

Frank Kohler

Frank Kohler joined the Department of Special Education in 1999 as an assistant professor. After earning his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas in Developmental and Child Psychology, Frank was a research scientist and project coordinator at Allegheny-Singer for the Early Childhood Research Institute. This work resulted in numerous publications, book chapters, and national presentations. When he accepted the position at UNI, Frank was immediately and deeply involved in the special educator preparation programs, teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses. He supervised his students in field-based practica to advance their application of skills needed to develop educational programs for students with disabilities. Frank was passionate about preparing his students to be ardent advocates for children with disabilities and their families.

In addition to his teaching contributions, Frank Kohler published articles in prestigious journals and authored numerous books and book chapters. His research agenda centered on young children with disabilities, teacher preparation of young children with disabilities, and teacher collaboration. Frank was highly successful in securing grant funding, both at the national and state level. Awards included funding from the U. S. Department of Education for the Iowa Exceptional Teacher Project and for the Early Childhood Special Education Personnel Preparation Program and from the Iowa Department of Education for State Improvement Grants.

Frank Kohler was involved in service leadership at the departmental, college, and university levels. From 2007-2014, he served as Interim Head for the Department of Special Education. In this position, he dedicated his work to aligning departmental vision and mission to the strategic plans of the College of Education and the University of Northern Iowa. In addition to departmental and college committees, he enthusiastically served on a variety of state-wide committees and professional work groups including the Iowa Strategist Network, the Iowa Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support Network, and the Iowa Autism Council. Frank was a member of seventeen editorial review boards such as the prestigious *Journal of Teacher Education* and *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*.

Dr. Frank Kohler has contributed significantly to teaching, research and service during his tenure at UNI in the Department of Special Education. His teaching has reflected his commitment to preparing future educators who have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of highly-effective teachers. His research and grant work have helped define and shape early childhood education for students with disabilities. His longstanding and valuable service activities are recognized and appreciated. Such meritorious accomplishments are deserving of emeritus status at the University of Northern Iowa.