

IOWA

College of Education
UI REACH Program

**UI REACH
CONVOCAATION
CEREMONY**

2022

Friday, May 6, 2022

4:30 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott

902 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, Iowa

UI REACH

Realizing Educational and Career Hopes

OUR VISION

Empowered and self-directed individuals who are included in communities that embrace people of all abilities



OUR MISSION

Cultivating individualized supports and opportunities that promote advocacy and success in everyday life

UI REACH History

The request for an innovative college program for youth with multiple learning and other disabilities was initiated in 2005 by former Iowa Lt. Governor Sally Pederson. Ms. Pederson proposed the idea to UI President David Skorton and UI Executive Vice President Michael Hogan, who commissioned the Vernon Research Group to complete a feasibility study in 2006. Findings of the study were presented to the Iowa Board of Regents who endorsed the program and recommended a start date of 2008. The University of Iowa REACH (Realizing Educational and Career Hopes) program was designed to provide an integrated college experience at a BIG 10 University for students with learning and cognitive disabilities, empowering them to be independent, engaged and contributing members of their communities. The first UI REACH class began in 2008 with 18 students enrolled, and the first graduating class was celebrated in 2010. UI REACH celebrated its ten-year anniversary in 2018 and as of today, has graduated a total of 215 young adults who are now living, working, and thriving in their communities of choice across the US. UI REACH has received several notable awards including: 2008 Iowa City Chamber of Commerce Innovation Award and the 2018 DCDT Marc Gold Innovative Practices in Transition Award.

UI REACH is housed in The UI College of Education and receives unparalleled support from Dean Daniel Clay. The University of Iowa has completely embraced the program, and our many campus partners contribute daily to our longevity and success. UI REACH has been blessed to have many dedicated staff, who work tirelessly to support each student to achieve their potential. Because of our growth, this year we added new talent and expertise to our staff and expanded student support hours. The launch of Person-Centered Planning and Student Support Teams has continued the individualized student focus of the program. Over the past year we achieved record enrollment and we are positioned to exceed current enrollment in the Fall of 2022. We are forever grateful to former directors, Dr. Dennis C. Harper, Dr. Jo Hendrickson, Dr. Pam Ries and Dr. Deborah Carr for their contributions to the program since its inception.

Beyond tuition, UI REACH is made possible by the generous support of many individual and corporate donors. Their support ensures financial aid for many students who would not otherwise be able to attend and provides much needed investments for the program's continued growth. Please consider a contribution today in honor of our alumni, current graduating class, returning students and new students who are yet to become a part of the UI REACH family.

UI REACH Convocation

Friday, May 6, 2022, 4:30 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott, Iowa City, Iowa

National Anthem	"The Star Spangled Banner"
Processional	"Pomp and Circumstance"
Welcome	William Loyd, Jr., Director UI REACH
Introduction of President Wilson	Dr. Daniel L. Clay, Dean UI College of Education
Remarks from UI Leadership	Dr. Barbara Wilson, President University of Iowa
Guest Speaker	Andre Perry, Director of Arts, Engagement and Inclusion Interim Director, Hancher Auditorium, University of Iowa
Introduction of Student Speaker	Alona Staab, UI REACH Graduate Class of 2022
Student Speaker	Theodore J. Suess V, UI REACH Graduate Class of 2022
Recognition of Students	William Loyd, Jr., Director UI REACH
Recommendation for Certification and Address to Graduating Class of 2022	Dr. Daniel L. Clay, Dean UI College of Education
Reflections and Farewell	Carrie Graunke, UI REACH Graduate Class of 2022
Recessional	"The Iowa Fight Song"

White Stole—Member of UI REACH Student Council

Gold Cord - National Career Readiness Certificate, ACT WorkKeys Gold Level

Silver Cord - National Career Readiness Certificate, ACT WorkKeys Silver Level

Bronze Cord - National Career Readiness Certificate, ACT WorkKeys Bronze Level

UI REACH Class of 2022



Robbie Axline

North Liberty, Iowa
UI REACH - 4 Years



Jack Devlin

Toronto, Quebec
UI REACH - 4 Years



Madison Dolliff

Excelsior, Michigan
UI REACH - 3 Years



Skylar Glandon

Scottsdale, Arizona
UI REACH - 3 Years



Edmund Grant, IV

Clarinda Hills, Illinois
UI REACH - 3 Years



Carolyn Graunke

Chicago, Illinois
UI REACH - 3 Years



Jennifer Jex

Carmel, Indiana
UI REACH - 5 Years



Michael Maigaard

Clive, Iowa
UI REACH - 2 Years



Ava Mondì

Chicago, Illinois
UI REACH - 3 Years

UI REACH Class of 2022



April Olson

Knoxville, Iowa
UI REACH - 3 Years



Griffin Ranney

Council Bluffs, Iowa
UI REACH - 3 Years



Alexander Senanou

Plainfield, Illinois
UI REACH - 3 Years



Dalton Sichterman

Muscatine, Iowa
UI REACH - 3 Years



Alona Staab

Metamora, Illinois
UI REACH - 2 Years



Theodore J. Suess V

King of Prussia, Pennsylvania
UI REACH - 4 Years



Adam Weber

Chicago, Illinois
UI REACH - 2 Years



Joshua Williams

Clyde Hill, Washington
UI REACH - 4 Years



Drew Yost

St Louis, Missouri
UI REACH - 3 Years

UI REACH COHORTS & GRADUATE CAREER FOCUS AREAS (CFA) 2021-2022

* 2022 graduate

First Year Students

Joshua Baker	Christopher Berdecia
Brien Boland	Isaiah Cornell
Aaron Dunn	Alex Finch
Matthew Fonley	Anne Garcia
Michelle Gibori	Zoe Graham
Isabelle Jakubowski	Ethan Jones
Maddy LaPrade	Reese Murray
Lyric Nolin	Lily O'Brien
Cooper Reaves	Zoe Stamps
Kenady Weaver	

Second Year Students

Mia Able	Annika Almquist
Meg Barinka	Christopher Boyle
Drew Chesney	Adam Conner
Sam Crowe	Shane Esposito
Emily Garrelts	Sebastien Janelle
John Glascock	*Michael Maigaard
Dylan Miller	Alexander Mittelstadt
Connor Muston	Aaron Petrie
Blake Roettger	*Alona Staab, CFA: Animal Care
Charlie Streicher	Janson Turner
Casey Ursich	Ashley Vavak
Evan Wallace	*Adam Weber, CFA: Health Services
Finn Wicklow	

Third Year Students

John D'Angelo	*Madison Dolliff, CFA: Education/Business Support
*Skylar Glandon, CFA: Animal Care	*Edmund Grant IV, CFA: Fine Arts, Music Education
Leah Harrington	*Carolyn Graunke, CFA: Culinary Arts
*Ava Mondì, CFA: Education	Binh Nguyen
*April Olson, CFA: Education	*Griffin Ranney, CFA: Animal Care
*Alex Senanou	*Dalton Sichterman, CFA: Skilled Trades
Andrew Whitehead	*Drew Yost

Fourth Year Students

*Robert Axline, CFA: Security / Sports & Recreation	*Jack Devlin, CFA: Sports & Recreation
*Jennifer Jex, CFA: Health Services /Education	*Theodore J. Suess V, CFA: Information Technology
*Joshua Williams	

UI REACH Staff 2021-2022

Academic Staff

Jordan Immerfall, UI REACH Academic Coordinator

Amanda Kunkel, UI REACH Senior Program Specialist, Instructional Strategist

Gianna Marshall, UI REACH Educational Support Services Associate

Jenny McGinn, UI REACH Program Specialist

Jordan Willits, UI REACH Senior Program Specialist

Careers and Internships Staff

Jennifer Cremers, UI REACH Career Development/Transition Coordinator

Erin Birkenholtz, UI REACH Program Specialist

Tim Dolson, UI REACH Careers Program Specialist

Brett Koenig, UI REACH Educational Support Services Specialist, Job Developer

Michael Petkewec, UI REACH Senior Program Specialist, Recruitment

Mary Patton, UI REACH Program Specialist

Student Life Staff

Amy Vander Busard, UI REACH Student Life Coordinator

Kendal Best, UI REACH Program Specialist

Anne Crooks, UI REACH Educational Support Services Specialist

Kelsey Friday, UI REACH Program Specialist

Adam Miller, Senior Program Specialist

Student and Alumni Support Staff

Kim Hanrahan, UI REACH Student Support Coordinator

Kate Fox, UI REACH Student Support Specialist

Brian Campbell, UI REACH Alumni Support Coordinator

Office Administration

Jim Verry, UI REACH Office Administrator

Olivia Frick, UI REACH Office Support Staff

Erica Kaldenberg, UI REACH Associate Research Scientist

Barb Mueller, UI REACH Admissions Coordinator

UI REACH Director

William Loyd, Jr.

The logo for the University of Iowa, featuring the word "IOWA" in a bold, gold, serif font.

Congratulations Class of 2022!

Messages to our Graduates from the UI REACH Staff

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” Arthur Ashe, and “Congratulations and may you have a bright future ahead!” - **Michael Petkewec**

“Class of 2022, way to hang in there and finish strong! Your perseverance and determination will continue to serve you well into the future. You all have worked so hard and have accomplished so much. Give each day all you have got. Most importantly, tend to your friendships, love your family, and be kind to yourself. I am so proud of you and keep on REACHING.” - **Erica Kaldenberg**

“All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them.” – Walt Disney (**submitted by Jordan Willits**)

“Congratulations to the Class of 2022! It was a joy to teach, advise, and support while you were here. I know you will continue to grow, overcome challenges, and accomplish BIG things in the months & years to come..” - **Amanda Kunkel**

“Do what you can with all you have, wherever you are.” - Theodore Roosevelt (**submitted by Brett Koenig**)

“Congratulations, class of 2022! It has been the greatest joy learning from you, working with you and teaching you these last two years. I am proud of your accomplishments and your perseverance through challenges you've faced. I appreciate your energy and enthusiasm that you brought to class each day. I am looking forward to seeing your goals and dreams come to life!” - **Gianna Marshall**

“My advice to you is a quote from Richard Bach who said, “You are always free to change your mind and choose a different future, or a different past.. Keep dreaming, trying new things, and changing your mind to fit what YOU want for your life. Congrats!” - **Erin Birkenholtz**

“Congratulations! We enjoyed being part of your journey and can't wait to hear about the next steps in your adventure. All the best – cheers!” - **Jordan Immerfall**

“Good luck to you in the future, challenge yourself, stay in contact with friends, and remember you will always be part of the UI REACH and Hawkeye family!” - **Amy Vander Busard**

“Hakuna Matata” - Simba, Lion King (**submitted by Jim Verry**)

“Congratulations! You did it! I am so proud of each and every one of you. As you begin looking forward to your next adventure, know that each of you have left an impact on the Iowa City community: UI REACH, and the University of Iowa. We are better because you were here.” - **Jenny McGinn**

Congratulations! You did it! You are officially a college graduate!! I am so proud of you and everything you have accomplished here! Good luck with everything in your bright future! – **Kelsey Friday**

“Your story has just begun. We can't wait to read Chapter 2!” - **Brian Campbell**

“I am so proud of each and every one of you graduates! I cannot wait to hear about your future success. Don't forget to come back and visit us.” - **Adam Miller**

“Congratulations! The world is and will be changed for all the better because you are in it. Continue advocating for yourself, your peers, and the changes you wish to see made. You have the power to alter the status quo. It has been a privilege to work with and know you this year, may all your dreams come true.” - **Mary Patton**

“You are always free to change your mind and choose a different future, or a different past. Keep dreaming, trying new things, and changing your mind to fit what YOU want for your life.” – Richard Bach - (**submitted by Erin Birkenholtz**)

Keep in Touch Graduates!

UI REACH—College of Education

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Iowa City, IA 52242

319.384.2127 - reach@uiowa.edu

<https://linktr.ee/uireach>

UI REACH Advisory Board

Thomas W. Schnack, Chair
Board of Trustees, Groves Academy

Deborah Carr
Collaborative Pianist,
Columbia College

Chris Costa
President/Chief Officer,
Knapp Properties

Daniel L. Clay
Dean,
UI College of Education

Daniel McGregor Huyer
UI Current Student,
UI REACH Alumni

Susan Sheinkop, MD
Pediatrician, Libertyville, IL

Barbara Stennes
Management Consultant

Patricia Walker, MD
Dermatologist and
Pharmaceutical Industry Veteran

Derrick Willis
Director, UI Center for Excellence in
Developmental Disabilities

Tony Williams
Chairman,
W2A's

Eric Wilmer
Director, Scholarship America
Partner Solutions

Congratulations to all UI REACH graduates and families! You have much to celebrate at this great life milestone. We look forward to hearing from you all and especially all our graduates accomplishments in the future!

Thank you for being a part of our UI REACH family!



Acknowledgements

We wish to thank our many volunteers, community and campus partners.

UI REACH Resident Assistants

Alexis Folkers Mary Clare Greer Carson Heckman

UI REACH Interns

Emma Elceser Kylie Watson

UI REACH Academic Associates

Anne Argo	Rebecca Bargamian	Hanna Baysinger
Brianna Brodeur	Isaac Fekkether	McKenzie Fahrni
Erin Gilbert	Charlotte Hilker	Kiara Johnson
Brianna Jones	Karina Navarro	Bree Neyland
Delaney Norris	Caitlan Peterson	Amritha Selvarajaguru
Gina Sobecki	Kerry Wochnik	

UI REACH Mentors

Grace AbouAssaly	Katherine Blakeley	Alexis Brandlin
Kalli Brisker	Samantha Corso	Claire Fay
Megan Hilliard	Madalyn Holmstedt	Chloe Kapparos
Emily Klement	Darby Marsh	Kylene Spanbauer

Regan Trexel

UI REACH Student Office Support Staff

Olivia Frick

Convocation Video and Photographers

Danny McGregor-Huyer	Nicholas Tomlonovic
UI REACH Alum and Current UI Student	UI Strategic Communications Consultant

Volunteer Committees

UI REACH Advisory Board	UI REACH Scholarship Committee
UI REACH Extend Committee	

A Special Thanks to:

Dr. Barbara Wilson, UI President
Andre Perry, Director of Art, UI Vice President of UI Diversity Equity and Inclusion
Dr. Daniel L. Clay, Dean, College of Education
Dr. Elizabeth Tovar, Associate VP Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
UI Campus Partners
Courtyard by Marriott, Iowa City, Iowa

EMPLOYER RECOGNITION

New Partnerships



BTN Student U
Center for Advancement- IT
College of Education- Dean's Office
College of Education- Raptor Project
Devlin Family Cafe
Hilton Garden Inn
Legacy Pointe Senior Living
NAMI Johnson County- R Place
Proofreading Pal
UI Athletics- Marketing & Fan Engagement
UI Athletics- Strength & Conditioning
UI Athletics- Facilities
UI Athletics- Women's Soccer
UI CRWC- Maintenance

UI Department of Public Safety
UI Human Resources
UI Pentacrest Museums
UI Theatre Department Scene Shop
UI Hospitals & Clinics- Material Services
UI Hospitals & Clinics- Guest Services
UI Office of Animal Resources
VA Hospital- Extended Care Clinic
Walgreens
Wilson's Orchard & Farm

Continued Partnerships



Access 2 Independence
ACT
City Channel 4*
Coralville Recreation Center*
Courtyard by Marriott Iowa City University Heights*
Crowded Closet*
Express- Coralridge Mall*
Food for Thought Cafe
Golf USA*
Habitat for Humanity RESTORE*
Handicare Inc.*
Hyatt Place Downtown
Hyvee- 1st Avenue*
Iowa Book
Iowa Children's Museum
Iowa City Grantwood AEA*
Iowa City Community School District
Iowa City VA Hospital*
Little Angels Learning Center*
North Dodge Athletic Club
Petland*
Second Life Technology*
Sweets & Treats*
UI Athletics- Crewhawk
UI Campus Dining & Retail*

UI Campus Rec Services*
UI ETS
UIHC Center for Disabilities and Development
UI Library*
UI Maintenance*
UI School of Music- Hawkeye Marching Band
University Scooters

*Recognition for long-time partnership, multiple intern commitment, and job shadow opportunities.