
February 11, 2026

Faculty Senate
University of Northern Iowa

Dear Senators:

It is my great pleasure to recommend Dr. Alan C. Czarnetzki for Emeritus Faculty status for his many accomplishments at UNI. Dr. Czarnetzki started at UNI one year after my start, so we have nearly the same number of years and experienced many of the same highs and lows of the UNI community. Alan was the first faculty member with an academic background in meteorology hired by the department. Before his hire, the popular UNIFI weather course, *Elements of Weather*, had been offered by others with backgrounds in areas such as Science Education or Physics. Alan has also made use of his meteorological background to provide service to the local community as well as the UNI community with presentations, radio interviews, and, for several years, daily forecasts on KUNI radio. Dr. Czarnetzki's research has included collaborations with undergraduate and graduate students, as well as meteorology and air quality specialists at other institutions or agencies. He has also obtained more than \$5.5 million dollars in external funding for a range of projects, including those that provide curriculum for K-12 educators in Iowa and around the country.

Alan was instrumental in providing new content for our majors, particularly the Earth Science Teaching majors, who benefited from his *Elements of Weather Laboratory* course. He was able to provide our majors with hands-on access to meteorological instrumentation as well as extensive data sets. Courses often rely upon the latest weather information, which was not easily accessible before the development of browsers and graphical visualization systems. Alan was able to provide data through software vendors and technology, including the funding for a satellite dish on the roof of Latham Hall for student use in meteorology courses, as well as a weather station.

The Department's curriculum expansion in the area of meteorology continued with Alan's development of several courses, including *Meteorology* and *Weather Analysis and Forecasting*, both of which supported a new minor in Meteorology. In the early 2000's, Alan's prescient understanding of the need for a curriculum dealing with air quality issues, a subset of meteorology, led to the development of multiple courses in that area, as well as an Air Quality BS program. These include *Air Quality, Measurement and Analysis of Air Quality*, and *Air Quality Modeling*. These courses were unique among the Regent's institutions, as they were part of a natural sciences program of study. In addition, the air quality curriculum is an integral part of our popular Environmental Science BA and BS programs, and this eventually led to the hiring of another faculty member in 2014, this time with a background in air quality. Before that, Alan taught eight

different meteorology/air quality courses. Due to his grants and frequent course releases, he often taught courses on overload to provide specific content for our majors.

Dr. Czarnetzki's main teaching assignment has been the UNIFI course *Elements of Weather*, which he has taught consistently, nearly every semester, since he arrived in 1992. He typically has what I would consider excellent student evaluations of his teaching, with many positive comments from students indicating his willingness to explain complex concepts and extensive knowledge of the material. He is frequently cited for being a very caring individual who has concern not only for the students' academic success, but also for their well-being. He does expect work from his students to be of good quality, and he takes the time to provide one-on-one tutoring to those students who are struggling with concepts or mathematical applications. He works to improve his courses by regularly upgrading his laboratory activities, incorporating new demonstrations and software applications in his courses, and including unique content, such as a tour of the Cedar Falls Utility Plant for his *Air Quality* students. Alan's classes do include a great deal of current weather data, as well as information helpful to students, such as understanding upcoming weather hazards.

Alan has also guided graduate students in the Environmental Science MS program. He has served as the major research advisor and thesis committee chair for 6 Master's research projects, and also collaborated on a research project paper with another MS student on water quality. For many of his graduate students, the research has been centered on air quality, primarily in the state of Iowa.

Undergraduate students in the Earth and Environmental Sciences Department will usually fulfill their degree requirements by working with a faculty member on a research project or in an internship related to their area of interest. Alan has supervised and guided students in both areas, evaluating several internship experiences at the weather center in KWWL and research in meteorology and air quality. His research supervision includes more than 20 different students, often with presentations at local and national conferences, including the annual National Weather Association Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conferences, and the Air and Waste Management Association Conferences. The students doing research include BA majors in Earth Science and Environmental Science, as well as BS majors in Environmental Science. Alan makes sure that their presentations, both oral and written, are well organized and include details and clarity of language, both technical, and non-technical.

Dr. Czarnetzki has also been involved in research projects that include others in air quality and meteorology, such as the recent Lake Michigan Ozone study (LMOS), involving co-authors from the University of Iowa and the University of Wisconsin. Different aspects of the LMOS results have been presented in several high-impact meteorology and air quality journals, as well as at national conferences. He has also been the first author on several publications and presentations on his research specialization, thunderstorm formation and precipitation, in national and regional journals. Some of this research was funded by external grants from the National Science Foundation.

The majority of Alan's research during his time at UNI has been centered on teacher resources and curriculum. This is due to his success in obtaining several large grants, primarily from the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), beginning in 2000 and extending through 2012. These grants funded eleven K-12 educator summer workshops, curriculum development, and the remodeling and equipment purchases for a computer-based classroom, which is still in use by both the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and the School of Applied Human Sciences in Latham Hall. During the summer, for the duration of this grant, Alan would bring in 18-24 teachers from around the country to learn about teaching weather concepts, online and with low-cost resources, and how to incorporate current atmospheric data into their curriculum. This work has continued after the major funding from NOAA ceased, through targeted grants for other areas of professional development for K-12 educators. This included grants from the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Board of Regents, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Iowa Energy Center – Iowa Economic Authority. In total, Alan has been successful in obtaining more than \$5.5 million in external grants.

Alan has provided significant contributions to the department, the college (both CNS and CHAS), the University, his professional community, and the community at large. Like all faculty in our department, he has contributed his expertise to various groups at UNI, including the following -

- Organizing department seminars (scheduling/advertising speakers)
- Serving on the Graduate Council (2 years)
- Head of Biology Review Committee
- CNS Computer Advisory Committee
- CNS Honors Program Committee
- CNS Faculty Senate Representative (5 years)
- Tenure and Promotion Advisory Committee for CHAS
- CHAS Faculty Senate Representative (2 terms), Senate Vice Chair
- Departmental PAC Member (since 1998)
- Chair of the Search Committee for a Meteorology Air Quality Specialist
- Capacity Building Grant Reviewer for the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs
- MidwestOne UNIque Academic Advising Award Committee
- UNI Outstanding Teaching Award Committee
- UNI Parents Association Scholarship Committee
- Faculty Advisor to the UNI Circle K student organization (affiliated with Kiwanis International) for more than 10 years

His service to those beyond the campus includes:

- Being a severe storms expert for KWWL
- Presentations at the Cedar Falls Lions Club
- Presentation at the Cedar Falls Kiwanis Club
- Chair for the Cedar Falls Rough Riders Kiwanis Academic Honors Banquet, each spring from 2003 - 2017, which honors the top 10% of the Cedar Falls High School graduating class
- For 6 years, created and presented weekday weather forecasts for KUNI radio
- Has been a regular guest on Iowa Public Radio shows, including "The Exchange" and "River to River"; for the latter show, he has provided meteorological information on at least 15 different occasions.

- He was a guest on NPR's "Science Friday" discussing the 2020 derecho in southern Iowa, and contributed his expertise to several other news agencies about the derecho.

Alan also has contributed to his profession by reviewing journal articles in publications such as "Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences", "Monthly Weather Review", "Weather and Forecasting", "National Weather Digest", and "Journal of Geoscience Education". He has also served as an associate editor for "National Weather Digest". In addition to journals, Alan has reviewed several textbooks, as well as National Science Foundation grant proposals for the Division of Atmospheric Sciences. Nearly every year, Alan serves as a session coordinator/host during the Severe Storms Conference in Des Moines, Iowa. Alan has also worked with the Storm Spotter Training workshop coordinators, who have been hosted in our building several times.

Dr. Czarnetzki's contributions to so many groups have not escaped notice. He was the recipient of the Veridian Community Engagement Award for Community Service in 2006. In addition, he has been named the Outstanding Kiwanis Advisor for his work with the campus group by the Nebraska-Iowa District of Circle K International two times. Alan has also been cited for his contributions to excellence in teaching and research by various groups through nominations and awards for work in those areas over the decades.

The amount of time that Alan has contributed to service on and off the UNI campus is significant, and it is always done meticulously and thoroughly. Alan's friendly and easy-going manner is appreciated when he provides insight during department meetings, while his clear explanations of weather phenomena are informative and helpful. I am particularly amazed by how many people still remember his weekday weather segments on KUNI, which he would record around 5 AM and upload to KUNI - all before most of the social media tools we currently use were available.

After examining the amount and quality of his teaching, research, and service that Alan Czarnetzki has provided, along with the impressive amount of funding he has been able to obtain, it is clear that he is a person worthy of recognition following his retirement from UNI. After reviewing Alan's career at UNI, he is deserving of further recognition. He has been honored in the past as the recipient of the CNS Dean's award for excellence in research, the Veridian Community Engagement Award for community service, the University Book and Supply Outstanding Teaching Award, and the Regents Award for Faculty Excellence.

I am honored to support Dr. Alan Czarnetzki's request for Emeritus Status at UNI.

Sincerely,



Siobahn Morgan, Professor and Department Head