

 | OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY



17TH ANNUAL  
**STUDENT RESEARCH &  
CREATIVE ACTIVITY FAIR**

**REVIEW AND RESULTS**

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025 | BARBARA WEITZ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha

# STUDENT RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY FAIR AT A GLANCE

|          |                   |                        |
|----------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 300      | 181               | 109                    |
| Projects | Graduate Students | Undergraduate Students |

PARTICIPATION FROM ALL SIX UNO COLLEGES AND UNL COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING | 126 FACULTY ADVISORS

## COMMUNITY JUDGES REPRESENTED THESE ORGANIZATIONS

- Kindred CFI
  - University of Nebraska-Lincoln
  - J.B. Hunt
  - National Strategic Research Institute
  - University of Nebraska Medical Center
  - University of Nebraska at Omaha
  - College of Saint Mary
  - Emerging Ladies Academy
  - NV5
  - HDR (retired)
  - Noteworthy Music of Nebraska
  - Cover Genius
  - National Indemnity Company
  - Nebraska Arts Council
  - Creighton University
- University of Nebraska Foundation
  - University of Nebraska at Omaha Alumni Association
  - Bio Nebraska
  - U.S. House of Representatives
  - UNeMed
  - Baird Holm LLP
  - Lozier Corporation
  - Roger Humphries Photography
  - ICA
  - Buildertrend
  - UNeTech Institute
  - Genoma Bioinformatics
  - Omaha Public Library
  - Physicians Mutual
  - Nebraska Medicine
- Nebraska Business Development Center
  - Metropolitan Utilities District
  - Midwest Surgical Hospital
  - NTT Data, Inc.
  - Invest Nebraska
  - Office of U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts
  - Fidelity National Financial
  - University of Nebraska System
  - NebDev
  - Hanger Clinic
  - Noddle Development (retired)
  - Syndicate of Sound Synapse
  - Physician (retired)
  - Midwest Disabilities Services

The Student Research and Creative Activity Fair is grateful to our sponsors, whose generous support brings UNO’s students and their groundbreaking work to the Omaha community, and beyond. Please contact [unoorca@unomaha.edu](mailto:unoorca@unomaha.edu) if you are interested in being a sponsor for the 2026 Fair.

|                         |                          |                      |                       |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ★ PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP  | ★ GOLD SPONSORSHIP       | ★ SILVER SPONSORSHIP | ★ ADDITIONAL SPONSORS |
| Bio Nebraska            | Great Plains IDeA-CTR    | Invest Nebraska      | UNeMed                |
| Nebraska National Guard | Holland Computing Center |                      |                       |
| UNO Alumni Association  |                          |                      |                       |



# 2025 FAIR AWARDEES



## UNDERGRADUATE

### PERFORMANCES

**BEST: MATEA JERKOVIC, CAMERON JORDAN, HAYDEN JOHNSON, ROBERT RUSSELL**

"UNO Maverick Saxophone Quartet"

Advised by: Matthew Storie

**OUTSTANDING: ISA WRIGHT**

"Twisted Apples"

Advised by: Teresa Carmody

**MERITORIOUS: ALEX MARTINEZ**

"Spanish Daydream: Spain's Music on the Guitar"

Advised by: Mary Perkinson

### POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**BEST: PAW THLAY WAH**

"Improving Health Outcomes for the Karen Community: Understanding Perceived Barriers to Physical Activity"

Advised by: Richard Stacy

**OUTSTANDING: MEGAN ALTHOUSE**

"Empowering Future Medical Professionals Through Math, Physics, and Computer Science"

Advised by: Michael Matthews

**MERITORIOUS: BROOKLYNN SCHMIDT**

"Exploring Teamwork in Children's Literature: Enhancing Character Strength Recognition in the Classroom"

Advised by: Lisa Scherer

**HONORABLE MENTION: CLAIRE WING**

"Examining Fertilization Through the Knockdown of Ife-2 in *C. elegans*"

Advised by: Karen Kim Guisbert

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**BEST: ISABELLE WEBER**

"Optimization of natural killer cell simultaneous ADCC and direct killing assay to increase data output for each human donor"

Advised by: Paul Denton

**OUTSTANDING: IZZY VARGAS**

"Character Strengths in Classical Music Compositions of the Romantic Period"

Advised by: Lisa Scherer

**MERITORIOUS: CHARLESTON BERRYMAN**

"Using ADAM17 inhibition to boost human natural killer cell-mediated antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity"

Advised by: Paul Denton

**HONORABLE MENTION: CHERYLYNN GIBSON**

"The Relationship Between Antioxidants and Anxiety: Manipulation of GPX1B on Stress Coping"

Advised by: Ryan Wong

### EXHIBITS OR DEMONSTRATIONS

**BEST: KENNEDY WALLMAN**

"Experiences in Femininity"

Advised by: Adrian Duran

**OUTSTANDING: IAN ANDRESS**

"Mixing in Surround Sound: A Comparative Study"

Advised by: Thomas Wilson

**MERITORIOUS: JEN RIEDL**

"Compassion in Crisis: Unveiling the Dangers of AI in Healthcare Settings"

Advised by: Kristin Girten

**HONORABLE MENTION: ALYSSIAH GREEN**

"An Invisible Illness on the Outside"

Advised by: Roma Subramanian

## GRADUATE

### PERFORMANCES

**BEST: KYLE PAOLETTI**

"Syncing Senses: The Impact of Visual Art on Audience Engagement with live Music"

Advised by: Hannah Weaver

**OUTSTANDING: AARON SCOBIE**

"Sun and Dust Through the Blinds"

Advised by: John Price

### POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**BEST: CHUKWUMA ADINCHEZOR**

"Developing a Translational Model for Nutritional Microbiology Research at the Callitrichid Research Center: A Proof-of-Concept Dietary Intervention Study"

Advised by: Jonathan Clayton

**OUTSTANDING: CHRISTOPHER ENGSBERG**

"Temporal Symmetry Instruction Through Plantar Tactile Stimulation"

Advised by: Mukul Mukherjee

**MERITORIOUS: SARAH WOELFEL**

"Ultrasound-Based Spatial Frequency Analysis to Differentiate Patellar Tendon Quality in Tendinopathy and Healthy Participants"

Advised by: Adam Rosen

**HONORABLE MENTION: MAHBOUBEH GHANBARI**

"Nitric Oxide Delivery in Chitosan Nanofibrous Dressings: A Comparison of Three Loading Techniques"

Advised by: Yury Salkovskiy

### ORAL PRESENTATIONS

**BEST: SARAH LEHN**

"The Eagles and the Kaiser: World War I, Anti-Germanism and Omaha Central High School-Historical Research and Instructional Materials"

Advised by: Danielle Battisti

**OUTSTANDING: RAMIN SHAHBAD**

"Quantifying the Impact of Stent-Graft Compliance on Aortic Windkessel Effect"

Advised by: Anastasia Desyatova

**MERITORIOUS: TOKA MOOTAZ ABOELNOUR AHMED**

"Neural plasticity before and after Targeted Muscle Reinnervation in an upper limb amputee"

Advised by: Jorge Zuniga

**HONORABLE MENTION (TIE): MEHRNOUSH HAGHIGHATNEJAD**

"Bilateral Gait Variability Responds Asymmetrically to External Cueing"

Advised by: Aaron Likens

**HONORABLE MENTION (TIE): THOMAS FORKE**

"Religious Expression in the Soviet Gulag"

Advised by: Mark Celinscak

### EXHIBITS OR DEMONSTRATIONS

**BEST: CHELSEA KAVICH**

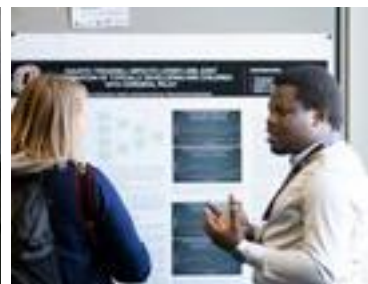
"Documentary Film"

Advised by: Peter Szto

**OUTSTANDING: SAVANNAH BOEDIGHEIMER**

"Cybersecurity for Older Adults"

Advised by: Melissa Cast-Brede



## Dear UNO Community and Friends,

The number and scope of student scholarly and creative activities on campus keep growing, and this is reflected during our annual Student Research and Creative Activity Fair. This year marked a milestone: our 17th year of celebrating and showcasing the incredible work our students are doing on campus. In 2025, the Fair showcased 300 student projects representing all six UNO colleges, as well as the UNL College of Engineering from UNO's Scott Campus.

We invite you to join us next year for the:



FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 27, 2026

This event is a reflection of the community-university collaboration for which UNO has become known. We are grateful to all community members who serve as judges and to those that attend the fair.

The Office of Research and Creative Activity wishes to sincerely thank all students, faculty mentors, and faculty moderators who made the 2025 Fair a resounding success. As always, we look forward to exhibiting the research, scholarly, and creative activities of UNO's students at the 2026 Fair. We invite you to join us for this exciting annual event.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fair!

**Sara A. Myers, Ph.D.**

Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activity

### 2026 GUIDELINES COMING SOON!

Interested in serving as a judge or volunteering for the 18th Annual Student Research and Creative Activity Fair on March 27, 2026? Know someone who might be? Contact us to learn more.

### OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

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# Support UNO's 2026 Student Research and Creative Activity Fair

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*Become a Sponsor or Judge!*

Date: March 27, 2026

Location: Weitz Community Engagement Center, Omaha, NE

The UNO Office of Research and Creative Activity (ORCA) is thrilled to present this event as an outstanding opportunity for community partners to engage with our talented student scholars. These students will be showcasing their innovative research and creative projects, many of which highlight their potential to become future leaders and experts in their respective fields. This event offers a unique platform for potential employers to meet some of the brightest minds at UNO.

We offer multiple levels of sponsorship and are open to customizing opportunities—such as sponsoring a specific award that aligns with the focus of your organization. In addition to our sponsorship packages, we also invite community partners to serve as judges. Participating as a judge allows for meaningful engagement with the student projects, offering feedback and support without a sponsorship commitment. It's an excellent chance to interact with the work firsthand and contribute to the students' academic and creative growth.

## Why Participate?

Join us in celebrating the innovative spirit of UNO students as they showcase their year-long research and creative projects. These projects have been developed with the guidance of dedicated UNO faculty mentors and reflect the hard work and passion of our top students.

## Benefits of Involvement:

- Connect with talented UNO students who are future leaders in their fields.
- Make a Difference: By becoming a sponsor or a community judge, you can impact the next generation of innovators and creators.
- Be honored as a key supporter of education, research, and creativity at UNO.

## How You Can Get Involved:

- Sponsors: Help make this event a success while aligning your brand with innovation and academic excellence.
- Judges: Share your expertise or provide valuable feedback and evaluation of student projects across various categories.

## Who You'll Meet:

- Outstanding UNO Students: Talented scholars presenting the projects they've worked on throughout the year with faculty advisors.
- UNO Faculty and Leaders: Collaborate with experienced educators.

## Get Started:

For more information on sponsorships or participating as a community judge, please contact [unoorca@unomaha.edu](mailto:unoorca@unomaha.edu).