college as interim dean, and associate dean duties will be shared by Dr. Kris Swain and Dr. Jason Coleman.

It has been a privilege to serve this community–as an Omaha Public Schools’ elementary teacher, as UNO faculty member, and as dean of our college. I’ve learned that the average tenure of an academic dean is 4-5 years and I have been asked, “How did you stay so long?” A simple question, but the answer is anything but.

Maya Angelou’s quote on the cover encourages us to leave a lasting impact on the world that can endure through time, and this is what I have tried to do throughout my career. Working in higher education offers the opportunity to improve lives, and being dean has provided a space for me to create impactful projects with lasting influence and to help others do the same. Our college has prioritized innovation, collaboration, and transformation, and it is impressive to reflect on how much we have achieved together. On these pages, you will see some of these notable highlights.

In this annual report, my final as dean, you’ll read about innovations laying the groundwork for the future. Discover two graduate programs: a new Dyslexia Specialist Certificate and the established Educational Leadership degrees, now 100% online and accessible for teachers and administrators seeking advanced education. Learn about two recent student trips that offered Biomechanics, Health & Kinesiology, and Speech-Language Pathology students a firsthand, on-site experience in their future professions. Find out more about new grants providing financial and academic support to Counseling students studying to be licensed mental health professionals. Read how the Teacher Education Department is finding solutions to improve teacher recruitment and retention. There are many more stories to tell, and I hope you enjoy reading about the accomplishments of the students and faculty in our college.

Gratefully,

IT HAS BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE THIS COMMUNITY–AS AN OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS’ ELEMENTARY TEACHER, AS UNO FACULTY MEMBER, AND AS DEAN OF OUR COLLEGE.
14 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

DEAN EDICK’S KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COMPLETED THE FUNDING AND SUPERVISED THE MOVE OF THE COLLEGE’S HEADQUARTERS FROM KAYSER HALL TO A NEWLY-RENOVATED ROSKENS HALL, WHICH HOUSES COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND STUDENT TRAINING FACILITIES SUCH AS THE COMMUNITY COUNSELING CLINIC, SPEECH-LANGUAGE CLINIC, AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PLAY LAB.


GUIDED THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND KINESIOLOGY (H&K) THROUGH A NAME CHANGE, GROWTH OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING, AND TWO BUILDING RENOVATIONS, INCLUDING THE UPCOMING RESEARCH, ENGAGEMENT, AND COMMUNITY HUB, OR REACH LAB.


PROMOTED EDUCATION IN THE OMAHA-AREA COMMUNITY THROUGH NEW PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES TO RETAIN TEACHERS, INCLUDING SERVING AS THE FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE CADRE PROJECT, AND HELPING LAUNCH THE TEACHER SCHOLARS ACADEMY AND A NEW $14M GRANT-FUNDED PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

SERVED AS THE FIRST ROTATING DEAN FOR THE STEM TRAIL CENTER, AND HELPED SECURE THE FUNDING AND GUIDE THE PLAN FOR RENOVATION OF THE LOWER LEVEL OF ROSKENS HALL FOR THE CENTER’S FUTURE HOME.

SUPPORTED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS INCLUDING SERVING ON THE MOE EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE AND ON THE BOARDS OF PROJECT HARMONY, COMPLETELY KIDS, AND KIDS CAN.

DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH, WITH THE COLLEGE’S EXTERNAL FUNDING INCREASING FROM $1.1M TO $9M DURING DEAN EDICK’S TENURE, AND INTERNAL FUNDING BOOSTED TO $1M PER YEAR.

RECEIVED THE CHANCELLOR’S MEDAL AT THE MAY 2023 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY.
The Department of Counseling was recently awarded two grants totaling $1M from UNMC’s Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) through the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Award Program. The grants will support program recruitment and clinical training experiences, as well as fund a clinical training instructor to manage UNO’s Community Counseling Clinic. The department also hopes to double the number of students completing practicum, expand internships and quality supervision, offer advanced clinical training in areas such as tele-behavioral health and evidence-based suicide and crisis interventions, and provide living stipends and financial support for licensure.

“We are excited to have the resources to engage diverse groups of students to help them learn about career possibilities in the behavioral health field,” said Chasek. “Many students don’t think about counseling as an option when they think about careers in the healthcare field. They think of traditional healthcare professions like doctor, nurse, physician assistant. We want to change that by showing the pathway to a licensed counseling profession.”

According to Assistant Professor Thang Tran, Ph.D., school counselors are the heartbeat of P-12 education. “School counselors support and strengthen all critical aspects of school culture, including caring for their students and families’ felt needs, academic growth, fostering a vision for college, career readiness, and social/emotional development,” explained Tran.

A former school counselor himself, Tran leads the School Counseling program in UNO’s Department of Counseling—work he is honored to do.

“My students teach me as much, maybe even more, than I teach them,” said Tran. “I continue to be grateful for the small but important role I get to play in impacting this next generation of counselors, educators, and leaders.”

DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING

GRANTS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS FACED BY STUDENTS PURSUING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER CAREERS

The grants will support program recruitment and clinical training experiences, as well as fund a clinical training instructor to manage UNO’s Community Counseling Clinic. The department also hopes to double the number of students completing practicum, expand internships and quality supervision, offer advanced clinical training in areas such as tele-behavioral health and evidence-based suicide and crisis interventions, and provide living stipends and financial support for licensure.

$1M
IN GRANT FUNDING FROM UNMC’S BHECN

“Many students don’t think about counseling as an option when they think about careers in the healthcare field. We want to change that.”

- DR. TINA CHASEK
Julie Hefflinger Professorship in Counseling

$482K
WILL GO DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS

ADVANCED CLINICAL TRAINING FOR COUNSELORS IN TRAINING
PI: Charmayne R. Adams, PhD, LIMHP, NCC

COUNSELOR TRAINING RECRUITMENT AND CLINICAL PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE
PI: Abby Bjornsen-Ramig, PhD, LF

GRANT DETAILS:

Many students don’t think about counseling as an option when they think about careers in the healthcare field. We want to change that.

- Dr. Tina Chasek
Julie Hefflinger Professorship in Counseling

According to Assistant Professor Thang Tran, Ph.D., school counselors are the heartbeat of P-12 education. “School counselors support and strengthen all critical aspects of school culture, including caring for their students and families’ felt needs, academic growth, fostering a vision for college, career readiness, and social/emotional development,” explained Tran.

A former school counselor himself, Tran leads the School Counseling program in UNO’s Department of Counseling—work he is honored to do.

“My students teach me as much, maybe even more, than I teach them,” said Tran. “I continue to be grateful for the small but important role I get to play in impacting this next generation of counselors, educators, and leaders.”

COUNSELING FEATURED FACULTY

6
Educational Leadership Programs Now 100% Online

For over 30 years, UNO’s Department of Educational Leadership (EDU) has thrived on essential need across Nebraska for P-12 administrators as well as school district and nonprofit leaders. EDU’s programs recently transitioned to a 100% online format, providing professionals and aspiring leaders with additional flexibility to pursue advanced degrees in Educational Leadership. The fully online format also creates expanded learning opportunities for students throughout the U.S. and in other countries.

"We are excited that our established, high-quality graduate programs are even more accessible to those looking to grow their leadership skills," said Department Chair Tami Williams, Ed.D.

The department offers three degree programs—a Master of Science Degree in Educational Leadership, an Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree, and a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership. The fully online format also provides professionals and aspiring leaders with additional flexibility to pursue advanced degrees in Educational Leadership.

EDL Awesome Alumni

Dérenceia Phillips, Ed.D., has collected numerous titles in the past 18 years. Mother. Student. Wife. Teacher. Principal. Mentor. Business owner. Despite the setbacks, Phillips found support from her UNO professors, especially Jeanne Surface, Ed.D., who maintained contact through the challenging times. "We do not want students to fail, so we're going to help them all the way along," Surface explained. "Some students start and stop along the way. As we really push them to be successful!"

Dérenceia Phillips walked across the stage during UNO’s May Commencement, she added Doctor to the list. By the time they complete their degree, students possess invaluable practical leadership experience, along with a strong set of creative and critical problem-solving skills, said Williams. "Our alumni excel in leading educational innovations and making a positive impact on educational systems."

Dérenceia Phillips

ED.D. in Educational Administration ’23
Owner, Dal Education & Care Solutions

"By the time they complete their degree, students possess invaluable practical leadership experience, along with a strong set of creative and critical problem-solving skills," said Williams. "Our alumni excel in leading educational innovations and making a positive impact on educational systems."


Dr. Tami Williams

Programs Now 100% Online

ED.D. Program Boasts a 90% Graduation Rate

“50% of School Administrators in the Omaha Area Have One or More Degrees from UNO

First Doctoral Program at UNO

Watch Dérenceia’s Story:

The Programs:

ED.D. in Educational Administration

Designed for educators who have completed foundational work in school leadership and hold a current administrative certificate. Most Ed.D. students pair their work with the requirements for a superintendent’s certificate.

Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) Degree

Designed for the experienced practitioner who holds a master’s degree and administrative certificate and wishes to complete the requirements for a superintendent’s certificate.

M.S. in Educational Leadership

Designed for educators who hold a teaching certificate and wish to complete the requirements for a principal or special education supervisor certificate. Administrative Certificate Endorsement also available for those with a master’s degree.
immersed in MLB spring training activities while meeting with sports medicine clinicians and sport scientists. ATC, eighteen students from UNO’s Biomechanics, Kinesiology, and Athletic Training programs spent a week accompanied by faculty members Adam Rosen, Ph.D., ATC, Brian A. Knarr, Ph.D., and Sam Wilkins, Ph.D., the Department of Biomechanics traveled beyond the classroom for a sports medicine- and biomechanics-focused Major League Baseball (MLB) Spring Training Experience in Arizona.

PROS DURING MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL EXPERIENCE

STUDENTS EXPLORE SPORTS MEDICINE AND BIOMECHANICS WITH THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND KINESIOLOGY

“baseball, it was amazing to see how things are done behind the scenes,” Chen said. “Biomechanics plays just as big a role in professional baseball as athletic training does. I hope to work closely with biomechanists in the future.”

Other highlights included watching Team USA at the World Baseball Classic and attending a game at Peoria Sports Complex. A post-game tour of the complex by biomechanist Kate Weiss, Ph.D., CSCS, the sports science director for the Seattle Mariners, showcased the facility’s state-of-the-art simulated pitching system and customized baseball bats.

“As someone who wants to work in professional baseball, it was amazing to see how things are done behind the scenes,” Chen said. “Biomechanics plays just as big a role in professional baseball as athletic training does. I hope to work closely with biomechanists in the future.”

It was an incredible experience to talk with people within professional baseball to learn more about rehabilitation measures and what it is like to work with professional athletes,” said Chu-Han Chen, a first-year graduate student in UNO’s Athletic Training Program.

Matthew Schultz’s unwavering passion for basketball first sparked his connection with UNO, beginning when he joined the Nebraska Red Dawgs, a semi-professional basketball team for youth with physical disabilities. For eight years, Matthew and his brother Tricia made the 2.5-hour trip to Omaha once a month, playing basketball on an arena court with Coach Mike Kall, who also served as coach for the UNO wheelchair basketball team, which competed its final season this April.

When asked about the impact of wheelchair basketball in his life, Schultz explained that the sport helps participants push beyond what they previously thought possible. “Wheelchair basketball gave me the opportunity to say, ‘Maybe I can do this, maybe I can take that next step forward. I give no thought in light of.”

Chen said, “Biomechanics plays just as big a role in professional baseball as athletic training does. I hope to work closely with biomechanists in the future.”

In June, JP Rech, student in the UNO Physical Activity in Health Promotion Lab, successfully defended his dissertation. Reich studied the effectiveness of interventions that promote physical activity in preschool to third grade classrooms with funding from the Buffett Early Childhood Institute (BECI) Graduate Scholars program. Through his project, Reich hopes to identify activities that work well for classrooms and help teachers see the value of more physical activity. “Most kids are not active enough,” said Reich. “This is an age where they’re really supposed to be exploring and learning through interactions with different environmental factors and those around them.”

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

In June, JP Reich, student in the UNO Physical Activity in Health Promotion Lab, successfully defended his dissertation. Reich studied the effectiveness of interventions that promote physical activity in preschool to third grade classrooms with funding from the Buffett Early Childhood Institute (BECI) Graduate Scholars program. Through his project, Reich hopes to identify activities that work well for classrooms and help teachers see the value of more physical activity. “Most kids are not active enough,” said Reich. “This is an age where they’re really supposed to be exploring and learning through interactions with different environmental factors and those around them.”

READ MORE ABOUT JP’S RESEARCH ON THE BECI WEBSITE.
“True love stories never have endings.”

Written many years ago by aviator-turned-author Richard Bach, these words hold different meanings to different people. For Martha Bruckner, Ph.D., a two-time University of Nebraska at Omaha graduate and executive director of the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC), her love for education will not end with her retirement in June, just as her love for Bob, her husband of more than 30 years, will live on through the Robert E. Bruckner, Ed.D., Memorial Scholarship in the UNO College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences.

Martha and Bob first met as doctoral students at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. They said that their paths crossed numerous times and that they would jokingly debate the importance of working in elementary schools versus at the high school level.

“We both valued education and realized the value it added to our lives,” Martha said. “We were both given the privilege of school leadership and later accepted district leadership roles in different districts. After Bob retired and I became a district superintendent, he was a wise support to me and many others in educational leadership roles. Bob was the ‘wind beneath my wings.’”

Bob Bruckner was a longtime elementary school educator and principal in the Millard Public Schools, she served as superintendent of the Council Bluffs Community School District for 10 years before accepting her current role. Similarly, Martha worked as a teacher, assistant principal and principal at Ralston High School. After working as an associate superintendent of elementary education for the district. Similarly, Martha worked as a teacher, assistant principal and principal at Ralston High School. After working as an associate superintendent of elementary education for the district.

What are Martha’s plans for retirement? “I hope to have fewer formal plans and a less hectic schedule, but I’m eager to find some new ways to be useful,” Martha said. “I’m entertaining ideas or offers.”

“Establishing a scholarship in Bob’s memory seemed to be a fitting way to honor his lifelong dedication to education,” Martha said. “I wanted to find a way to continue to show my love for Bob, going to ‘our’ university in order to enrich others seemed to be the perfect thing to do that. I hope the scholarship will provide great opportunities to others who are drawn to the profession.”

Because preschool education was so important to Bob, Martha also has established a scholarship program within the Westside Community Schools to support families of young children who need assistance to access early education opportunities.

Martha has been recognized for her own commitment to improving lives through education. She is the recipient of the UNL Teachers College Walter K. Beggs Award for Outstanding Service to Education and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the UNO CEHHS. As superintendent of the Council Bluffs Community School District, she overseeing a 20-point improvement in the district’s graduation rate that was supported by focused work occurring at all levels throughout the district.

For Martin Bruckner, Ph.D., a two-time University of Nebraska at Omaha graduate and executive director of the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC), her love for education will not end with her retirement in June, just as her love for Bob, her husband of more than 30 years, did not when he passed away in 2021. And, thanks to a generous and thoughtful gift from Martha, the impact the couple had on students in the area for more than 45 years will live on through the Robert E. Bruckner, Ed.D., Memorial Scholarship in the UNO College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences.

Martha said. “We were both given the privilege of school leadership and later accepted district leadership roles in different districts. After Bob retired and I became a district superintendent, he was a wise support to me and many others in educational leadership roles. Bob was the ‘wind beneath my wings.’”

Bob Bruckner was a longtime elementary school educator and principal in the Millard Public Schools. He retired from Westside in 2008 as director of elementary education for the district. Similarly, Martha worked as a teacher, assistant principal and principal at Ralston High School. After working as an associate professor in educational leadership at UNO and as an associate superintendent in the Millard Public Schools, she served as superintendent of the Council Bluffs Community School District for 10 years before accepting her current role.
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

NEW DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST CERTIFICATE EQUIPS EDUCATORS WITH TOOLS TO BETTER SUPPORT STUDENTS

According to researchers, around 20% of students in the U.S. have dyslexia*, a learning disability that causes people to struggle with language skills including writing, spelling, pronouncing words, and reading. Early diagnosis and interventions are critical, and the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders (SECD) is working to help fill a gap in educator training.

The department’s new Dyslexia Specialist Certificate, conceptualized the certificate program in 2021, and the department welcomed the first cohort of students this fall.

“Many of them already have advanced training in reading - they’re reading specialists, reading coaches, interventionists, school psychologists - but they don’t know enough about dyslexia,” said Kern. “They were saying, ‘I didn’t know about this. I don’t know about dyslexia.’”

Current student Kate Bean, a K-5 Literacy Interventionist at Morton Elementary School, said the program has significant value, equipping her with essential tools to develop explicit and systematically structured literacy lessons tailored to her students’ individual needs.

“I recommend the program as a supercharged boost to anyone wanting the skills to teach reading to all students,” said Bean. “Throughout the program, I immersed myself in current research.”

Thanks to a new partnership with Creighton University’s Occupational Therapy program and Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC), the Speech Language Pathology (SLP) program recently collaborated on a global experience focused on interprofessional services and cultural competencies. Katie Springer, a SLP graduate student traveling to the Dominican Republic for a nine-day intercultural learning experience as part of the course.

According to Peterkin, the course helps aspiring practitioners to develop their clinical skills with hands-on experiences in the field, while gaining a deeper understanding of the practice of cultural humility and cross-cultural care. The students provided services at different clinical sites including a hospital and school in Santiago and toured historical and cultural sites. In addition, the students hosted clinics and delivered services in a rural community, or campo, while staying with local families.

“I found it imperative that we teach him how to correctly write a J as that is the first letter of his name,” explained Kern. “At the local school, we evaluated a child who wrote all his letters backwards, so we did hand-over-hand motions to help him practice. I found it important that we teach him how to write his own name in his notebook so he could continue his success after we were gone.”

“Data will grow (schools and districts) power and they’ll be able to really show change and make informed choices in planning and in resource allocation,” explained Kern.

* Statistic from the Yale Center of Dyslexia and Creativity.

**For this piece, I was asked to contribute a column by the Greater World Herald and UNO’s WorldView.**
Building on CSHE’s legacy of responding to the needs of the community, the Teacher Education Department is forming new collaborations with school districts across the Omaha metro to attract and retain teachers. The department is focused on closing the workforce gap in education, ensuring that area elementary and secondary students have access to an exceptional education that prepares them for college and beyond.

New funding from Omaha Public Schools (OPS) supports four initiatives at UNO that will create more pathways into the teaching profession and expand professional development for current teachers. A $14.8M grant supports funding for graduate courses for qualifying OPS teachers to build capacity for dual enrollment and to address strategic district initiatives. The grant also provides scholarships for aspiring educators through UNO’s Teacher Scholars Academy and Teacher Academy Project.

Other collaborations include working with district leaders to design graduate coursework and cohorts based on the needs of each district. In addition to working with OPS, Teacher Education faculty are developing collaborations with Millard Public Schools, Bennington Public Schools, Elkhorn Public Schools, Westside Community Schools, and others. These new partnerships will build educators’ skills in areas like mathematics and early literacy, help advance teachers’ preparation to teach in high-needs areas of education, and promote more targeted career areas such as school library, special education, and ESL/bilingual education.

In March, the Teacher Education Department (TED) hosted the second annual Future Teachers of Color Summit on UNO’s campus. The summit brought together high school students and UNO teacher candidates for a two-day event filled with keynote speakers, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. Participants attended presentations from current UNO education students and education professionals in the community, as well as visiting scholar from California State University, Dominic H. Miguel Gutierrez, Ph.D., and Chancellor Joanne L. Chávez, the first woman of color to serve as UNO chancellor.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

Derrick Nero Ed.D., Willie Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers,” explained Gutierrez.

Gutierrez founded the Summit in 2022 with colleagues Ferial Pearson, Ed.D., Derrick Nero Ed.D., Wili Austin, Ed.D., and Sandra Rodriguez-Arroyo, Ed.D. The team developed the event with funding from an NU System Inclusive Excellence Development Grant with the goal of recruiting and retaining diverse students to the field of education and the university.

Gutierrez believes the Future Teachers of Color Summit is an essential step towards creating a more diverse and equitable education system.

According to event founder and TED faculty member Gabriel Gutierrez, the Future Teachers of Color Summit provides a unique opportunity for aspiring educators of Color to build a supportive network and gain inspiration by bringing together individuals who may share similar experiences and backgrounds.

“By fostering a sense of community, the summit can inspire and energize attendees, equipping them with new strategies and tools to succeed in their future careers," explained Gutierrez. "I'm proud of taking on a challenge like this. Education can be hard, but it's definitely worth it."
MALCOLM RECEIVES $238K FROM NSF TO STUDY ENERGY REQUIREMENTS OF WALKING IN OLDER ADULTS

As we age, our bodies become less energy efficient, transforming simple activities like walking into a daunting effort, and the reason why is not fully understood. With funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), research led by UNO, in collaboration with UNL, leverages machine learning to investigate the metabolic cost of different phases of the gait cycle. Biomechanics researchers at UNO are conducting motion-capture experiments to influence the different phases using a robotic waist tether. Data from these experiments will be used to develop machine learning algorithms that estimate fluctuations in the energetic cost at a sub-stride cycle resolution.

This research is expected to create practical applications for gait rehabilitation. “Being able to detect the energetic cost of different phases of the gait cycle would enable us to design improved assistive devices such as orthoses or exoskeletons that specifically target the costliest phase of the gait cycle,” Philippe Malcolm, Ph.D., UNO Principal Investigator, said.
MYERS HELPS ROLL OUT “BIOMECHANICS LAB IN A SHOE”

A fitness technology company co-founded by Sara Myers, Ph.D., Elvee Performance Technologies, recently rolled out its first product, ELVEE, “a biomechanics lab in a shoe.” The shoe insert can monitor fitness performance by determining movement and joint patterns, weight distribution and ankle power in real-time, indicating if an injury is developing. According to Myers’ co-founder, Bobby Izuta, the shoe insert can monitor fitness performance by determining movement and joint patterns, weight distribution and ankle power in real-time, indicating if an injury is developing.

This highlight was adapted from an article written by the Omaha STEM Ecosystem’s Julie Hanley, and Jim Wolfe–received an NU IT Security Champion Award. Attendees included Chancellor Joe Rallo, the Nebraska Alumni Association, Omaha Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the UNMC Foundation, and the UNO Foundation.

AWARDS AND ACCLAMATIONS

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) FUNDING

- Successful renewal of $2M+ in Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) Award
- David Kingston, Ph.D., receives R15 funding for $488k for project, Mechanics of overground, dry, and aquatic treadmill walking in children & adolescents with cerebral palsy

HIGHLIGHTS

- Dr. Adam Rosen and Dr. Sam Wikins reducted into UNMC’s Interprofessional Academy of Educators.
- Dr. Marcus Adler received a Community Program Partnership Award from NODH, the North Omaha Area Health Clinic.
- Dr. Martha Brockner received a Mercy Heritage Award.
- Dr. Kelly Garrett Johnson is the inaugural STEM TRAIL Center Leadership Fellow.
- Dr. Ayrin Posh received a Professional Achievement Award from the Kearse College Alumni Association.
- The Technology Support Team–Dr. Tami Williams selected as the AIM Institute Community Builder of the Year Award.
- Dr. Tami Williams selected as the AIM Institute Community Builder of the Year Award.
- Dr. Charolette Tate-Vinson received a Recognition Award from the UNO Staff Advocacy Council.
- The Omaha STEM Ecosystem received the AIM Institute Community Builder of the Year Award.

BIOMECHANICS

- Biomechanics faculty were awarded 30 new grants for a total of $3.6M in funding.
- Biomechanics programs had a total of 90 students, more than double the number of students five years ago.

UNO Biomechanics has made a total impact of $27.54M on the Omaha metropolitan economy, according to a study by Dr. Christopher Decker from UNO’s Department of Economics.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Over 100 guests joined the Fall Leadership Dinner at Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, featuring alumnus Dr. Liz Mulierin as keynote.

Educational Leadership supported Leadership Academies in Millard, OPS, Ralston, Westside, and Elkhorn school districts for staff and teachers who aspire to become principals or leaders on the building/ district level.

Faculty partnered with alumnus Dr. Jim Sutfin to create the Superintendent Academy Micro Credential, beginning Spring 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOMECHANICS
The REACH Lab secured phase 1 funding and construction began on the H&K Building.

The Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) re-accredited the Master of Arts in Athletic Training for a full 10-year period.

H&K faculty received over $1.2 million in external funding, an increase of 76% from the previous year.

The AAQEP (Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation) and NDE (Nebraska Department of Education) visit in October led to successful accreditation.

In partnership with MOEC, the METLINK Literacy Conference returned to in-person events with two conferences in 2022 and over 100 teachers in attendance at each conference.

In April, CEHHS recognized five outstanding alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards at the annual Distinguished Alumni Luncheon event.

Innovative and Learning-Centric Initiatives grant, faculty converted 40 graduate classes to online sections to support the transition to online Teacher Education graduate programs.

Research productivity (e.g., presentations, publications, and grants) for the department had a one-year growth of 52%.

In Summer 2022, the first cohort of four graduate students started the Accelerated Special Education Program.

Academic Advising’s seven advisors and one peer advisor held 3,267 total academic advising meetings with students.

In April, CEHHS recognized five outstanding alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards at the annual Distinguished Alumni Luncheon event.

Award of Distinction
Dr. Martha Bruckner, UNO

Distinguished Service Awards
Tim Hron, RADIUS
Denise Marshall, Columbus Community Hospital

Professional Achievement Award
Dr. Shavonna Holman, UNL

Promising Professional Award
Lacey Wolf, Playful Speech & Feeding

In Summer 2022, the first cohort of four graduate students started the Accelerated Special Education Program.

In Summer 2022, the first cohort of four graduate students started the Accelerated Special Education Program.

The final eleven-student cohort of the OPS Career Ladder in Special Education started their final year of the partnership.

Field Experiences placed 250 teacher candidates in Clinical Practice experience, a 16.2% increase from the previous year.

Academic Advising’s seven advisors and one peer advisor held 3,267 total academic advising meetings with students.

In April, CEHHS recognized five outstanding alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards at the annual Distinguished Alumni Luncheon event.

Award of Distinction
Dr. Martha Bruckner, UNO

Distinguished Service Awards
Tim Hron, RADIUS
Denise Marshall, Columbus Community Hospital

Professional Achievement Award
Dr. Shavonna Holman, UNL

Promising Professional Award
Lacey Wolf, Playful Speech & Feeding