

April 17, 2018

The following comments provide support of emeritus status for Kathryn M. Blecha:

Kathryn M. Blecha began at UNI as a student teaching coordinator in 1988 after having taught in the Omaha, Nebraska, West Des Moines, Iowa, and Lincoln, Nebraska public schools for thirteen years. Prior to coming to UNI, Ms. Blecha taught English Methods courses at the College of St. Mary and was a student teaching supervisor for the University of Nebraska-Omaha prior to being hired at UNI.


Ms. Blecha served as the student teaching coordinator for the Omaha/Council Bluffs and Sioux City student teaching center at the University of Northern Iowa, College of Education, Department of Teaching for twenty-nine years. Her responsibilities included placing and supervising student teachers, conducting student teaching seminars, coordinating capstone experiences, and facilitating the teacher work sample, edTPA, and student portfolios. In addition, Ms. Blecha taught 280:070 Human Relations: Awareness and Application.

Ms. Blecha was engaged in scholarly work including publications, refereed presentations, and grant activities. Ms. Blecha provided significant contributions to UNI through her service. She met with p/k – 12 school districts in western Iowa to recruit students and promote UNI. She organized town hall meetings, served as a guest speaker, and participated on community-based task forces on various education related initiatives.

She collaborated with the foundations and alumni offices to provide the voice of UNI in western Iowa. Ms. Blecha coordinated and hosted numerous events in collaboration with UNI marketing and alumni development offices. She hosted foundation dinners in her home and assisted in the creation of alumni events prior to UNI basketball games in the Omaha area. She also coordinated events with the Omaha Leadership organization with President Rudd and other UNI personnel.

Kathryn Blecha made significant contributions to the University of Northern Iowa during her twenty-nine-year tenure in the Department of Teaching in the College of Education. Her exceptional teaching, scholarly activities, and exemplary service to UNI reflect qualities of the ultimate professional. I would highly recommend her for emeritus status from the University of Northern Iowa.

Regards,



Nadene Davidson  
Associate Professor, University of Northern Iowa  
AACTE Board of Directors/ Past-President  
Advisory Council of State Representatives to AACTE



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