

June 30, 2015

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students:

As the 2014-15 fiscal year comes to a close I would like to highlight with you from the Deans Office a few of this year's College of Education and Human Development faculty accomplishments.

- Cindy Juntunen, a full professor in the Department of Counseling Psychology and Community Services was awarded the UND Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor. This professorship is the highest academic honor granted at UND and Dr. Juntunen is the 8th Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor from the College of Education and Human Development. See <http://webapp.und.edu/dept/our/uletter/?p=54261> for more details.
- This year the College of Education & Human Development's Online M.S. in Special Education and the Instructional Design and Technology Master's degree were ranked among the 30 Best Online Graduate Degree Programs by TheBestSchools.org. The Master of Arts in Counseling- K-12 School Emphasis was ranked #3 by Best Counseling Schools (<http://www.bestcounselingschools.com/top/online-counseling-degrees/>).
- EHD now has a fully operational grants and contracts office with a full-time grants and contracts specialist, Kim Keeley. Our extramural grant funding in 2014-15 will be just over \$2 million dollars, an all-time high for EHD. I anticipate in the coming year that the Bureau of Educational Services and Research (BESAR) will become an integral part of the college-level grants and contracts facilitation infrastructure to assist faculty in developing and refining their research and analysis capability for applied research project funding. The EHD faculty should be congratulated on their excellent work in furthering their expertise and scholarly agendas in effectively seeking and securing external dollar support from some of the highest regarded national funding agencies and foundations in the United States.
- The EHD Teacher Education program received notification this past week that our College has been re-accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The Legacy NCATE Site visit team highlighted our excellent resident teacher program, on-line reading and special education offerings, and that our students were highly satisfied with their learning and field placement experiences. Thanks to all those who supported this effort and for the work that went into this essential re-accreditation process.

- The College of Education and Human Development building was approved for \$155,000 in active learning classroom and distance education technology facility enhancement. These technology upgrades will be in place to begin the 2015-16 academic year. These will have a positive impact on the College of Education and the HYSLOP buildings.
- EHD has initiated a draft of key priority areas in teaching, research, and service to guide our 2015-16 EHD strategic planning which I will be presenting as the Fall 2015 Academic Year begins.
- Our College through the Department of Teaching and Learning in partnership with the Colleges of Arts & Sciences and College of Engineering & Mines a very promising collaborative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) initiative. This initiative engages a partnership with the Grand Forks Public School. Among the outcomes of this initiative already achieved this year was National Science Foundation EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) start-up funding. An EHD, A&S, and Engineering faculty workgroup recently submitted a grant to the National Science Foundation for \$800,000 to infuse computer programming skills education within the secondary public school curriculum. Facility in computer programming is a foundational workforce skill. This will project will greatly enhance North Dakota public school student college readiness.
- This has been a “**banner**” year for alumni donations. When I arrived as Dean our College of EHD was averaging \$600,000 dollars annually in alumni donations. This year, the highest level of alumni donations in at least five years, was achieved at just over \$2 million. I want to thank the Alumni Association Foundation and Jay Erickson, our EHD Alumni Gifts Officer, for working with our outstanding and deeply committed alumni donors to make this possible. This level of alumni giving, as it is sustained, will have a substantial positive impact on our academic programs, undergraduate and graduate student support, and will further enhance our EHD faculty infrastructure and the capability of our College to extend its reach across the State of North Dakota. Our new baseline alumni donation level is now set at \$2 million dollars annually.

There are many additional successes that I will highlight in these twice yearly announcements. An abbreviated letter will go to all of our alumni and friends to keep them apprised of our EHD successes and thank them for supporting EHD, its students, staff, faculty, programs, and initiatives.

Sharing with you our ongoing College of Education and Human Development successes in the upcoming year is one of the unique privileges I have as Dean. Keep a close eye on our webpage where these letters will be archived and a comprehensive listing within and across our Departments of EHD are showcased.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert D. Hill".

Robert D. Hill, Dean