

29 December 2019

Recommendation for Dr. Darrell Wiens Emeritus Faculty application:

Professor Darrell Wiens earned his PhD in 1982 at Kansas State University, where he studied cell and developmental biology. After postdoctoral appointments at National Polytechnic Institute, Stanford University School of Medicine, and The Ohio State University, he joined the faculty of the Department of Biology at the University of Northern Iowa in 1988. Dr. Wiens was an active and highly regarded member of the faculty over the next 30 years, retiring in December 2018. Dr. Wiens' primary teaching activities at UNI were in the areas of cellular and developmental biology and anatomy. His classes were highly regarded by students. His scholarship resulted in 25 peer-reviewed scientific publications. His achievements in research, teaching, and service were acknowledged at UNI with several awards over the years, including the Iowa Board of Regents' Award for Faculty Excellence in 2001, the Dean's Award for Outstanding Faculty Achievement in 1990, the Dean's Award for Superior Achievement in Research in 1996, and others. His students recognized his exemplary teaching with the Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society Excellence in Teaching Award in 2009. However, no award likely pleased Dr. Wiens as much as the pleasure he derived from his students' successes, which he has carefully tracked over the years. He mentored 77 undergraduate and graduate student researchers in his lab. Today, these former students include several medical doctors, current medical students, professors, and PhD students, a nurse educator, an optometrist, a laboratory scientist, and a host of other successful people happily employed in scientific or medical professions. Dr. Wiens clearly cares about each of these students and the lives they have gone on to lead, and the outpouring of support and well wishes coming from those students on the occasion of his retirement makes clear that his patient, caring mentoring and encouragement has enriched their lives and helped make UNI the wonderful institution that it is.

I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Darrell Wiens be awarded emeritus status.

Sincerely,



Theresa A. Spradling  
Professor of Biology and Department Head