In 2015, enrollment in CPACS grew by 10.5% to the highest level in the history of the College. We plan to double enrollments from 2008 to 2020, and we are more than half the way to the goal.

Our growth is in part due to our quality. Several programs are ranked very high nationally:

- Emergency Management is ranked #1 in quality and #7 in affordability
- Public Finance and Budgeting is ranked #6
- Information and Technology Management is ranked #6
- Nonprofit Management is ranked #11
- City Management and Urban Policy is ranked #14
- Criminology is ranked #17
- Public Management is ranked #21
- The Bachelor of General Studies degree is ranked #58 among online bachelor’s programs
- Social Work is ranked #104
- In the broad category of Public Affairs we are ranked #33

The College also reinvigorated its Dean’s Advisory Board which consists of twelve distinguished civic leaders.

The key accomplishments of the units in the College are:

- We received one of the largest donations in the history of the College to establish an endowed Community Chair in Social Work in Early Childhood. We plan to hire a senior scholar in the Grace Abbott School of Social Work by Fall, 2016.
- The First Responders Foundation endowed a permanent memorial scholarship to honor Officer Kerrie Orozco who was killed in the line of duty.
- A college-wide scholarship, the Captain Laura Larson Scholarship, was established in honor of Larson, a firefighter with the Omaha Fire Department who died in the line of duty.
- In three short years, the Bachelor’s in Emergency Management has grown to 77 majors and 29 minors, plus 23 minors in Fire Service Management. Next year, we will begin offering a certificate in Tribal Emergency Management to all North American Tribes.
- The B.S. in Gerontology was created in October 2014 and now has 38 majors. A new professorship was established, the Dr. Chuck Powell Professorship of Gerontology.
- The Aviation Institute celebrated its 25th anniversary in November with a dinner attended by many of the founders of the program. The flight team, the Flying Mavs, earned their eighth consecutive trip to the National Intercollegiate Flying Association tournament after placing third at the regional competition.
• The Goodrich Scholarship Program retained 96% of its students from freshman to sophomore year, the highest in history. We also graduated 61% in six years. Sixty percent of our students are first generation students, and more than half are students of color.

• Five faculty in the School of Public Administration are fellows of the National Academy of Public Administration, a Congressionally-chartered group of scholars and distinguished practitioners. Two graduates of the MPA program were named as Presidential Management Fellows this year. The Nebraska Municipal Clerk Institute will celebrate its 40th anniversary in March and in May will host the International Institute of Municipal Clerks conference.

• School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) faculty were awarded funding from a wide variety of federal agencies such as: National Institute of Justice, National Science Foundation, National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Local agencies and foundations funding SCCJ research include: Sherwood Foundation, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, and the Nebraska Crime Commission. Professor John Crank won the campus-wide Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity. SCCJ also received a new scholarship from the Black Police Officers Association of Omaha.

• The Bachelor of General Studies degree (BGS) contributes to UNO’s #1 ranking as a military-friendly university. A new area of concentration in Public Policy Studies is being added to the BGS degree and twelve areas of concentration are now available fully online. BGS enrollment increased by 4.6% in fall 2015. The Division of Continuing Studies (DCS) launched the “Transformative Teaching and Learning Initiative,” a comprehensive, online professional development program for DCS and UNO adjunct faculty.

• The Center for Public Affairs Research (CPAR) continues to receive funding from the Nebraska Legislature for the State Policy Initiative, which provides the Legislature data and briefings on public policy issues affecting the state. This year CPAR received funding for two transportation projects: the first is a three year, $1 million grant for rural transit funded by the Nebraska Department of Roads, and the second is a $200,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration for the Fast Forward Electronic Media project.

• Tefere Gebre, the Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO keynoted the William Brennan Institute for Labor Studies’ “Promoting the General Welfare” conference in April. The Institute’s staff taught 51 classes to 3,255 participants across the U.S. and Canada on topics critical to promoting workplace democracy.

• The NASA Nebraska Space Grant and EPScoR Office supports student research and STEM teaching and learning. We have collaborated with several faculty in exploration programs such as Project HALON, which mentors high altitude balloon teams at high schools, and in the development of an on-campus ground station to track satellites. We escorted thirteen Nebraska K-12 teachers to Kennedy Space Center for workshops in STEM education. Our staff is also in a leading role to plan a research project on the solar eclipse in August 2017.

• The Nebraska Center for Justice Research was awarded $230,000 from the Sherwood Foundation for an evaluation of Operation Youth Success, a comprehensive, coordinated, community-wide approach to juvenile services that seeks to reduce youth involvement in the juvenile justice system in Douglas County.

• The Juvenile Justice Institute was allocated $210,000 by the Nebraska Legislature this year to evaluate all state juvenile justice programs that receive community-based aid. We anticipate receiving regular funding in the future for this applied research.

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