

MEET THE PROFS



UNI MA for Teacher Leaders in American International Schools



Dr. Tim Gilson

Program Coordinator

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 @pantherprof

After serving as an Iowa principal for 13 years, I decided to change direction and help prepare tomorrow's school leaders. After coordinating the UNI Principalship program, I now coordinate this International Teacher Leader program with Dr. Martin. Having the opportunity to work within this program has been extremely rewarding and has heightened my own learning curve. Visiting students and administrators in Mumbai, UAE and Singapore has certainly added to that growth and excitement. My daughter is just beginning her career as a school psychologist here in the Cedar Valley and my son is a recent graduate from Wartburg College. In my free time I enjoy all sports and exercise, and along with my wife Catherine, traveling and spending time boating on the mighty Mississippi River in beautiful NE Iowa.

Mr. Joe Atherton

Program Adjunct & Recruiter

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I just completed my 40th year in education; most recently as an elementary principal at the American School of Brasilia. I am still inspired to make a difference, whether that is through participation on school accreditation teams or by facilitating graduate courses through UNI. All of my pursuits focus on a single purpose; the development of the child. I believe building leadership capacity in institutions and individuals quickly filters down to the improvement in student learning and ultimately better prepares our students for the future they face.



Dr. Tammy Gregersen

Professor

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I am a Professor of TESOL at UNI where I specialize in language teaching methodology. I taught English and trained teachers in Chile for 15 years and have also been involved in teacher education programs and conferences in Spain, Russia, Poland, United Arab Emirates, Italy, Portugal, France, Belgium, and Austria. My research interests include individual differences and nonverbal communication in applied linguistics.

Dr. Dewitt Jones

Adjunct

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I was born in Des Moines and moved to the Chicago suburb of Northbrook where I grew up. I received a Bachelor of Music Education, then a Master's and Doctorate in Educational Administration. I have been an instrumental music instructor, middle school principal, high school principal and a superintendent of schools. I retired in 2008 as the superintendent for the Waterloo Schools and joined the UNI Educational Leadership Department as an Associate Professor. In 2014 I retired from UNI and am teaching as an adjunct professor for UNI and now live in Waukee, Iowa and Denver, Colorado where my wife Joanna and I enjoy our 5 grandchildren in both cities. We boat on the Mississippi River in the summers and now volunteer in two elementary schools in Denver.

Mr. Steve Katz

Adjunct

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I am currently working as the elementary school technology coordinator at The International School of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. I started in education as a middle school social studies teacher in California, and have over twenty years of classroom teaching experience. I have been helping others to integrate technology into their teaching since the late 1990s, sometimes in leadership and coaching positions, and other times informally, and have taught technology integration courses for three universities. My wife and I have two children in high school, and we have lived and worked in the US, Costa Rica, Korea, and now Malaysia.



Dr. Denise Schares

Assistant Professor

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After 37 years in PK-12 schools serving as a teacher, director of instruction, AEA consultant, associate superintendent and superintendent, I am enjoying yet another engaging role as assistant professor in Educational Leadership. My primary responsibilities include directing the Institute for Educational Leadership, coordination of the superintendent program and teaching in the superintendent, principal and doctoral programs. The students and colleagues that I have the privilege to work with make the work challenging and rewarding. We have two grown children and two precious grandchildren. In my free time, I like to cook, read and spend time with my family.