

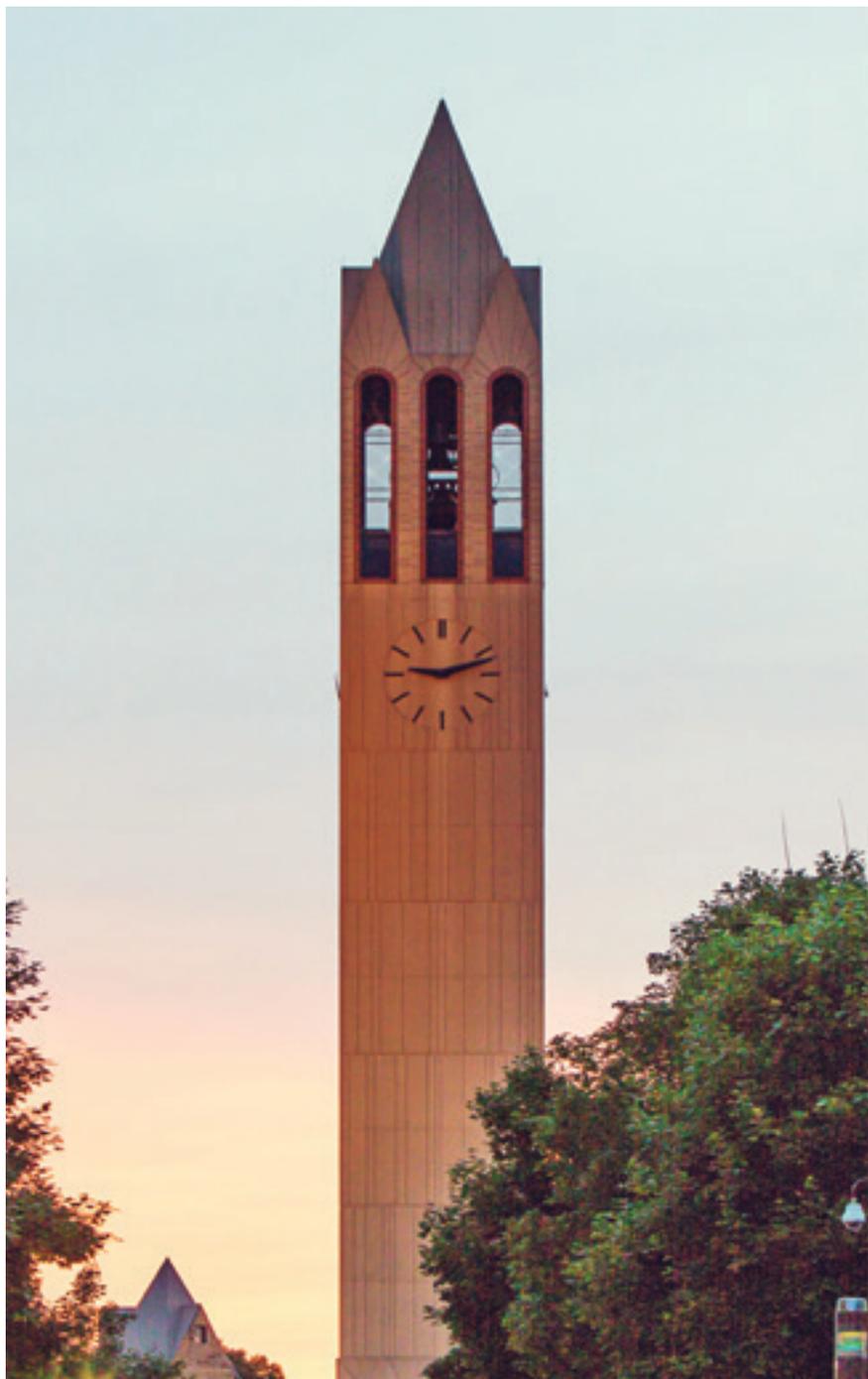


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# STUDENT HONORS CONVOCATION

APRIL 26, 2022

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# CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME

Dear Honorees and Attendees,

Today we gather to recognize the accomplishments of our outstanding students. Honors Convocation provides us with the opportunity to celebrate both students' academic achievements and their contributions and service to our university and community. Their independent thinking and demonstration of excellence in scholarship and service is amazing proof of UNO's mission as a metropolitan university.

The biographies within these pages highlight the individual students, but we also recognize that their accomplishments are shared with the family, friends, faculty, and staff who help make that excellence possible. To each of you who have helped support our students: thank you.

To the students we are recognizing today, congratulations! Know that you have earned this recognition with your long hours of study, service, and dedication. Thank you for that effort, because your work – today and in the future – reflects on UNO and builds on our reputation as a leading force in higher education, research, and community engagement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Li', with a large loop at the start and a horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joanne Li, Ph.D., C.F.A.,  
Chancellor

# CEREMONY

## INTRODUCTION

Maeve Hemmer  
President of Student Body and Regent

Kaitlin Carlson, B.S.  
President-Elect, Staff Advisory Council

Elizabeth Wessling, Ed.D.  
President of the Faculty Senate  
Professor of Business Statistics and  
Applied Algebra and Optimization

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Sacha E. Kopp, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

## WELCOME

Joanne Li, Ph.D., C.F.A.  
Chancellor

## AWARDS

### **Helen Hansen Outstanding Graduate Students**

Presented by Juan Casas, Ph.D.  
Acting Dean, Graduate Studies

### **Undergraduate Major Honorees**

Presented by Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, Ph.D.  
Assistant Vice Chancellor, Student Success

### **Deans' Awards**

Presented by college deans

## CHANCELLOR AWARDS

### **Academic Excellence**

Presented by Joanne Li, Ph.D., C.F.A.  
Chancellor

### **Outstanding Student Leadership**

Presented by Joanne Li, Ph.D., C.F.A.  
Chancellor

### **Outstanding Service Learning**

Presented by Joanne Li, Ph.D., C.F.A.  
Chancellor

### **Excellence in Research or Creative Activity**

Presented by Joanne Li, Ph.D., C.F.A.  
Chancellor

### **Outstanding Student Athletes**

Presented by Adrian Dowell, M.B.A., M.S.S.M.  
Vice Chancellor of Athletics

## CLOSING REMARKS

Sacha E. Kopp, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

# HELEN HANSEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Scholarships are awarded to graduate students who have completed at least 18 hours of graduate work, demonstrated excellence in performance, and have been admitted for candidacy with a grade point average of 3.75 and above.



**KESHIA GREVE**  
*Educational Specialist*

Keshia Greve received her BA in psychology from Creighton University. She has served as a “Teach for America” corps member in Oklahoma City, and as a math teacher and instructional coach in Kansas City. She was a College Program Coordinator at College Possible, a non-profit organization in Omaha. Greve received her Master of Science in school psychology in 2021, and is currently pursuing her Educational Specialist degree in school psychology at UNO.

She will bring her experience and passion for education, college access and success, and working with students from low-income backgrounds into her role as a school psychologist. Next year, Greve will be interning in the Millard Public Schools District as a school psychologist.



**JOSEPHINE HAZELTON-BOYLE**  
*Public Administration*

Josephine Hazelton-Boyle is graduating with a Ph.D. in public administration. Her research explores questions of social equity in transportation administration and policy. Hazelton-Boyle’s dissertation research, which uses an intersectional feminist analysis to examine gender equity within U.S. public transit agencies, was supported through a Dwight David Eisenhower Fellowship from the U.S. Department of Transportation. She will begin her career as an Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy in the Alexander Blewett School of Law at the University of Montana this summer.

## UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR HONOREES

Honorees selected by departments in which they are majoring must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.33. They are chosen on the basis of academic achievement in addition to their contributions to the university and the community.

### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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<b>Elizabeth Bender*</b>	Foreign Languages & Literature
<b>Cara Booth</b>	Environmental Science
<b>Alexa Callahan</b>	Psychology
<b>Ayush Chataut</b>	Molecular and Biomedical Biology
<b>Grant Cole*</b>	Economics
<b>Jametria Conner</b>	Medical Humanities
<b>Nathaniel Evenson</b>	Geology
<b>Joshua Franzen</b>	Biology
<b>Erina Funatsu</b>	International Studies
<b>Allyson Glaser</b>	Neuroscience
<b>Darlene Gomez</b>	Political Science
<b>Sydney Kerkman</b>	Chemistry
<b>Erick Lopez-Quintana</b>	Latino/Latin American Studies
<b>Marcella McGuire</b>	Religious Studies
<b>Sydney Meier</b>	Mathematics and Women's & Gender Studies
<b>Aleksander Miller</b>	History
<b>Rhett Milner*</b>	English
<b>Afrah Rasheed*</b>	Sociology
<b>Quinton Rasser</b>	Philosophy
<b>Jocelyn Reed</b>	Black Studies
<b>Gary Saul</b>	Interdisciplinary Studies
<b>Gustavo Servin-Maciel</b>	Geography

\*Denotes Honors Student

*COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES*

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<b>Jenna Caton</b>	Communication Disorders
<b>Natalee Diaz</b>	Elementary Special Education
<b>Isabelle Ginavan</b>	Public Health
<b>Sarah Gonzales</b>	Secondary Education
<b>Grace Guenther*</b>	Elementary Education
<b>Kaitlyn Guhl</b>	Biomechanics
<b>Sidney Hanel*</b>	Secondary Education
<b>Cameron Jensen</b>	Elementary Education
<b>Sadie Limback</b>	Kinesiology
<b>Anne Meester</b>	Library Science
<b>Cassidy Mentink*</b>	Early Childhood Inclusive
<b>Justin Pettit</b>	Kinesiology
<b>Margarita Rodriguez</b>	Elementary Education
<b>Amanda Shultz</b>	Secondary Education

*COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION*

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<b>Connor Adolf</b>	Banking and Financial Markets
<b>Dezhaun Artis</b>	Legal Studies
<b>Tate Burmeister</b>	Business Finance
<b>Madeline Foreman*</b>	International Business
<b>Thomas Frey</b>	Logistics & Supply Chain Management
<b>Luke Jensen</b>	Investment Science and Portfolio Management
<b>Carly Kirsch</b>	Sales
<b>Jeremy Kurz</b>	Accounting
<b>Harrison Martindale</b>	Entrepreneurship
<b>Karina Navarro</b>	Management
<b>Hunter Pollack</b>	Economics
<b>Rachelle Rice</b>	Marketing
<b>Madison Tabor</b>	Human Resources Management
<b>Brooke Weisheit</b>	Real Estate & Land Use Economics

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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<b>Joe Alfieri</b>	Aviation (Professional Flight)
<b>Shayla Barr</b>	Aviation (Airport Transport Administration)
<b>Margaret Blice</b>	Emergency Management
<b>Ayush Chataut</b>	Molecular and Biomedical Biology
<b>Abdi Ibrahim</b>	Social Work
<b>Raheel Mahmood</b>	Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft Systems)
<b>Abigail Osterhaus*</b>	Criminology & Criminal Justice
<b>Katie Plywaczewski</b>	Criminology & Criminal Justice
<b>Anne Stepanek</b>	Gerontology

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE  
DIVISION OF CONTINUING STUDIES

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<b>Katy Gonzalez</b>	Multidisciplinary Studies (Behavioral Health)
<b>Carolyn Rogers</b>	Multidisciplinary Studies (Gerontology)
<b>Travis Vo</b>	Multidisciplinary Studies (Public Policy)

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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<b>Sydney Andreasen</b>	Computer Science
<b>Andrew Griess</b>	Cybersecurity*
<b>Tera Maher</b>	IT Innovation
<b>Caleb Pecka</b>	Bioinformatics
<b>Jordon Thomas Trujillo</b>	Management Information Systems

\*Denotes Honors Student

*COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA*

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<b>Ana Bellinghausen</b>	Journalism & Media Communication
<b>Jarod Cernousek</b>	Theatre
<b>Hannah Fisher*</b>	Music Education
<b>Ian Hill</b>	Music (Instrumental Studies)
<b>Samantha Hundt</b>	Art Education
<b>Harleigh Orlando</b>	Creative Writing
<b>Tray Soe</b>	Graphic Design
<b>Minh Nhat Vu</b>	Communication Studies
<b>Yimeng Xu</b>	Music Performance
<b>Josie Young</b>	Studio Art

*UNL COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING*

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<b>Peyton Abendroth</b>	Construction Management
<b>Joel Embury</b>	Construction Engineering
<b>Riley Kucera</b>	Computer Engineering
<b>Andrew Ruder</b>	Civil Engineering
<b>Gwyneth Semanisin</b>	Electrical Engineering
<b>Makayla Thompson</b>	Architectural Engineering

## DEANS' AWARDS

Award recipients reflect a combination of outstanding scholastic achievement and leadership on campus and in the community. They are selected from the Undergraduate Major Honorees.



### **SYDNEY MEIER**

*College of Arts and Sciences*

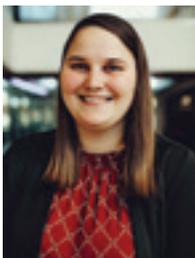
Sydney Meier (she/her/hers) is studying mathematics and women's & gender studies at UNO. Meier completed a simulation model and machine learning algorithm tailored toward human trafficking while completing an Independent Study and REU. Her work as the co-director of the Women and Gender Equity Center has grown her passion for community improvement through operations research. Following graduation, she is pursuing a Ph.D. in industrial engineering at Clemson University with a teaching assistantship and three fellowships.



### **ISABELLE GINAVAN**

*College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences*

Isabelle (Izzy) Ginavan (she/they) received her bachelor's in public health at UNO with minors in psychology and LGBTQ/sexuality studies. Ginavan was the president of both the Midlands Sexual Health Student Union and the UNO Public Health Student Association. During their time at UNO they were a research assistant for the Midlands Sexual Health Research Collaborative and a Peer Advisor for the School of Health and Kinesiology. Ginavan has now moved to Corvallis, Oregon where they will complete a Master of Public Health with concentrations in health promotion, health behavior, and sexual health at Oregon State University.



### **RACHELLE RICE**

*College of Business Administration*

Nebraska City native, Rachelle Rice, will graduate in May 2022 with a degree in business administration, with concentrations in human resources management and marketing, and a secondary concentration in management. Rice is president of both the UNO Student Marketing Association and the CBA Dean's Student Advisory Council. She is also a member of the CBA Scholars Academy. Upon graduation, she will work as a human resources analyst at Fiserv in Omaha, NE.



### **AYUSH CHATAUT**

*College of Public Affairs and Community Service*

Ayush Chataut will graduate in 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in molecular and biomedical biology, with minors in chemistry and medical humanities. He credits his achievements to his guru, Saint Shri Asharamji Babu, family and friends, and all his educators, for instilling in him a passion for learning. As a first-generation student, he praises the Goodrich Scholarship Program, Project Achieve, and UHOP for continuously supporting him along his collegiate journey. Chataut works for Omaha AHEC and tutors for Project Achieve.



## **TRAVIS VO**

*College of Public Affairs and Community Service  
Division of Continuing Studies*

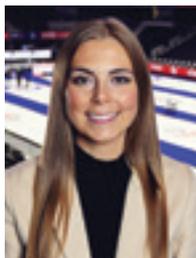
Travis Vo will be completing his undergraduate career in UNO's Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies program. He will graduate with a concentration in public policy and a certificate in real estate and land use. Vo has also taken courses at the UNO Aviation Institute. He is employed as an IT Specialist at a school district in Omaha, NE. After graduation, Vo plans to pursue a graduate degree in UNO's Master of Public Administration program.



## **ANDREW GRIESS**

*College of Information Science & Technology*

Andrew Griess is a graduate student studying cybersecurity. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant in the Air National Guard where he serves as a client systems technician. In his free time, he enjoys rock climbing, ethical hacking, and taking care of his puppy. After graduation, he intends to enter public service as an ethical hacker.



## **ANA BELLINGHAUSEN**

*College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media*

Ana Bellinghausen is the General Manager of MavRadio.fm, the co-founder and president of the Women in Media Club, president of the Advertising Club and an award-winning producer of the Maverick Digital Network. In the community, she's on the advisory board for FitGirl Inc., is the communications coordinator for the Omaha Sports Commission and a reporter for USA Curling, the Big East Digital Network, and Nebraska Public Media.



## **GWYNETH SEMANISIN**

*UNL College of Engineering*

Gwyneth Semanisin is graduating in May 2022 from the electrical engineering program with a minor in mathematics. She is a Walter Scott, Jr. Scholarship recipient and a teaching assistant in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department. She has served as executive leadership in student organizations including IEEE, the Eta Kappa Nu honor society, and the Nebraska Engineering Student Council at Omaha (NESCO). After graduating, Semanisin will work at Ball Aerospace as a Reliability Engineer for Mission Systems Assurance.

## CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

This Award is given based on a combination of outstanding scholastic achievement and demonstrated leadership on campus and in the community. The recipient is selected from the Deans' Award recipients.



### ANDREW GRIESS

*College of Information Science & Technology*

Andrew Griess is a graduate student studying cybersecurity. He achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant in the Air National Guard where he serves as a client systems technician. In his free time, he enjoys rock climbing, ethical hacking, and taking care of his puppy. After graduation, he intends to enter public service as an ethical hacker.

## CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This award recognizes an undergraduate student who has demonstrated exemplary leadership through influential participation in campus organizations and community volunteer work, in addition to scholarly achievement.



### SHERI MCVAY

*College of Arts and Sciences*

Sheri McVay is a senior, majoring in psychology. She begins her graduate studies at UNO in fall of 2022, working toward her Ph.D. in developmental psychology. McVay serves as a learning assistant in the Department of Psychology at UNO, and is also a trilingual interpreter for Millard Public Schools, providing language services to refugee families in the community.



# CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE LEARNING

This award recognizes a student enrolled in service learning courses who demonstrates reflective practice techniques in coursework, provides outstanding service and maintains an excellent relationship with a community agency, and embraces the philosophy of service learning and community service.



## **GABRIELA CALDERON**

*College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences*

Gabriela Calderon is a junior majoring in elementary education (ESL). She completed the intro to ESL service-learning project with the Learning Community Center of South Omaha, where she experienced the project from all perspectives. Calderon works at the LCCSO with childcare, while also helping with the service-learning project. Seeing this SLA project from the perspective of a child, a UNO student, and as an employee prepares her to know how to build relationships with children and their families as a future educator.



## **ANN GENTLE**

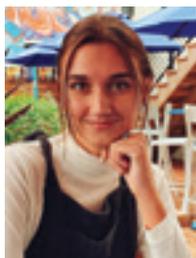
*College of Business Administration*

Ann Gentle is returning to UNO 25 years after receiving her B.A. She currently is working toward an M.B.A. with a business analytics concentration. This degree will benefit her work in failure analysis at Union Pacific Railroad. Gentle has been inspired to continue storytelling with data both at work and in the community.



## CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH OR CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Selection of recipient is based on a combination of outstanding research or creative activity as demonstrated through scholastic endeavors and achievements. The recipient is selected from the Dean's Award recipients.



### ISABELLE GINAVAN

*College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences*

Isabelle (Izzy) Ginavan (she/they) received her bachelor's in public health at UNO with minors in psychology and LGBTQ/sexuality studies. Ginavan was the president of both the Midlands Sexual Health Student Union and the UNO Public Health Student Association. During their time at UNO they were a research assistant for the Midlands Sexual Health Research Collaborative and a Peer Advisor for the School of Health and Kinesiology. Ginavan has now moved to Corvallis, Oregon where they will complete a Master of Public Health with concentrations in health promotion, health behavior, and sexual health at Oregon State University.

## OUTSTANDING STUDENT ATHLETE AWARDS

The Outstanding Student Athlete Award is presented to one male and one female student athlete. Honorees are also selected on the basis of academic and athletic achievement, in addition to their contributions to the university and the community.



### SADIE LIMBACK

*College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences*

Sadie Limback is a four-year letter winner for the Omaha volleyball team. In 2021, she became the first Omaha volleyball player in the Division I era to be named to any Academic All-America team, where she was named Second Team Academic All-America and AVCA All-America Honorable Mention. Limback has been Summit League Player of the Year, and has picked up nine Summit League Offensive Player of the Weeks. She ends with 1,444 kills and 567 digs over her four years. The Waverly, MO native has a 4.0 GPA and is majoring in kinesiology.



### MARTIN SUNDBERG

*College of Business Administration*

Martin Sundberg has contributed 29 points in nearly 100 games in his five seasons with Omaha hockey. The Linköping, Sweden, native was named Academic All-Conference and a Distinguished Scholar-Athlete by the National Collegiate Hockey Conference all four years with the Mavericks, and named an ACHA All-American Scholar two years. Sundberg has earned bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration and will graduate this spring with an MS in economics. He has served as a volunteer coach with the Omaha Hockey Club and worked with the TEAM IMPACT program.

## **University of Nebraska at Omaha Administration**

Joanne Li, Ph.D., C.F.A., *Chancellor*

Sacha Kopp, Ph.D., *Senior Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs*

Rich Klein, Ph.D., *Vice Chancellor for Strategic Institution and Student Success*

Adrian Dowell, M.B.A., M.S.S.M., *Vice Chancellor of Athletics*

James Kamm, M.B.A., *Interim Vice Chancellor, Business and Finance*

Deborah Smith-Howell, Ph.D., *Senior Advisor to the Chancellor, Office of the Chancellor Professor of Communication*

Makayla McMorris, *Chief Communications and Marketing Officer*

A.T. Miller, Ph.D., *Chief Diversity Officer*

Victoria Kohout, *Chief of Government and Community Relations*

Drew Nielsen, *Chief Compliance Officer*

Keristiena Dodge, M.A., *Chief of Staff, Staff Advisory Council President*

Ken Bayles, Ph.D., *Associate Vice Chancellor, Research and Creative Activity*

Omar Correa, M.Ed., *Associate Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management*

Jane Meza, Ph.D., *Associate Vice Chancellor of Global Engagement Interim Executive Director, Office of Health Security*

Cathy Pettid, M.S., L.M.H.P., *Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs*

Steven Kerrigan, J.D., *Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources*

Elizabeth Wessling, Ed.D., *President of the Faculty Senate Professor of Business Statistics and Applied Algebra and Optimization*

Anthony Flott, M.A., *Executive Director, Alumni Engagement*

## **The Colleges**

David Boocker, Ph.D.,  
*Dean, College of Arts and Sciences*

Nancy Edick, Ed.D.,  
*Dean, College of Education, Health,  
and Human Sciences*

Michelle Trawick, Ph.D.,  
*Dean, College of Business Administration*

John Bartle, Ph.D.,  
*Dean, College of Public Affairs and Community Service*

Martha Garcia-Murillo, Ph.D.,  
*Dean, College of Information Science & Technology*

Michael Hilt, Ph.D.,  
*Dean, College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media*

Juan Casas, Ph.D.,  
*Acting Dean, Graduate Studies*

David Richards, M.A., M.L.I.S.,  
*Dean, Criss Library*

## **University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Programs**

Lance Pérez, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Engineering*

## **University of Nebraska Board of Regents**

Bob Phares  
Timothy Clare, J.D.  
Jack Stark, Ph.D.  
Jim Pillen, D.V.M.

Elizabeth O'Connor, J.D.  
Rob Schafer, J.D.  
Paul Kenney  
Barb Weitz, M.P.A., M.S.W.

## **Student Regents**

University of Nebraska at Omaha, Maeve Hemmer  
University of Nebraska at Kearney, Noah Limbach  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bataol Ibrahim  
University of Nebraska Medical Center, Taylor Kratochvil

## **University of Nebraska System Administration**

Ted Carter, *President*  
Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., *Executive Vice President and Provost*  
Chris Kabourek, M.B.A., *Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer*  
Stacia Palser, J.D., *Vice President and General Counsel*

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha



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