



OUT
Reaching

Making
Connections

**Annual Report
2001-2002**

**The University of Iowa
College of Education**



*M*aking connections is critical in the education process. The College of Education makes connections not only with students, teachers, administrators, and counselors, but also with school districts, specialty clinics, and the community. Reaching out to others is what we do. It's what we are.

The University of Iowa College of Education 2001-02 Annual Report describes some of the many ways the College is **reaching out** and **making connections**. By measuring our progress toward the goals of our strategic plan, this report captures our commitment to outreach.

The connections we make are meaningful and lifelong. We begin by providing training for students and continue the education process with professional development for practitioners.

Education neither starts nor stops at the door of a classroom. We adapt our methods, apply creative innovations, and work collaboratively to attain traditional goals. Our people and programs show that by working together, we accomplish more than ever thought possible.

Message *from the Dean*

Good. Better. Best. IOWA

Goal #1

An Undergraduate Experience that Enables Students to Fulfill their Intellectual, Social, and Career Objectives



For nearly a decade, the New Horizons band has been a valuable outreach connection between the College of Education and the community. Created by Music Education Professor Don Coffman, the New Horizons band shines as it brings senior citizens, elementary students, and teacher education undergraduates together.

"You can't believe how the music comes alive when the older and younger players rub shoulders," Coffman said.

When this senior-citizen band occasionally joins with an elementary school group in one glorious unified band, the sound is electrifying. "Youngsters learn that music making is a lifelong activity," Coffman said, "and the older players enjoy the energy and musicianship of the younger performers."

Nearly 100 people have participated in the program since its inception. Music Education students serve as instructors for ensembles and teach and rehearse the band while receiving critiques on their teaching skills. The band has performed over 400 concerts, reaching thousands of people in eastern and central Iowa.

"Music is timeless," said New Horizons French horn player Glenn Jablonski (MA '66). "We don't think about age, we just make good music together."

Linn-Mar band director Steve King (BM '85) occasionally brings his sixth-grade band to The University of Iowa School of Music, allowing undergraduates to rehearse them. "It is a win-win situation," King said. "The elementary students get an invaluable field trip experience and the undergraduates get beneficial teaching experience with 'real' kids and adults."



Premier Graduate and Professional Programs in a Significant Number of Areas

Goal #2

Graduate students find the best thing about working at ECHO School, an alternative high school in Tiffin, Iowa, is the students. “Their energy is contagious,” said Special Education doctoral student Pam Keyworth. “It’s been the highlight of my graduate experience.”

For the past three years, graduate students have had the opportunity to work at the school one day a week with School Psychology faculty Kit Gerken and Christine Novak. Their outreach work varies, but always includes group work with a different focus, such as human rights, respecting differences, and volunteering.

“Our graduate students gain experiences at ECHO School not available in other programs,” Gerken said. “They don’t simply assess their students, they actually create curriculums and carry through with their interventions.”

The positive experiences go both ways. For the 27 students enrolled at ECHO School, ranging in age from 14 to 20 years, they gain benefits not available to them otherwise. Coming from small towns in the surrounding area with many social and emotional challenges, the students learn to see their potential and they discover how to reach out and help others.

“By stepping out of comfortable roles, we reach out to these students,” Gerken said, “and they, in turn, reach out to do something positive in the community.”

Programs Rank Among America’s Best

The University of Iowa College of Education is highly regarded nationally and internationally for its teaching, research, and innovative educational training.

U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks the College of Education among the top graduate schools in the nation in its annual report on America’s best graduate schools. Top ranking programs for 2002 include:

- **Rehabilitation Counseling (#3)**
- **Counseling/Personnel Services (#10)**
- **Educational Psychology (#16)**
- **Secondary Education (#18)**
- **Higher Education Admin. (#18)**
- **Special Education (#21)**

Overall, the College ranked 29th among 182 schools granting doctoral degrees.

Goal #3

For Art Education Associate Professor Steve Thunder-McGuire, building educational outreach is essential for good instruction. “Being committed to work outside the classroom is what gives meaning to teaching,” he said.

Thunder-McGuire, an internationally known artist and storyteller, has carved out a unique niche for himself through a combination of sculpture, storytelling, bicycle riding, and outreach. While riding his custom recumbent tricycle across Iowa, which serves both as transportation and as sculpture, he teaches graduate art education and storytelling.

His most recent project, “Stories Quest On The American Discovery Trail: Iowa Route,” was selected by the National Assembly of States Arts Agencies for an Arts Project on the Millennium Trails Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant creates community-centered arts projects as fundamental components of the Millennium Legacy Trails across the United States.

Thunder-McGuire and his students rode 504 miles from Council Bluffs to Bettendorf interviewing people of all ages. After the ride, the pictures and stories were compiled onto a DVD disc and distributed to Iowa schools and libraries.

“Tales of human action are potent determinants in quality educational outreach,” Thunder-McGuire said. “Documenting and conducting outreach is built from different ingredients. This project centers on Iowans adding something known to something seen.”

Thunder-McGuire has combined storytelling with long-distance biking several times in his career. In 1994 and again in 1997, he rode from Fairbanks, Alaska to Iowa City, a distance of 3,478 miles, to raise money for Close Encounter Art Workshop, a two-week summer residency program for high school students with disabilities. In 1999, he biked around Iowa both telling and collecting stories at senior care centers.

In 2000, he made a large circle through the center of the country making storytelling appearances at colleges in Illinois, Indiana, Arkansas, Missouri, and Colorado. He recently returned from a bicycle trip around Iceland, helping document the legacy of Icelandic verbal sagas in the landscapes where they take place.

“The success of art education depends upon diverse learning and teaching situations,” he said, “which is only accomplished through the richness of outreach.”

Distinguished Research, Scholarship, and Artistic Creation



**Interdisciplinary Interaction as
a Core Focus of the College,
of Education in Teaching
Research, and Service**

Goal #4



*I*nvent Iowa is a collaborative endeavor. The program, which encourages K-12 students to explore the invention process, was created 15 years ago with the help of Iowa's community leaders. Teachers supported by the College of Education's Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development facilitate the annual venture.

These collaborative efforts result in the creation of a problem-solving curriculum used by over 30,000 Iowa students, where vivacious young people come together to share their original inventions in regional and state contests.

Today, through interdisciplinary collaboration, Invent Iowa reaches new heights. Combining teaching, research, and service, The University of Iowa and Iowa State University colleges of education and engineering created the program's statewide Invention Convention. This

event includes tours of college facilities and lectures on using math and science skills in creative thinking. The colleges of engineering jointly award tuition scholarships to each year's contest winners.

"The goals of Invent Iowa combined with our outreach efforts for potential students seemed like a natural connection between education and engineering," said Clar Baldus (PhD '01), Invent Iowa's state coordinator.

The students' experience of Invent Iowa involves another natural collaborator—fun. "I like building stuff," said sixth grader Ryan Heki, who competed this year with a confetti blower made out of an old hair dryer. Said fifth grader Cammy Dole, who secured her state participation with a jewelry-based homework organization system, "It's awesome meeting other inventors. I hope I can do this every year."

Goal #5

A Highly Productive Work and Learning Organization that Supports the Mission and Values of the College of Education



For over 50 years, the College of Education's Curriculum Resources Lab has helped educators develop creative, effective lessons for young people. The special library contains 31,000 books for children and young adults as well as over 13,000 instructional materials such as videos, CD-ROMs, textbooks and teacher's guides.

"Our primary users are the College's students and faculty," says Coordinator Paula Brandt (BGS '73/MA '74). "However, people from many areas such as library science, health education, and speech pathology take advantage of our facility."

The Lab also reaches beyond University boundaries. Among other outreach efforts, Lab staff serve on course-review committees, help curriculum writers locate information, and broadcast children's book presentations over the Iowa Communication Network to some 300 librarians at 60 sites.

"I could not function without the support of the Curriculum Resources Lab," maintains Weber Elementary Media Specialist Barbara Stein (BA '69/MA '72/MA '86). "Not only do I go there for newly published books, I use the online catalog all the time when doing bibliographic work."

Horace Mann Elementary Media Specialist Victoria Walton (MA '81) agrees. "Whatever the question regarding children's literature, the Lab staff is sure to lend information that is critical and thought provoking," she said.

Lab resources are available to members of the public as well as professionals. Especially helpful is the Lab's web page at www.uiowa.edu/~crl/, which leads educators to lesson plans and other online resources.



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
College of Education
459 Lindquist Center North
Iowa City, IA 52242-1529

The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment and in its educational programs and activities. For additional information, contact the Office of Affirmative Action, (319) 335-0705 (voice) and (319) 335-0697 (text), 202 Jessup Hall, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1316.

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 214
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Making **Connections**



Annual Report
2001-02