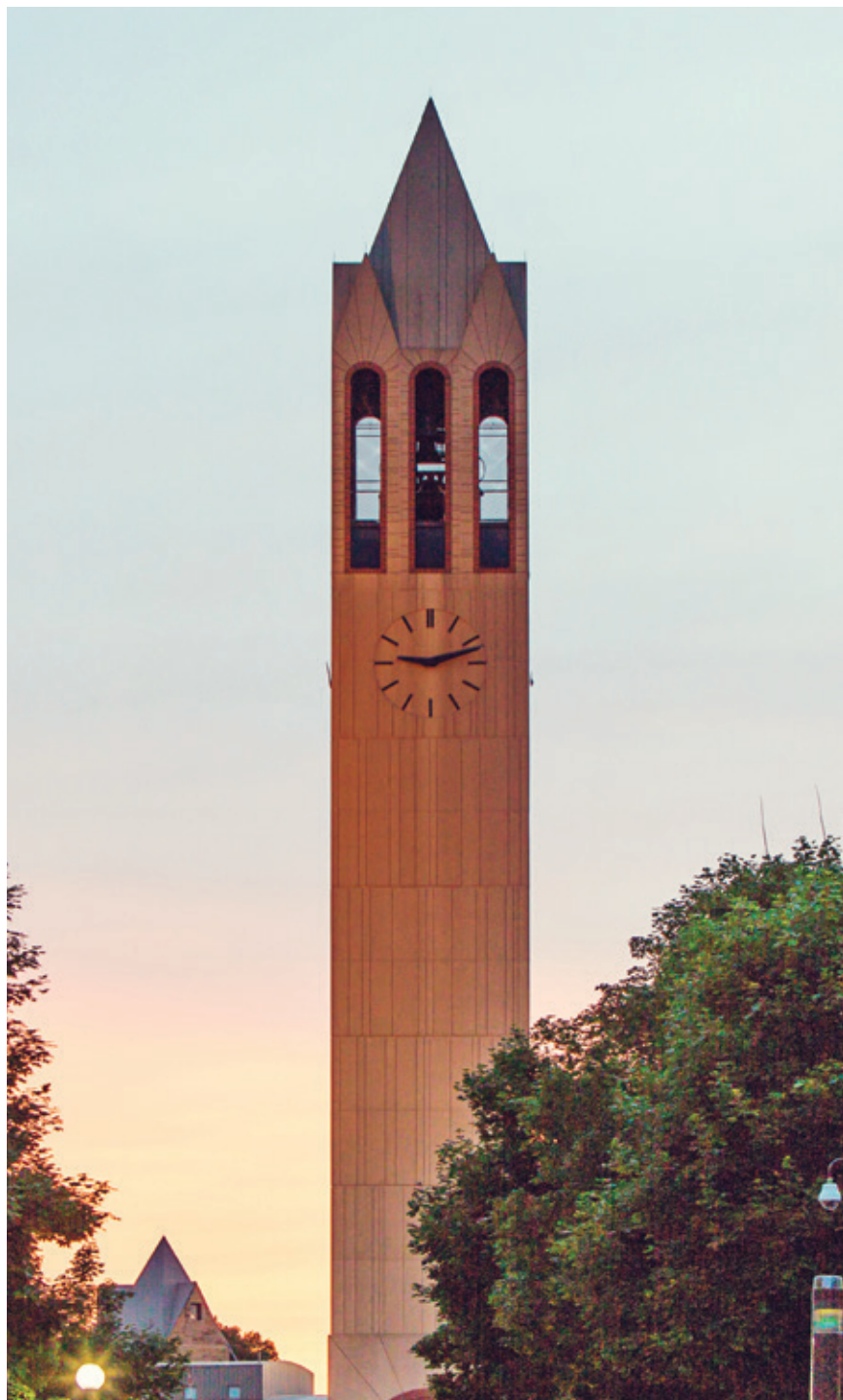




STUDENT HONORS CONVOCATION

APRIL 26, 2024



CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME

Dear Honorees and Attendees,

Today we gather to recognize the accomplishments of our outstanding students. Honors Convocation provides us with the opportunity to celebrate both students' academic achievements and their contributions and service to our university and community. Their independent thinking and demonstration of excellence in scholarship and service is amazing proof of UNO's mission as a metropolitan university.

The biographies within these pages highlight the individual students, but we also recognize that their accomplishments are shared with the family, friends, faculty, and staff who help make that excellence possible. To each of you who have helped support our students: thank you.

To the students we are recognizing today, congratulations! Know that you have earned this recognition with your long hours of study, service, and dedication. Thank you for that effort, because your work – today and in the future – reflects on UNO and builds on our reputation as a leading force in higher education, research, and community engagement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Li', with a large loop on the left and a horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA,
Chancellor

CEREMONY

WELCOME

Ni (Phil) He, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA
Chancellor

AWARDS

Helen Hansen Outstanding Graduate Students

Presented by Juan Casas, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate Studies

National Scholarships and Fellowships

Presented by Lucy Morrison, Ph.D.
Director, University Honors Program

Undergraduate Major Honorees

Presented by college deans

Deans' Awards

Presented by college deans

CHANCELLOR AWARDS

Academic Excellence

Presented by Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA
Chancellor

Outstanding Student Leadership

Presented by Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA
Chancellor

Outstanding Service Learning

Presented by Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA
Chancellor

Excellence in Research or Creative Activity

Presented by Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA
Chancellor

Outstanding Student Athletes

Presented by Adrian Dowell, M.B.A., M.S.S.M.
Vice Chancellor of Athletics

CLOSING

Ni (Phil) He, Ph.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

HELEN HANSEN OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Scholarships are awarded to graduate students who have completed at least 18 hours of graduate work, demonstrated excellence in performance, and have been admitted for candidacy with a grade point average of 3.75 and above.



CARALIN C. BRANSCUM
*Criminology
and Criminal Justice*

Caralin C. Branscum (she/her) received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in criminology and criminal justice from Florida Atlantic University. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) and is on track to defend her dissertation and graduate this May. She is also affiliated with SCCJ's Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab, where she spent three years as the project coordinator for the Minnesota Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Evaluation. Currently, she is a research assistant for the National Institute of Justice. Her research interests include victimology, gender-based violence, and community and system responses to victims of crime. She is also the recipient of UNO's "Helen Hansen Outstanding Graduate Student." Some of her recent work has been published in *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, and *Victims & Offenders*.



KELLIE B. LINDSAY
Economics

Kellie Lindsay (she/her/hers) will receive her master's degree in economics this May. As a graduate student, she significantly contributed to the College of Business Administration's Koraleski Commerce and Applied Behavioral Lab (CAB Lab) as a graduate assistant. She invigorated the CAB Lab's research endeavors through her leadership in two experimental and behavioral economics studies, while also fostering interdisciplinary cooperation with CBA faculty. Her work has already yielded tangible results, with one study being published in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* and another poised for submission following her thesis defense. Her exemplary role in the CAB Lab led to her recruitment and subsequent research fellowship with Gallup. Following graduation, she is excited to join the 2024 cohort of Ph.D. students in economics at the University of Michigan.

UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR HONOREES

Honorees selected by departments in which they are majoring must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.33. They are chosen on the basis of academic achievement in addition to their contributions to the university and the community.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Abby Swoboda*	Molecular & Biomedical Biology
Rachel Hartgerink*	Biology
Aaron Ossino	Black Studies
Grace Tetschner*	Chemistry
Nasteho Mohamud	Economics
Hannah Opp	English
Mia Dempsey	Environmental Studies
Elvin Santiago-Ortiz	Foreign Languages & Literature
Joshua Hennings	Geography
Mercedes Basso	Geology
Megan Streff	History
Elena Tomasello	International Studies
Brenda Sanchez	Latino and Latin American Studies
Ava Rech	Mathematics
Alex Vandenberg*	Medical Humanities
Brandon Villanueva-Sanchez*	Neuroscience
Hunter Skogerboe	Philosophy
Jaidyn Spoon	Physics
Ryan Vilter	Political Science
Olivia Carusi	Psychology
Ben Lundstrom	Religious Studies
Samuel Clark	Sociology
Kate Varilek	Women & Gender Studies

**Denotes Honors Student*



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Flopateer Habib	Legal Studies
Flopateer Habib	Management & Leadership
Ellen Vogltanz	Human Resource Management
Hailey Petri	International Business
Dylan Fedde	Sales
Samantha Parr	Marketing
Samantha Parr	Entrepreneurship
Kyson Warner	Business Finance
Katelin Dittman	Accounting
Matilyn Hronek	Economics
Austin Ward	Logistics & Supply Chain Management
Katelin Russell	Real Estate and Land Use Economics
Kathryn Becker	Investment Science & Portfolio Management
Dante Rossini*	Banking and Financial Markets
Michele Lee	Business Analytics

COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION, FINE ARTS AND MEDIA

Sara Zaleski	Art History
Alyssa Schmitt	Studio Art - BFA
Ashley Fouche	Studio Art - Art Education
Maya Dykstra	Studio Art - BSA
Anna Dorr	Theatre
Sarah Larsen	Creative Writing
Elizabeth Pace	Communication Studies
Emily Nguyen	Journalism and Media Communication
Emma Krehbiel	Music
Yasmine Elrefaie	Music Performance
Quin Sexton	Music Education

**Denotes Honors Student*

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Brooke Covington	Biomechanics
Jacob Skovo-Lane	Kinesiology
Josh Sutton*	Kinesiology
Zoe Miller	Public Health
Paige Peterson	Communication Disorders
Kennedy Bradburn*	Special Education and Elementary Education
Terrill White	Early Childhood Inclusive
Savannah Boedigheimer	Library Science
Kayla Matthews	Elementary Education
Haylee Umble*	Elementary Education
Danielle Ellis	Secondary Education
Agustin Roman	Secondary Education

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Samir Hesham Ali	Bioinformatics
Jacob Braddy*	Cybersecurity
Dianna Sledge	Information Technology and Innovation
Sharon Zimmerman	Management Information Systems
Fredric Shope	Computer Science

**Denotes Honors Student*



COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

KoriAnne Moslander	Gerontology
Badawiya Issifou-Samarou	Multidisciplinary Studies - Gerontology
Nia Wafer	Multidisciplinary Studies - Industrial Distribution and Logistics
Jennifer Lutz	Multidisciplinary Studies - Applied Leadership
Steven Dewald	Multidisciplinary Studies - Sociology
Stephanie Aleman-Maldonado	Molecular & Biomedical Biology
Miranda Barna	Criminology and Criminal Justice
Abigail VanHorn	Criminology and Criminal Justice - UNL
Danielle Peterson	Social Work
Jack Gordon	Emergency Management
Tyler Craft	Aviation-Professional Flight
Joseph Barrios	Aviation-Unmanned Aircraft Systems
Marcus Gross III	Aviation-Air Transport Administration

UNL COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Katie Frey	Architectural Engineering
Rebekah Nelson	Electrical Engineering
Silas Perry	Computer Engineering
Koamivi Sipokpe	Civil Engineering
Brodie Crotts-Hannibal	Environmental Engineering
Haylee Heim	Construction Management
Riley Sedlak	Construction Engineering



DEANS' AWARDS

Award recipients reflect a combination of outstanding scholastic achievement and leadership on campus and in the community. They are selected from the Undergraduate Major Honorees.



ABBY SWOBODA

College of Arts and Sciences

Abigail (Abby) Swoboda (she/her) double majored in molecular and biomedical biology and English with a concentration in creative nonfiction, with minors in chemistry and medical humanities. Swoboda completed research that was endorsed by INBRE and Goldwater fellowships. Swoboda was a course mentor, executive board officer for Women in STEM, and an Honors student ambassador. She is thankful for her support system which includes her family, research mentors, the Honors Program, and the Susan Buffett Foundation's Thompson Learning Community. Swoboda plans to pursue an M.D./Ph.D. which will lead her to a career as a physician scientist.



BROOKE COVINGTON

College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

Brooke Covington graduates this May with a Bachelor of Science in biomechanics. She served as the president of Maverick Productions, a Lead University Ambassador, and is a scoliosis mentor for the organization Scolios-us, where she helps kids with scoliosis across the country and shares her personal scoliosis journey. She has completed 300+ shadowing hours in the field of prosthetics and orthotics at Limb Lab in Omaha and is a full-time student athlete on the UNO Women's Tennis team. She plans to pursue a master's in prosthetics and orthotics at UTSW Medical Center in Texas. She credits her success to her family, mentors, and the Biomechanics Department.



FLOPATEER HABIB

College of Business Administration

Flopateer (Filo) Habib will earn his degree in business administration with concentrations in legal studies, human resources, and management. He has held leadership roles in Delta Chi and Dance Marathon, is a member of the CBA Scholars Academy, and has completed two study abroad programs. At UNO, he conducted legal research on worker classification in the platform economy. Habib has completed internships with Union Pacific, Fiserv, Capital One, and Walt Disney Corporate. He thanks his parents and brother for their continuous support. Upon graduation, he will work as an analyst for Capital One in Washington, D.C. before attending law school.



KORIANNE MOSLANDER

College of Public Affairs and Community Service

KoriAnne Moslander will receive a bachelor's degree in gerontology with a concentration in administration this May. She is a part of the Goodrich Scholarship Program and is an active gerontology ambassador. Following graduation, she will pursue a Ph.D. in gerontology at UNO. Moslander credits her passion for advocating for aging adults to her great-grandparents who inspired and motivated her throughout her life. She greatly appreciates her supporting faculty members who have helped her achieve many things during her collegiate time.



BADAWIYA ISSIFOU-SAMAROU

*College of Public Affairs and Community Service
Division of Continuing Studies*

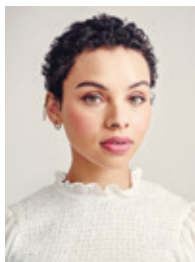
Badawiya Issifou-Samarou will receive a Bachelor of Multidisciplinary Studies with a minor and certificate in gerontology. She credits her achievements to her family, friends, professors, and advisors. She is currently completing a practicum at UNMC's Engage Wellness Medical Fitness Center as a wellness intern promoting healthy aging. With a personal affinity and passion for public health, she is planning to pursue a graduate degree in public health with a focus on epidemiology and health promotion. She plans to work in the health care field and do research on preventive care that positively impacts people and their communities' health.



SAMIR HESHAM ALI

College of Information Science & Technology

Samir (Sam) (he/him) is studying bioinformatics and biomechanics, with minors in computer science and chemistry. His academic journey has been accompanied by an interest in community wellbeing. He currently works as an education instructor for young boys at the NorthStar Foundation, allowing him to foster resilience, teamwork, and personal growth using adventure-based learning. Ali's commitment to community service extends to his aspiration of becoming a firefighter for the city of Omaha.



SARA ZALESKI

College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media

Sara Zaleski (she/they) graduated in December 2023 with a degree in art history and minor in Black studies. During her time at UNO, Zaleski worked as the lead archivist in the UNO Art Gallery and assisted in curating the Print in Color exhibition at the Roberta & Bob Rodgers Gallery. This focus on sharing and celebrating the work of artists of color is integral to all her past and ongoing work. Though she finished her degree online while living in Texas, she is returning to Omaha this spring to partake in the city's growing art community as an artist, curator, and community engagement leader.



KATIE FREY

UNL College of Engineering

Kaitlyn (Katie) Frey is studying architectural engineering with a specialization in mechanical systems. She served as the president of the Architectural Engineering Student Leadership and Advisory Committee where she championed initiatives related to outreach, recruitment, and retention. Through these initiatives, she discovered her passion for making the engineering community feel more inclusive and welcoming. As a Scott Scholar, she volunteered for RISE, a local nonprofit whose mission is to end generational cycles of incarceration through entrepreneurial and interpersonal skills training. Following graduation, she will continue working as a mechanical engineering intern for HDR while pursuing her master's of architectural engineering through the UNL College of Engineering.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

This Award is given based on a combination of outstanding scholastic achievement and demonstrated leadership on campus and in the community. The recipient is selected from the Deans' Award recipients.



FLOPATEER HABIB

College of Business Administration

Flopateer (Filo) Habib will earn his degree in business administration with concentrations in legal studies, human resources, and management. He has held leadership roles in Delta Chi and Dance Marathon, is a member of the CBA Scholars Academy, and has completed two study abroad programs. At UNO, he conducted legal research on worker classification in the platform economy. Habib has completed internships with Union Pacific, Fiserv, Capital One, and Walt Disney Corporate. He thanks his parents and brother for their continuous support. Upon graduation, he will work as an analyst for Capital One in Washington, D.C. before attending law school.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This award recognizes an undergraduate student who has demonstrated exemplary leadership through influential participation in campus organizations and community volunteer work, in addition to scholarly achievement.



AOLANI MICKLES

College of Business Administration

Aolani (Loni) Mickles will graduate this May with a business administration degree, with a concentration in social entrepreneurship, and a minor in Spanish. She was a resident assistant on Dodge Campus, which highlighted her leadership abilities and strong interpersonal skills. Mickles has participated in organizations like UNO's Habitat for Humanity Chapter, Chi Alpha Student Ministries, SAVE, and more. Her future aspirations include pursuing a master's degree in social work and continuously sharing the Good News to encourage and uplift others as well as to serve her community.



CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE LEARNING

This award recognizes a student enrolled in service learning courses who demonstrates reflective practice techniques in coursework, provides outstanding service and maintains an excellent relationship with a community agency, and embraces the philosophy of service learning and community service.



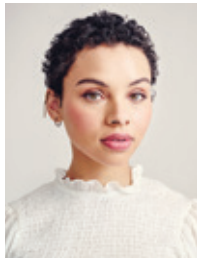
ANNA KOLLMAYER

College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media

Anna Kollmeyer will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Science in communication studies and English. She has worked with the Success Academy/ DASH office as a peer mentor since her sophomore year and was a CFAM Ambassador in the spring of 2023. She is also the president of Lambda Pi Eta, and an active member at the St. John Paul II Newman Center. She has been a volunteer at the Stephen Center, and has also volunteered at the Munroe-Meyer Institute.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH OR CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Selection of recipient is based on a combination of outstanding research or creative activity as demonstrated through scholastic endeavors and achievements. The recipient is selected from the Dean's Award recipients.



SARA ZALESKI

College of Communications, Fine Arts and Media

Sara Zaleski (she/they) graduated in December 2023 with a degree in art history and minor in Black studies. During her time at UNO, Zaleski worked as the lead archivist in the UNO Art Gallery and assisted in curating the Print in Color exhibition at the Roberta & Bob Rodgers Gallery. This focus on sharing and celebrating the work of artists of color is integral to all her past and ongoing work. Though she finished her degree online while living in Texas, she is returning to Omaha this spring to partake in the city's growing art community as an artist, curator, and community engagement leader.



OUTSTANDING STUDENT ATHLETE AWARDS

The Outstanding Student Athlete Award is presented to one male and one female student athlete. Honorees are also selected on the basis of academic and athletic achievement, in addition to their contributions to the university and the community.



LYNSEY TUCKER

College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

Lynsey Tucker will graduate this May with a Bachelor of Science in education with a minor in psychology. She is a part of the UNO softball team as well as an active member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Following graduation, she will be attending PA school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.



MATT MILLER

College of Business Administration

Matt Miller is a senior from Leo, Indiana, and will graduate from the College of Business Administration in this May. With a concentration in entrepreneurship, he has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout his four years at UNO. He was also a member of the UNO Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO club), Maverick Leadership Academy, and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. He has also been a four-year member of the UNO Mavericks Division I Hockey team, and the past two seasons he has been an alternate captain for the team.

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

TAI PRAUNER

Awardee

Barry Goldwater Scholarship

ISABELLE WEBER

Awardee

Barry Goldwater Scholarship

COURTNEY BRINK

Fulbright Recipient

English Teaching Assistant, Germany

_____ and _____

Alternate

Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange

TYLER AYRES

Fulbright Recipient

English Teaching Assistant, Germany

MADDIE FOREMAN

Fulbright Semi-Finalist

Study/Research, Vietnam

AKANKSHYA CHATAUT

Finalist

Rangel Graduate Fellowship

University of Nebraska at Omaha Administration

Joanne Li, Ph.D., CFA, *Chancellor*

Ni (Phil) He, Ph.D., *Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

Adrian Dowell, M.B.A., M.S.S.M., *Vice Chancellor of Athletics*

Carol Kirchner, M.B.A., C.P.A., *Vice Chancellor of Business and Finance*

Rich Klein, Ph.D., *Vice Chancellor of Institutional Effectiveness and Student Success*

Jaci Lindburg, Ph.D., *Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovative and Learning-Centric Initiatives*

Sara Myers, Ph.D. *Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Creative Activity*

Cathy Pettid, M.S., L.M.H.P., *Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Wellbeing, Dean of Students*

Deborah Smith-Howell, Ph.D., *Senior Advisor to the Chancellor*

Bret Blackman, *Chief Information Officer*

Keristiena Dodge, MSc, *Chief of Staff to the Chancellor*

Victoria Kohout, *Chief of External Relations*

A.T. Miller, Ph.D., *Chief Diversity Officer*

Drew Nielsen, *Chief Compliance Officer*

Julie Dierberger, Ph.D., *Chief Engagement Officer,*

Paul Sather Distinguished Director, Service Learning Academy

Lauren Miltenberger, *Vice President for UNO Advancement*

Anthony Flott, M.A., *Executive Director, Alumni Engagement*

The Colleges

Juan Casas, Ph.D.,

Dean for Graduate Studies

Melanie Bloom, Ph.D.,

Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Neal Grandgenett, Ph.D.,

*Interim Dean, College of Education, Health,
and Human Sciences*

Michelle Trawick, Ph.D.,

Dean, College of Business Administration

John Bartle, Ph.D.,

Dean, College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Martha Garcia-Murillo, Ph.D.,

Dean, College of Information Science & Technology

Michael Hilt, Ph.D.,

Dean, College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media

David Richards, MA, MLIS,

Dean, Library Services

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Academic Programs

Lance Pérez, Ph.D., *Dean, College of Engineering*

University of Nebraska Board of Regents

Timothy Clare, J.D.

Jack Stark, Ph.D.

Jim Scheer

Elizabeth O'Connor, J.D.

Robert Schafer, J.D.

Paul Kenney

Kathy Wilmot

Barbara Weitz, MPA, MSW

Student Regents

University of Nebraska at Omaha, Hakim Lotoro

University of Nebraska at Kearney, Temo Molina

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Paul Pechous

University of Nebraska Medical Center, Katie Schultis

University of Nebraska System Administration

Chris Kabourek, M.B.A., *Interim President,*

Senior Vice President for Business & Finance, CFO & Chief Sustainability Officer

Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., *Executive Vice President and Provost*

Stacia Palser, J.D., *Vice President and General Counsel*

Mike Boehm, Ph.D., *Vice President and Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Natural Resources*



The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its education programs or activities, including admissions and employment. The University prohibits any form of retaliation being taken against anyone for reporting discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for otherwise engaging in protected activity. UNO is an AA/EEO/ADA institution. For Title IX concerns, please contact the Title IX Coordinator (phone: 402.554.2120). For ADA/504 accommodations or assistance, please call/contact the ADA/504 Coordinator (phone 402.554.2463) or the Accessibility Services Center (phone: 402.554.2872). The University of Nebraska at Omaha will be taking pictures at this event for use in advertising and other promotional materials, whether in print, electronic, or other media. 0052PRGMMC0424