

I want to recognize the extraordinary efforts of our faculty, staff and students who have transformed UNO, to what it is today. And as always, time permits only a few examples:

- The entire campus structure has undergone reorganization to better support our strategic goals of being student centered, academically excellent, and community engaged.
- Academic and Student Affairs, Business and Finance, and Athletics have established, and are measuring, very specific priorities.
- UNO was reclassified by Carnegie as a Doctoral Granting Research University confirming our academic and research advancements.
- We will be reclassified by the NCAA as a Division I University in athletics beginning next fall and the levels of competition and excitement are growing quickly.
- We are a nationally recognized leader in community engagement and will host the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities national conference next October right here in Omaha.
- We are operating the campus very efficiently as compared with peers, and will continue to maximize the value of every dollar provided to us.
- Campus safety is paramount — we have increased our partnerships with area law enforcement, up-graded cameras, improved

lighting, and are working toward accreditation of the Campus Security operation.

- National recognition of our on-campus and online academic programs is growing and we are creating new programs that meet the needs of the changing work place.
- The complete renovation of the Student Center beginning in February will enhance and unify student services and organizations while providing places for networking and socializing.

So, let me tell you a little about our students:...

four year university in the country for Military Friendliness. We currently serve more than 1,300 active military, veterans, and their dependents in the recently established Office of Military and Veteran Services dedicated by our alum and current Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel.

Would active military, veterans, and dependents that joined us today please stand to be recognized?

I thank you for your service and sacrifices. You honor us with your presence and dedication to your education so you can continue to make significant contributions in military and/or civilian sectors.

I began today talking about momentum, and another place UNO is on the move is enrollment growth. We now have the infrastructure in place for working toward our target of 20,000 students over the next six academic years. Overall enrollment has trended up during the past few years, dual enrollment and bridge programs have grown, and our partnerships with community colleges and Western Iowa counties have expanded. We are now in the pro

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conferred. At the close of today's event you will each receive the UNO Advantage and Fact Books providing specific performance and operational details.

Beyond the changes directly affecting students, there have been significant advancements in research.

- If you didn't know, Lori has recently been promoted in the foundation, but we have been very fortunate to have Mike Bird an

well as providing hope and

In closing let me say, it's time.

Time for everyone to know that the days of
UNO's modesty are over.

That our mission to become a premier