



2021 AWARDS RECOGNITION

THE CHANCELLOR'S COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF GENDER EQUITY (CCSGE)

PROGRAM

WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Taricka Burton & Dr. Ferial Pearson, CCSGE Co-chairs
Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, UNO & UNMC Chancellor

THE AWARDS

HANNAH FISHER

Student Scholarship Award

JAY WAREEN-TEAMER

Community Service Award

DR. HEIDI BLACKBURN

Outstanding Achievement Award

JANINE BROOKS & NIKOLAUS STEVENSON

Joyce Crockett WiSTEM Pro² Staff Achievement Award

DR. JACQUELINE ST JOHN

Legendary Leader of UNO

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LEGENDARY LEADER OF UNO AWARD



Arriving at UNO as history faculty in 1966, **Dr. Jacqueline St John** was a passionate advocate for equity and inclusion. Her university service record and CV illustrate her tireless dedication to equity and inclusion efforts, both on campus and in the Omaha community.

In the early 70s, Dr. St John became one of the first UNO faculty to offer women's studies courses, an innovation she found herself campaigning for to colleagues and students alike. In 1974, she led and facilitated a symposium entitled "A Sampler in Women's Studies," where panelists discussed "Why Women's Studies" were necessary; through such events, Dr. St John regularly brought equity and inclusion issues to the forefront of campus leadership's attention.

Dr. St John's dedication to equity extended beyond the borders of UNO and into the broader Omaha community, where she served as the Founding President of the Omaha Chapter of the National Organization of Women, Board member of Omaha Business and Professional Women's Club, Delegate to the National Archives, and Founding member of the National Women's Studies Association.

A powerful testament to Dr. St John's sustained activism, an account of her professional publications and presentations reveals a steady stream of articles on topics of feminism and equity. Her efforts have also been recognized with numerous accolades including the Outstanding Achievement Award from UNO Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women and in the Durham Museum exhibit "Women in Omaha: A Biographical Sketch of Persistence Through History."

Dr. St John was an unfaltering advocate, responsibly using her academic influence, community involvement, and professional activities to advance issues of gender equity in her communities. Her efforts are truly worthy of recognition with the UNO Legendary Leader Award.

Dr. St John's advice to students in her own words: "Go do it! And don't be limited. Failure... the mantra is from Susan B. Anthony, failure is impossible and the only limitation you face you place on yourself. Once you don't have those, you're free! You're free, you're truly free." (St John, 2017, 89:11)

We are so proud to recognize Jacqueline St John for her pioneering contributions to the UNO and Omaha communities.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Hannah Fisher studies piano and music education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She has presented at conferences hosted by the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), was published in the September 2020 edition of the MTNA E-Journal and presented at the MTNA national conference in March 2021. As a teacher and a musician, Hannah's greatest strength is her infectious enthusiasm for music. She believes in the unparalleled, unpredictable power of music to unite people and spark empathy. After graduation, Hannah plans to teach ensemble music in a public school. Hannah is a student of Dr. Kristín Jónína Taylor.

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Heidi Blackburn serves as the STEM and Business Librarian for the University of Nebraska Omaha Criss Library. She received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Truman State University. She received her Master's in Library Science and PhD in Library and Information Management from Emporia State University. Her research interests focus on supporting women in STEM and information literacy in higher education. As a former CCSGE Faculty Co-Chair, she acknowledges the women who came before her, known and unknown, who fought for gender equity and those who continue to work to make the world a better place.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

An alumna of UNO and a graduate of the MPA program **Jay Warren-Teamer** currently serves as the director of diversity and inclusion at Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Ms. Warren-Teamer has over 10 years of experience in community outreach. Her endeavors include serving as the community affairs coordinator at Mutual of Omaha being the director of community investment, workforce readiness at United Way of the Midlands, and the Training and Assessment Coordinator at Partnership 4 Kids. Ms. Warren-Teamer is also active within the Women's Fund of Omaha, serving in a variety of roles within the organization, and is a cofounder of "I be Black Girl Omaha" where she currently serves as the Gives Lead.

JOYCE CROCKETT W/STEM PRO² STAFF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Janine Brooks, the Department of Chemistry Administrative Assistant, supports students by ensuring the necessary supplies are available in the "Chem Library and Majors Room," assists with student concerns about dropping courses or changing majors, matches students with seating limitations with appropriate seating, and arranged for a private conference room for students who are nursing. Janine proctors exams for students with scheduling conflicts due to childcare obligations. She administers the "CAPOW!" program, was involved in the UNO Chemistry Field Day, and assisted with "Chemistry Magic!". Janine is the chair of the CCSGE Awards Committee and a member of W/STEM Pro².

Born in Germany and raised in Papillion, NE, **Nik Stevenson** pursued a variety of career interests prior to finding his interest in undergraduate STEM retention, afterschool program development, and STEM professional development. Upon graduating from Doane University, Nik briefly worked in a lab prior to pursuing graduate school at UNO. At UNO, he has served as the graduate advisor for the NE STEM 4U afterschool program while conducting his thesis in Cancer Biology. Upon graduation, Nik accepted a position at the UNO STEM TRAIL Center where works as the Program Coordinator of the NE STEM 4U program. Nik has published one article and is a co-author on a book titled Leading from the Middle.

The Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Gender Equity (CCSGE)

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