College of Education
Department of Teaching

University of Northern Iowa

March 9, 2020

Faculty Senate
University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614

Re: Rick L. Knivsland
Emeritus Status

Dear Dr. Mattingly:

This recommendation letter summarizes Mr. Rick L. Knivsland's professional contributions to the University of Northern Iowa and informs a recommendation for emeritus status.

Rick began his career at the former Price Laboratory School of the University of Northern Iowa as a secondary art teacher in 1991. While teaching at Price Lab he was active with the Arts Educators of Iowa and a frequent presenter at professional conferences. He was the first nationally certified secondary art educator in the country. As an art teacher he was known for his genuine enthusiasm and joy for the arts which he imparted to students.

In 2012 he joined the UNI faculty as a tenured instructor in the Office of Student Field Experience. During his time on faculty he taught seminar and supervised art education students in their Level 1 and Level 2 field experiences. He developed partnerships with local educators across the Cedar Valley who valued his respectful, attentive and personable manner. He served on the Teacher Education Senate, COE Senate, and numerous search committees.

UNI benefitted from Rick Knivsland's expertise in architecture education which he generously contributed to the Schindler Education Center Feasibility Committee, Chair of the Schindler Education Renovation Committee and as the Schindler Building Representative on the Art and Architecture Committee. He had a leading role in the transition to a redesigned SEC. He frequently led tour groups through the building while it was under construction, answered questions and championed the decision for a more environmentally friendly LEED certified building. His enthusiasm about the flexible spaces and furnishings and central learning commons area helped the campus community through the remodeling transition.

The Department of Teaching and the College of Education have benefitted from the leadership of Rick Knivsland in the educator preparation program. He has made lasting contributions to the redesign of the Schindler Education Center and arts education at the University of Northern Iowa. I support his request for the honor of emeritus status.

Respectfully,

Mary Donegan-Ritter

Mary Donegan-Ritter, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Interim Department Head, Department of Teaching