



**CROWDFUNDING CREATES FESTIVAL
EXPERIENCE FOR UNI CHILDREN’S CHOIR**

This spring, the UNI Children’s Choir represented the university and Cedar Valley community on a statewide stage, performing as one of only three featured ensembles at the 2025 Midwest Children’s Choir Festival in Ames, Iowa. Sharing the stage with more than 200 young singers from across Iowa, the group showcased the strength of UNI’s commitment to arts education and community engagement.

The experience was made possible through a \$5,000 crowdfunding campaign led in partnership with the UNI Foundation. Dozens of gifts from parents, alumni and friends came together to fund travel and participation costs, ensuring every child could take part. It’s a powerful example of how collective generosity shapes young lives and strengthens UNI’s reach far beyond campus.

“Participating in the festival was a thrilling and ambitious endeavor. Thanks to the generous and enthusiastic support of the community, it became a reality. We’re grateful to all who helped ensure this unforgettable musical experience was accessible to all our choir members.”

 —Heather Hamilton
Director, UNI Community
Music School

**Our
Tomorrow**
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UNI

UNI / University of Northern Iowa
Foundation

204 Commons, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0282
foundation.uni.edu / 319-273-6078



UNI / University of Northern Iowa
Foundation

2024–2025 Impact Report

Our Tomorrow: All In, All Together

Together, we have reached an extraordinary milestone: \$300 million raised through the **Our Tomorrow** campaign. Beyond the direct impact of these dollars — in the lives of our students and the education they receive — this achievement is a testament to the exceptional generosity of the Panther family and the value of a UNI education across generations.

Our Tomorrow is strengthening UNI, both in the immediate term and for years to come. Half of the \$300 million raised are resources for today: outright gifts already at work supporting scholarships, academics and capital projects. The other half, through endowments and planned gifts, will generate dollars in perpetuity. These resources will ensure stability and provide the university with flexibility to pursue bold opportunities as they arise.

In fiscal year 2025, 8,464 donors gave \$29.28 million to advance access, excellence and opportunity at UNI. Nearly a third of that total was directed toward scholarships, with 58 new funds established. \$92.8 million has now been raised for scholarships, keeping students at the center of **Our Tomorrow**.

As we step into our university’s sesquicentennial year, we honor our proud past alongside our bold future, made stronger through the support of our alumni and friends. The momentum of **Our Tomorrow** is carrying forward into this historic moment, giving us so much to celebrate.

Thank you for going all in, all together — for UNI, for our students and for tomorrow.

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 // YOUR SNAPSHOT

Across campus and in the community, the **Our Tomorrow** campaign is making an incredible impact. Take a look at the 30,000+ donors who have stepped up to show their support.



31,814
unique donors



45%
of donors are first-time donors



1971
most giving alumni class (by number of donors)



54
most consecutive years giving



Over 50%
of donors have given more than one gift



10,010
friends



18,204
alumni



1,228
corporations & foundations



50 states + 17 countries
with alumni or friends giving



18 years old
youngest donor

103 years old
oldest first-time donor

106 years old
oldest donor

OUR TOMORROW: YOUR IMPACT

“For us, *Our Tomorrow* completes the circle.

Our students come here excited to learn. They engage with faculty. They create lifelong friendships. And they leave here with the training and preparation to serve their community into the future.”

—Jennifer Garrett
Head, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders



2024–2025 Highlights



DONORS

8,464

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

- **5,265** alumni
- **2,375** friends
- **310** corporations, including **81** matching gift companies
- **148** donor-advised funds
- **27** charitable foundations



ENGAGEMENT

18,187

Alumni and friends attended UNI Alumni Association or UNI Foundation events

- **169** events including **36** webinars, **12** Panther Travel opportunities and **1** virtual event
- **231** students gave as part of the 2025 senior class challenge



IMPACT

\$18,006,572

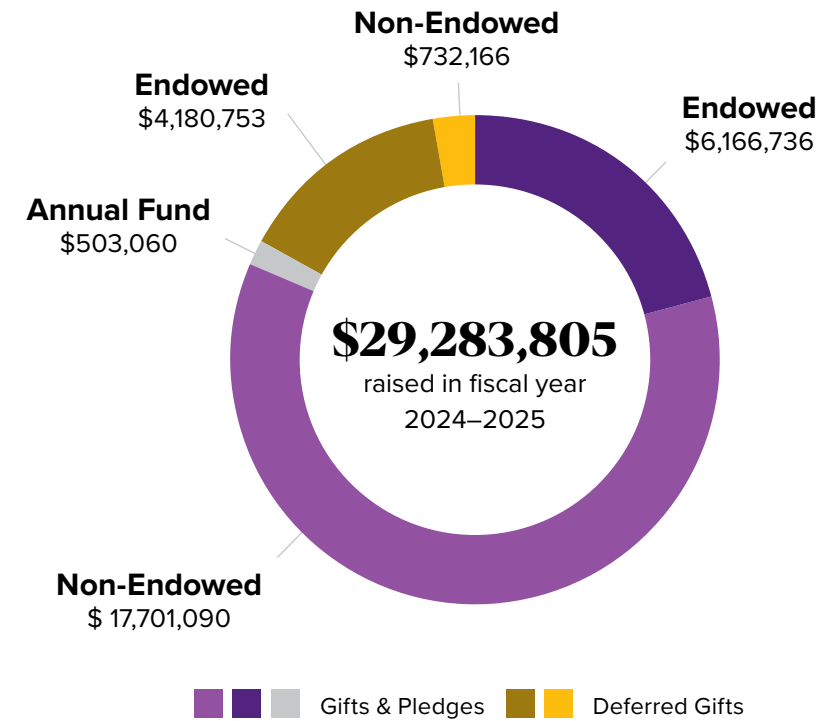
Academic and co-curricular program support provided to UNI

- **\$7,081,980** in scholarships and other financial support given to students
- **2,078** students received UNI Foundation-funded scholarships
- **57** new program funds
- **58** new scholarship funds

FY25 by the Numbers

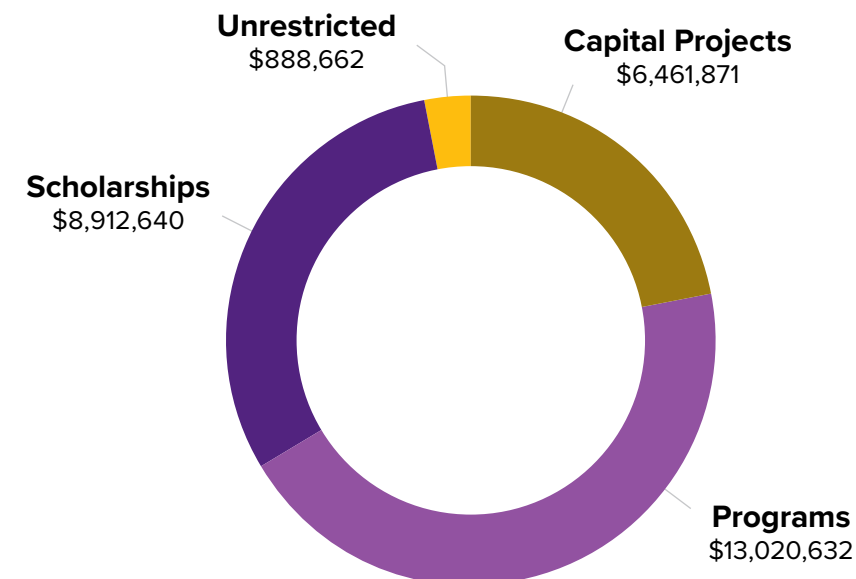
Fundraising Results

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2025



Fundraising by Gift Type

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2025



PANTHERS UNITE ON DAY OF GIVING

April's Live Purple Give Gold brought hundreds of Panther alumni and friends together to celebrate and support UNI, raising the largest total yet for the university's annual day of giving.

Gifts helped drive a broad spectrum of campus efforts. A grand total of 1,749 donors gave \$532,365 to support students, faculty and academic programs.

Resources for Tomorrow

Endowment support builds a strong foundation for UNI's future. In fiscal year 2025, UNI leveraged the Endowment Incentive, Vision Fund and Deans' Funds to grow our endowment:

- **\$10.3 million** raised for endowments
- **38 new** endowments established
- **\$231.6 million** total UNI Foundation endowment

Students First, Always

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT IS THE HEART OF THE

Our Tomorrow campaign.

As of 2025, gifts to student scholarships total \$92.8 million — nearly one-third of all campaign commitments.

These investments are expanding access to a UNI education, helping high-achieving students reach higher, and supporting Panthers from across Iowa and beyond. Each year, more than 2,000 students benefit from donor-funded scholarships.

In fiscal year 2025 alone, 1,800 donors contributed just over \$9 million in scholarship support, continuing to remove barriers and create opportunities for UNI students.

Our Tomorrow Scholarship Support

- **\$92.8M** raised for scholarships
- **7,894** scholarship donors (25% of all campaign donors)
- **512** new scholarship funds created
- **\$66.6M** in endowed gifts for scholarships



“Donor support has been crucial in easing the financial burden of my education, allowing me to focus on academics and leadership opportunities. A moment that stands out was making the dean’s list while balancing multiple jobs. Scholarship support made it possible for me to stay enrolled and succeed during that challenging semester.”

Bilal B., *computer science major*



“Beyond their financial contributions, the greatest support I received from donors is the advice they gave me about academics and life in general. That advice comes from the life experience they have, and I take it with me at all times.”

Sebastian F., *business analytics and economics major*



“Even as a freshman, I have been fortunate enough to see donor support impact my experience in many ways. Scholarships have given me the opportunity to focus on getting an education, not on finances.”

McKenzie R., *elementary education major*



“I’ve been given the chance to travel abroad thanks to donor support. I love getting to experience new places and meet new people. It’s life-changing in so many ways, and I couldn’t be more grateful for a college that offers so much support!”

Eayon P., *business administration & real estate major*

Nancy Witt: A Voice for Access

THOSE WHO KNEW NANCY WITT, '88, DESCRIBE A WOMAN OF SHARP intellect, conviction and genuine care for others. Across a long career in public policy and advocacy, Witt embodied a message she once shared with a journalist reporting on her work to expand Medicaid coverage for people with disabilities.

“You have to have some understanding that you have to fight for yourself,” the 30-year-old Witt said at the time. “Nobody’s going to come in on a white horse and say, ‘Here.’”

Witt was a fighter from the beginning. Delivered more than two months premature, she lived with cerebral palsy that affected her mobility and vision. Friends Malissa Martin, '90, '91, and Carol Carroll, '95, said those challenges only deepened her intellectual drive.

Encouraged by the teachers at Grundy Center High who saw her potential, Witt pursued higher education at UNI, working for the university’s public relations team while earning her degree in communications.

“She wasn’t going to be held back from the education she was craving,” Carroll said. “So when Nancy got her opportunity to go to college she took full advantage of it. And through her life and work she was able to use her mind and education to advocate for others.”

Witt stayed connected to her alma mater, attending athletic events and performances. Even as her health declined in her later years, she remained thoughtful about the impact she wanted to leave. When she passed away in August 2023 at the age of 59,

that commitment to helping others became her legacy.

Witt Scholarship a “Blessing” for Students

Through her estate, Witt left a generous bequest to establish the Nancy Witt Endowed Scholarship at UNI, supporting students with disabilities in pursuing their educational goals. The first recipients were awarded this fall, each receiving support covering the full cost of tuition.

For Grace Minor, the scholarship has been a lifeline. The senior has spent nearly a decade navigating the physical, emotional and financial challenges of her health journey.

She recalled the tear-filled moment she learned that her final year of college would be fully covered through Witt’s generosity — support that brought hope and the reassurance that her persistence had been worth it. Soon to graduate with a degree in communication-theatre teaching, Minor said the scholarship has allowed her to move forward with confidence.

“My health has faced some issues lately, which added to the strain of my finances

from recent surgeries,” Minor shared. “But thanks to this scholarship, I don’t have to wait until I can afford college or until my medical debt is paid off to continue my education.”

Minor plans to become a high school teacher of drama, speech and language arts — and to make the most of her time at UNI.

“I’m ready to finish strong and start making a difference,” she said. “I’m deeply grateful to the friends and family of Nancy Witt — their belief in me has changed my life.”



Working from her home in Reinbeck, Iowa, Nancy Witt built a successful career in public policy research, development and implementation. She was also a vice chair of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission and a member of the Iowa Judicial Nominating Committee. She is pictured above accepting a nomination to the state Health Consumer Advisory Council in 2000.



Malissa Martin, '90, '91, Grace Minor, '27, and Carol Carroll, '95



Vision at Work: Donors Drive Bold Tuition Initiative

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA IS MAKING HIGHER education more affordable for students in the Midwest with the launch of the Neighboring State Rate. Beginning this fall, new undergraduate students from Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin will pay the same tuition as Iowa residents — saving families more than \$12,000 annually compared to traditional non-resident tuition.

The tuition program is made possible through support from the UNI Foundation’s Vision Fund, which provides flexible resources to fuel strategic university priorities. By directing Vision Fund dollars to launch the Neighboring State Rate, the UNI Foundation Board is helping UNI attract talented students while strengthening the region’s future workforce.

“This initiative is exactly the kind of bold step our donors empower UNI to take,” said Larry Fox, '67, '71, chair of the UNI Foundation Board of Trustees.

“It shows how philanthropy can have a direct and immediate impact on students’ lives, while also supporting Iowa and the Midwest with a stronger, more prepared workforce.”

“The Neighboring State Rate opportunity reflects what happens when donor generosity meets university vision,” said Jim Jermier, UNI Foundation president. “Their support ensures that more students can choose UNI with confidence, knowing an affordable, high-quality education is within reach.”

With UNI welcoming its 150th class of students this fall, the Neighboring State Rate affirms a long legacy of affordability, excellence and impact — all made possible through the generosity of UNI’s alumni and friends.

Pictured above: Freshman Dyshaun McDaniel of Madison, Wisconsin, became part of UNI’s sesquicentennial class this fall thanks in part to the Neighboring State Rate initiative.



A BRIGHT LEGACY OF OPPORTUNITY

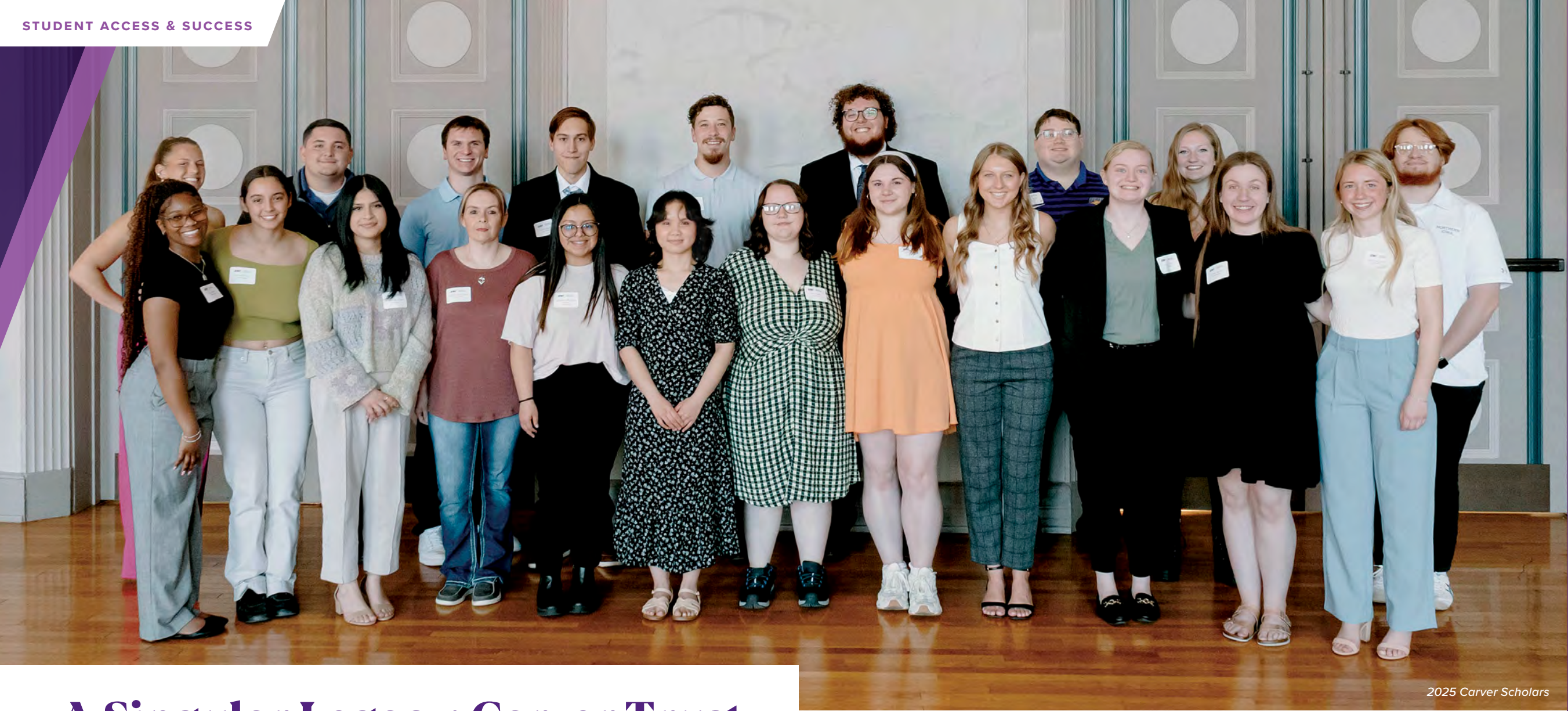
This year, UNI celebrated the awarding of its 100th Bright Foundation Scholarship — a milestone in a partnership made possible by the late Iowa natives Lois and Dale Bright.

Since 2012, the scholarship has opened the door to a UNI education for students like biology major Avereë Kasik, '25, of Mechanicsville, Iowa.

“The Bright Scholarship gave me stability and the confidence to pursue my passion without worrying about the financial burden,” Kasik said.

Foundation president Meredith Dohmen said the goal of the Bright Scholarship is to allow students to graduate on-time, debt-free, prepared to launch their career and give back.

“We can’t think of a better legacy for the Brights than the remarkable young people we get to know through the Bright Scholars program,” Dohmen said.



2025 Carver Scholars

SHAPING
THE PERSON
I WANT TO BE

“UNI has helped me find my voice not just as a student, but as a future educator.

This scholarship has helped open doors for me to connect more with the community, lead by example and be more involved in programs that align with my passion.

It’s helping shape the kind of teacher and person I want to be.”

Izaiah Martinez, '26
(pictured below)
Missouri Valley, Iowa
Early Childhood Education major



PHOTOS
Experience the
2025 Carver
Scholars Reception

A Singular Legacy: Carver Trust Surpasses \$25M in Giving to UNI

ACROSS 35 CONSECUTIVE YEARS, THE ROY J. CARVER CHARITABLE TRUST HAS ETCHED A LEGACY OF innovation at the University of Northern Iowa.

The Muscatine-based foundation’s support for scholarships and academics have fueled UNI’s mission across generations and touched nearly every corner of campus. This past year, the Carver Trust reached \$25 million in total giving to UNI.

Carver Scholars

The Trust’s first gift to UNI in 1989 established the Carver Scholars program, which has seen 538 recipients in all four academic colleges. The scholarship is awarded every year to students who have pursued their educational goals despite difficult circumstances or obstacles. The Trust’s scholarship giving totals \$3.72 million.

“The Carver Scholarship has opened the door to higher education for countless inspiring students who have overcome significant adversity to pursue their dreams.

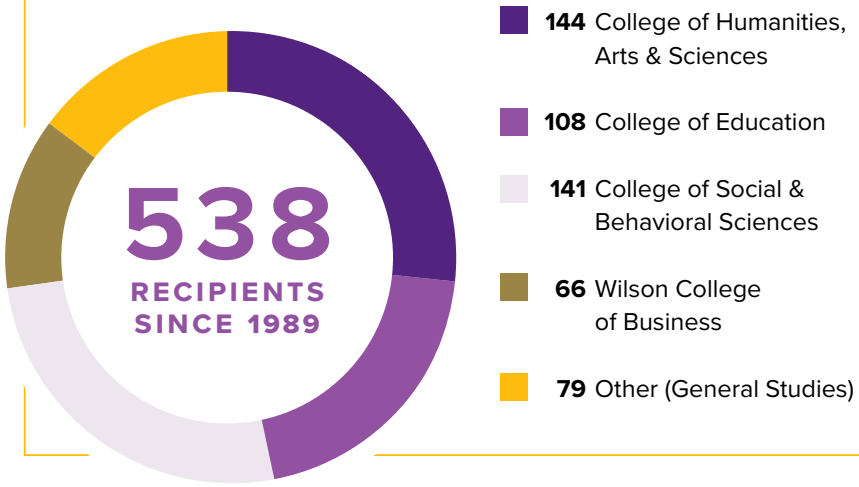
Every time we meet a Carver recipient, we see firsthand how the scholarship lifts the weight of financial burden — allowing them to fully engage in academics, campus involvement and leadership opportunities.”

—Tim Bakula, '02, '05
Director, UNI Office
of Financial Aid



CARVER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY COLLEGE

As of spring 2025, the Carver Scholarship has been awarded to 538 UNI students.



Carver Trust Transforms UNI With Academic Support

GRANTS FROM THE CARVER TRUST HAVE ENABLED UNI TO SUSTAIN A MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE AND OFFER INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO APPLY the theory and knowledge gained in the classroom to projects in the lab and out in the field. Of the Trust's \$25.5 million in giving to UNI, \$19.36 million has been awarded to departments in all four academic colleges.

The Sciences

Funding has been concentrated in the natural sciences, supporting projects ranging from microscopes, specialized chemical analysis technology and other lab tools to high-performance computing, field equipment and synthetic cadavers to enhance students' understanding of human anatomy and physiology.

Labs across the core scientific disciplines of biology, chemistry, physics and earth science have been awarded grants to purchase state-of-the-art equipment and instructional tools, creating a high-quality experience not only for science majors, but virtually all UNI students through the general education curriculum.

- **\$9.77 million in grants**
- **48 grant projects**

Across Campus

Investments from the Carver Trust have been equally impactful across campus, supporting a wide range of projects that promote active, hands-on learning. These projects include investments in instructional innovation and student-focused initiatives that connect classroom knowledge to real-world settings. Among the grantees over the past three decades are applied engineering, teacher education, communication sciences and disorders, and the Center for Energy & Environmental Education.

- **\$9.15 million in grants**
- **41 grant projects**

Capital Support

Leadership investments from the Carver Trust have shaped the trajectory of the university by making signature capital projects a reality. Approximately \$2.46 million in grants to the McCollum Science Hall (2000), the Richard O. Jacobson Human Performance Complex (2003), the Rod Library (2014) and the Schindler Education Center (2015) continue to impact nearly every UNI student stepping foot on our campus.



THE TRUE WINNERS ARE OUR STUDENTS

“Carver funding has allowed UNI to acquire research-grade equipment typically found only at major research universities.

While faculty benefit, the true winners are our students — the future leaders in science and technology.”

—Paul Shand
*Department head,
professor of physics*



INSPIRED ME TO BE A TEACHING PROFESSOR

“The experience I had at UNI was absolutely enhanced by the dedication to modern, hands-on and active learning methods.

It was what inspired me to be a teaching professor when I receive my PhD in bioengineering. I hope to inspire students with the same innovative pedagogy and enthusiasm I saw in professors at UNI.”

—Joseph Tibbs, '20
Physics and biochemistry alum

\$100M for Academics

FACULTY AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF EVERY PANTHER'S JOURNEY.

In classrooms, labs and studios across campus, students discover new interests, deepen their learning and prepare for the careers of tomorrow.

Gifts in FY25 helped UNI reach a remarkable milestone: \$100 million raised through **Our Tomorrow** to strengthen academic programs and support faculty. Thanks to 11,100 donors to this campaign pillar, departments across all four academic colleges are investing in innovation and providing high-quality learning experiences for students.

Department of Accounting

For more than 40 years, UNI's accounting program has prepared students for professional success. Many students are graduating ahead of the curve with their CPA exams already completed and jobs secured well before graduation.

Through the **Our Tomorrow** campaign, 681 donors have given \$7.8 million to shape the next generation of accounting leaders with investments in scholarships, faculty and engaged learning opportunities.

"Donor support has been critical in a number of different ways — through student scholarships and faculty enrichment. It's also helped us to start new programs, creating opportunities for people that might not have had a chance to pursue an accounting degree or a four-year degree otherwise."

—Joseph Ugrin
Head, Department of Accounting

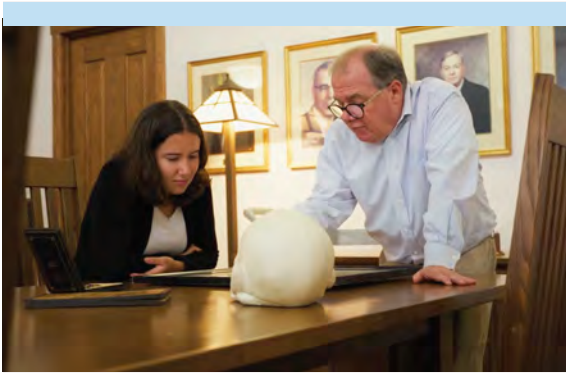


"Donor support propelled me to where I am today. I really couldn't be more thankful."

—Mack Eastman, '24
Masters of Accounting alum,
RSM US LLP Assurance Associate



VIDEO RECAP
See how you've inspired accounting students at UNI



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Our Tomorrow is carrying the 50-year legacy of UNI's history program into the future. As of 2025, alumni and friends have donated more than \$1.9 million to shape the academic experience for history majors as well as students who take part in history courses through the general education curriculum.

"We're really intentional, here at UNI, about preparing students for the workforce. Our historians are really focused on the future, and the support that we get from donors keeps our programs effective and competitive, helping us prepare students for their own tomorrows."

—Jennifer McNabb
Head, Department of History



"UNI has given me the confidence to know that I can do this. And being able to have that practical, hands-on experience has helped to sharpen skills that are going to be really essential for being a teacher. Scholarships have allowed me to focus on my experience here and my education."

—Anna McDowell, '26
History education major





Our Campus: Renewing the Spaces That Bring Us Together

ACROSS 150 YEARS, UNI'S LANDMARKS HAVE BECOME inseparable from the Panther experience as gathering spaces that connect us, traditions that inspire pride and facilities that serve both the campus and the community.

As we celebrate our sesquicentennial, **Our Tomorrow** donors have committed more than \$45.3 million to renew three of our most recognizable icons: the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center, the Campanile and the UNI-Dome. These investments are revitalizing the spaces that hold our history while preparing them to shape memories and traditions for generations of Panthers to come.

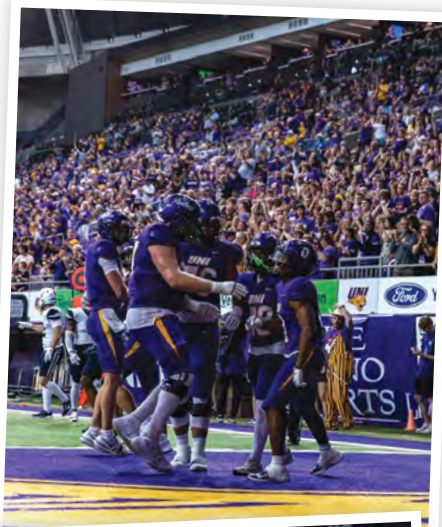
Building Panther Pride

As fans returned for the 2025 football season, they stepped into a reimagined UNI-Dome with more comfortable and accessible seating, brand new suites and patron amenities — and plenty of Panther purple on display.

This phase of the stadium's modernization was completed over the summer, enhancing the game-day experience for students, student-athletes and fans. Broad community support, including a \$1 million gift from the Black Hawk County Gaming Association (BHCGA), ensured improvements were completed in time for the upcoming season.

"The UNI-Dome is more than an athletics facility — it's an economic driver for the Cedar Valley," said Emily Hanson, '13, the association's executive director. "We're proud to invest in this project."

"One of the things that was most important for our organization was the focus on ADA upgrades and ensuring individuals with disabilities or ambulatory issues would be able to participate," said Kingsley Botchway III, president of the BHCGA board. "So we're excited not just about the community aspect, but the access as well."



The first features of the UNI-Dome's phase two renovations were completed over the summer, adding new seating, expanded suites and other fan amenities throughout the stadium.

A New Era at the Gallagher Bluedorn

THE CEDAR VALLEY'S PREMIER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER WELCOMED VISITORS TO ITS newly renovated space featuring two new lounges, concessions counters and state-of-the-art guest services throughout. Seating upgrades on the orchestra level of the Catherine Cassidy Gallagher Great Hall have created greater accessibility and comfort on a night out at the Gallagher Bluedorn. The \$14.9 million project was funded through donations from more than 400 alumni, friends and community members.

Guests will experience the full range of upgrades as a part of the Gallagher Bluedorn's 25th anniversary season kicking off this fall.

"After 25 years, it was time for a renewal. The Gallagher Bluedorn renovation has brought new life to a space we love. We've enjoyed every performance and appreciate the welcoming experience it provides for guests and the community."

—Helen, '66, and Marvin Schumacher
Gallagher Bluedorn project donors

\$250,000 GIFT CREATES MIDAMERICAN ENERGY ROBOTICS LAB

A LEADERSHIP INVESTMENT FROM THE MIDAMERICAN Energy Foundation is powering the future of applied engineering at UNI.

The \$250,000 gift supports the university's growing engineering programs and aligns with the foundation's focus on STEM education and building strong communities. In recognition, the robotics lab has been named the MidAmerican Energy Robotics Lab.

"UNI's applied engineering programs are essential to the training of today's and tomorrow's leaders," said Kathryn Kunert, VP of Economic Connections and Integration at MidAmerican Energy.

"MidAmerican Energy's support enables our students to learn in an innovative environment that prepares them for high-demand careers across Iowa and beyond," added Stewart Carter, UNI's chief applied engineering administrator.



The MidAmerican Energy Foundation's gift, part of UNI's **Our Tomorrow** campaign, enhances technology and equipment in the new Applied Engineering Building.



25 Years of the Robert Eller Study Abroad Scholarship

THE CHANCE TO STUDY ABROAD CAN BE TRULY TRANSFORMATIVE, offering an immersive journey through new languages, cultures and environments while building personal growth.

For Olivia Brunsting, '25, who studied abroad in 2023, the experience held an even greater significance. Adopted from South Korea and raised in northwest Iowa, it marked her first return to her birth country.

“There are so many things that I miss — from the food and karaoke to the friends I made there,” she shared. “But I try to cherish the memories, knowing it was such a unique experience that can’t be recreated.” She plans to return as soon as possible.

For 25 years, the Robert Eller Study Abroad Scholarship has enabled such life-changing experiences for UNI students. Since 1999, the fund has supported 105 students traveling to 21 countries, according to the Cedar Falls Community Foundation, which manages it.

“Studying abroad doesn’t just transform the student, it sends ripples of change back to their community,” said Sally

Kleiss Timmer, '12, executive director of the foundation. “The knowledge, perspectives and experiences they gain abroad become seeds for innovation, understanding and progress, enriching their local culture and broadening its worldview.”

Forever Enriching Lives

Robert Eller, an audio/visual instructor at UNI for 30 years, retired in 1991 and established the scholarship in 1999, supporting it throughout his life and leaving a generous bequest upon his death in 2016.

Eller’s legacy lives on through the scholarship, offering UNI students profound learning experiences. Colleague and friend Joan Duea, '59, '64, fondly remembered his passion for engaging in lively travelogues in the faculty lounge. Eller’s extensive travels often included living with locals to fully immerse himself in new cultures.

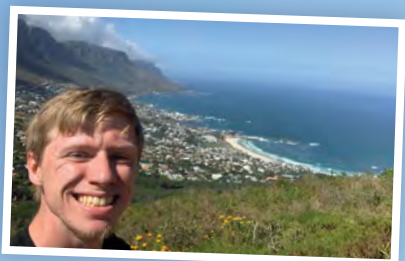
“He was a great listener and an even better questioner,” Duea recalled. “Knowing how life-changing travel had been for him, Bob created one of the greatest gifts for UNI undergrads, many of whom are first-generation college students with limited travel experience.

His gift will forever enrich the lives of students.”

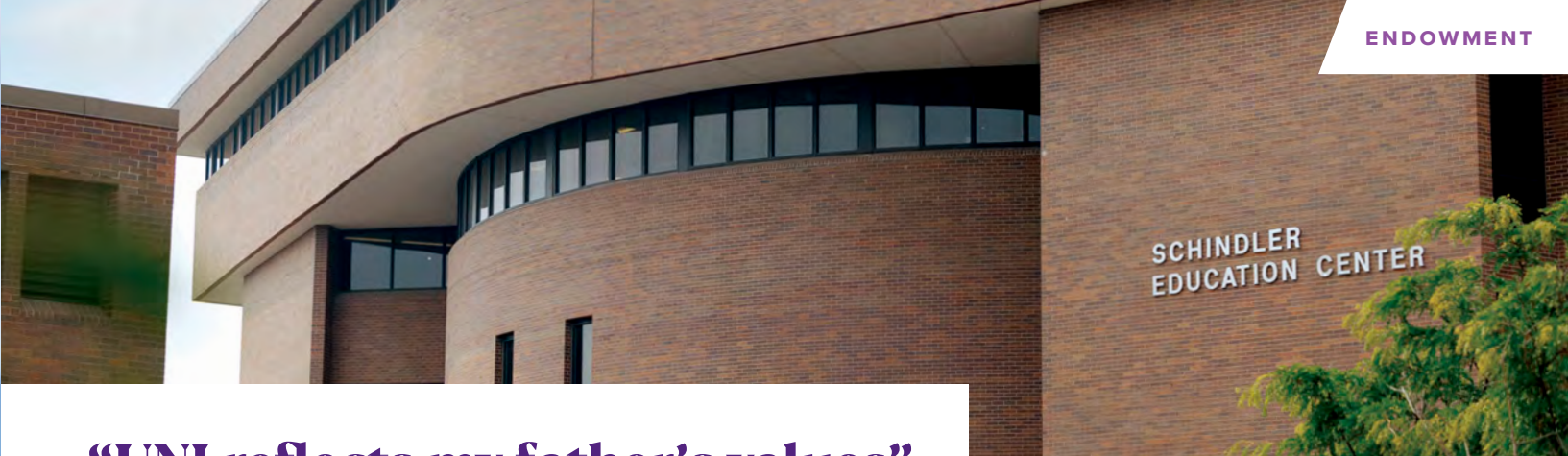
Adam Vig, a history education major, counts his semester abroad as one of his most formative experiences. Through the Eller Scholarship, the Mount Vernon, Iowa, native experienced South Africa’s vibrant cities, natural beauty and wildlife.

Vig also volunteered with underprivileged children through the Missionvale Care Center in Port Elizabeth, an experience he believes will impact his future classroom.

“Donors help people achieve their goals and live better lives,” Vig said. “The Eller scholarship allowed me to experience something truly special.”



The Eller Scholarship enabled Adam Vig, a history education major, to spend a semester at Nelson Mandela University in South Africa.



“UNI reflects my father’s values”

35 YEARS OF THE SCHINDLER SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

NEARLY A CENTURY AFTER EARNING HIS DEGREE FROM WHAT WAS THEN THE Iowa State Teachers College (ISTC), the late Alvin Schindler’s influence continues to shape the University of Northern Iowa. His name, carried by the Schindler Education Center and a scholarship for future teachers, reflects the lasting power of a UNI education to change lives.

One of five children of first-generation Swiss immigrants, Schindler was raised on a small farm in rural southeast Iowa. A quick learner in his one-room schoolhouse, he attended high school in Pulaski, Iowa, before enrolling at ISTC. Alvin’s goal, as his son Fred Schindler described it, was simple — to finish school, find a teaching job as soon as possible and help out at the family farm whenever he could.

After graduating from ISTC in 1927 and teaching for several years, Alvin pursued graduate study, earning his doctorate from the University of Iowa. He went on to teach at several institutions before joining the University of Maryland in 1943, where he helped develop the university’s first elementary education program and became recognized for the excellence of his courses and his mentorship of students.

“I was told that it was very common for my father to be approached at the supermarket or out in the community by former students grateful to ‘Professor Schindler’ for getting them started in their teaching careers,” said Fred. “So to have my father recognized at UNI is special. There’s a good match between my father’s practical values and

UNI’s priorities. He was all about helping his students.”

Alvin W. Schindler Endowed Scholarship

After Alvin’s death in 1987, his wife, Dora — herself a 1924 ISTC graduate — worked with the UNI Foundation to create a scholarship to help rural students like Alvin become teachers. In 1989, the family’s \$1 million gift established an endowed fund, and the following year, the Education Center was renamed for Alvin W. Schindler.

For more than 30 years, the scholarship has supported about eight students each semester — building a legacy of hundreds of educators across Iowa and beyond.

Valeria Torres, a 2024 graduate and first-year kindergarten teacher in Atlantic, Iowa, says the scholarship gave her access to the high-quality preparation UNI is known for, including hands-on experiences that shaped her as a teacher.

“The Schindler Scholarship impacted my life both personally and professionally,” Torres said. “As a recipient, this made me work so much harder as a way to say thank you for their generosity. I am proud to be a recipient of this scholarship, as well as a UNI alum.”

The legacy of UNI alum Alvin Schindler is intertwined with UNI’s excellence in educator preparation. Since 1990, hundreds of rural Iowans and future teachers have benefited from the Schindler family’s endowed scholarship.



Endowment Incentive

The *Our Tomorrow* Endowment Incentive program increases the impact of newly formed endowments by matching a portion of the donor’s pledged gift and providing immediate resources while the endowment grows.

In 2024–2025, the endowment incentive program supported:

- 17 new endowment funds
- \$816,500 in endowment giving

