Teacher Education at UNI

Moving from a 136-year history in teacher education toward “Leading the state and nation in pre-K through 12 education by developing highly effective professionals prepared to educate, serve and lead the future.”

At a Glance:
- An average of 2,800 students are enrolled in teacher education each year.
- UNI graduates 500 new teachers every year.
- Nearly 12,000 alumni educators work in Iowa.
- More than 17,000 alumni educators teach throughout the world.
- In a typical year, UNI places more than 1,800 education students in field experiences.
- 92 percent of grads secured employment, were accepted to graduate school or pursued other plans.

Strategic Directions
1) Prepare professionals to Educate, Serve and Lead
2) Provide rigorous and relevant teaching, scholarship and service
3) Create open and affirming environments that focus on equity, diversity, inclusiveness and social justice
4) Foster responsible stewardship of human, capital and informational resources
5) Engage in community service and outreach

Student Profile
Overall GPA at admission: 3.4
Overall GPA at graduation: 3.5
Average PPST math: 181
Average PPST reading: 179
Average PPST writing: 176

Admission Requirements:
- Minimum Cumulative GPA: 2.5
- PPST Scores: 100 percent pass rate
- Praxis II: 100 percent pass rate

UNI Impact in the Greater Cedar Valley
- Student teachers = 59
- Current students = 2,811
- Alumni = 14,378
- Alumni educators = 1,881

Hands-on Learning
- 95 hours of field experiences
- Two eight-week student teaching placements
- UNI Teacher Worker Sample – UNI student teacher self reflective piece on teaching performance and student achievement

UNI Impact in the Greater Cedar Valley
- At the national level, UNI is currently the No. 1 public university in administering the TEACH Grant.
- In 2011–12, UNI had 643 TEACH Grant recipients for $2.4 million.
- UNI’s federal direct loan default rate is 2.9 percent, compared to 8.8 percent nationally.

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Challenges and Opportunities Facing Teacher Education Programs

1) Preparing students for shortage fields
   UNI Action: Special Education Program — nearly 100 percent placement upon graduation
   UNI Action: Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
     - UNI President Ben Allen co-chairs the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council
     - Spring of 2012, the governor announced UNI as one of six regional STEM Hubs in Iowa
     - Iowa Mathematics & Science Education Partnership – Iowa Teach Program
   UNI Action: Statewide special education network provides endorsement for practicing teachers

2) Pre-K through 12 student achievement
   UNI Action: Teacher Worker Sample – UNI student teacher self reflective piece on teaching performance and student achievement
   UNI Action: Piloting Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA)
   UNI Action: Placement in urban and rural schools expanded

3) Partnerships with Pre-K through 12 schools
   UNI Action: Professional Development School (PDS) model – field experience faculty and site coordinators in urban and suburban schools
   UNI Action: Iowa Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) – focused at increasing pre-K through 12 student achievement and developing more effective teachers for high-need rural schools

4) Funding for teacher education innovation
   UNI Title II A Improving Teacher Quality State Grant Programs
     - Iowa Physics Teacher Instruction & Resources (IPTIR), 2009-2012, $445,979
     - Impacting Achievements with Collaboration & Technology (IMPACT), 2008-2011, $449,100
     - Research Avenues for Iowa Science Educators (RAISE), 2006-2010, $324,378
     - Center for Disability Studies in Literacy, Language and Learning, 2010-2011, $750,000

UNI has premier literacy education programs
The Jacobson Center for Comprehensive Literacy
(www.uni.edu/coe/jccl) focuses on transforming literacy education among student teachers and current teachers. The center houses:
   1) Partnerships in Comprehensive Literacy Program
   2) Comprehensive Intervention Model Literacy Intervention Program
   3) Reading Recovery Program
   4) Literacy Education Professional Development School

The Center for Disabilities Studies in Literacy, Language and Learning
(www.uni.edu/accessliteracy) responds to a history of exclusion, segregation and limited participation in literacy and language for young children, students and individuals with disabilities. The center’s research demonstrates and documents that all people, including those considered to have the most severe developmental disabilities, can be full participants in their families schools and communities. The center’s vision is literacy, communication and full participation for all. This mission is accomplished through:
   1) Professional Development: Develop and support highly qualified and committed educators
   2) Advocacy: Support knowledge and action for individuals, families and professionals
   3) Research: Advance practices and knowledge based on scholarships
   4) System Change: Collaborate at local, state and national levels to affect policy and practice

www.uni.edu/coe