



WILSON

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

UNI / University of Northern Iowa
Foundation

2023–2024 Impact Report

Our Tomorrow: Bolder and Brighter

The passion, pride and generosity of the Panther family continue to shape a bold and bright future at the University of Northern Iowa. On behalf of the university, thank you for your confidence in our work and your commitment to students, faculty and staff.

In fiscal year 2024, 9,065 donors gave \$39.9 million to support students, faculty, staff and the programs and facilities that make UNI a vibrant campus. More than 40% of that total was directed toward student access and success, with 52 new scholarships established.

The **Our Tomorrow** campaign continues to demonstrate that every gift makes a difference. Powered by thousands of donors giving a median gift of \$100, in 2024 we exceeded the initial fundraising goal of \$250 million, prompting the university to raise the target to \$300 million to fund essential initiatives that will shape the future of our campus and state. The fundraising total stands at \$273.7 million as of June 30.

As we reflect on another remarkable year, we celebrate the lives transformed, the legacies created and the memories made. Thank you for supporting the promise and power of a UNI education.

We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

Go Panthers!



Larry Fox, '67, '71
Chair, UNI Foundation Board of Trustees
Private Wealth Investor,
Ameriprise Financial Discerning Wealth



Jim Jermier, '95, '09
Vice President for University Advancement,
President of the UNI Foundation



OUR TOMORROW SHINES BRIGHT

It was another incredible year as UNI alumni and friends have come to make a remarkable impact through the **Our Tomorrow** campaign. In 2023–2024, you contributed an impressive \$39.9 million, supporting the students, faculty, programs and spaces that make UNI a thriving learning community.

As we look back on this extraordinary year, we are reminded that every contribution to **Our Tomorrow** reflects your unwavering commitment to UNI's future and the Panther family. We hope this report conveys just how deeply we appreciate your generosity and the transformative difference you make for UNI. Thank you!



2023–2024 Highlights



DONORS

9,065

Donors came together to make an impact on the future of UNI

- **5,699** alumni
- **2,520** friends
- **382** corporations, including **92** matching gift companies
- **139** donor-advised funds
- **36** charitable foundations



ENGAGEMENT

14,351

Alumni and friends attended UNI Alumni Association or UNI Foundation events

- **1,794** donors raised **\$436,949** in just 24 hours on Live Purple Give Gold, UNI's annual day of giving
- **221** students gave as part of the 2024 senior class challenge



IMPACT

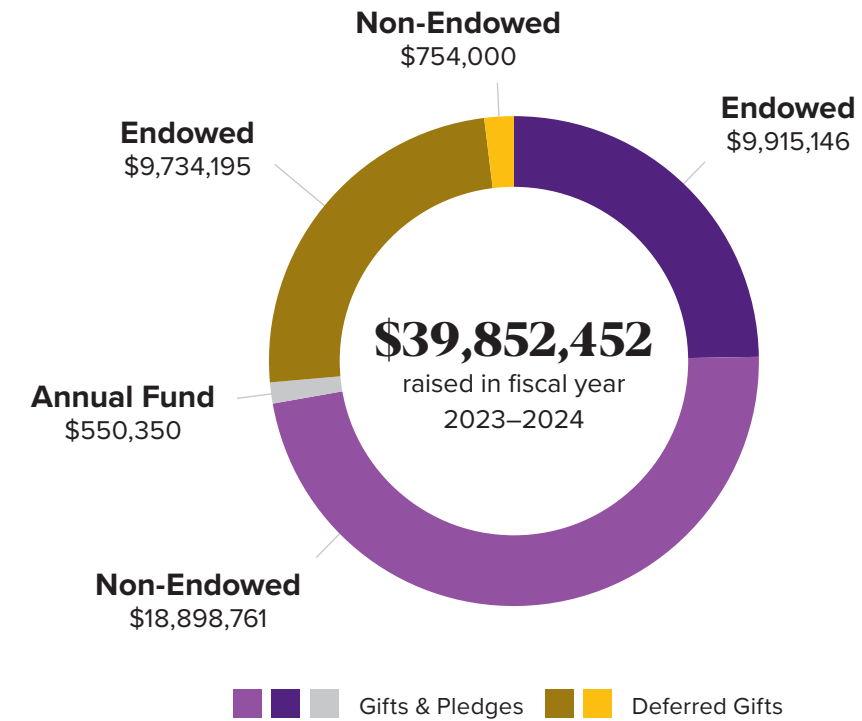
\$16,375,302

Academic and co-curricular program support provided to UNI

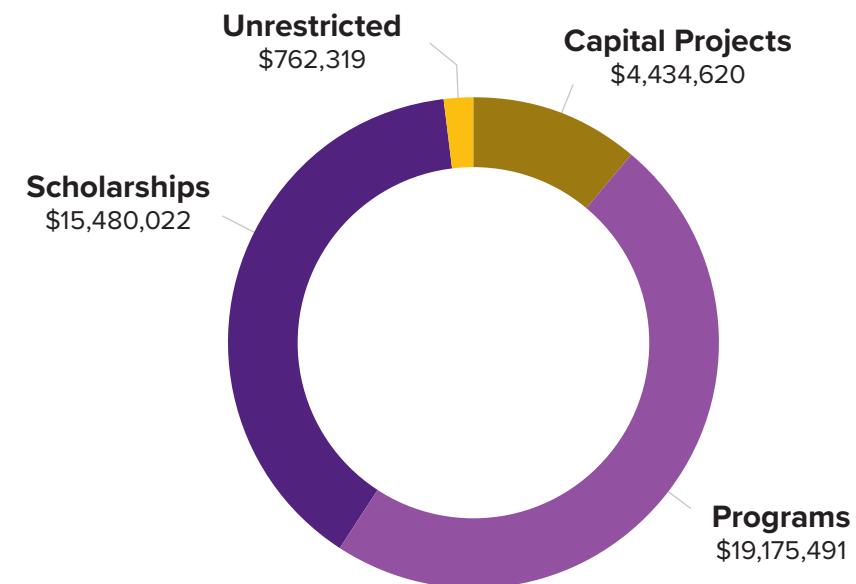
- **\$7,069,223** in scholarships and other financial support given to students
- **2,007** students received UNI Foundation-funded scholarships
- **55** new program funds
- **52** new scholarship funds

FY24 by the Numbers

Fundraising Results Fiscal year ending June 30, 2024



Fundraising by Gift Type Fiscal year ending June 30, 2024



DAY OF GIVING IGNITES PANTHER SPIRIT

April's Live Purple Give Gold brought hundreds of Panther alumni and friends together to celebrate and support UNI. Giving increased by 25% from 2023, benefiting a wide variety of campus initiatives.

- **1,794** donors
- Donors from **49** states
- **\$436,949** raised to support students, faculty and academic programs

Ending *Our Tomorrow*

The foundation's endowment continues to be an area of strong performance and growth. During the 2023–2024 fiscal year, that growth resulted in:

- **\$19.6 million** fundraised for endowments
- **42** new endowments established
- **\$210 million** — UNI Foundation total endowment



TOMORROW'S NURSES, TODAY

"We are very grateful for the generosity and enthusiasm we have seen from our alumni and friends. Their gifts help us provide a rigorous, high-quality education that prepares nurses for the full spectrum of healthcare settings."



Nancy Kertz
Head, UNI Department of Nursing & Public Health; Chief Academic Nurse Administrator

VIDEO TOUR
Experience the nursing labs and learning spaces

UNI Nursing surpasses \$1 million in fundraising through *Our Tomorrow*

A LUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA have made a considerable investment to help launch the university's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program.

The \$1.25 million raised thus far through **Our Tomorrow** includes \$775,000 for student scholarships. Every student entering the BSN program within the current academic year will receive a \$1,000 scholarship renewable for up to three years. Remaining funds are designated toward construction costs, instrumentation and broad programmatic needs.

Michael Wright, '69, created UNI's first endowed nursing scholarship. The Mary Lynn Wright Memorial Endowed Scholarship honors Michael's wife of 52 years who died of cancer in 2021. Lynn was a 1972 graduate of UNI, where she earned an elementary education degree and later taught in Iowa and Texas for more than 30 years.

Michael said the scholarship is his way of giving back to the providers who cared for Lynn throughout her diagnosis.

"I'm interested in helping students who have a need and are high achievers academically," Wright said. "That's the core of why I give."

Meeting the Need For More Care Providers

A \$150,000 gift from the Pauline R. Barrett Charitable Foundation is furthering a legacy while supporting nursing students. Theresa Hoffman, a representative for the Barrett Foundation, said the project melds two of Barrett's passions.

"Higher education and healthcare were very important to Pauline," Hoffman said. "Advances in healthcare are a constant which requires more expertise and knowledge to best serve our Iowa population resulting in better outcomes. Pauline was a strong believer in education as the path to a better outcome."



Future Plans

Phase one of the nursing facilities project was completed in time for the first class of 26 students arriving on campus for the fall semester. Additional phases are underway and will add specialized simulation labs to enhance students' upper level coursework.

The UNI Foundation is seeking a total of \$3.5 million within the **Our Tomorrow** campaign to support nursing.

"This program is critical to the university's future and the future of our state," said Jim Jermier, president of the UNI Foundation. "Donations to the nursing program will make a tremendous impact not only on our nursing students, but on the lives they will impact over the course of their careers."

*UNI welcomed its inaugural class of BSN students to campus for the fall semester of 2024. Each student is receiving scholarships thanks to donors to the **Our Tomorrow** campaign.*



Legacy Era Begins for Panther Athletics

PANTHER ATHLETICS, NOW UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ATHLETICS DIRECTOR MEGAN FRANKLIN, IS FORGING ahead on a slate of capital projects set to reshape the way fans, student-athletes and community members experience the front door to the University of Northern Iowa. Franklin said the projects are part of a legacy era of Panther Athletics that will “see championships won, careers celebrated, facilities built, and great fun engaging alumni, donors and fans.”

More than \$47 million has been given as of FY24 to support athletics facilities projects through the **Our Tomorrow** campaign. In 2024, phase one of the UNI-Dome modernization was completed as the university launched projects to create training facilities supporting the wrestling, volleyball and basketball programs.

UNI-Dome Modernization Completes Phase One

The \$11 million phase one of the UNI-Dome renovation project was completed over the summer with the replacement of the aging fabric roof. Helicopters hovered over the iconic stadium, depositing equipment for construction crews and sections of fabric, composed of Teflon-coated fiberglass, specially designed for the UNI-Dome. The Van G. Miller Family Charitable Foundation Football Team Meeting Room was also completed in phase one.

Phase two of the project, awaiting approval by the Iowa Board of Regents, will elevate the fan experience through comprehensive reseating of the UNI-Dome. The project is set to begin next spring.



VIDEO RECAP
See the historic UNI-Dome roof replacement



Young Family Foundation Leads Way on Wrestling Training Facility

The Young Family Foundation of Waterloo announced a lead gift of \$400,000 toward a new training facility for UNI’s storied wrestling program.

Mike Young, a director of the foundation, said the project is vital to the future of UNI Wrestling. He hopes the donation will help spur additional support for the training facility.

“The fact that UNI has produced so many All-Americans and national champions and has seen so much success on the mat is something to be proud of,” Young said. “UNI wrestling continues to compete at an elite level, and they deserve a training facility that matches the caliber of the program.”

The university has engaged architects to develop plans for a facility to replace the former wrestling space in the West Gym. Plans include features such as weight and cardio training spaces, multiple wrestling mats, locker rooms and office space as well as a rehabilitation room and training room.



UNI Wrestling has a legacy spanning 100 years. Fundraising for a new wrestling training facility will carry the Panther Train into a brighter future.

COURT SPORTS TRAINING FACILITY TO RESHAPE UNI BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL

UNI began planning a court sports training facility for the Panther men’s and women’s basketball programs as well as UNI’s volleyball team. The new facility will meet the existing and future needs of three of UNI’s most visible and successful Missouri Valley Conference athletic programs, providing practice courts along with locker rooms, a training room and rehabilitation area.

UNI and experienced architects will collaborate on concepts that align with projected fundraising targets for the project.

“Several UNI alums and donors recently stepped forward expressing interest in providing financial support for a court sports training facility. The enthusiasm for this initiative and the approval of the Regents has brought us to a point where we can proceed with conceptual planning for a court sports training facility. With those commitments in hand, we are excited to move forward.”

Mark Nook
UNI President





Industry Crafted: Applied Engineering Building Reopens

THE HOME FOR UNI'S DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED ENGINEERING AND

Technical Management received a makeover with the completion of phase one of a two-phase renovation. More than \$3 million in private donations from industry partners, UNI alumni and friends is supplementing state funding for the project.

The Applied Engineering Building (AEB) expanded by 40,000 square feet and now features state-of-the-art laboratory and collaborative learning spaces to support the department's programs in engineering, graphic technology, construction management and technology education. The facility itself is a learning tool, featuring open-concept ceilings with visible pipes and electrical chases.

The facility will support several new engineering degrees launched in 2024: mechanical engineering technology, materials science and

engineering, and materials science engineering and technology.

Phase two, renovating approximately 60,000 square feet of existing space, is underway with an expected completion in 2025. Department leadership said the project will catalyze enrollment growth, with projections of a 75% increase by 2028.

"Commercial contractors rely heavily upon the coveted construction management major at the University of Northern Iowa for hiring and growing their businesses," said Chad Kleppe, president and CEO of Master Builders of Iowa. "We are all competing for talent, and this state-of-the-art facility is a game-changer for the future of the construction management program and its students. MBI and its members are proud to support this mission both financially and through thought leadership."



Students take part in electrical engineering technology and robotics laboratory experiences enhanced by investments from industry partners, UNI alumni and friends. More than \$3 million in private donations are supporting the renovation project.

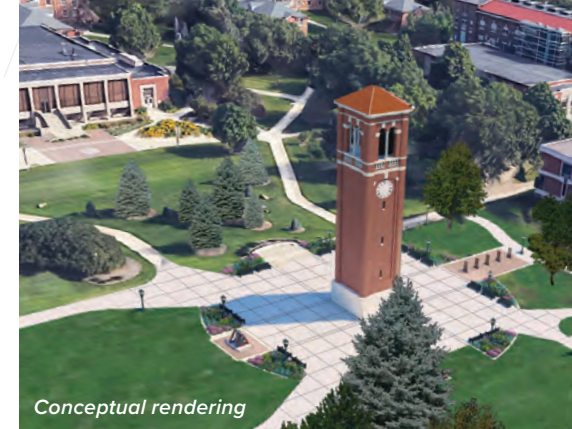
Next Chapter Nears for Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center

GALLAGHER BLUEDORN AUDIENCES WILL SOON

experience revitalized amenities that match that quality of performances they've come to expect from one of the Cedar Valley's most beloved arts destinations.

The renovation and expansion of the facility is creating new lounges, concessions counters and state-of-the-art guest services throughout the performing arts center. The project is set to be complete in time for the Gallagher Bluedorn's 25th anniversary season in 2025.

"We are extremely fortunate to have such a facility in the Cedar Valley. As we approach 25 years of the Gallagher Bluedorn, the next chapter can be written and illustrated with new tools, technologies and an improved physical presence that this project will bring to fruition," said GBPAC donors Mike and Pat Deters. "We are investing in a resource for the future — one that provides joy, curiosity and wonderment for thousands that walk through the doors every year. Much has been accomplished, but the future is something to truly be excited for!"



Conceptual rendering

UNIVERSITY SETS SIGHTS ON CAMPANILE PLAZA UPGRADES

After completing a comprehensive upgrade of the carillon instrument — made possible by over 700 alumni and friends who gave to the project — the university now sets its sights on the Campanile Plaza portion of the renovation of this campus icon.

The UNI Foundation Board of Trustees have committed up to \$500,000 from its vision fund for the project, which will revitalize overgrown landscaping, create memorials to Campanile history, recognize Campanile donors and enable greater enjoyment of the space for generations to come. The project will take place over the summer of 2025 and is expected to be dedicated as a part of UNI's sesquicentennial festivities in 2025–2026.



A view from the Jackson Rydell Patron Lounge. The lounge, which will include amenities such as bar and meal service before shows, is just one example of the many guest experience upgrades coming to the remodeled Gallagher Bluedorn.



Earned, Not Given: Upward Bound Creates Opportunity

DANIEL LISTO ADMITS IT'S DIFFICULT TO TALK ABOUT his childhood. Raised in Waterloo, Listo says times were rarely easy. Despite a deep love for one another, the family dynamic was complicated and exacerbated by a difficult financial situation.

"It was very, very challenging regarding not knowing when my next meal would be, who's going to pay the bills. When was the water going to turn on? When was the electricity going to be on? Do we have to go move to my grandpa's house again, my aunt's house again?" Listo explained. "It was just a lot of that stuff that really affected me and my siblings growing up."

But an encounter with Jonathan Cox, a UNI Center for Urban Education (UNI-CUE) coordinator, at Waterloo West High set Listo on a new path. After just 20 minutes spent conversing with Cox, Listo felt like "everything clicked" and Cox knew him deeply. At Cox's recommendation, Listo applied and was accepted to the Upward Bound program, a federally-funded TRIO program coordinated by UNI-CUE and supported by John Deere.

In Upward Bound, Listo found his "second family." He felt more academically motivated than ever before. He took full advantage of new opportunities, new relationships and the many resources before him.

Receiving the Grace and Joe Hall Upward Bound Scholarship and the Pauline R. Barrett Endowed Scholarship, Listo began his studies at the University of Northern Iowa this fall where he is double majoring in human resources and digital mass media.

Listo is excited to be on campus, and he credits Upward Bound with giving him the tools to succeed. The guidance of former director Yolanda Williams, as well as assistant directors Ellada Thrall and Hector Salamanca Arroyo, made a big impact.

"One thing that I always remember from this program is Ms. Yo's slogan of 'earned, not given.' I realized that's been something with me my whole life. Growing up financially unstable, it sometimes felt like people gave me stuff and it was like charity ... but I want something given to me because I earned it. And so that quote continues to motivate me to this day."



AEGON TRANSAMERICA FOUNDATION SUPPORTS UNI-CUE CEDAR RAPIDS

EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH-CEDAR RAPIDS (ETSCR), a federally-funded TRIO program coordinated by the University of Northern Iowa's Center for Urban Education, named the inaugural recipients of a scholarship provided by the

Aegon Transamerica Foundation as part of a two-year grant supporting the program. The grant supports ETSCR's work to increase access to higher education for low-income and first-generation college-bound students in the Cedar Rapids School District.



\$425,000 Grant Fuels Engaged Learning in Environmental Health

FOR 30 YEARS, THE UNI CENTER FOR ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL Education (CEEE) has worked with communities across Iowa to implement evidence-based solutions in energy conservation, renewable energy, community agriculture, locally grown food and environmental health. A three-year \$425,000 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust will expand the CEEE's work, involving hundreds of the UNI students in the process.

"Students are eager to act on what we already know from science; they want to be involved in actually translating knowledge of environmental health into programs that are implemented at the community scale," said Kamyar Enshayan, director for the CEEE. "We are extremely excited about this grant

and look forward to engaging UNI faculty, their classes and community leaders to learn together, to plan and to improve the environmental health of our communities across Iowa."

Audrey Tran Lam, environmental health program director at the CEEE, said the Carver Trust grant will enable the center to work alongside faculty in UNI's School of Health and Human Sciences and other areas of campus to develop curricular pathways which support student engaged learning in environmental health. The experiences will include courses, internships, honors theses and research.

Additional resources will be used for student project "mini-grants" to convene a statewide symposium

around environmental health and to enhance the CEEE's outreach across the state, Tran Lam said.



Students table at a community event for the Good Neighbor Iowa program, a CEEE engaged learning initiative that aims to reduce the use of unnecessary pesticides in lawn care. Approximately 160 UNI students have been involved with Good Neighbor Iowa since 2021.





A Wish Fulfilled: Professorship Honors Alum

A STORY OF GENEROSITY MULTIPLIED BY TIME, A GIFT HONORING AN alum and kindergarten teacher has created a legacy in early childhood educator preparation at UNI.

Back in 1996, Roy Ehrle — vice chairman of the Principal Financial Group — and Averyle Ehrle, '50 — a former kindergarten teacher — were newly retired and felt it was the right time to give back to Averyle's alma mater. They chose to create a charitable trust which would support the University of Northern Iowa and, in the long term, fund an endowed professorship to supplement a faculty position in the College of Education.

For nearly 30 years, their initial donation of \$250,000 continued to grow. Now, both age 96, the Ehrles are witnessing the result of their generosity.

In July, they met Dawn Mollenkopf, the newly named Averyle Westphal Ehrle Distinguished Professor in Early Childhood Education. Mollenkopf joined UNI in August after previously serving as a professor of early childhood education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

As a student at what was then the Iowa State Teachers College, Averyle read children's stories over the radio to a vast audience of children, thanks to the encouragement and support of a professor. She says simply: "I loved the children."

From those early connections to a donation made 28 years ago, Averyle Westphal Ehrle and Roy Ehrle will leave their imprint at the university for years to come.



"The Ehrles' generosity and vision will enhance our commitment to continue preparing future and current teachers to provide a strong, foundational start to a child's education through robust early childhood education. We're thrilled and thankful."

Colleen Mulholland
Dean, College of Education

UNI Center for Employee Ownership Expands Reach With Ford Foundation Grant

THE INFLUENTIAL NEW YORK-BASED FORD FOUNDATION HAS approved a multi-year grant of \$315,000 to support the Iowa Center for Employee Ownership's (IA-CEO) efforts to revitalize rural small businesses in the state through a mechanism known as an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).

With an impending retirement cliff for Iowa's privately-held business owners set to disrupt local economies and the small communities that rely on their businesses' success, UNI's IA-CEO has emerged as a key educational resource in the state.

Typically, retiring small business leaders have a few options available to them: transition ownership to a trusted leader or sell the business to a competitor or overseas investor. ESOPs provide an alternative that transitions the business to employee ownership, retaining the business in the local community and empowering employees and the business owners alike.

"This conversion circulates the financial benefit of businesses back into the communities, increases wages, retains

workers and enables employee wealth creation," said Stacy Mullinex, senior program manager at IA-CEO. "In other words, ESOPs are a verified strategy to remove the financial inequalities often witnessed in rural and underserved populations."

The Ford Foundation grant recognizes the unique needs in Iowa which, along with four other Midwestern states, underperforms nationally in ESOP metrics.

"The Ford Foundation's support will allow our team to generate awareness, provide resources and walk alongside companies who can benefit from the ESOP model," said Deborah Giarusso, emeritus senior program manager at IA-CEO. "We are grateful to the foundation for recognizing this need and supporting Iowa's economic needs at such a critical time."

Waterloo-based VGM Group exemplifies the benefits of employee ownership. "VGM has thrived under employee ownership," said the company's executive chairman, Mike Mallaro.



STUDENTS PAY IT FORWARD TO FUTURE PANTHERS

Taking part in a tradition that dates back to the UNI student gifts of the early 1900s that led to the building of the Campanile, 221 graduating seniors gave as part of the 2024 Senior Class Challenge.

Those who gave \$20.24 or more received purple and green philanthropy cords for commencement, symbolizing Panther pride and the value of alumni support for UNI.





DEANS' FUND SCHOLARSHIPS SHAPE UNI STUDENTS' FUTURES



"Scholarships change lives, and they sure changed mine. Receiving support from the Wilson College Fund helped ease my financial anxiety and allowed me to cut back to one job during the school year to focus on my academics. I'm incredibly grateful. Thank you!"

Morgan, '24, finance and accounting majors



"The generosity of donors has meant the world to me during my time at UNI. The financial support I've been granted by the Dean's Fund and other scholarships has allowed me to graduate with double majors and minors in four years without debt. Thank you so much!"

Madeline, '24, Spanish and political science majors



"I received a scholarship from a donor which allowed me to study abroad in Greece. This was one of the biggest highlights of my college career, and it really did change my life! I met so many people I'm still close with and I'll never forget this experience. Thanks for your support!"

Caroline, '24, political communications and history majors



"Donors are supporting the future well-being of our society by financially supporting individuals working toward their degrees or advanced certificates. Those individuals then turn around and use their education to better the world. Thank you!"

Kelly, '24, principalship program

Our Tomorrow
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UNI

UNI / University of Northern Iowa
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