

Here's What They're Saying...

"The ISEE students were very supportive of each other from their first semester on. They were mature, respectful and hard working."

Lynne Ensworth, UNI elementary curriculum instructor

"I learned patience. This was a repetitive theme in many of my classes and I also used it in my field experiences."

Cordae Wright, Dubuque County

"The sacrifices these individuals made to complete their teacher education program demands the fullest respect and admiration. More importantly, their hard work and sacrifices are a testimony of their personal drive and desire to be a teacher."

Frank Kohler and Amy Staples, UNI special education instructors

UNI's 2+2 project is supported by a U.S. Department of Education (Fund for the Improvement 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.



www.uni.edu/2+2



2+2 Partnerships

Degree-earning programs with Iowa community colleges, communities

The 2+2 program that combined elementary and special education classes was a first for the University of Northern Iowa and for distance education. The classes in this program integrated regular and special education and the students were from three corners of the state – northeast, northwest and southwest Iowa. The students merged their energy, determination and commitment to become teachers. On Dec. 15, 2007, they celebrate their graduation from the Instructional Strategist/Elementary Education (ISEE) B.A. degree program.

Being 2+2 students meant that family priorities and fixed job schedules made it impossible for the 16 ISEE graduates to take classes on the UNI campus. Instead they took classes via WebCT, the Iowa Communications Network, and face-to-face at their home community colleges. The 2+2 partnership program with UNI community colleges and communities is for students with an A.A. degree who enroll in participating UNI degree programs to earn a UNI B.A. degree.

Congratulations to these students and their families!

Here's What They're Saying...

"This cohort (group) of students are some of the best-trained teachers in the state of Iowa. The program these students graduated from is the most rigorous and thorough program of study we offer undergraduate elementary education majors."

Donna Douglas, ISEE program coordinator

"This program is about all children feeling valued and included in all school settings."

Bridget Carlson, Scott County

"The special education classes enhanced my ability to provide modifications to help all learners succeed."

Erica Hunwardsen, Woodbury County

"Congratulations to the first statewide 2+2 cohort! And our special thanks for the work Senator Tom Harkin did to secure federal funding for this project."

Roger Kueter, UNI Community College Projects Director

KELLY BRAND

Scott County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Scott Community College ???

This program taught me how to gear my lessons to meet the needs of all students and how to differentiate instruction based on students' needs. I hope to obtain a job in a school district near my home.

MARLA BROGLY

Muscatine County

Elementary /Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Muscatine Community College 2005

The style of teaching science classes that we learned includes so many excellent classroom management and teaching skills that I have used these methods in student teaching and will continue to use them. I will offer a thoughtful question for students to answer, provide tasks for each student, use student groups or pairs, and have a designated way to get the students' attention when needed.

TINA BUHRMAN

Woodbury County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

B.S. Human/Social Services Admin., Bellevue Univ. 2001

Taking the elementary education and special education classes together in this program established for us more specialized skills to better meet the needs of students with special needs. After graduation, I'll be a substitute teacher for the Sioux City Community School District until I earn a contracted position.

BRIDGET CARLSON

Scott County

Elementary /Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Scott Community College 2005

I feel more prepared to meet my students' diverse needs within my future classroom and to support/educate others on differentiating curriculum. I understand how important it is to take the time to get to know every one of my students. I look forward to teaching and eventually completing a master's degree.

BECCA EASTMAN

Scott County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.S. Scott Community College 2007

A.A. Scott Community College 2007

In this combined elementary and special education program I learned strategies for special ed students that will also benefit general education students. I know how to have appropriate levels of work for a diverse group of learners in a classroom. I used those strategies in student teaching and hope to have my own classroom in August.

MONIQUE GOMEZ

Scott County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Scott Community College 1999

I learned the value of time management. I have a family with two children and I had to learn time management for my schooling and family. This will benefit me when I try to juggle it all when I become a teacher.

ERICA HUNWARDSEN

Woodbury County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Western Iowa Tech CC 2006

The special education courses in this program further enhanced my abilities to be proactive about providing modifications and accommodations to help all learners succeed. I will definitely teach from the perspective that everyone learns, although learning may not take place at the same time or in the same way for everyone. In time, I hope to obtain a reading endorsement and a masters degree in education.

DENISE HYTHECKER

Scott County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Scott Community College 2005

I think many of the things that we learned in our special education classes helped us better prepare for some of the things we came into contact with in the general education classroom. We had a better understanding of why students were behaving in certain ways and how to help them in the best way possible. I am learning the skills now that I will use later and keep on improving as I become a more experienced teacher.

LAURA BIEDERMANN MILLER

Dubuque County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Northeast Iowa Community College 2004

The ISEE program was wonderful because there is such a need for special education teachers. I think the combination of elementary and special education makes us more marketable and familiar with both options. I especially enjoyed the team building skills we learned and the interactive games we can use to get students involved and to build community in a classroom.

KELLI NEESE

Scott County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Scott Community College 2005

This program has helped me understand students in the general education classroom better and how to meet all their needs, for example through collaboration with classmates. I hope to teach elementary school in Davenport.

HEATHER LYNN NEWTON

Scott County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Scott Community College 2005

One thing I have learned while in this program is to be flexible and use the information and data that I gathered from my students to help guide my instruction and direction of the content and material. By doing this, I can help to ensure that my students will receive the best possible instruction and content that is appropriate for their grade, their abilities, and their individual learning styles and needs.

SHANNON NUMKENA

Scott County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Scott Community College 2005

I will definitely use the information I gained about hands-on learning in the classroom. I know the importance of differentiated instruction, how to teach to the skills students have, and how to alter my teaching strategies for each student.

CLARISSA PAULI

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

Scott County

A.A. Scott Community College 2007

In this program the elementary education and special education classes intertwined through the program so we focused on more than one area at a time. I will definitely use the behavior management information that I used in whatever class I teach.

RACHEL SWANSON-WHALEN

Scott County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.S. Sign Language Interpreting, Scott CC 2003

B.A. General Studies, UNI 2000

These days the general education classroom has one or more students with an IEP. The classes in this program taught us how to meet the needs of all students both with and without IEPs. I plan to teach upper elementary, get a master's degree in deaf education and become a deaf educator.

LINDY LU WEIMERSKIRCH

Jackson County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

A.A. Northeast Iowa Community College 2005

The elementary education and special education classes were focused on the well-being of the students. I learned that not all students learn the same way, so understanding how to teach to all students is important. I have a long-term substitute position starting in February in Dubuque. In a few years, I hope to obtain my masters degree.

CORDAE ELIZABETH WRIGHT

Dubuque County

B.A. Elementary/Special Education, UNI 2007

B.A. Saint Mary's University 1999

More and more students with special needs are being integrated in regular education classrooms. Because of this, I was able to do dual observations in one classroom for both the regular and special education classes. The classes did overlap in content that helped us see all of the connections between regular ed and special ed. I hope to get a job in the Dubuque district.