

# College of Public Affairs and Community Service

## Alumni Awards Celebration

March 27, 2018

Empowering Future Leaders,  
Fostering Inclusive Collaboration and  
Creating Innovative Solutions



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA  
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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## Vision

*The College of Public Affairs and Community Service will continue to be nationally recognized college of inspirational teaching, innovative research and transformative service striving to create an equitable and just society.*

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*Reception Begins .....5:30 pm*

*Opening Remarks.....6:05 pm*

John Bartle, Dean, College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Lee Denker, President and CEO, UNO Alumni Association

*Presentation of Alumni Awards .....6:15 pm*

Scott Tarry, Director, Aviation Institute

Imafedia Okhamafe, Chair, Goodrich Scholarship Program

Ethel Williams, Director, School of Public Administration

Christine Billings, Director of Division of Continuing Studies

Julie Masters, Chair, Department of Gerontology

Gaylene Armstrong, Director, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Amanda Randall, Director, Grace Abbott School of Social Work

*Presentation of Hubert Locke Award.....6:50 pm*

*Closing Remarks .....7:00 pm*

*Reception Ends .....7:30 pm*

## **ABOUT THE CPACS ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE**

The university and community leaders established the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) to ensure the university was responsive to the critical societal needs and concerns of our community and state. Critical to the mission of the new college was the provision of educational and training programs of the highest caliber that would prepare students for careers and leadership in the public service.

The individuals honored with the alumni award for excellence in public service demonstrate through both daily deeds and greater achievements, the finest attributes of public and community service: integrity, stewardship, volunteerism, leadership, and a commitment to social justice and human dignity. They are a credit to their professions, their families, and our college. We congratulate them for this and all their achievements.

## **ABOUT THE HUBERT LOCKE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Dr. Hubert Locke served as the first permanent dean of the College of Public Affairs and Community Service from 1972 to 1976. In 2002, the college established an award to honor an individual who has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the ideals of public service through their professional activities, community service, and philanthropy.

After leaving UNO, Dr. Locke joined the faculty of the University of Washington where he served as dean of the UW Graduate School of Public Affairs from 1982 to 1987. His distinguished record of public and community service represent the highest ideals of CPACS. We are proud to recognize individuals who emulate his accomplishments.



## **Aviation Institute**

### **Jay Vidlak**



After graduating from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1998 with a Bachelor's degree in Aviation Studies, Jay began his professional career in aviation with Mayo Aviation in Denver, CO. He served as a charter coordinator/flight operations specialist and received a promotion to Flight Operations Manager a few months later.

Jay remained with Mayo Aviation until 2002, when he returned to his home state of Nebraska to begin his career with Jet Linx. In 2007, Jay became the Vice President of Flight Coordination, where he was responsible for overseeing the Flight Scheduling and Charter Sales Department, crew scheduling, and the continual growth and development of a nationwide charter and private jet card program.

In early 2012, Jay assumed the role of VP of New Base Development, focusing on the start-up phase of new Jet Linx bases around the country. He now serves as the Vice President of Base Development, working with Base Presidents and Partners to develop and enhance further management with current Jet Linx locations around the country.

## **Aviation Institute**

### **Jason Vanis**



Jason has been an actively involved in the aviation industry since 1998. He started flight training and received his private pilot's license in 1994 from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. After obtaining a Bachelor's degree from UNO, with an emphasis in Aviation Studies, Jason joined a Part 135 Charter operator in Colorado, in a Flight Operations & Customer Service role. In 2002, he returned to Nebraska and joined Jet Linx Aviation. Jason was responsible for the oversight of the Flight Operations Department, coordinating the scheduling of the aircraft, crew scheduling and, most importantly, first-class customer service. In 2008, Jason and two others launched Aviation Integration to provide efficiencies and training to the aviation industry.

In 2010, Jason returned to Jet Linx to manage the Scheduling and Dispatch team to oversee the development of process and procedures throughout the organization. In November 2012, Jason became VP of Operations to provide leadership to the Operations, Charter, Flight Coordination, Client Services and Maintenance departments. In August 2017, Jason transitioned his focus into the role of VP of Business Intelligence & Technology, to further develop and enhance the analytical and technology needs of Jet Linx Aviation. Jason is a past recipient of the UNO Aviation Institute Distinguished Alumnus Award for his service to the Aviation Institute as an alumnus and for accomplishments in his career endeavors.

## **Goodrich Scholarship Program**

### **Troy Romero**



Dr. Romero is an associate professor in the Goodrich Scholarship Program, where he teaches Autobiographical Reading and Writing, humanities, and Lifespan Development. He also teaches in the Psychology Department, where he earned his Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology.

He is a faculty member of the Office of Latino/Latin American Studies (OLLAS), and he is on the executive committee for the newly established Shirley and Leonard Goldstein Center for Human Rights.

His research interests include organizational justice and diversity, identity development, stereotype threat, and intellectual/developmental disabilities such as autism. He has served on several community boards and currently serves as the President of the Board of Trustees for the Rose Theater. His honors include earning the UNO Alumni Excellence in Teaching for CPACS and induction into the Benson High School Hall of Fame.



**School of Public Administration**  
**Jamie Berglund**



Jamie is a passionate change-agent with nearly two decades of professional and volunteer experience focused on leading transformative community and economic development initiatives. In July 2017, she began serving as executive director for Omaha by Design, a nonprofit that contributes to a thriving metro by convening, engaging, educating, and advocating for excellence in urban design and policy. She worked with at-risk youth and the homeless with Heartland Family Service, the Nebraska AIDS Project, and the Micah House in Council Bluffs, and served in the Peace Corps in Jordan.

A recipient of the Peter Kiewit Foundation Comprehensive Memorial Scholarship, Jamie graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. She was a recipient of the HUD Community Development Work Study Program scholarship during her graduate studies, and received her Master of Science in Urban Studies from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Jamie currently serves as a commissioner for the Omaha Housing Authority. She is a graduate of Leadership Omaha Class 33. She loves home improvement projects, gardening, traveling, and being outside as much as possible. Most importantly, she is a mother to Sam and Kai and a wife to Allen – the two roles she enjoys most!

## **School of Public Administration**

### **Sharif Liwaru**



Sharif Liwaru is the Director of Equity and Diversity for the Omaha Public Schools. As the Director of Equity and Diversity, he provides equity, diversity, cultural, and Equal Employment Opportunity training for District staff. His prior experiences include the roles of Attendance Collaborative Director, School Engagement & Attendance Initiative Program Coordinator, and Assistant Director of Student Organizations & Leadership Programs for the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He has also served as Director of Teen and Family Programs for YMCAs of Omaha and Assistant Family Teacher at Boys and Girls Town. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Black Studies and Master of Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Sharif is a community advocate. He currently serves as President of the Malcolm X Memorial Foundation where he has been an active participant and officer over the last 24 years. He and his wife Gabrielle have raised three children ages (20-26) and enjoy mentoring and making positive connections with youth of all ages.

## Division of Continuing Studies

### Victoria Novak



Victoria Novak is the Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at AIM Institute. Her role at AIM is to create and build partnerships through community engagement. In addition, she is responsible for board member engagement, public relations for the organization, and leads the fundraising and grants team. Victoria was Director of Operations in the medical finance field for over twenty years at Signature Performance and Tiburon Financial.

A proud University of Nebraska at Omaha alum, Victoria holds a Bachelor's degree in General Studies with a concentration in Gerontology and a minor in Women's Studies. Victoria is currently back in class, taking courses to secure her degree in the Masters of Public Administration Program with a nonprofit concentration.

Victoria enjoys spending her free time volunteering with a local nonprofit, *No More Empty Pots* and giving time, talent, and treasure to other area nonprofits. She is part of the UNO IS&T Women in IT mentor program where she actively mentors women who desire to go into technology careers and she serves as the Chairperson of the Omaha STEM Ecosystem Engagement Committee. Victoria is involved in "*WITH*" (Women in Technology of the Heartland), an advocate and participant of Project18, which is a project committed to making Omaha the number one city for women in technology. In her spare time, she likes to spend time camping and finding new recipes to cook over an open fire.

**Department of Gerontology**  
**Doris “DD” Launderville**



DD Launderville has served with the Omaha Salvation Army for 21 years. As Housing Director, DD oversees the Durham Booth Manor (HUD Housing for low-income older adults), the Service Coordination for Durham Booth Manor, Permanent Supportive Housing program, Renaissance Housing Program, and the Dora Bingel Senior Center.

DD earned both her Bachelors and Master's degrees in Social Work and a Gerontology Certificate from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She has experience as a clinical therapist in a rural mental health setting in Iowa.

DD received *The Salvation Army National Social Services Award for Excellence in Social Work* in 2004. She enjoys spending time with family, reading and traveling.

## **Department of Gerontology**

**Charles Timothy Dickel, Ed.D**



Charles Timothy (Tim) Dickel was born in Portland, Oregon, the only child of a physician and a nurse. He graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington in 1968. Tim received his doctorate in counselor education in 1973 (Indiana University) and married Gail a week after defending his dissertation. He worked as a child development specialist and mental health clinical therapist in an NIMH-funded program in Northeastern Oregon (1973-76). In 1976, he joined the education faculty at Creighton University. An early friendship with UNO counselor educator Rich Blake, and regular contact with aging relatives in Beatrice, lead him to pursue the University of Nebraska at Omaha Graduate Certificate in Gerontology (1984).

Tim has been the chair of the Education Department, assistant to the dean and associate dean of the Creighton College of Arts and Sciences, and Dean of University College and Summer Sessions. Currently, he is professor of education and director of the master's program in school counseling and preventive mental health. His research has been in preventive mental health, issues of aging, technology and learning, violence across the life span, and the impact of school suspensions and expulsions across the life span. His greatest accomplishment is his family. He and Gail have been married nearly forty-five years. They have three children, three children-in-law, and nine grandchildren.

## **The Grace Abbott School of Social Work**

### **Lorie Thomas**



Lorie found her calling as a social worker while a freshman at Dana College when she took an Introduction to Social Work class. She completed her undergraduate social work education earning her BSSW and her BA in Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Lorie continued her education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha conferring her MSW in 1989. Lorie began her career as a psychiatric social worker in Minnesota and since then has held many positions in multiple organizations where she used her social work skills in the provision of individual and family therapy, administration, program development, and as a Quality Manager. Lorie is with Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare as the Manager of Transition Services working to facilitate appropriate treatment for adults with a Severe and Persistent Mental Illness. She identified the need for increased services for older adults with mental health needs. Lori has been instrumental in developing the *Older Adult Mental Health Coalition* in Omaha. She began her Graduate Certificate in Gerontology last fall at UNO.

Lorie currently serves on the UNO Grace Abbott School of Social Work Practicum Committee and is a board member for the NASW Nebraska Chapter. Lorie has been described by fellow social workers as a “Social Worker’s Social Worker.” Lorie is married to Glen Thomas, a Lutheran Pastor. Together they have served four congregations. They have two sons Glen and Grant. In her free time, Lorie enjoys playing her flute at Church and with community bands. She also enjoys reading, gardening, cross-stitching and working out.

## **School of Criminology & Criminal Justice**

**Kim Retzlaff**



Kim is an alumna of the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Master of Science in Criminal Justice. She began her career in law enforcement with the Ralston Police Department in 1989. Shortly thereafter, she went to work for the State Probation Department in Douglas County. Kim returned to law enforcement with the Omaha Police Department (OPD) in 1992. She rose to the rank of Sergeant and during her 23 year tenure, her wide range of experiences included assignments to the Uniform Patrol Bureau, Administrative Services Bureau, Training Academy Instructor, Child Victim Sex Assault Squad, Nuisance Unit, Precinct Investigations, Traffic Unit, Telephone Report Squad and the DARE Unit.

Kim spent the last 10 years of her career assigned to the Special Victims Unit, where she was in charge of the Domestic Violence Squad until her retirement in 2015. Kim is adjunct faculty at UNO and teaches a variety of criminal justice courses. Kim serves on many boards including Catholic Charities Behavioral Health Advisory Board, the Respite Advisory Committee and the Board of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Kim is married and lives in Papillion NE. She has two sons, both of whom are studying in University of Nebraska system.

## **School of Criminology & Criminal Justice**



### **Honorable Sheryl Luft Lohaus**

Ms. Lohaus was born in Omaha, Nebraska and is the daughter of Jerry and Florence Luft. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha (B.S.), 1985, Creighton University School of Law (J.D.), 1990, and the University of Vienna Summer School, 1984. While at UNO, she was active in campus activities that included the German Honors Society and the International Honors Society of Social Sciences. Judge Lohaus is a recipient of the UNO Criminology and Criminal Justice Rising Star Award and is a Nebraska State Bar Foundation Fellow.

During her esteemed career, she has worked as a staff attorney for the Legal Aid Society, an associate attorney for Batt & Associates, Slusky Law and Mediation, and as an associate attorney and director at Gross and Welch. Judge Lohaus is a trained mediator in basic and family law mediation.

Judge Lohaus is a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association, Omaha Bar Association, Iowa State Bar Association and the Robert M. Spire Inns of Court. Governor Heineman appointed Judge Lohaus to the County Court Bench of Douglas County in 2011. Judge Lohaus also serves on the Supreme Court Commission for Guardianships/Conservatorships.

She is married to Bernard Lohaus and has a daughter, Alexandra.



## **Hubert Locke Distinguished Service Award**

**John W. Ewing, Jr. & Dr. Viv Ewing**



Dr. Vivyonne (Viv) Ewing is a native of Omaha, Nebraska. She is a well-known community leader, author, business executive, and sought after motivational public speaker. Dr. Ewing attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha for both her degrees- Bachelor's in Public Administration and a Master's in Urban Studies. Dr. Ewing earned her Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in three years. Viv has taught for the University of Nebraska at Omaha, College of Saint Mary, Omaha School of Massage and Health Careers and Metropolitan Community College. Viv has received numerous community awards and honors.

Viv is the Vice President of Administrative Services at PromiseShip, an organization that provides foster care, adoption, and case management for at risk families. Her distinguished career includes serving as Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association of Nebraska, Director of Government Affairs for Habitat for Humanity, Assistant Operations Director of the Kroc Center, Human Resources Manager at ConAgra Foods, Senior Director of Human Resources & Administration at Omaha Housing Authority, and Human Resources Representative at OPPD.

Viv is the founder and president of Life Development International, which is a company that assists individuals in becoming small business owners,

provides consulting for corporations, universities, faith-based organizations, individuals, and community organizations. She also serves as an executive coach and mentor. Her motivational book “Yes, You Can Have Your Cake and Eat It Too” is available through major book outlets and retailers. Some of Viv’s community leadership activities includes service to many organizations:

- ❖ University of Nebraska Medical Center Board of Councilors
- ❖ University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Alumni Board
- ❖ College of Public Affairs Dean’s Advisory Council
- ❖ University of Nebraska at Omaha Chancellor’s Diversity Committee
- ❖ President National Council of Negro Women
- ❖ Coalition of 100 Black Women
- ❖ College of Saint Mary Board of Directors
- ❖ Governor’s Judicial Selection Committee
- ❖ Salvation Army Board of Directors

John Ewing, Jr. is the Douglas County Treasurer. He served the citizens of Omaha as a member of the Omaha Police Department for over 24 years and retired as Deputy Police Chief. During his time with the police department, he served as the Deputy Chief of the Police Services Bureau, and Unit Commander of the Special Victims Unit. He helped lead the development of legislation to address effectively crimes committed against women and children. Ten new state statutes became law due to these efforts to protect our citizens. He is an Associate Minister at Salem Baptist Church. John taught as an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska Omaha in the School of Public Administration. Some of John’s distinctive community service engagements include:

- ❖ Douglas County Civil Service Commissioner
- ❖ United Way Campaign Government Chair and Chair of the Allocation Committee
- ❖ Great Plains Black History Museum Community Chair,
- ❖ Candidate for U.S. Congress
- ❖ Charles Drew Health Center Board President
- ❖ 100 Black Men of Omaha Board President & Mentor
- ❖ Empowerment Network/ Empower Omaha – Board Chair,
- ❖ Girls Incorporated Board of Directors-
- ❖ Omaha Community Foundation-African American Fund Chairman,

John and Viv have been married for over 30 years and have two adult children.

## CPACS Distinguished Alumni Awards

### GOODRICH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Kohler	Michael	1989
Smith-Secret	Tijuana	1989
Gonzalez	Cindy	1989
Martinez	Mark	2002
Nabulsi	Reema Abou-Nasr	2002
Hilliard	Zenola	2003
Ramos	Josephine	2003
Doyle	Aldona	2004
Mora	Marcos	2004
Bradley	Larry P.	2005
Zeleny	Mary	2005
Barrientos	Carlos	2006
Russell	Doug	2006
Washington	Harriette	2007
Hansen	Jason L.	2008
Romero	Gabe	2008
Ewing	Vivienne	2009
Emmons	Janine	2009
Ariza	Ricardo	2010
Hunter	Teresa	2010
Azimi	Ghafar Abdul	2011
Rhoades	Crystal	2011
Vargas	Bart	2012
Robinson	Dr. Cynthia L.	2013
Costanzo	Brad	2014
Skinner	Elizabeth	2015
Dorsey	Shonna	2016
Gonzalez	Greg	2017

## **DEPARTMENT OF GERONTOLOGY**

Roberts	Jolene	2002
Martin	Steven S.	2003
Gillette	Christine	2004
Hallberg	Glenda	2005
Benjamin	Connie	2006
Kudlacek	Connie	2007
Price	Janice	2008
Adams	Dr. Scot L.	2009
Smidt	Arlis	2010
Washburn	Donna	2011
Kotok	Shane	2012
Foster	Betty G.	2013
Micheletto	Sr. Marie	2014
Huber	Dr. Lesa	2015
Miller	Janet L	2016
Aguilar	Dee	2016
Sebastian	Julie	2017
Juanes	Silvester	2017

**AVIATION INSTITUTE**

Turner	Michael	2004
Lempke	Mike	2005
Spencer	Ken	2007
McCoy	Stephen	2008
Lutte	Rebecca	2009
Vlasek	Scott	2010
McIntyre	Jennifer	2011
Dwyer	Kailey	2012
O'Neil	Patrick	2013
Terreri	Jason	2014
Runana	Lawrence	2015
Grossrhode	John	2016
Hansen	Troy	2017

**DIVISION OF CONTINUING STUDIES**

McLarney	Michael	2005
Hagel	Chuck	2006
Dahlquist	Robert	2007
Fiene	John	2008
Peak	Frank	2008
Edwards	Blake	2009
Wilson	Johnnie	2009
Donlon	Roger	2010
Visty-Schinker	Colleen	2011
Jeanette	Joe	2012
Payne	Eva	2012
Carroll	Jen	2013
McGuigan	Billy	2014
Borgeson	Mary Ann	2014
Schrodt	Jennifer	2014

Ressegieu	Karen	2015
Ressegieu	Jim	2015
Bard, Jr.	James F	2016
Sokpoh	Karine	2016
Kempkes	Karen	2017
Roberts	Gayle	2017

**SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Edmondson	Joe	1989
Casady	Thomas	2002
Houston	Bob	2002
Hronek	Ginney	2003
Olson	Robert	2003
Curtis	Allen	2004
Warren	Thomas	2004
Novotny	Steven S.	2005
Pratt	Jason "Tye"	2005
Harder	Terri S.	2006
Bartee	Ron	2007
Kush	Rod	2007
Wakefield	Bill	2007
Carlson	Scott A.	2008
Schindler	Michelle	2008
Foxall	Mark	2009
Tast	Susan R.	2009
Circo	Deb	2010
Sasse	Scott	2010
Ray	Shayna Louise	2011
Colborn	John A.	2011
Butera	Mike	2012
Wright-Kreisel	Betsy	2012

Rowoldt	Stephen W.	2013
Schmaderer	Todd R.	2013
Gibson	Dr. Chris	2014
Stingley	Tara	2014
Ryan	Dr. Roxanne	2015
Goering	David	2015
Andraschko	Steven L	2016
Nelson	Michael	2017

**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Landis	Senator David	1989
Haddad	Dr. Amy	1989
Nolan	Michael	1989
Dunning	Tim	2002
Pittman	Edna Brooks	2002
Stitt	Carolyn	2002
Landow	Paul	2003
Lopez	Mary	2003
Freeman-Wakefield	Ellen	2004
Hindery Camp	Anne	2005
O'Connor	Ann	2006
Lamberty	Judge Patricia	2007
Young	Peter C.	2007
Strawhecker	Paul J.	2008
Ma	Jun	2009
Woods	Sara	2009
Ewing Jr.	John	2010
Green	Phil	2010
Bradley	Andy	2011
Rodgers	Christopher	2011
Festersen	Pete	2012

Bailie	Joy LaChelle	2012
Anderson	Chris	2013
Harris	Julie	2013
Williams	Kristin	2014
Anderson	Dr. Debra	2015
Mangiamelli	Joseph	2015
McMorris	Kenny	2016
Morrisette	Beth	2016
Meyer	Kyle	2017
Cohen-Dunning	Toba	2017

**GRACE ABBOTT SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

Authier	Karen	1989
Boye	Carol	1989
Tubach-Davis	Donna	1989
Kalkowski	Julie	2002
Mathern	Tim	2002
Parker	Penny	2002
Stitt	Carolyn K.	2002
Blue	James R.	2003
Harrington	Mel	2003
Keen Hecht	Morgan	2004
Klein	Gene	2004
Blizek	Monica	2005
Kerns	Pat and Kim	2006
Cohen-Dunning	Toba	2007
Howard	Senator Gwen	2007
Sullivan	Erin	2007
Grimes Moore	Jamesena	2008
Sather	Paul	2008
Weitz	Barb	2008



Hale	Susan	2009
Vazquez	Maria	2010
Kalkowski	Maggie	2011
Dierkhising	Judy	2012
Bird	Heather	2013
Bahney	Mary	2014
Simon	Elizabeth	2015
Hendricks	Diane	2016
Hoelsing	Stephanie	2017

### **HUBERT LOCKE AWARD**

Spire	Elaine	2002
Thompson	Nancy	2003
Heng-Braun	Mary	2004
Haney	Terry	2005
Goodwin	Al	2006
Scott	John	2007
Hawks	Rhonda	2008
Fahey	Mike	2009
Waggoner	Don	2010
Houston	Bob	2011
Hinton	Dave	2012
Martin	Steve	2013
Milliken	James B.	2014
Warren	Thomas H. Sr.	2015
Weitz	Barbara	2016
Christensen	John E.	2017

## **Making a Profound Difference**



U. S. News and World Report (January 2018) ranks several CPACS programs in the top tiers amongst national programs:

- The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice ranks #3 nationally among online master's programs (U. S. News and World Report 2018)
- The Bachelor of General Studies ranks #16 nationally among online bachelor's programs (U. S. News and World Report 2018)
- In the 2017-2018 academic year, faculty have been actively engaged in traditional scholarly research as well as more applied collaborative research and service efforts with non-profit organizations, local and federal agencies. Faculty have authored and/or co-authored over a 100 articles and presented at national, regional and local conferences.
- Christine Reed, Professor, School of Public Administration named Interim Director for Center for Urban Sustainability
- Jodi Benenson, Assistant Professor in the School of Public Administration named Academic Director- Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) Institute on Civic Engagement (YSEALI)
- DeeDee Bennett, Assistant Professor in the School of Public Administration- Emergency Services Program received the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women Award in February 2018.
- Theresa Barron-McKeagney, Associate Dean received the Chancellor's Medal in December 2017.
- Rebecca Lutte, Associate Professor-School of Public Administration- Aviation received two awards this year- The University Aviation Association Laursen Award for Excellence in Aviation Education and the

College of Public Affairs and Community Service recognized her with the UNO Alumni Teaching Award.

- Jerry Deichert, Director Center for Public Affairs Research will receive the Chancellor's Medal in May 2018.

## **School of Public Administration**

The School of Public Administration is the home of award-winning, nationally ranked, graduate and undergraduate programs both on campus and online. We are supported by outstanding students, prestigious alumni, dedicated, hard-working staff, and world-renowned faculty. We are proud to be the School of Public Administration.

- Faculty published more than 30 journal articles and book chapters in 2017 and made more than 60 academic conference presentations and 1 keynote/plenary address; they serve on 18 Editorial Boards and as reviewers for more than 20 journals.
- Several faculty members received prestigious awards, including: Dr. Angela Eikenberry was elected President, Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) and Dr. Jodi Benenson was elected Section Chair of the Early Scholars Section; Dr. Craig Maher, Research Fellow, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, and the best paper award for 2017 from the Journal for Public and Nonprofit Affairs; Dr. Robert Blair, Fellow, Rural Futures Initiative; Drs. Christine Reed and Bryce Hoflund Faculty Fellows; NU Daugherty Water for Food Institute; and Dr. DeeDee Bennett, 2018 Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award from the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women.
- Faculty have received in excess of \$3,000,000 in grants including: Drs. Robert Blair, Yu-Che Chen and Jerry Deichert, \$2,443,000 Nebraska Statewide Transit Initiative; Drs. DeeDee Bennett and Han Louis-Charles, \$50,000 NSF, Minority Scholars in Underrepresented Groups in Engineering and the Social Sciences (SURGES) grant; Dr. Yu-Che Chen and Dr. DeeDee Bennett, \$20,000 Science System Planning Grant,

NU Initiative; Dr. Tara Bryan \$30,000 Capacity Building, Omaha Community Foundation.

- Director of the School's Professional Programs, Ellen Freeman-Wakefield named Chair of the National Certified Public Manager Program (CPM); Omaha will host the 2019 CPM National Conference.
- The professional programs in the SPA continue to grow and shine. The Certified Public Manager Program graduated eight individuals in December and began a new cohort of nine in January; The Nebraska Municipal Clerk School and Academy's Annual Conference will host 225 clerks.
- The NU Board of Regents approved the Emerging Nonprofit Leadership Certificate and the first cohort will begin in June.
- Students and alumni of the SPA Programs continue to soar! Doctoral students published 15 peer-reviewed articles, 2 book chapters, and 6 professional/technical reports. They also presented at 15 national and international conferences. Abhishek Bhati received a Penn Social Impact Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and Sungho Park received the best paper award at the Western Social Science Association (WSSA) Conference in San Francisco. MPA student Christina Mayer's team was one of the two site winners at UIC for the NASPAA-Batten Simulation; MPA graduate and Mayor of Keokuk, Iowa, Aaron Burnett was named Manager of the Year by the Iowa League of Cities and Urban Studies graduate, and Jordan Cook, was hired as the new City Manager for Clarion, Iowa.

**Aviation Institute and  
NASA Nebraska Space Grant and  
EPSCoR Office**

The Aviation Institute recently completed two successful program reviews. The Professional Flight concentration was re-certified by the Federal Aviation Administration for meeting both FAR Part 141 requirements as well as the requirements for the Restricted Airline Transport Pilot program, which allows graduates of UNO's flight program to begin their airline flying careers

with 1,000 hours of flight time instead of the required 1,500 hours. This means UNO-trained pilots are prepared to enter the workforce sooner. The Air Transport Administration concentration was re-accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI). Accreditation means that the degree program adheres to the highest standards for collegiate aviation education.

The Institute also added a new concentration to its undergraduate degree program. Students will now be able to focus their education and training on the operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones, which opens up numerous exciting employment opportunities for UNO graduates. Our students have been busy. Members of Alpha Eta Rho raised over \$2,500 for Special Olympics by participating in the Polar Plunge in February.

The Flying Mavs dominated the NIFA Regional flight team competition and poised for an excellent showing at nationals in April. The UNO chapter of Women in Aviation will attend the WiA international meeting in Reno later this month. Faculty have been busy as well engaging in special projects with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the FAA, and NASA.

Last, but certainly not least, Dr. Rebecca Lutte was recognized not once, but twice for her excellent teaching and her impact on students. The University Aviation Association awarded Dr. Lutte the Laursen Award for Excellence in Aviation Education and the College of Public Affairs and Community Service recognized her with the UNO Alumni Teaching Award.

The NASA Nebraska Space Grant and EPSCoR Office continues to connect students and faculty from around Nebraska with NASA Research Centers and Mission Directorates. After the successful return of one scientific payload from the International Space Station (ISS), NASA office staff are busy supporting a UNMC project and the development of a new payload that will grow crystals for cancer research aboard the ISS.

The NASA Office continues a successful record of accomplishment of federal funding with over \$1.5 million in the past year. Space Grant funds support student internships, research projects, and student teams who compete in NASA technology challenges. The NASA office is currently supporting several innovative projects throughout the state including a teacher- training program developed in Nebraska and now expanded and implemented in

cooperation with Kennedy Space Center and the Astronaut Foundation. Closer to home, the NASA office is supporting the implementation of a new interdisciplinary course in high altitude ballooning that gives students from across the UNO campus the opportunity to gain real experience in the design, development, and deployment of science and technology payloads that will launch into the region known as near space (80,000 – 120,000 feet above the surface of the Earth) aboard high-altitude balloons.

### **Department of Gerontology**

The following faculty received awards in 2017-2018:

Dr. Christopher Kelly,	Applied Gerontologist Award – Southern Gerontological Society
Mr. Bede Bolin	Outstanding Teaching Award, UNO Alumni Association UNL Parents Association, Recognition for Contribution to Students
Dr. Julie Masters,	UNL Parents Association, Recognition for Contribution to Students Mortar Board Professor of the Month, UNL Mortar Board

These faculty members were successful in obtaining grants for the department that included faculty from other departments:

Lyn Holley and Christopher Kelly, University of Nebraska- Global Perspectives on Aging, Chris Kelly, Nancy Kelley and Paul Falkowski- CPACS Urban Research Award, Julie Boron, D. Slivka, J. French & R. Bulbulian- University of Nebraska Food for Health, Janelle Beadle, Jeff French, Lyn Holley and M. Duff- NASA Space Mini-Grant, Janelle Beadle-NSF REU Summer Undergraduate Research Program and two FUSE grants with undergraduate students and Julie Masters- Immanuel Vision Foundation.

The faculty presented at several conferences: IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, Southern Gerontological Society, Organization of Human Brain Mapping, American Speech Language and Hearing Association, American College of Sports Medicine, and the American Society of Biomechanics.

The department faculty and staff also serve on various community service advisory councils, board memberships and attend annual community engagements such as; Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging Advisory Councils (Agency and Senior Companion Program), Tabitha Health Care Board Member, Older Adult Mental Health Coalition, Dementia Friendly Nebraska, Florence Home Assisted Living, Community 360, OPS – Native American Achievement Council, Office of Public Guardian, Westside School CAPS Health Services Committee, Home Instead Center for Successful Aging, and Elder Rights Coalition. The three-part series, “Begin with the End in Mind” features experts on end of life planning and the Dr. Chuck Powell Memorial Lecture features national speakers; this year’s presenter was caregiver advocate, Sarah Rowan.

### **William Brennan Institute of Labor Studies**

In 2017, the Brennan Labor Institute presented to union and non-union audiences across the state and nation. From July 2017 to present, the Institute:

- Will host the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Promoting the General Welfare Conference on March 31, 2018. Pat Kellett, Secretary Treasurer, United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada will keynote the conference.
- Successfully completed a “Center Review” for the NU Provost Office in March 2018.
- Unique and innovative program between Metropolitan Community College, Labor United, Inc., United Way and the William Brennan Institute for Labor Studies launches summer/fall 2018 to provide training to teachers in MCC’s Department of Continuing Education for students in the trade areas. John will be ‘training the trainers’ and speaking to MCC students about labor issues.

### **Grace Abbott School of Social Work**

The Grace Abbott School of Social Work is continuing the search for the John E. Christiansen Community Chair position in collaboration with the Buffett Early Childhood Institute.

The School expanded the MSW program in fall 2016 to include a weekend cohort of students currently employed in the child welfare system through Department of Health and Human Services, Project Harmony and Nebraska Families Collaborative to continue employment and work towards the MSW degree on the Omaha campus. The students receive funding through a private donor and the newly established federal Title IV-E funding, and are committed to the field of child welfare following graduation. The students are currently beginning the Advanced Standing program with anticipated graduation in December 2019.

In summer 2017, Grace Abbott School of Social Work began offering both the BSW and MSW programs on a twelve-month basis, recognizing the need for workforce development in Nebraska. The fully online MSW program will launch in August 2019, allowing graduate students to select a full face-to-face program in Omaha, a weekend and on-line program in Kearney, or a fully online MSW degree.

### **Division of Continuing Studies**

At the beginning of the fall 2017 semester, the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree name changed to the Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies. After extensive research and feedback from stakeholders, DCS decided that “multidisciplinary” more accurately describes the degree design, content, and value.

In January 2018, U. S. News and World Report ranked UNO’s online Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies (BMS) Degree 16th in the nation among best online bachelor’s programs. In determining its rankings, U. S. News and World Report assessed the degree program on four general categories: student engagement; faculty credentials and training; student services and technology; and peer reputation. The BMS Degree also contributes to UNO’s national ranking as a military-friendly university.

The DCS Ambassadors student group is in its fourth successful year of existence. Advised by several DCS staff members, the Ambassadors assist with recruitment and outreach events; participate in community service events; assist with DCS and UNO programs; participate in leadership development activities; and provide feedback about the UNO and DCS experience. The DCS



Ambassadors have established a student scholarship fund and raise money through various fundraising events, including hosting an alumni networking and silent auction event. Last year, the DCS Ambassadors awarded two \$500 scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year.

In October 2017, Dr. Regina Toman, CPACS Assistant Dean and DCS Director joined Senior Vice Chancellor B.J. Reed in the Office of Academic Affairs as the Faculty Human Resource Officer and Assistant to the Senior Vice Chancellor. DCS welcomed a new director, Christine Billings, in March 2018. Christine brings over 20 years of higher education experience with an emphasis on adult and nontraditional students. Christine will provide strategic direction in areas such as academic advising, online course offerings, marketing and recruitment, external relations, and program development.

### **Goodrich Scholarship Program**

Nationally recognized and award-winning Goodrich Scholarship Program continues its standard of excellence with extraordinary retention rates 93%- (63/68 students) and the latest graduation rate-80%- (52/65 within six years). Innovative community engagements includes the Futures Fair, Goodrich Rural Initiatives, and the Goodrich Study Abroad Initiative.

Honors and awards given to GDRH current students and graduates of the program include-

The Nebraska State Bar Association Diversity Award for the Pre-Law cohort

National/international Fulbright award-winning Goodrich student-scholars Nicole Partusch and Hannah Gill

US Department of State Gilman Awardee-Eneris Bernard Santos

Newman Civic Fellow-Jimmy Nguyen

Five Undergraduate Major of the Year Award Winners

Several award-winning Goodrich alums

- Dr. Cynthia Robinson, Chair of Black Studies-President's Award from the Omaha NAACP Chapter

- Omaha Deputy Police Chief Greg Gonzalez, Omaha Human Rights and Relations Department’s 2018 “Living the Dream” Award
- Bart Vargas, one of six winners of the 2018 Metro Community College’s Excellence in Teaching Award

Community Engagement (faculty and students) in 2017-2018:

- Futures Fair with P4K: 250 middle school students from Marrs, Norris, Monroe, McMillan and Lewis and Clark middle schools visited UNO/GDRH
- Rural Initiative: Elmwood, NE (fourth year of Goodrich Rural Initiatives)
- Student Leadership: President, UNO Goodrich student organization (Henamari Ybay); President, NCNW (Chéamera Gaines Liwaru); President, UNO Association of Latino American Students (Maria Jaqueline [Jackie] Lira), Director of Recruitment for Collegiate Panhellenic Council (Kylee Askew); President of the Public Health Honor Society Eta Sigma Gamma (Hannah Vankat); UNO Freshman Senator (Aya Yousuf); RA Dodge Campus (Anahi Soto-Gama); and RA Scott Campus (Noah Milbourn)
- TOYO (Ten Outstanding Young Omahans—Teen Awards): Tierra Conyers
- 2013 alum Roxana Cortes Reyes and 2011 alum Arianna Crum recently graduated from the University of Nebraska-College of Law.

Goodrich faculty published research that included four invited or peer-reviewed articles in national or international journals and eight refereed or invited presentations at national or international conferences.

### **Center for Public Affairs Research**

The Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR) established in 1963 as the Center for Urban Studies. Its initial mission was to address urban problems and information needs. CPAR joined CPACS in the 1970s. Over the years CPAR has gone through several name changes and numerous personnel changes that have modified its mission. In October 2017, a periodic program review of CPAR was conducted with a recommendation that CPAR be retained. The review also contained several recommendations for the next few years.

In 2017, CPAR received more than \$550,000 in grants and contracts. In addition to CPAR staff, these grants and contracts provided summer funding, course buyouts, and/or travel funds for six faculty members, funding for two doctoral students, and funding for eight graduate student workers. In 2017, CPAR has worked with the Dean's Office to coordinate the Urban Research Award program for four years.

During the past year, CPAR continued its work with Nebraska Department of Transportation focusing on rural transit in Nebraska and continued its State Policy Initiative with the Nebraska Legislature's Planning Committee. The 30th anniversary in 2018 will mark CPAR's lead for the Nebraska State Data Center Program.

## **School of Criminology and Criminal Justice**

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) prides itself on delivering high quality education that emphasizes the critical role of science in informing criminal justice policy and practices. Our faculty members are actively engaged in research with our criminal justice agency and community partners in the Greater Nebraska area and across the U. S. Our goal is to be an innovative leader in providing a high quality, 21<sup>st</sup> century criminology and criminal justice education through research excellence and community engagement. This vision focuses on enhancing the learning opportunities available through the SCCJ while maintaining our position as a valuable and accessible resource for our community partners.

Retaining our prominent role as a well-respected leader among criminology and criminal justice programs is critically important and reliant upon the fantastic successes of our SCCJ alumni. Our reputation helps open additional doors for our students as they take their first steps as the next generation of criminal justice professionals. Our ongoing emphasis on delivering high quality education at the bachelors, masters and doctoral level has resulted in significant recognition as one of the most affordable programs, and one of best programs in the country. Opportunities for learning both inside and beyond the classroom are outstanding thanks to our broad network of partners. We are particularly proud of the U.S. News and World Report rankings that listed our online master's program 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country. Our

bachelor's program received high accolades as well. Currently, we educate almost 900 undergraduate majors on the Omaha and Lincoln campuses, and over 100 graduate students in Omaha.

Striving for continued advancement, the SCCJ is engaging in important initiative to launch our first of four *Signature Areas of Excellence* focusing on Youth and Adult Victimization. Building upon our existing program strengths and community partnerships, we will broaden our student learning opportunities in this area through new coursework, bolster our capacity for engaged research through the addition of two new faculty beginning fall 2018 and enhance our position as a resource to the greater Omaha community and beyond.

This year, we continue to experience growth among our faculty and students. The SCCJ was fortunate to add a new faculty member Dr. Justin Nix who is a nationally recognized expert in policing research. Students will have an increased opportunity to learn from and work with this rising star. We were also fortunate to receive a number of accolades achieved by students, alumni and faculty. This include a federally funded grant won by Dr. Ben Steiner and Dr. Joe Schwartz totaling almost \$900,000. Graduate students will also have the opportunity to participate in this important research. The National Institute of Justice funded these faculty members for a study that will better inform the field regarding the specific physiological reactions to stress among corrections professionals as we seek solutions to better prepare and protect our criminal justice workforce.

We deeply value the strong relationships with our alumni with SCCJ, many of whom are leading tremendously successful criminal justice careers including those that we honor tonight. These alumni remain engaged with our current students and faculty as representatives of their agency, as guest lecturers, by attending at our professional development events, as a participant in our fall golf tournament fundraising event, and attending our spring SCCJ Awards Luncheon. We are truly grateful for the strong support of our alumni base!

## **CPACS Dean's Office**

The "Urban Research Awards" awarded several faculty members, research associates and doctoral students' grants in 2017-2018. Previous recipients presented their findings in fall 2017 and will continue throughout the spring 2018 semester. Please see the CPACS website for the full listing of all the awards since 2014. Following are the 2017-2018 recipients:

### ***Volunteer Programming Impact on Urban Nebraska Nursing Home Quality of Care***

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Principal Investigator (PI): Dr. Christopher M. Kelly, Department of Gerontology

Co-Investigators: Dr. Nancy Kelley, UNO Grace Abbott School of Social Work  
Dr. Paul P. Falkowski, Community 360°, Executive Director

### ***Police Transparency Following an Officer-Involved Shooting Captured by Body-Worn Camera: A Randomized Experiment***

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Principal Investigator: Dr. Justin Nix, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Co-Investigator: Brandon Tregle, J.D.  
Ph.D. Candidate, UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

### ***Literacy by Degrees and UNO Postsecondary Prison Education Project Evaluation***

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Principal Investigator: Dr. Daniel Wuebben, Assistant Professor, Goodrich Scholarship Program

Co-Investigator Calli Cain, Ph.D. Candidate, UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

## ***Advocacy and Lobbying of Nebraska Nonprofit Organizations***

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Principal Investigator: Dr. Jodi Benenson, School of Public Administration

## ***Gender, Personality, and Career Motivation in Policing***

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Principal Investigator: Dr. Samantha S. Clinkinbeard, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Co-Investigator: Starr Solomon, M. A., Ph.D. Candidate,  
UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

The CPACS Diversity Committee composed of faculty and staff identify and support efforts that lead to a more inclusive and diverse culture within the college. The goals include the following:

Create a learning environment in CPACS organized around the values of equity, inclusion, and diversity  
Diversify the CPACS faculty  
Diversify CPACS students and staff

The committee plans to host an event in April 2018 with Amy West, MSW-GASSW and Dr. Dan Wuebben's Goodrich classes.

In 2017-2018, the college welcomed:

- Aaron Banman- Grace Abbott School of Social Work
- Kristina Faimon-Grace Abbott School of Social Work
- Justin Nix- School of Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Christine Billings-Director of the Division of Continuing Studies
- Tara Grell-CPAR
- Matt Harrington-CPAR

**Empowering Future Leaders,  
Fostering Inclusive Collaboration and  
Creating Innovative Solutions**



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA  
**COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**