

## Six-figure Grant Helps UNI Expand Successful Teacher Education Program

The University of Northern Iowa's successful teacher education program, "2+2," recently received a \$596,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand. The program was designed to help curb the state's teacher shortage by providing access to higher education for place-bound Iowans – those with obligations or responsibilities that prohibit them from traveling to a university. It also provides teachers and other professionals to rural parts of the state.

The new funding will develop 2+2 programs in Instructional Strategist/Elementary Education, technology education teaching, technology management/general business minor, and other potential majors at community colleges where Iowans cannot easily travel to the UNI campus. Expansion into other Iowa community colleges will be where the community need matches UNI programs that faculty are willing and able to deliver at community colleges.

Dr. Roger Kueter, director of community college relations for the UNI College of Education, says, "We started with the DMACC/Carroll campus elementary education program 10 years ago and that program is now self-supporting from student tuition and community college participation. This is one of the main criteria we use to help us identify community colleges and UNI programs to involve."

Two B.A. options recently added are Instructional Strategist/Elementary Education (ISEE) and technology management/general business. Students at several community colleges can

enroll beginning in 2005. Classes are taught by UNI faculty from departments of the program major. The technology management/general business minor program started at DMACC/Carroll in fall 2002 and the first cohort of eight students graduated in May 2004. The degree prepares management-oriented technical professionals for Iowa industries. Dr. Charles Johnson, program coordinator and assistant-to-the-dean for community college relations, College of Natural Sciences, notes most jobs now involve technology and require employees who can manage either their own or other's work. Johnson was recently appointed UNI Community College Liaison under the UNI Office of the Provost.

The program for the Instructional Strategist/Elementary Education B.A. teaching degree will begin in 2005 at community colleges where students are interested in enrolling. "This is a unique opportunity for students to earn a degree in elementary education teaching with the regular classroom licensure and the Instructional Strategist I endorsement in special education," Kueter said. "This degree will help teachers serve students with specific learning and/or behavior disabilities and needs." Like other UNI 2+2 partnership programs, this elementary education teaching program will include the full complement of courses offered on the UNI campus, including student teaching the final semester.

## 2+2 Benefits for Students

Through 2+2 partnerships, students take general education courses at the community college and then enroll in UNI courses. The UNI classes are offered onsite at the community college and are taught by UNI faculty, in conjunction with web-based instruction and video conferencing (Iowa Communications Network/ICN).

"Many of the Des Moines Area Community College/Carroll students wanted to be teachers all their lives but because they were place-bound, they could not attend a university," says Pat Holthaus, UNI faculty member in Des Moines Area Community College/Carroll and program facilitator.

Joan Fredrickson, Yale, IA, graduated in elementary education in May, 2003, and teaches K-5 library and technology classes at Panorama Elementary School. She worked as a teacher associate before pursuing a four-year teaching degree. "The DMACC/Carroll classes were scheduled so students could also work and only make a few weekly trips to the Carroll campus," Fredrickson says. "I got the same quality education I would have received if I had gone to UNI."

Tom Heuton, Glidden, worked at a Carroll manufacturing plant for 25 years and then the plant closed. "I always wanted to be a teacher. So, after starting at another college, I transferred to the DMACC/Carroll 2+2 program closer to home," he explains. "The 2+2 program opens up doors to a lot of people who would like to earn a four-year degree but can't because of the distance to a university." Heuton teaches 4-6th graders in a special needs classroom at Guthrie Center Elementary School.

Other 2+2 elementary education graduates relate the change in their employment and salary status. One individual worked as a customer service representative before entering the 2+2 program and is now employed in an area high school resource room making almost \$12,000 more than before earning a 2+2 degree. Another graduate of UNI's 2+2 elementary education program reported no previous employment and now teaches a K-8 talented and gifted program in a central Iowa school district. These stories and many more indicate the UNI 2+2 programs provide affordable excellence for students who are place-bound or career changing.

## 2+2 Advisory Board Announced

As UNI's 2+2 partnership programs expand to other community colleges, an Advisory Board will help guide program planning and development. Persons who play a key role in ensuring the 2+2 programs address curriculum, community, and transfer student needs will serve on the board. They include:

- Dr. Roger Kueter, UNI Director, Office of Clinical Field Experiences and Community College Relations, College of Education
- Dr. Charles Johnson, UNI Community College Liaison/Provost's Office and College of Natural Sciences Assistant-to-the Dean for Community College Relations
- Steve Schulz, UNI/DMACC Coordinator and Assistant-to-the-Dean, Carroll campus
- Roland Carrillo, UNI Director of Admissions/Financial Aid
- Dr. Susan Koch, UNI Associate Provost for Academic Affairs
- Dr. Rick Traw, UNI Associate Professor/Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education
- Dr. Frank Kohler, UNI Associate Professor/Special Education, College of Education
- Denton Ketels, Representative from UNI Office of University Marketing & Public Relations
- Stacey Christensen, Community Relations Manager, UNI Office of University Marketing & Public Relations

# It Started at DMACC/Carroll

In January 1995, 14 students began UNI classes working toward a B.A. teaching degree in elementary education. But, they weren't on the UNI campus. Instead, they enrolled in UNI's first 2+2 program. Students took classes at the Des Moines Area Community College/Carroll campus for **two years** and then UNI education faculty taught classes at Carroll or via the Iowa Communications Network for **two years**

UNI's 2+2 story started in 1993 with a request from Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) to UNI about offering an elementary education program at the DMACC/Carroll campus to prepare teachers for central Iowa schools. Students would primarily be rural, place-bound, non-traditional persons in central Iowa who could not come to the UNI campus. The rest of the 2+2 story and history follow.

- 1994** January - UNI and DMACC/Carroll administrators write federal FIPSE grant to begin 2+2 partnership. Grant for \$315,000 is awarded.
- June - Planning begins for the elementary education B.A. degree program. DMACC/Carroll provides office/classroom facilities, supplies, clerical staff, copying and mail service, trained advising staff, and much more.
- Fall - Partners develop 2+2 elementary education program procedures, requirements, and standards that reflect exactly what is done on the Cedar Falls campus. Carroll community establishes foundation for 2+2 student financial support.
- 1995** January - First cohort of 14 students begin UNI elementary education program.
- 1997** June - First cohort graduates in Carroll with UNI elementary education B.A. teaching degree. Sixty students have graduated from this program and most teach in central Iowa schools.
- 2002** UNI/DMACC/Carroll offer technology management/general business B.A. degree.
- 2003** August - Early Childhood Education major added to elementary education program. UNI/North Iowa Area Community College, Iowa Central Community College and Western Iowa Tech Community College partner to offer technology education B.A. teaching degree. UNI receives federal funding to plan additional 2+2 educational opportunities for other Iowa community colleges where UNI programs match a community need.
- 2004** May - UNI receives federal funding for 2004-05 to expand 2+2 program opportunities for persons who are place-bound or career changing to earn selected bachelors degrees at local community colleges. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) takes the lead to include funding in the appropriations report. Technology management program graduates first eight 2+2 students.
- Summer 2004** Program planning begins to offer Instructional Strategist/Elementary Education (ISEE) teaching degree in 2005 at community colleges where students are interested in enrolling.

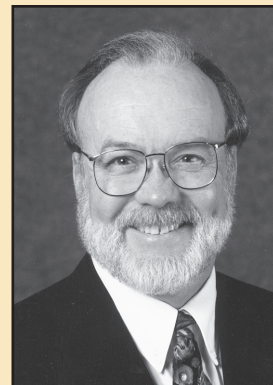


UNI's 2+2 project is funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), ranking member on the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, took the lead in including funding for this project in the appropriations report.

The 2+2 project is also made possible through generous cooperative support from participating community colleges, their communities and the University of Northern Iowa.

# Noteworthy 2+2 Administrators

**Dr. Richard Hawkes'** name is synonymous with the initiation of UNI's 2+2 program to serve the educational needs of place-bound Iowans. In



his capacity as 2+2 coordinator, Hawkes guided five groups of students toward their elementary education B.A. teaching degree. He established a 2+2 Student Advisory Committee to ensure students had strong academic advising from Des Moines Area Community

College (DMACC) Advising staff, a sense of community, and close connections to UNI and DMACC faculty. Hawkes helped plan the addition of an early childhood major to the program, helped add the Technology Management/General Business B.A. degree program; was instrumental in bringing a UNI curriculum and instruction faculty member to DMACC/Carroll plus gaining a permanent allocation from the Iowa legislature; and helped faculty and students effectively use the Iowa Communications Network. Hawkes was awarded the Carroll Chamber of Commerce "Good Neighbor Award," given to non-residents who make outstanding contributions to Carroll. Hawkes retired in December 2003.

The UNI/DMACC/Carroll partnership now offers four education and non-education degree choices and is self-supporting through student tuition and community college participation. In addition to serving non-traditional students who are place-bound, the program also serves the educational needs of students who want to



advance in a current job, make a career change, or need additional education for community needs.

Currently, the 2+2 DMACC/Carroll coordinator is **Steve Schulz**, former superintendent of the Carroll Community School District. He began his position in July and is also assistant-to-the-dean/Carroll campus, to highlight program importance and institutional/community commitment. This is probably the first Regents' institution joint appointment with a community college. Schulz coordinates all UNI 2+2 partnership activities with DMACC campuses including Carroll, Boone, Ankeny, Newton, and Des Moines Urban.