

FINAL MINUTES

UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association

12.12.2023

Submitted by Kim Hachiya. Approved as submitted by the ERA Board of Directors, Dec. 14, 2023.

The UNL Emeriti and Retirees Association met at the Cornhusker Marriott hotel at a Dec. 12, 2023, luncheon co-hosted by UNL Chancellor Rodney Bennett, the NU Foundation, and the UNL Alumni Association. Approximately 165 individuals registered for the luncheon.

Association President Linda Major opened the luncheon at 11:45 a.m. by introducing Chancellor Bennett. He talked about how every journey encounters peaks and valleys. He reflected on his first six months as chancellor, stated his appreciation for the association's support of the university, thanked the group for the endowed scholarship, and challenged the group to focus on the future despite current "valleys." Bennett noted that studies have indicated that students who drop out usually cite financial need, and that for some, as little as \$300 can be insurmountable so the ERA scholarships will prove tremendously useful for the recipients.

Linda read the memory moments list since November:

- JC Cranfill, Extension
- Donna Fleming, University Libraries
- Paul Hay, Extension
- Suzanne Kirkland, College of Law
- Wanda Mowry, Extension

Earl Hawkey said that the scholarship goal was \$60,000 and as of that morning, the balance was a little over \$59,000. He noted that we started our efforts in Fall 2021.

Bill Johnson, senior VP for Development with the NU Foundation, told us of his pride that six members of his family, including himself, are UNL graduates. He recounted how a perceptive academic counselor in Teachers College steered him onto the right academic path. Johnson said that the current campaign, Only in Nebraska, has surpassed \$1 billion of its \$1.5 billion goal. The goal is to reach 95,000 discrete donors, with 90,000 having donated so far.

The campaign has three priorities:

Student Access and Success: this campaign has so far funded 764 scholarships across all four campuses, including more than 400 at UNL alone. (\$976 million)

Faculty and Clinical Excellence: this campaign so far has endowed 69 professorships across all campuses, including 31 at UNL alone. (\$612 million)

Information and Innovation Excellence: this campaign has raised \$475 million.

He thanked the group for its work in laying the foundation for success.

Shelley Zaborowski, executive director of the UNL Alumni Association, presented the Doc Elliott Award to Julie Johnson, professor emerita, Child, Youth and Family Studies. The award recognizes the ongoing contributions of a retired faculty member. In responding to the award, Julie said "I was just doing what I love to do." She also noted that working with a team of individuals who have a common goal and care about what they are doing is key to success.

Pat Crews publicly awarded the Wisherd Awards. While the recipients were announced in September, they were honored at this luncheon. Recipients are: Julie Johnson for Outstanding Community Service; Jake Kirkland, retired assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Outstanding Service to UNL; Alison Steward, emerita, Art and Art History, research grant to defray expenses related to study of renaissance art in Germany; and Julie Thomas, emerita, Child, Youth and Family Studies, to defray expenses of studying how adults' connections to nature influence young children.

Linda closed the meeting by thanking outgoing board members Lloyd Ambrosius and Alice Henneman, introducing the new leadership team, and passing the gavel to Larry Dlugosh, president, who closed the meeting.