

Faculty Newsletter

Spring 2020

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Spring 2020

As we navigate through our new work and learning environments, amid the new “norm” of social distancing due to COVID-19, I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to serving your students in these difficult times. I sincerely appreciate everything you have done, and will continue to do, to deliver high quality education to your dual credit students.

Our office has been working with our dual enrollment partner schools to provide guidance and direction to students and parents regarding expectations for awarding of dual credit in the context of each school’s continuity of learning plans. We communicated with each district earlier in the month outlining the conditions that dual enrollment credit may still be awarded, and grade options available for students. Please do not hesitate to reach out to [myself](#) or to [Kelly Malone](#) if you have any questions, or need additional guidance.

We look forward to working with each of you to prepare for new enrollments in the fall, and are working to provide you with the tools and guidance you need during these unusual times. We will remain flexible, and are planning to schedule more virtual opportunities to engage with students and their parents in the fall, and will also be extending the length of the dual enrollment application window. We will work with each school’s dual enrollment coordinator in the coming months to solidify details.

Stay safe and stay healthy!



Matt Tracy, Ph.D

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates



The University of Nebraska at Omaha has recently added a website pertaining to [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Updates](#). Please check this site often as the situation continues to evolve. The Office of General Education and Dual Enrollment continues to closely monitor this development and we are here to provide you with any assistance as you may need it.

We will also continue to email you new information as it pertains to delivering dual enrollment coursework. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions/concerns:

402-554-3810 (mainline)
unodualenroll@unomaha.edu

Dual Enrollment Event Cancellations

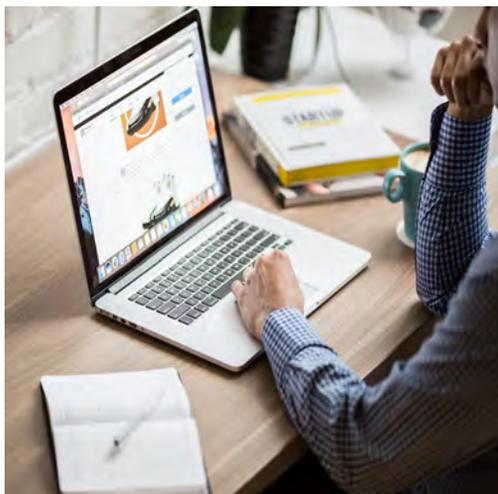
As you are all aware, the Coronavirus has impacted our nation and our local communities. On March 13, 2020, UNO/UNMC Chancellor Gold issued a statement pertaining to [Event Policies and Guidance for Coronavirus Response](#). More specifically, it states:

*On- and off-campus university sponsored events that involve more than 20 people, or use more than one-third of the venue's capacity, **must be postponed or cancelled effective immediately through the end of the Spring 2020 semester**. University-sponsored events that do not meet this threshold are able to continue or cancel events at the organizer's discretion unless notified otherwise by university officials.*

In light of this updated policy, the following Dual Enrollment events **are cancelled** and **will not** be rescheduled this year:

- **Calculus: the Musical!** – originally scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2020 - **Cancelled**
 - Please direct any questions to [UNO Dual Enrollment](#)
- **Calculus Bee** – originally scheduled to follow the musical - **Cancelled**
 - Please direct any questions to [Dr. Janice Rech](#), Department of Mathematics
- **The Year End Luncheon for High school and UNO faculty and administrators** - **Cancelled**

Additional Resources for Educators



As schools and business nationwide are closing their doors to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus, below are some links that you might find helpful:

[NACEP \(National Alliance of Concurrent Partnerships\)](#) has put together some great resources for teaching in an online environment.

[The Omaha STEM Ecosystem April 2020 Newsletter](#) is full of online resources. You can also check out their [website](#) for more information about the Omaha Stem Ecosystem and how they are helping to transform Omaha into a robust STEM community.

Here's an [article from neaToday](#) (news and features from the NEA) packed full of resources to help with online learning (the author has culled together articles and resources she has found to be most helpful).

Outstanding Dual Enrollment Instructor Award

Do you know of an outstanding high school teacher who deserves recognition for their hard work, diligence and dedication to their students? We will be accepting nominations for the 2019-2020 academic year until **May 15, 2020 at 5pm.**

Nominations can be made by anyone with a professional relationship to the nominee (e.g. another instructor, high school administrator, UNO faculty, etc).

[Eligibility Guidelines and Criteria](#) for nominating a teacher can be found on our website. [Nomination forms](#) are easy to access and are submitted online.

At the Year-end Luncheon, June 2019, our office presented the first annual awards to our distinguished high school faculty:



A Recognition of Excellence award is presented to Bellevue West Sociology teacher, **Kelly McVey**



A Recognition of Excellence Award is presented to Millard North Calculus teacher, **Megan Hopkins**



The Outstanding Dual Enrollment Instructor Award to Ralston foreign languages teacher, **Jamie Honke**. Accepting on her behalf are Ralston Assistant Principal, Joe Kilzer and Superintendent Mark Adler.

Advanced Placement® Study Sessions

Academic Departments and partnering high school faculty will be presenting the following AP Study sessions in a digital format. Please be advised that the information may change, so continue to monitor your email accounts and visit the [Dual Enrollment Events](#) page for the most current information.

Date	Time	Exam Topic	Location	Contact
April 14-May 4, 2020	Various times	AP® Human Geography	Zoom/Canvas Visit DE Events page for exact days/time	Kyle Tredinnick
April 26, 2020	TBD	AP® Biology	Canvas	Mrs. Jamie Luhr
May 3, 2020	TBD	AP® Psychology	Canvas	Ms. Veronica Botts

The table is reflective of the most recent/accurate plan for these sessions. Please note that Canvas Classrooms have been created for each exam and that these links are public-access resources that do not require login credentials.

Dual Enrollment Creates a Strong Pathway for Aspiring Teachers

In the **College of Education**, a partnership between the Teacher Education Department (TED), the UNO Dual Enrollment Program and several Omaha high schools are creating a strong, quality pathway to UNO for high school students who aspire to be teachers.

They collaborated to intentionally revise curriculum for the career-focused dual enrollment course **Introduction to Education (TED 1010)**, which high school students can take for UNO credit.



Sam Bojanski (pictured left) is a dual enrollment teacher at Omaha South High Magnet School and he describes the impact this partnership has on the lives of his students, “Currently, Omaha South has more students attending UNO than any other high school and that is by no accident.”

Mr. Bojanski also states that “Dual Enrollment has helped push our students to attend college with confidence. It has both motivated students to attend UNO and eased some fears of what a college course demands.”

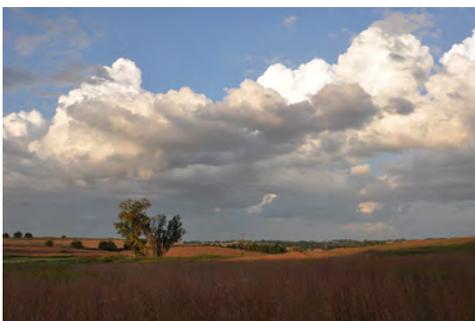
Please [click here](#) to read the full article on UNO’s College of Education website.



UNO Teacher Education faculty welcome Dual Enrollment teachers to the Play Lab at Roskens Hall for their biennial summer workshop. Sam Bojanski, a dual enrollment teacher at Omaha South is shown in red.

Glacier Creek Preserve

UNO’s Department of Biology has the unique responsibility of being the caretaker of the [Glacier Creek Preserve](#), a beautiful 525 acre ecosystem of restored tallgrass prairie. The objective of Glacier Creek Preserve is to maintain an ecologically sustainable, landscape-level wildlife preserve focusing on tallgrass prairie and related ecosystems that will serve present and future generations. High school teachers can bring their Biology classes here on field trips to enrich their students’ learning experience. Please contact the [Biology Dual Enrollment Coordinator](#) for more information about field trips. You can also visit the [Dual Enrollment in Biology](#) website to learn more about the benefits of teaching Biology for UNO dual enrollment credit.



High School Faculty Notes

Here are some friendly reminders as we think about the end of the semester approaching:

Check Course Rosters

Before the end of the Spring term, please take a few moments to do the following:

- Check for correct students enrolled in your course(s)
- Check that student names are spelled correctly
- Notify our office if there are items that need to be addressed

Submit Grades

On Friday, May 1, 2020, high school faculty may begin to submit grades for the courses that are completed Spring 2020. **The deadline to enter grades into MavLINK is Friday, May 29, 2020.** Please be sure to plan accordingly to avoid any delay in reporting your student's grades via [MavLINK](#)

If you would like assistance with entering grades, please feel free to use the [Grade Posting guide](#) available in the [Grading Policies/Procedures](#) section of our website.

Syllabi Review

Please continue to review and update your course syllabus to reflect what is being taught in your course as it aligns with the respective UNO Academic Department. If you need assistance with the template, organizing content, or have any questions about your course syllabus, please reach out to our office as soon as possible.

Dual Enrollment Instructors

Instructors who need additional graduate hours should consider enrolling in courses this summer and/or fall. Funds may be available to offset or cover the cost of taking courses towards your graduate coursework. For more information, please contact [Kelly Malone](#) or [Matt Tracy](#).



Resources

Library Access

High school faculty and their students who are enrolled in a UNO course have the same access to resources that an undergraduate student does! Check out the following perks that you can take advantage of at the Criss Library:

- [Reserve a room](#)
- [Access to specific computer and/or software](#)
- [Loan Privileges](#) (books, media, computer accessories)
- [Creative Production Lab](#)

Canvas

High school faculty: Did you know there is a Learning Management System (LMS) set up for you and your colleagues? When you log into [Canvas](#), you are a part of a "class" of your peer educators to distribute course materials, collaborate on topics, seek input and share experiences. Take a look at all the [cool things you can do with Canvas!](#)

DID YOU KNOW...?

Our Dual Enrollment website has a wealth of information dedicated to helping you and your students navigate the world of dual enrollment at UNO:

- [Instructional Videos](#) for students/parents on the enrollment process
- A [High School Representatives](#) site for instructors and DE Coordinators
- The [High School Directory](#) lists each school's courses, instructors, important dates and information pertaining to General Education Curriculum requirements

Staffing Updates



Colton Janes joined the Office of General Education and Dual Enrollment August 2018 as our Dual Enrollment Counselor. Colton has been a huge asset to our office. He has overhauled our website, streamlined communication with our partnering schools and is our go-to tech guy!

In January 2020, Colton accepted the position of Curriculum and Transfer Specialist within the Division of Academic Affairs. In this role, Colton will continue to cultivate partnerships with members of the community-at-large through the creation, management, and negotiation of Transfer Articulation Agreements. With the coordination of University administration and academic units, these Guided Pathways will support students attending community colleges with the anticipation of transferring their credits earned at the community college toward a baccalaureate program here at UNO. These program-to-program Guided Pathways are a win-win-win for the student, the partnered community college, and for UNO.



Andy Soper joins our staff as the new Dual Enrollment Counselor. Originally from Estherville, IA (near Okoboji), he now resides in Omaha with his wife Erin (UNO Alum) and their 3 year old daughter, Anna. Andy earned his Bachelor's degree in Business from Buena Vista University and also played on the golf team. After graduating from BVU, he worked at Iowa Lakes Community College (ILCC) in the Admissions office and was the Head Golf coach. He also completed his Master's in Education from Iowa State University while working at ILCC. In 2016, Andy and his family moved to Omaha where he was employed at Midland University, working in the admissions office and managing the dual enrollment program. Andy loves to play golf (since the age of 3), cooking and DIY projects with his wife. In June, Andy and Erin are expecting their second child.

Andy brings a wealth of higher education and dual enrollment experience to his new position in our office. We are excited to have Andy as a member of our team and you will be seeing him in your schools this fall. Welcome Andy!