### **UI REACH Convocation Ceremony Program 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 Statement:**Empowered and self-directed individuals who are included in communities that embrace people of all abilities.

**Our MISSION Statement:**
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 is Friday, May 6, 2022, 4:30 p.m. Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Iowa City, Iowa.

Convocation Program
National Anthem The Star Spangled Banner
Processional March 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, 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 Class of 2022 Dr. Daniel L. Clay, Dean UI College of Education
Reflections and Farewell Carrie Graunke, UI REACH Graduate Class of 2022
Recessional March The Iowa Fight Song

UI REACH 2022 Graduates: 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 Mondi, Chicago, Illinois, UI REACH- 3 Years, 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 Year, 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,

First Year Students In UI REACH This Academic Year: Joshua Baker, Christopher Berdecia, Brien Boland, Isaiah Cornell, Alex Finch, Anne Garcia, Michelle Gibori, Zoe Graham, Isabelle Jakubowski, Ethan Jones, Maddy LaPrade, Reese Murray, Lyric Nolin, Lily O’Brien, Cooper Reaves, Zoee Stamps, Kenady Weaver,

Second Year Students In UI REACH This Academic Year: Mia Able, Annika Almquist, Meg Barinka, Christopher Boyle, Drew Chesney, Adam Conner, Sam Crowe, Shane Esposito, Emily Garrelts, John Glascock, Sebastien Janelle, Michael Maigaard, Dylan Miller, Alex Mittelstadt, Conor 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, Evan Wallace, Finn Wicklow

Third Year Students In UI REACH This Academic Year: John D’Angelo, Skylar Glandon, CFA: Animal Care, Leah Harrington, Ava Mondi, CFA: Education, April Olson, CFA: Education, Alex Senanou, Madison Dolliff, CFA: Education/Business Support, Edmund Grant: CFA: Fine Arts, Music Education, Carolyn Graunke, CFA: Culinary Arts, Binh Nguyen, Griffin Ranney, CFA: Animal Care, Drew Yost

Fourth Year Students in UI REACH Program This Academic Year: 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

Our UI REACH 2021-2022 Staff:
Academic Team: Jordan Immerfall, UI REACH Academic Coordinator Amanda Kunkel, UI REACH Senior Program Specialist and Instructional Strategist, Gianna Marshall, UI REACH Educational Support Services Associate, Jenny McGinn, UI REACH Program Specialist and Jordan Willits, UI REACH Senior Program Specialist.
The Career and Internship Staff include Jennifer Cremers, UI REACH Career Development/Transition Coordinator, Erin Birkenholtz, UI REACH Program Specialist, Tim Dolson, UI REACH Program Specialist, Brett Koenig, UI REACH Educational Support Services Specialist and Job Developer, Michael Petkewec, UI REACH Senior Program Specialists and Recruitment and Mary Patton, UI REACH Program Specialist. The UI REACH Student Life Team include Amy Vander Busard, UI REACH Student Life Coordinator, Kendal Best, UI REACH Program Specialist, Annie Crooks, UI REACH Educational Support Services Specialist, Kelsey Friday, UI REACH Program Specialist and Adam Miller, Senior Program Specialist. The Student Support Team include Kim Hanrahan, UI REACH Student Support Coordinator and Kate Fox, UI REACH Student Support Specialist. UI REACH Alumni Support Coordinator is Brian Campbell. Our UI REACH Office Staff include Jim Verry, Office Administrator, Olivia Frick, UI REACH Student Office Support Staff, Erica Kaldenberg, UI REACH Associate Research Scientist, and Barb Mueller, UI REACH Admissions Coordinator. William, Bill, Loyd is the UI REACH Program Director.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! The following messages are to UI REACH Graduates from our UI REACH Staff:
“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” Arthur Ashe. Submitted by Michael Petkewec

Congratulations and may you have a bright future ahead!” Submitted by 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.” Submitted by 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.” Submitted by 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!” Submitted by 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!” Submitted by 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!” Submitted by 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! Submitted by 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.” Submitted by 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!” Submitted by Kelsey Friday

“Your story has just begun. We can’t wait to read Chapter 2!” – Submitted by 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 me.” Submitted by 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.” submitted by 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! Be sure to contact us at:
UI REACH, College of Education
S229 Lindquist Center
Iowa City, IA 52242
319.384.2127
reach@uiowa.edu
<https://linktr.ee/uireach>

Thank you to our UI REACH Board of Directors:
Thomas W. Schnack, Chair of UI REACH Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, Groves Academy
Deborah Carr, Collaborative Pianist at Columbia College

Chris Costa, President/Chief Officer, Knapp Properties
Daniel L. Clay, Dean of the 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

Tony Williams, Chairman, W2A’s
Derrick Willis, Director, UI Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
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 about all of your accomplishments in the future!
Thank you for being a part of our UI REACH family!

We wish to thank:
Our UI REACH Resident Assistants: Alexis Folkers, Mary Clare Greer and Carson Heckman.
Our UI REACH Interns: Emma Elceser, Kylie Watson.
Our UI REACH Academic Associates: Anne Argo, Rebecca Bargamian, Hanna Baysinger, Brianna Brodeur, Isaac Fettkether, McKenzie Fahrni, Erin Gilbert, Charlotte Hilker, Kiara Johnson, Brianna Jones, Karina Navarro, Bree Neyland, Delaney Norris, Caitlan Peterson, Amritha Selvarajaguru, Gina Sobecki, Kerry Wochnik.
Our 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.
Our Reach Student Office Support Staff: Olivia Frick.
Our Convocation Video and Photography staff: Danny McGregor-Huyer and Nicholas Tomlonovic
Our Volunteer Committees: UI REACH Advisory Board, UI REACH Scholarship, and UI REACH Extend Committee.

A special thank-you to: our UI President, Dr. Barbara Wilson, to Andre Perry, Director of Art, UI Vice President of UI Diversity Equity and Inclusion along with Dr. Daniel L. Clay, Dean of the College of Education, Dr. Elizabeth Tovar, the Associate VP Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, all of our UI Campus Partners, Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Iowa City, Iowa and our UI Campus Partners.

Employer Recognition:
Thank you to our NEW Internship Partners: BTN Student U, UI Department of Public Safety, Center for Advancement, IT, UI Human Resources, College of Education, Dean’s Office, UI Pentacrest Museums, College of Education Raptor Project, UI Theatre Department Scene Shop, Devlin Family Café, UI Hospitals and clinics Material Services. Hilton Garden Inn, UI Hospitals and Clinics Guest Services, Legacy Pointe Senior Living, UI Office of Animal Resources, NAMI Johnson County R Place, VA Hospital Extended Care Clinic, Proofreading Pal, Walgreens, UI Athletics Marketing and Fan Engagement, Wilson’s Orchard and Farm, UI Athletics Strength and Conditioning, UI Athletics Facilities, UI Athletics Women’s Soccer, UI CRWC Maintenance.

Thank you to our continued partnerships with: Access 2 Independence, ACT, City Channel 4, Coralville recreation Center, Courtyard by Marriott Iowa City, Crowded Closet, express Coral Ridge Mall, Food for Thought Café, Golf USA, Habitat for Humanity RESTORE, Handicare Inc., Hyatt Place Iowa City, UI Campus Rec Services, Hy-Vee First Avenue, UI ETS, UIHC Center for Disabilities and Development, Iowa Book, UI Library, Iowa Children’s Museum, UI Maintenance, Iowa City Grant Wood AEA, UI School of Music Hawkeye Marching Band, Iowa City Community School District, University Scooters, Iowa City VA Hospital, Little Angels Learning Center, North dodge Athletic Club, Petland, Second Life Technology, Sweets and Treats, UI Athletics Crewhawk, UI Campus Dining and Retail.

And a Final Thank You to our many, many volunteers, throughout our community and campus partners this year.