



And as the centennial year draws to a close, we begin writing the next chapter of our history by welcoming the 101st class of UNO freshmen to campus this fall—a class that joins the second highest student enrollment in over a decade. 15,300 now call UNO home, an increase of nearly 3% over last year.

Such recruiting successes do not happen by accident, and I extend my appreciation to Recruitment Services and the many faculty and staff who helped our efforts by telling the UNO story and making this campus a welcoming, supportive, and people-friendly place to grow and learn. You deserve a round of applause.



As Chancellor, I am enormously proud of the strides our campus has made in realizing our mission as "stewards of place" and our primary strategic goals of being student-centered, building and sustaining academic excellence, and engaging the community through our teaching, research, and

Maverick Village, our fourth residential housing project opened last fall at capacity with dozens of students on wait lists at the start of the semester. Currently, about 10 % of our students live on campus, and while we do not aspire to be a fully residential campus, we continue to monitor supply and demand to meet the needs of students seeking a metropolitan experience. I am also pleased to report the Board of Regents has approved our request to own and operate University Village. Subject to approvals from the Higher Education Commission and the Legislature, we hope to manage the property in the near future, allowing us to provide students with improved service and maintenance as well as enhanced campus life and personal development experiences.

The Milo Bail Student Center continues to make improvements in its role as the campus kitchen, and living room. Recent renovations to the food court area are streamlining service, while offering a new look and menu. A refurbished ballroom and the creation of additional casual meeting and study spaces are generating positive comments from students and the rest of the campus community. Special thanks to the Center's staff and our Facilities Management team for bringing the project in on budget and in time for the fall term.

The completion of the multi-year Criss Library renovation compliments the new Library addition and creates an attractive and state of the art resource for the campus and community.

Relocation of the Career Center into the Student Center creates an ideal location for our ever expanding commitment to serving students well-both before, and after graduation.

Multicultural Affairs has expanded its service and moved into new quarters in the Student Center as well. If you have not visited, I invite you do to so. This move reflects the increasing demand for their services, as fully 16% of our students are ethnic minorities or international students, creating the most diverse student body in UNO's history.

The Welcome Center will open its doors to prospective students and their families next summer. Moving from the

As previous

We are currently celebrating the 20th anniversary of granting doctoral degrees. Each of the programs has grown and matured into high quality leadership preparation and research enterprises in their respective disciplines. As the demand for this level of education increases in a growing metropolitan area, we will need to evaluate our doctoral capacity regularly.

In an effort to provide access to our entire metropolitan area including Iowa students from the three contiguous counties, UNO established the Metropolitan Advantage program. This program offers reduced non-resident tuition to these

Athletics is an important part of the fabric of American colleges and universities, as it often serves as the front door to the campus, generates community visibility, and significantly adds value to a sense of community and campus life. Our new

shaped by community-based knowledge. Put simply, "the pursuit of knowledge itself demands engagement."

I have called upon the campus to begin a dialogue that moves us closer to this goal. Admittedly, some disciplines lend themselves more readily to community engagement activities, but clearly there is a role for each of us to play.

If engagement is to become a core institutional practice, I believe as do many others, that a home for these activities is essential. A University/Community Engagement Center could house:

- campus organizations such as the Service Learning Academy and the Metropolitan Omaha Education Consortium
- community agencies and initiatives that we currently support such as Omaha By Design, Omaha Community Partnership, Building Bright Futures, the OPPD Energy Research Project, and the Neighborhood Association
- a not-for-profit incubator, and
- spaces designed for engagement innovation and research

This campus based center would not only provide a home for research and innovation in community engagement, but also serve as a hub for the University's efforts to engage with the community.

student retention and graduation rates in the top quartile of comparable institutions nationally
a Carnegie classified doctoral granting institution