

January 9, 2023

Dr Francis Degnin
Faculty Senate Chair
University of Northern Iowa
Bartlett Hall 1087
Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0501

Dear Chair Degnin and Faculty Senate Members,

I am writing to express my support for Dr. Michele Devlin for Emeritus Professor status at the University of Northern Iowa. I have known Dr. Devlin for 26 years, first as my undergraduate professor, then later as my colleague, my department chair, and friend. From these multiple perspectives, I have unique insight into the impact she made at the University of Northern Iowa and why she deserves to be granted emeritus faculty status.

Dr. Devlin was a Professor of Public Health who completed her master's and doctorate degrees in international public health at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). Her primary areas of specialty include refugee and minority health; disaster relief in conflict zones; and cultural competency. Now, post-retirement from UNI, she is serving as faculty at the U.S. Army War College, specifically related to health and security issues in the Arctic region.

While at UNI, Dr. Devlin published more than 100 technical reports and articles. Her most popular contribution to the field are likely the two books she co-wrote, "*Health Matters: A Guide to Working with Diverse and Underserved Populations*" and "*Postville USA: Surviving Diversity in Small-Town America*", both of which have been used as textbooks in multiple courses.

In total, Dr. Devlin generated more than \$7,000,000 in external grants and contracts for UNI. She also founded the Iowa Center on Health Disparities, an organization established in 2003 by the National Institutes of Health on the UNI campus to improve health equity for underserved populations. She was the founder and advisor of the UNI "Global Health Corps," a model service-learning program that trained more than 500 students in conducting culturally appropriate health education with over 40,000 at-risk clients in the United States and abroad. Many students will long remember her as a teacher dedicated to applied learning, and getting their first experience delivering health education to diverse groups in Iowa and abroad with her by their side.

Dr. Devlin leaves a legacy of service, both nationally and locally. She was an International Disaster Relief team member with the American Red Cross. She has provided extensive technical assistance to the Iowa Department of Public Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Education, and Department of Labor, Homeland Security and Management, and the United States Department of Defense. Locally, she provided service as a Janesville First Responder and as a member and Chair of the Black Hawk County Health Department, among many, many other service contributions.

Dr Devlin's expertise will be missed by faculty and students at the University of Northern Iowa. Members of Iowa's health care and public health workforce are better prepared to work with diverse populations due to her dedication to the profession. She has earned our thanks and emeritus faculty status.

Sincerely,
Susan Roberts-Dobie, PhD CHES
Professor of Public Health
Department of Health, Recreation and Community Service