

Welcome to Northern Illinois University

Higher Learning Commission
Comprehensive Evaluation Peer Review Visit
March 2024



Northern Illinois
University



Dr. Lisa C. Freeman



Northern Illinois
University

Dear esteemed members of the
Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Team,

On behalf of Northern Illinois University (NIU), it is my great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each of you. We are deeply honored to host this comprehensive evaluation, and eager to showcase the inclusive, engaged and student-centric community that is NIU.

Through our visit preparations, we reflected on our institution's accomplishments and areas for growth. We were continuously reminded of the incredible dedication and talent of our faculty, staff and students. NIU has long been committed to fostering an environment of excellence in research, artistry, teaching and outreach, and I am confident that you will witness the fruits of these efforts as you interact with members of our NIU campus community.

Allow me to highlight some bright spots of which we are particularly proud.

Student Support and Success: At NIU, we are committed to matching talent with opportunity. We meet students where they are and ensure they have the resources needed to achieve their goals and reach their full potential. With financial and academic advising, experiential learning opportunities and a wide range of support services, we invest deeply in equipping our students with the skills they will need to thrive.

Faculty Teaching, Research and Artistry: NIU faculty members are at the forefront of research and artistry in fields such as climate, jazz, relationships and entrepreneurship. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and a commitment to addressing real-world challenges, NIU researchers are making meaningful contributions and bringing the latest advancements and insights to their NIU classrooms.

Diversity and Inclusion: Diversity is one of NIU's greatest strengths. It enriches our intellectual community and inspires innovation. Through programs, policies and offices, we celebrate and support the intersectional identities present within each member of our campus community, foster inclusivity and promote respect and equitable treatment.

Community Engagement: We take pride in creating meaningful partnerships that allow talented NIU students and faculty to work with external stakeholders toward a shared vision. Whether through service-learning, volunteer opportunities or partnerships with local organizations, we are dedicated to making a meaningful impact locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

As you conduct your review of NIU, I am confident our faculty, staff and students will share the many facets of our institution that make it truly special. Your insights and feedback will be invaluable as we continue to strive for excellence and fulfill our mission of providing a world-class education to our students.

Once again, welcome to NIU. Thank you for your dedication to excellence in higher education, and we look forward to the meaningful conversations and collaborations that lie ahead.

Sincerely,

Lisa C. Freeman
President
Northern Illinois University

Dear members of the Higher Learning Commission,

We are excited to welcome you to the campus of Northern Illinois University! We hope you will enjoy your time on campus and in our DeKalb community.

We are proud of our status as an accredited Higher Learning Commission institution and are continually striving to provide valuable opportunities to our students as a university committed to empowering students through educational excellence and experiential learning.

Some of the highlights from this academic year include:

- Helping students succeed by making math an interactive and more understandable subject. Our Mathematics Assistance Center offers tutoring, study strategies and test-taking tips to students in a relaxed setting. No appointment is required, and the positive and relaxed environment has proven successful in growing students' confidence in their abilities to learn new concepts.
- Giving our students a voice by teaching them how to effectively communicate in a way that empowers them, as part of our COMS 100 course required for all undergraduates. We teach students how to advocate and speak up for themselves, while enhancing their communications skills for their personal and professional benefit.
- Partnering with Braven to offer UNIV 301: Braven Leadership and Career Accelerator, a course that prepares students for their career, offers leadership coaching, helps them build a professional network, provides access to internship opportunities and matches them with experts in their field.
- Creating Undergraduate Research Month, a celebration that highlights research accomplishments and provides engaging new opportunities for students, departments and colleges to get involved. As part of this event, the Conference on Undergraduate Research and Engagement gives students the opportunity to present faculty-mentored undergraduate research, artistry and engagement projects.
- Offering a Graduate Student Success Series which provides graduate students with themed professionalization events providing an in-depth look into different elements of the graduate experience. Each event includes sessions, panels or interactive workshops that support our graduate students in developing practical skills necessary to complete their degrees.

Once again, welcome to NIU. Please enjoy your visit and do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything we can do for you while you are here. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Laurie Elish-Piper, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost



Laurie Elish-Piper, Ph.D.

Hotel at Holmes

Welcome to the NIU Hotel at Holmes Student Center. Located in the heart of campus, we offer the convenience of meeting space, catering, recreation, guest room accommodations, a bookstore and more, all under one roof. We are also within walking distance of downtown DeKalb's shopping and dining.

Hotel amenities include free wireless internet access and complimentary hotel parking. The hotel rooms also feature a compact refrigerator and microwave in each room.

For directions, please visit the directions and parking page on our website. You will find additional information and photos of the hotel on the Hotel at Holmes section of our website.

Parking is complimentary for hotel guests. When you arrive, you may park in the temporary hotel parking spots in the bus turnaround area off Lucinda Avenue on the west side of Holmes Student Center. These hotel spots have a 30-minute limit which will allow you to check in at the front desk and drop off your luggage. The hotel registration desk is located on the ground floor of the Holmes Student Center across from Starbucks.

The parking permit is valid in the visitor pay lot just south of the Holmes Student Center or in the NIU Parking Deck. If you have a question, please call us at 815-753-1444.

We look forward to having you with us. Thank you.

NIU Hotel at Holmes Student Center

340 Carroll Ave.
at the intersection of
Lucinda Avenue
and Normal Road
DeKalb, IL 60115
Phone: 815-753-1444
Fax: 815-753-5099
E-mail: hotel@niu.edu
Website: hsc.niu.edu/hotel

Directions to the Visitors' Lot from the Hotel at Holmes Student Center Bus Turnaround Area

The Hotel at Holmes is located at 340 Carroll Avenue, on the corner of Lucinda Avenue and Normal Road in DeKalb. Note: Normal Road is no longer a through street.

- If you are parked temporarily in the bus turnaround area off Lucinda Avenue, proceed to Lucinda Avenue.
- Turn left onto Lucinda Avenue.
- At the intersection (stoplight) of Lucinda Avenue and Annie Glidden Road, turn left onto Annie Glidden Road.
- At the intersection (stoplight) of Annie Glidden Road and IL Route 38, also known as Lincoln Highway, turn left onto IL Route 38.
- When you see McDonald's and Pizza Hut on your left, very quickly you will see the intersection of IL Route 38 and Carroll Avenue. Turn left (stoplight) onto Carroll Avenue.
- Continue on Carroll Avenue 100 feet. The visitors' parking lot will be on your left. The visitors' parking lot is your destination.



Schedule

Sunday, March 24

Afternoon	Arrive in DeKalb.	Holmes Student Center.
6 p.m.	Meet with Accreditation Liaison Officer.	University Suite Living Room.
6:20 p.m.	Dinner/Team meeting.	TBD.

Monday, March 25

7:30 to 8 a.m.	Team meeting.	University Suite Living Room.
8:15 to 9 a.m.	Meet with President.	Douglas.
9:15 to 10 a.m.	Meet with Senior Leadership Team.	Illinois.
10:15 to 11 a.m.	Meet with Institutional Effectiveness.	Douglas.
10:15 to 11 a.m.	Meet with Chief Financial Officer.	Illinois.
11:15 to noon	Meet with University Assessment Panel.	Illinois.
11:15 to noon	Meet with Provost and Vice Provosts.	University Suite Living Room.
12:15 to 1:30 p.m.	Lunch with Community Constituents.	University Suite Living Room.
12:15 to 1:30 p.m.	Meet with Board of Trustees.	Douglas.
1:30 to 2:15 p.m.	Open Forum for Faculty.	Heritage.
2:30 to 3:15 p.m.	Meet with General Education Committee.	Illinois.
2:30 to 3:15 p.m.	Meet with College Deans.	Douglas.
3:30 to 4:15 p.m.	Meet with Research Center Heads.	Illinois.
3:30 to 4:15 p.m.	Meet with Faculty Senate.	Heritage.
4:15 to 5 p.m.	Meet with University Council.	Illinois.
4:15 to 5 p.m.	Open Forum for Students.	Heritage.

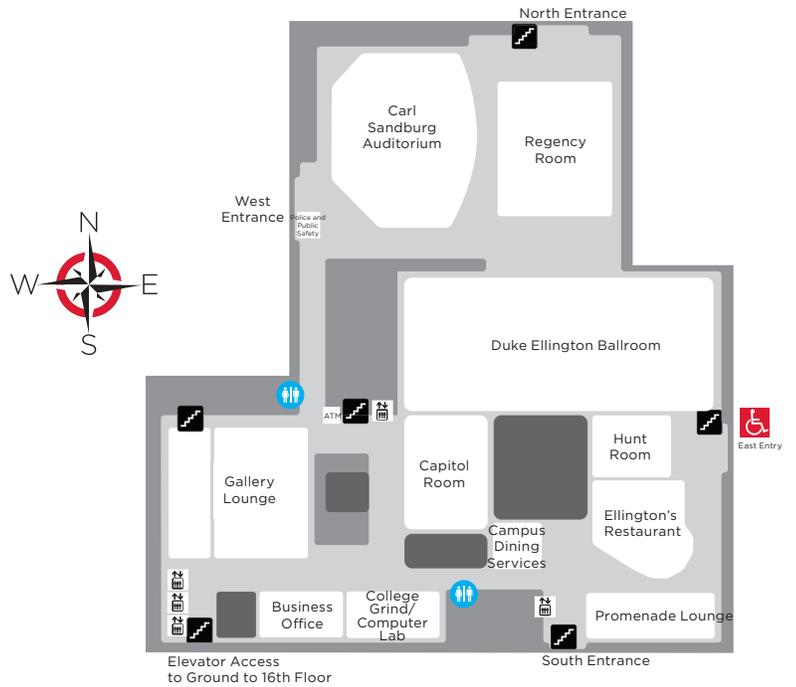
Tuesday, March 26

7:30 to 8:15 a.m.	Team Meeting in Team Room.	University Suite Living Room.
8:30 to 9:15 a.m.	Meet with UFA Union/Labor Relations Leaders.	Douglas.
8:30 to 9:15 a.m.	Open Forum for Staff.	Heritage.
9:30 to 10:15 a.m.	Meet with Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications and Graduate School.	Illinois.
9:30 to 10:15 a.m.	Meet with UPI Union/Labor Relations Leaders.	Douglas.
10:30 to 11:15 a.m.	Tour of Learning Spaces.	University Suite Living Room Entrance. Barsema Hall, Engineering Building, Anderson Hall.
11:30 to noon	Meet with President.	Douglas.
Noon	Team meeting.	

Holmes Student Center Map



Second Floor



Main Floor



Ground Floor

Schedule

Sunday, March 24

Afternoon **Arrive in DeKalb.**

6 p.m. **Meet with Accreditation Liaison Officer.** **University Suite Living Room.**



Amy Buhrow, assistant vice provost of Assessment and Accreditation and Accreditation Liaison Officer

Amy Buhrow collaborates with NIU faculty and staff, academic administrators, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Institutional Research, curricular deans and university curriculum committees to build and implement assessment policies and practices to link assessment activities with the improvement of student learning and academic planning. A top goal of hers is deploying assessment and accreditation as continuous improvement tools, to provide a guide for best practices and a student-focused, continuous improvement framework.

6:20 p.m. **Dinner/Team meeting.** **TBD.**

Monday, March 25

7:30 to 8 a.m. **Team meeting.**

8:15 to 9 a.m. **Meet with President.** **Douglas.**



Lisa Freeman, president

As NIU's 13th president, Lisa C. Freeman works to support all aspects of the university's mission, emphasizing NIU's enduring commitments to promoting the social mobility of our students, producing high impact scholarship and engaging with our region. She has a deep commitment to equity and inclusion and strives to create a learning environment where students, faculty and staff from a wide range of backgrounds feel welcome and included. President Freeman also believes that relationships are resources, and seeks continually to strengthen NIU student opportunities, operational efficiency and scholarly pursuits through strategic partnerships.

9:15 to 10 a.m. **Meet with Senior Leadership Team.** **Illinois.**

Lisa Freeman, president

Lisa Miner, associate vice president of Institutional Communications, chief communications strategist



Laurie Elish-Piper, interim executive vice president and provost

Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper considers NIU a place of possibilities and opportunities for students who might otherwise lack paths to higher education. Since her arrival at NIU in 1995, Elish-Piper has actively engaged in the university's work to support and advance social mobility through providing learning experiences that are accessible, affordable and transformational. Elish-Piper previously served as dean of NIU College of Education, launching the Partnering to Lead and Empower District-Grown Educators program to address the teacher shortage while meeting future teachers and school leaders where they are.



Yvonne Harris, vice president for Research and Innovation Partnerships

Yvonne Harris is responsible for the strategic and operational leadership of the research and innovation enterprise portfolio at NIU. Her responsibilities include developing and implementing the vision, plan and policies of the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships, and overseeing all aspects of the university's research infrastructure, operations, research facilities and compliance. Harris earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from NIU, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy in science.



George Middlemist, vice president for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer

George Middlemist's duties at NIU include overseeing accounting and business operations, finance controls and reporting, audit, procurement and strategic sourcing, treasury functions, investment oversight, facilities and grounds operations, space planning and construction, and enterprise risk management. He also is charged with budget development, implementing a more transparent budget-planning process, increasing data-informed decision-making, oversight of capital projects and planning, and continued efforts to streamline and automate processes and reporting capabilities.



Rena Cotsones, vice president for Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development and Chief Engagement Officer

Rena Cotsones leads NIU's Division of Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development, advancing the university's public mission and providing leadership, partnership and support for faculty, staff and students interested in engaging with the broader region. She oversees the Center for Governmental Studies, the P-20 Center for Engagement, Northern Public Radio, the university's three regional centers and field campus, NIU's centralized conferencing and event management function, and NIU's Public Engagement Networks. Cotsones is actively engaged in the development of the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability and the Strategic Development Team.



Carol Sumner, vice president for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

Carol Sumner is a visionary and experienced higher education leader with a highly successful background facilitating change, impacting culture, leading new initiatives through strategic planning and data-driven decision-making. Sumner has an established background in student recruitment and retention, teaching, public speaking and community building. Sumner leads initiatives throughout campus and beyond to establish an equity-minded community and provide training, resources and programs through Prevention, Education and Outreach, and Social Justice Education, and through NIU's diversity and cultural resource centers.



Clint-Michael Reneau, vice president for Student Affairs

Clint-Michael Reneau brings two decades of work and innovation in higher education and secondary education to his role at NIU. Reneau's principles of validation and intention have guided him throughout his career, and he advocates for a culture of care and belonging for students. A consultant for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Reneau provides the association specialized services in numerous areas including diversity, equity and inclusion, strategy and transformation, leadership effectiveness and institutional capacity.



Sean Frazier, vice president and director of Athletics and Recreation

Sean T. Frazier has guided the Huskies to historic milestones competitively, academically and socially, cemented his status as both a national and community leader on diversity and inclusion, and led successful fundraising efforts that have transformed the student-athlete experience at NIU. In 2021-22, Frazier was named one of five finalists for Athletic Director of the Year by Sports Business Journal and in 2023, he was recognized by Crain's Chicago Business as a notable leader in DEI. During the summer of 2023, Frazier was named third vice-president of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.



John Acardo, chief human resource officer

John Acardo's primary responsibility at NIU is to oversee and manage all operations of Human Resource Services. This includes payroll, coordinating recruitment, employee and labor relations, benefits and leaves, employee experience, responding to public requests and providing detailed reports on employment to branch leaders on campus. His proudest moments have been deploying human resource solutions that give data transparency back to stakeholders, including employees.



Sol Jensen, vice president for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications

For nearly seven years, Sol Jensen has provided leadership, management and strategic direction for NIU's Division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications. Jensen has developed a comprehensive marketing and communications strategy to support the strategic goals and plans of the university. He leads crisis management planning at NIU and maintains strong, collaborative relationships with media and community leaders.



Matt Parks, associate vice president and chief information officer

Matt Parks leads the Division of Information Technology for NIU’s four campuses. In his role as chief information officer (CIO) he develops and promotes a vision for information technology, where partnering with IT makes it easy to succeed. The CIO directs the central IT organization and works collaboratively with other IT departments around campus to encourage and promote the development, implementation and advancement of the university mission through technology.



Bryan Perry, vice president and general counsel

Bryan Perry is head of the Division of University Legal Services and chief legal officer of the university, parliamentarian and counsel to the board of trustees of Northern Illinois University. Perry is a member of the president’s cabinet and the president’s operations cabinet. Perry’s area of practice includes university administration and governance, Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and employment and labor law issues.



Catherine Squires, vice president for University Advancement

Catherine Squires is responsible for the overall vision, leadership, strategy and management of all fundraising and alumni relations activities on behalf of NIU. In this role, Squires aligns her personal passion with strong professional experience to benefit her alma mater – she earned her bachelor’s degree from NIU in 1980. During a previous role as chief development executive for Tufts Medical Center and Floating Hospital for Children, she led the growth of the annual fundraising program from \$9 to \$14 million.



Matt Streb, chief strategy officer, liaison to the board of trustees

Matthew J. Streb is chief of staff to the president and liaison to the board of trustees at NIU. Streb’s research examining voting, elections and public opinion has been featured on C-SPAN’s Washington Journal and has been mentioned in such places as The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Washington Times, Washington Monthly and Chronicle of Higher Education. In 2009, Streb was recognized by the NIU Foundation for Faculty Excellence.

10:15 to 11 a.m.

Meet with Institutional Effectiveness.

Douglas.

Laurie Elish-Piper, interim executive vice president and provost

Amy Buhrow, assistant vice provost of Assessment and Accreditation and Accreditation Liaison Officer



Greg Barker, executive director, Institutional Research and Analytics

Greg Barker started at NIU as an undergraduate student in 1989 and, after earning a bachelor’s degree in 1993, went on to earn a master’s degree and doctorate degree. He has been called a “visionary” and a “difference-maker” and someone who leads by example. In 2016, Barker was one of four members of the Supportive Professional Staff to earn the Presidential Award for Excellence.



Celeste Latham, associate vice president for Facilities and Resources

Celeste Latham received the 2022 Presidential Award for Excellence at NIU for significant impact advancing the mission of the university. A proud Huskie alumna, Latham is described as the “go-to” person when problems arise because of her experience, knowledge and work ethic. Latham was named associate vice president for Facilities and Resources in 2020, quickly taking on critical projects that allowed the university to successfully pivot during the pandemic.

10:15 to 11 a.m.

Meet with Chief Financial Officer.

Illinois.

George Middlemist, vice president for administration and finance and chief financial officer



Brad Cripe, department chair and professor, Accountancy

Brad Cripe joined the Department of Accountancy faculty in 2006. He teaches corporate taxation and advanced issues in taxation across all the department's master's degree programs, and taxation of business entities and financial accounting to undergraduates. He has won several teaching awards for graduate and undergraduate teaching at the university, college and department levels during his tenure.



Paul Wright, professor, Kinesiology and Physical Education

Paul Wright specializes in the teaching personal and social responsibility instructional model. His scholarship is very applied and relates directly to fields such as positive youth development, social and emotional learning, and sport for development. Wright has interests in policy and program evaluation as it relates to youth sport and physical activity. He leads the physical activity and life skills group at NIU which serves as an engine for engaged scholarship on these topics.



Andrew Rogers, associate vice president, Budget and Financial Planning

Andrew Rogers is responsible for supervising the day-to-day operations of the Budget Office and serves as the university's chief budget officer with additional responsibility for annual and periodic state reporting, including, but not limited to, annual reporting to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Illinois General Assembly and other reporting bodies as required by law. He oversees the annual budget development process, serves as the department representative on multiple university committees and prepares ad hoc reporting for use by university management and the board of trustees.



Shyree Sanan, associate vice president, Finance and Treasury Services

Shyree Sanan was chosen as one of only 17 business officers at universities throughout the nation to take part in the National Association of College and University Business Officers 2023-24 Fellows Program. Sanan and her cohort of fellows are working with higher education presidents, provosts, CBOs and other experts as they expand their management, communications and leadership skills and strengthen the core competencies needed to succeed as senior leaders. A certified public accountant, Sanan led an effort to restructure the university's debt portfolio, resulting in more than \$100 million in savings.

11:15 to noon

Meet with University Assessment Panel.

Illinois.

Amy Buhrow, chair, University Assessment Panel; assistant vice provost; Assessment and Accreditation and Accreditation Liaison Officer



Linda Matuszewski

Linda Matuszewski serves as dean and Brenda DuCray Professor of Accountancy at NIU. Matuszewski has research interest in managerial accounting topics including the effect of personality traits, fairness perceptions and exposure to agency theory on honesty in reporting, and questions related to trade and strategy maps. She is a CPA and previously served as the chief financial officer for a nonprofit organization.



Ursula Sullivan

Ursula Sullivan serves as Cynthia and Douglas Crocker Endowed Professor in Business at NIU. Sullivan's research interests include marketing and brand strategy, marketing distribution and channel alliances, and supply chain management. As provost fellow for 2023-24, she is facilitating faculty leadership development initiatives, including responsibility for the Emerging Faculty Leadership Program.



Peitao Zhu

Peitao Zhu is an assistant professor in the Department of Counseling and Higher Education at Northern Illinois University. An ACUE Distinguished Teaching Scholar, Zhu's research agenda revolves broadly around the impact of cultural issues on the relational processes within the context of counseling and counselor education. Zhu is a National Certified Counselor and has a particular clinical interest in complex trauma.



Nicholas Grahovec

Nicholas Grahovec is an assistant professor and program director of athletic training at Northern Illinois University. Grahovec’s research interests include athletic training intervention effectiveness, gait and running biomechanics, and innovative practices in athletic training education. His project, Interprofessional and Transdisciplinary Mass Casualty/Triage Simulation within Athletic Training and Nursing Education, was funded in 2021.



Hasan Ferdowsi

Hasan Ferdowsi is an assistant professor for the Department of Electrical Engineering at Northern Illinois University. Ferdowsi is a control systems expert with extensive experience in fault diagnostics/prognostics, advanced robotics, autonomous systems, self-driving cars, ADAS, machine learning, machine vision, real-time systems, system-on-chip, sensors and programming.



Christine Nguyen

Christine Nguyen serves as associate professor for the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at NIU. Nguyen’s expertise is in the area of large-scale optimization, supply chain, data analytics, transportation, simulation and scheduling. She has developed many algorithms and models to solve real-world applications in supply chain consolidation of perishable products.



Hamid Bateni

Hamid Bateni is an associate professor with the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders at NIU. Bateni conducted a study that found delivering an electrical stimulus to the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex via transcranial magnetic stimulation can significantly improve static postural control in an individual with major depressive disorder. Bateni’s service includes being a member of American Physical Therapy Association.



Bette Montgomery

Bette Montgomery is an associate professor for the School of Family and Consumer Sciences at NIU. Research interests include curriculum change and reform, professional development, teacher change and cultural diversity in family and consumer sciences education.



Matt Timko

Matt Timko joined the NIU College of Law Library faculty in 2017. As a reference and instructional librarian, Timko assists with legal research for faculty, staff, students, the public and other university patrons of the law library, as well as instructs basic legal research courses. Matt is admitted to the State of Illinois Bar, and has been a member of the Chicago, DuPage and Kane County Bar Associations.



Christopher Goodman

Christopher Goodman is an assistant professor in the Department of Public Administration at NIU. His research focuses on why local areas make the governance decisions they do. He focuses on specific questions dealing with the special district form of local government, as these governments are underresearched in the relevant literature.



Nestor Osorio

Nestor Osorio is a professor and information specialist at Northern Illinois University. In 2021, Osorio co-authored “Exploring the impact of the pandemic on reference and research services: A literature review,” exploring the impact of COVID-19 on reference and research services in academic libraries.



Michaela Holtz

Michaela Holtz is executive director of strategy, impact and academic partnerships with NIU's Division of Student Affairs. Selected as the first President's Office Staff Fellow in 2022, Holtz assisted with the university's response to COVID-19, helped guide the Democracy Challenge and helped create additional professional development opportunities for staff.



Amanda Durik

Amanda Durik serves as professor of social and industrial organizational psychology and department chair at NIU. Durik's research has examined how social, situational, cognitive and developmental factors play into task experience and achievement. She has been awarded numerous external grants and earned an Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.



Carrie Zack

Carrie Zack serves as associate director of Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation at Northern Illinois University. Zack facilitates operations and directs initiatives related to accreditation, assessment and evaluation through collaboration with other units within the university. Zack supports faculty and staff to bring students the best learning experiences possible.



Tracy Miller

Tracy Miller is the director of instructional design and development for the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at NIU. Miller provides leadership on instructional design and course development activities for faculty, instructors, teaching staff and teaching assistants.



Tawanda Paul

Tawanda Paul serves as senior research associate for Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation. She supports data collection, analysis and reporting of campuswide assessment initiatives and provides consultative feedback to programs on assessment plans and reports. In addition, Paul supports university and disciplinary accreditation activities. Most recently, Paul was instrumental in updating and streamlining campuswide assessment processes.

11:15 to noon

Meet with Provost and Vice Provosts.

Douglas.

Laurie Elish-Piper, interim executive vice president and provost



Alicia Schatteman, vice provost, Academic Affairs

NIU vice provost for Academic Affairs, Alicia Schatteman has a strong understanding of curricular innovation, and proven success with building consensus that fuels strategic planning and action. Her responsibilities include undergraduate curriculum, academic standards and admissions policies, oversight of undergraduate academic support units, preparation of the undergraduate catalog, and coordination of state and institutional programs related to undergraduate education.



Bárbara González, vice provost for Faculty Affairs

As vice provost for Faculty Affairs at NIU, Bárbara González leads efforts to foster faculty engagement, facilitate tenure, promotion and sabbatical processes, establish faculty development opportunities and explore ways to recognize faculty excellence and contributions. Other duties include leading academic labor relations efforts and ensuring that resources and staffing decisions align with and support the university's strategic direction and priorities. As part of her role, González advocates for removing barriers and providing resources for equitable faculty success.



Nichole Knutson, associate vice provost for Student Success

Nichole Knutson's student-centered approach is making a positive impact at NIU as associate vice provost for student success. Knutson's previous experience includes leading student support initiatives, degree completion programs and research and grant management units. A first-generation college student, Knutson credits relationships she built on campus that proved instrumental in her journey to complete her undergraduate degree, and she works to foster these relationships and other opportunities for NIU students, to help ensure their success.

12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

Lunch with Community Constituents.

University Suite Dining Room.



Bill Nicklas, DeKalb city manager

As city manager, Bill Nicklas' primary goal is to ensure effective implementation of city council policies through efficient professional management of all aspects of city government. Nicklas serves as the city's chief administrative officer and in this capacity is responsible for the administration, coordination and management of all city services and employees. Nicklas also is responsible for preparing and managing DeKalb's annual \$93 million budget.



Brian Gregory, DeKalb County administrator

As DeKalb County administrator, Brian Gregory directs the day-to-day operation of county facilities, programs and personnel, and provides staff support to the county board in policy-making and financial decisions. Gregory previously served as city manager and assistant city manager for the city of Sycamore for a combined 15 years. Gregory earned his MPA degree from NIU in 2003.



Minerva Garcia-Sanchez, DeKalb Community School District 428, superintendent

Minerva Garcia-Sanchez began her term as superintendent of DeKalb Community School District 428 in 2022. Recognized as an experienced, bilingual, school district leader who brings multicultural awareness and equity to her leadership, Garcia-Sanchez works with school communities to promote strong instructional leadership, conducive vigorous learning environments and holistic opportunities for all students through deep cycles of inquiry and collaboration. Garcia-Sanchez won the Equity Warrior Award in 2023 for equity-focused leadership honoring students' and the community's history and stories.



Laurie Borowicz, Kishwaukee College, president

Laurie Borowicz has served as the fifth president of Kishwaukee College since 2016. Borowicz emphasizes listening to how students and communities want and need their education to be offered and leads initiatives to provide new and innovative ways to serve students and the community. Prior to her current role, she spent more than 16 years at Northcentral Technical College in several roles, including vice president of student services.



Dan Templin, DeKalb County Community Foundation, executive director

As executive director of the DeKalb County Community Foundation, Dan Templin leads a team of professionals who are devoted to serving their community. Templin attended NIU and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in marriage and family therapy. He shares his knowledge in the classroom as an instructor occasionally. In 2021, Templin and his wife, Kristal, started the Templin Family Fun to model philanthropy to both of their children and the greater community.



Cortney Strohacker, DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau, executive director

Cortney Strohacker has served as executive director of the DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau since 2019, after holding the same position for the Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce for six years. A 1999 NIU graduate, Strohacker is skilled in business planning, operations management, sales, management and business development. Strohacker was named the recipient of Heartland Bank and Trust Co.'s 2023 Heart of Our Community award. More recently, she was inducted into the DeKalb Chamber Hall of Fame for her outstanding contributions to economic development. She co-chairs NIU's Homecoming Block Party and is a champion for NIU across the state in tourism.



Joseph Mitchell, New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, lead pastor

George Joseph "Joe" Mitchell (affectionately known as "Pastor Joe") announced his calling to ministry in October 2006. In March of the following year he would preach his trial sermon and be ordained in March 2009. He is past president of the DeKalb County Community Foundation and has served countless community boards and initiatives to enhance the lives of residents. Mitchell received his B.A. degree in business management from Judson University in Elgin, Illinois, and a Master's of Divinity from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Illinois. He also earned his Doctorate of Ministry from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, Richmond, Virginia. He is a proud member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.



Ellingsworth Webb, DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association, president and DeKalb County board member

Ellingsworth Webb serves as chair of the DeKalb County Board and vice president of the DeKalb Area Belonging Council. As president of the DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association, Ellingsworth Webb leads a dynamic organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing with people of all ages the storied history of agriculture and its innovators in northern Illinois. A 1999 graduate of NIU, Webb is an experienced property manager with a demonstrated history of working in the real estate industry.



Rebecca J. Murphy, DNP, MBA, RN, CNOR, Vice President Operations, Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals

Rebecca Murphy is a health care leader with experience in nursing and administration. Holding dual degrees in nursing and business administration, Murphy combines clinical expertise with strategic acumen to drive positive change in healthcare settings. With a Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) and a Master of Business Administration (MBA), she excels in optimizing operational efficiency and improving patient outcomes.

12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

Meet with Board of Trustees.

Douglas.



Dennis Barsema, secretary, board of trustees

Dennis Barsema serves as chair of the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee for the NIU board of trustees. Barsema spent 10 years as an instructor at NIU's College of Business, where he created curriculum in social entrepreneurship. Barsema has spent more than two decades in senior leadership roles in the tech industry and has spent a considerable amount of time meeting with and mentoring business students to inspire their pursuits.



Rita Athas, board of trustees

Rita Athas is vice chair of the Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee for the NIU board of trustees. Athas holds a master's degree in public administration from NIU and received the NIU Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012. Now the senior advisor on the board of directors for World Business Chicago, she previously served as its president for nearly six years, overseeing day-to-day operations of the organization.

1:30 to 2:15 p.m.

Open Forum for Faculty.

Heritage.

2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Meet with the General Education Committee.

Illinois.

Alicia Schatteman, vice provost, Academic Affairs**Rodney Caughron, chair, General Education Committee**

Rodney Caughron is an associate professor of sport management at Northern Illinois University. He received his B.A. degree in political science and M.S. degree in exercise physiology from Iowa State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in athletic administration. Caughron teaches graduate courses in sport law, leadership, analysis of current issues in sport and the master's thesis/project.

**Sina Ehsani**

Sina Ehsani is an assistant professor of finance at Northern Illinois University. Ehsani's research concentrates on investments and empirical asset pricing, and teaching areas include risk management, financial modeling and quantitative finance. In 2022, Ehsani received the Journal of Finance DFA Distinguished Paper Prize.

Beth McGowan

Beth McGowan is an associate professor and librarian, English and Health Services at Northern Illinois University. McGowan's studies include the history of librarianship, the history of reading and the history of writing. Her primary focus areas include British literature since 1900, English and film and literature.

**Stephanie DeSpain Baker**

Stephanie DeSpain Baker is an assistant professor of early childhood education at Northern Illinois University. Her research focuses on the assessment and use of supports to expand access to and success in inclusive settings for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is interested in the use of supports to improve the quality of life of students during transitional periods and the impact they have on access to typical life activities.

**Shun Takai**

Shun Takai is an associate professor in the Department of Engineering Technology at Northern Illinois University. Takai's research interests include product design and development, design theory, and methodology and alternative-fuel vehicle design. Takai holds a Japanese patent for "Bending Device of Metal Tube and U Tube Cold Bending Method."

**Anitha Saravanan**

Anitha Saravanan is an assistant professor in the School of Nursing at Northern Illinois University. Saravanan's research interests include creating and testing novel multidisciplinary, multi-level interventions using mindfulness-based interventions to address psycho-behavioral symptom clusters to address multimorbidity. Saravanan is a certified advance nurse practitioner (ANP-BC) and qualified, mindfulness-based stress reduction teacher.

**Shane Sharp**

Shane Sharp has been an assistant professor of sociology at NIU since 2011. Sharp's scholarly interests include religion, social psychology, symbolic interactionism, culture, qualitative methods, sociological theory (classic and contemporary), emotions and domestic violence. As an Honors Faculty Fellow, Sharp taught a seminar on the social psychology of God in spring 2023 for the University Honors Program.

**Dennis Brown**

Dennis Brown is an associate professor of physics at Northern Illinois University. Courses taught during spring 2024 include astronomy, modern physics, junior physics lab and physics lab. Brown joined other scientists from NIU, reporting in the journal Nature Physics on the discovery of exotic magnetic structures in iron-based superconductors.



Stan Arnold

Stan Arnold's teaching duties are focused on undergraduate and graduate instruction and advising. Arnold's research interests are concentrated in the civil rights movement in the United States from 1920 to 1970 exclusive of the South, and the intersection of race and sports in the U.S. Arnold seeks to provide students with historical content while equipping them with necessary skills to work in the discipline of history.



Jui-Ching Wang

Jui-Ching Wang is a professor of music education and world music at Northern Illinois University. Wang has presented papers at state, regional, national and international music education conferences. To promote world music pedagogy, Wang organized the Teaching World Music Symposium at NIU in April 2015.



Hasina Jefferson

Hasina Jefferson is a student representative on the General Education Committee. Jefferson is an active member with an interest in serving on an ad hoc committee to revitalize NIU's general education program. Jefferson has further developed leadership and teamwork skills through creative production and has assisted with several award-nominated short films.

2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Meet with College Deans.

Douglas.



William Pitney, acting dean, College of Education

Bill Pitney, the College of Education's associate dean of Research, Resources and Innovation from 2016 to 2022, currently leads the college as acting dean for the 2023-24 academic year. Pitney's research interests include professional development, administration and management, professional socialization in athletic training practice settings and athletic training education. Pitney was inducted into the Illinois Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame in 2019.



David Grewell, dean, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

David Grewell took the role of dean in 2023 and is working with regional community colleges and high schools to attract students to careers in engineering. Grewell holds 17 patents, has authored numerous publications (including three books) and has received numerous honors and awards. His research projects have attracted over \$32 million in grant funding — more than \$8 million of that for projects on which he served as PI.



Kelly Fiala, dean, College of Health and Human Sciences

Kelly Fiala began her role as dean in 2023, bringing experience in a variety of previous administrative roles including department chair, associate dean and interim dean at Salisbury University. A first-generation college student, Fiala has a track record as a proven leader who prides herself on her fairness, transparency and collaboration. She prioritizes faculty and staff development to best champion students, engage in scholarship and serve the community.



Cassandra Hill, dean, College of Law

Student success is a top priority for Cassandra Hill, who became dean in 2020. Hill's co-authored book, "Legal Analysis: 100 Exercises for Mastery," is now in its second edition and has been adopted at more than 25 law schools nationwide. Hill's demonstrated leadership at NIU is exemplified at the local and national levels, through her membership in bar associations and other legal organizations and as a community leader.



Robert Brinkmann, dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Robert Brinkmann is an expert on environmental change and sustainability issues since the 1990s. A geologist by training (he holds a B.S. and M.S. degree in geology and a Ph.D. in geography), he can also speak about sinkholes, caves and karst landscapes. Brinkmann has appeared on several national news outlets, including CBS News and CNN, as an expert on geologic and environmental issues.



Fred Barnhart, dean, Libraries

Fred Barnhart is a champion of student success and played a key role in helping the university weather pandemic-related challenges. NIU Libraries went to extraordinary lengths during the most challenging periods of the pandemic to continue its many services for the Huskie community while offering additional technology supports to students. Barnhart works to maximize student success through assessment and accountability, transformation of collections to meet evolving community needs, enriched user experiences, and increased awareness and visibility of library programs.



Paul Kassel, dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts

Paul Kassel manages the operation of the Schools of Art and Design, Music, and Theatre and Dance. Kassel established the Advisory Council, with membership spanning the arts disciplines, business partners and major cultural institutions including the Goodman Theatre and the Chicago Sinfonietta. Kassel's book, "Acting: An Introduction to the Art and Craft of Playing," was published by Pearson in spring 2006.



Kerry Wilks, dean, Graduate School and associate vice president, International Affairs

Kerry Wilks brings a world of experience as a university educator, administrator, global recruiter and volunteer to her roles at NIU. Wilks helps lead strategic enrollment management efforts for the university's graduate population, including program assessment and a student-centered approach. She has been a recognized leader in micro-credentialing at the graduate level and has presented on the topic with colleagues from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and SUNY Stony Brook.

3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

Meet with Faculty Senate.

Heritage.



Benjamin Creed, president, Faculty Senate and chair, University Council, associate professor, Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations, College of Education

As president of Faculty Senate at NIU, Benjamin Creed leads a group charged with the responsibility to establish, direct and oversee academic matters. An associate professor at NIU since 2016, Creed's research interests include principal and administrator preparation, school choice, and marketization and economics of education. He has co-authored several publications and reports, including "High School-to-College Success: A Report and a Blueprint for Future Work," which was published in 2020.



Sarah Marsh, vice president, Faculty Senate; associate professor, Department of Management, College of Business

Sarah Marsh serves as vice president of Faculty Senate. Her expertise and interests are in strategic management, new product development and knowledge management. Marsh served as chair of the Department of Management for 15 years before returning to faculty. Prior to joining NIU, she worked in the software and financial services industries. Her research has been published in multiple outlets, including Strategic Management Journal, Journal of Product Innovation Management, Journal of Engineering and Technology Management, and Organization, among others.

Linda Saborio, faculty advisory council to the IBHE

Carrie Kortegast, faculty personnel advisor

Mark Mellon, associate professor, Department of Accountancy, College of Business

Reza Rajabi, assistant professor, Department of Marketing, College of Business

Biagio Palese, assistant professor, Department of Operations Management and Information Systems, College of Business

Jodi Lampi, associate professor, director of Academic Literacy and Learning, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education

Cindy Campbell, associate professor, Department of Educational Technology, Research and Assessment, College of Education

Peter Chomentowski, associate professor, Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, College of Education

Lisa Liberty, assistant professor, Department of Special and Early Education, College of Education

Veysel Demir, associate professor, Department of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

Sahar Vahabzadeh, assistant professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

William Mills, associate professor, Department of Technology, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

In-Sop Kim, associate professor, Department of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders, College of Health and Human Sciences

Charline Xiaolin Xie, professor, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Health and Human Sciences

Sheila Barrett, associate professor, Department of Health Studies, College of Health and Human Sciences

Nahal Salimi, assistant professor, Department of Interdisciplinary Health Professions, College of Health and Human Sciences

Jeanette Rossetti, professor, Department of Nursing, College of Health and Human Sciences

Therese Arado, professor, deputy director of the Law Library, acting director of Administration and Special Projects, College of Law

Emily Mckee, associate professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Virginia Naples, professor, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Evgueni Nesterov, professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Karen Whedbee, associate professor, Department of Communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Kirk Duffin, associate professor, director, Graduate Studies and Graduate Advisor, Department of Computer Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Wei Luo, professor, Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

George Slotsve, professor, Department of Economics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Mark Van Wiene, professor, Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Taylor Atkins, professor, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Gleb Sirotkin, associate professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Alicia Finch, associate professor, Department of Philosophy, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Yasuo Ito, associate professor, Department of Physics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Brendon Swedlow, professor, Department of Political Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

David Valentiner, professor, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Jaehee Jong, assistant professor, Department of Public Administration, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Shane Sharp, associate professor, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Dennis Brain, associate professor, Department of World Languages and Cultures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Beth McGowan, associate professor, librarian, English and Health Sciences, University Libraries

Kryssi Staikidis, professor, School of Art and Design, College of Visual and Performing Arts

Christopher Scanlon, assistant professor, School of Music, College of Visual and Performing Arts

Lori Hartenhoff, professor, School of Theatre and Dance, College of Visual and Performing Arts

Vicky Books, instructor, Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, College of Education

Charlie Ruetsche, instructor, Department of Technology, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

Jennifer Ross, instructor, School of Health Studies, College of Health and Human Sciences

Sandra Kupelian, instructor, College of Law

Yenitza Guzman, assistant professor, Department of Counseling and Higher Education, College of Education

Felicia Bohanon, executive director, Office of Precollegiate Programs, Division of Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development

John Boswell, director, Retail Dining, Campus Dining Services

Natasha Johnson, associate athletic director, Recreation, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics

Mandy Kreitzer, director, Finance and Resource Planning, College of Health and Human Sciences

Marlena Martinez, student, College of Health and Human Sciences

Kennedy Porter, student, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Chris English, senator, Student Government Association

Landon Larkin, treasurer, Student Government Association

Hollis Harris, student, graduate council

George Zumanu, student, graduate council

Karen Whedbee, associate professor, Department of Communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

3:30 to 4:15 p.m. **Meet with Research Center Heads.**

Illinois.

Yvonne Harris, vice president for Research and Innovation Partnerships



Allison Gladfelter, Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Language and Literacy
Allison Gladfelter is an associate professor of speech-language pathology, ACUE Distinguished Teaching Scholar and co-director of the Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Language and Literacy at NIU. Research interests include typical and atypical language acquisition, language learning mechanisms, autism spectrum disorder, developmental language disorder, and motor and language interactions. Gladfelter serves in the NIU Autism Caregiver Group.



Aurore Candier, Center for Burma Studies

Aurore Candier is a historian specializing in Burma/Myanmar and a faculty member in NIU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. As director of the Center for Burma Studies, Candier serves as a nonvoting, ex officio member of the board of trustees of the Burma Studies Foundation.



Christina Abreu, Center for Latino and Latin American Studies

An associate professor at NIU, Christina Abreu's research focuses on the role of race, nationalism and migration in the Cuban and Spanish Caribbean diasporic communities of the United States with a particular emphasis on popular culture. Abreu's teaching interests include courses on U.S. Latinx history, modern Caribbean history and modern Cuban history.



Mark Schuller, Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies

Mark Schuller is professor of anthropology and nonprofit and NGO studies at NIU and affiliate at the Faculté d'Ethnologie, l'Université d'État d'Haïti. Supported by the National Science Foundation Senior and CAREER Grant, Bellagio Center and others, Schuller's research on NGOs, globalization, disasters and gender in Haiti has been published in 50 peer-reviewed articles or book chapters as well as public media.



Judy Ledgerwood, Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Judy Ledgerwood is a cultural anthropologist whose research interests include cultural change in the aftermath of violence, new patterns of gender and social relations after the Cambodian revolution and war, and the politics of memory; she conducts research in Cambodia and with Khmer communities in the U.S. Professor Ledgerwood has conducted research in Cambodia and in the United States with Khmer Americans.



Julie Crouch, Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault

Julie Crouch's research focuses on understanding the causes and consequences of child physical abuse and intimate partner violence. Her recent work focuses on applying social cognitive paradigms as a means of understanding why some parents physically abuse their children. Also, Crouch is conducting research and evaluation projects examining innovative interventions designed to promote positive parenting practices.



Thomas Skuzinski, Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability

Thomas Skuzinski is an associate professor in the Department of Public Administration at NIU. Skuzinski has received university and college awards for excellence in teaching and commitment to diversity and has mentored students to recognition in national competitions. His scholarship focuses on the interplay of rules, norms and cultural worldviews in shaping administrative and political decisions within and among local governments.



Bela Erdelyi, Center for Research Computing and Data

In 2023, NIU physics professor Bela Erdelyi and a colleague at Argonne National Laboratory received a \$600,000 grant over three years to study a new type of particle accelerator to be used in discovery science. Erdelyi is serving as lead investigator of a team that aims to lay the foundation for future, improved particle accelerators. This research will help educate the next generation of accelerator scientists.



Barrie Bode, COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance Lab

Barrie Bode earned the 2023 NIU Presidential Engagement and Partnership Professorship, a prestigious honor given to NIU professors with outstanding records of community engagement. Bode's commitment to both his students and his research spans far beyond the classroom. To benefit the NIU campus and DeKalb communities, he established a dashboard that reports out ambient levels of the SARS-CoV-2 virus three times weekly.

4:15 to 5 p.m.

Meet with University Council.

Illinois.

- Benjamin Creed, president, Faculty Senate and chair, University Council
- Carrie Kortegast, faculty personnel advisor
- Eunha Myung, professor, Department of Marketing, College of Business
- Steve Howell, chair, Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education, College of Education
- Kevin Martin, associate professor, Department of Engineering Technology, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Jane Rose Njue, associate professor and facilitator of family social services, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Health and Human Sciences
- Carol Walther, professor, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Marc Falkoff, professor, College of Law
- Dee Anna Phares, assistant professor and Social Sciences Librarian, University Libraries
- Greg Beyer, professor and director of Percussion Studies, School of Music, College of Visual and Performing Arts
- Taylor Hartman, instructor, Department of World Languages and Cultures, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Wendy Vaughn, clinical professor, College of Law
- Chris English, senator, Student Government Association
- Landon Larkin, treasurer, Student Government Association
- Parisa Torkinejad Ziarati, graduate teaching assistant, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Felicia Bohanon, executive director, Office of Precollegiate Programs, Division of Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development
- Christina Sutcliffe, head coach, softball, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics
- Tom O'Grady, associate general counsel, Office of General Counsel
- Shannon Stoker, director and research integrity officer, Division of Research, Innovation and Partnerships
- Natasha Johnson, associate athletic director, Recreation, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics
- Holly Nicholson, assistant director of Web Communications, Division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications
- Sara Richter, library specialist, University Libraries
- Tiffany Morris, business manager, Recreation, Division of Intercollegiate Athletics
- Lisa Freeman, president
- Laurie Elish-Piper, interim vice president and provost
- George Middlemist, vice president of administration and finance and chief financial officer
- Bill Pitney, dean, College of Education
- Ferald Bryan, associate professor, Department of Communication
- Sandy Cox, university ombudsperson

4:15 to 5 p.m.

Open Forum for Students.

Heritage.

Tuesday, March 26

7:30 to 8:15 a.m.

Team Meeting.

University Suite Living Room

8:30 to 9:15 a.m.

Meet with UFA Union/Labor Relations Leaders.

Douglas.

Bárbara González, vice provost for Faculty Affairs



Dave DeThorne, director of Academic and Labor Relations

Dave DeThorne joined NIU this February and brings a total of 13 years of experience with labor relations to this position at NIU. Collaboration and making sure all parties are informed on labor matters are priorities for DeThorne. Serving as assistant state's attorney in Champaign County, Illinois earlier in his career gave him valuable experience in this area, prior to his time in higher education.



Kerry Ferris, associate professor of sociology

Kerry Ferris works toward a sociology of fame using ethnographic methods and a symbolic interactionist approach. Her past studies have included analyses of fan-celebrity relations, celebrity sightings and celebrity stalking. As an interactional sociologist, Ferris specializes in symbolic communication between individuals and groups.

Marlene Bryant, academic labor relations assistant

Marlene Bryant has been employed at Northern Illinois University for 27 years. Her role in academic labor relations is to assist with administering the two academic union collective bargaining agreements (CBA) between NIU and the Instructors University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) and the tenure/tenure-track faculty United Faculty Alliance (UFA).

8:30 to 9:15 a.m.

Open Forum for Staff.

Heritage.

9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Meet with UPI Union/Labor Relations Leaders.

Douglas.

Dave DeThorne, director of Academic and Labor Relations

Bárbara González, vice provost for Faculty Affairs

Marlene Bryant, academic labor relations assistant



Keith Nyquist, instructor, College of Business

Keith Nyquist brings his knowledge and experience back to his alma mater, having earned his M.A. from NIU in 1993. Before joining the Department of Management, Nyquist taught in the Department of English. He also worked for two years as a technical writer.

9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Meet with Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications.

Illinois.

Sol Jensen, vice president for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications

Kerry Wilks, dean, Graduate School and associate vice president, International Affairs



Janelle Laudick, executive director of Graduate Enrollment

As the first person to hold this role at NIU, Janelle Laudick supports enrollment initiatives by developing and implementing a goal-focused and results-driven graduate enrollment management plan designed to meet NIU’s graduate enrollment targets related to quantity, quality and diversity. Laudick sees significant value in having a centralized strategy for graduate enrollment management, and the resources and implementation support to meet it. Laudick is shepherding the use of a new admission system to greatly increase the ability to recruit and retain graduate students.



Mayra Lagunas, assistant vice president for Enrollment Management

A first-generation, Latinx student, Mayra Lagunas has championed programs to remove barriers for students throughout her career. During her time in this role, NIU has achieved its largest undergraduate population of Latinx students in university history. Lagunas received the 2019 Molly K. Arnold President’s Service Recognition Award from the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling and, in 2018, received the organization’s Inclusion, Access and Success Service Award for her work on behalf of historically underrepresented students.

Jennice O’Brien, assistant vice president, University Marketing and Internal Communications



Anne Hardy, director of Scholarships and Student Financial Advising Services

As part of her role, Anne Hardy oversees NIU’s merit scholarship program and other special scholarship programs, serving as a liaison between the NIU Foundation, academic colleges and other campus departments who award scholarships. Hardy’s tasks include working on new scholarship awarding strategies, developing and enforcing policies, testing new technology solutions, planning recognition events and conducting assessment projects. As part of her student-centered approach, she also gives presentations to students and helps families who are facing financial obstacles.

Amanda Durik, professor, Social and Industrial Organizational Psychology, associate dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, co-chair, Administrative Processes and Barriers SEM 2.0 Working Group

William Pitney, acting dean, College of Education, co-chair, Advising and Student Pathways SEM 2.0 Working Group

Nichole Knutson, associate vice provost for Student Success, co-chair, Advising and Student Pathways SEM 2.0 Working Group

Carol Sumner, vice president for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer, co-chair, Hispanic-Serving Institution Planning SEM 2.0 Working Group



Cody Schmitz, registrar, Registration and Records, member, Administrative Processes and Barriers SEM 2.0 Working Group

Cody Schmitz leads NIU Registration and Records as registrar. His responsibilities include ensuring the integrity of academic processes, facilitating student registration and overseeing graduation procedures. He also spearheads initiatives aimed at supporting student transition and success, and using evidence-based strategies to enhance retention, persistence and graduation rates.



Ismael Montana, associate professor, History, co-chair, Faculty Academic Experience SEM 2.0 Working Group

An NIU history associate professor, Ismael Montana’s research interests center on the social and economic history of slavery in northwest Africa and the Mediterranean Islamic world in the 18th and 19th centuries. His interdisciplinary background and training have shaped his approach for nearly 20 years, supporting flexible comparative perspectives in research, teaching, student mentorship and faculty collaboration. Montana is a former Faculty Senate president and executive secretary of the University Council. He is a current fellow of the NIU Emerging Faculty Leadership Program (EFLP).



Dan Pedersen, director of NIU Housing and Residential Services, co-chair, Student Academic Success SEM 2.0 Working Group

Dan Pederson leads NIU Housing and Residential Services as director. He has been described as “a forward thinker” who leads his department with transparency, passion and a critical eye for improving services for NIU students. Pedersen plays a crucial role in making sure that NIU students are healthy, safe and supported. He especially enjoys working with the 300 Housing and Residential Services student employees.



David Walker, professor, Educational Technology, Research and Assessment, associate dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Education, co-chair, Student Academic Success SEM 2.0 Working Group

David Walker has served NIU for over 20 years. He is an accomplished researcher having procured more than \$8.5 million in research funding; published 124 refereed publications and 33 technical and program reports; given 235 refereed conference and invited presentations; created 217 statistical computer programs and authored the 10th edition of his textbook on research. In his administrative role, Walker is responsible for launching adult-completion degrees and leading efforts to develop new agreements with community colleges that ensure a seamless transition for students.



Jeffrey Salmon, director of the Center for Student Assistance, co-chair, Student Engagement and Well-being SEM 2.0 Working Group

In his roles as Center for Student Assistance director and NIU’s designated State of Illinois Housing and Benefits Navigator, Jeff Salmon connects students in need to campuswide and community resources. He counsels and guides students on wide-ranging issues including academic challenges, off-campus housing, student/parent resources, financial aid benefits and meeting basic needs. He has also served the university as an assistant and an associate director of Military and Post-Traditional Student Services.



Chris Lowe, director, Student Success, College of Education, co-chair, Administrative Processes and Barriers SEM 2.0 Work Group

Chris Lowe leads a team of seasoned educators and caring academic advisors in the College of Education Office for Student Success. Under his direction, the office leads academic support programs; manages clinical placement; administers engagement and outreach programs; connects students to NIU resources; promotes involvement opportunities; and assists future Huskies in transferring. Lowe focuses on decreasing student barriers to success and ensuring a smooth process from recruitment to graduation.



Pallavi Singh assistant professor, Biological Sciences

Pallavi Singh is a molecular microbiologist whose lab focuses on studying the role of the intestinal microbiome in the growth and health of the host. Singh’s research identifies factors that are important for food safety specifically caused by bacterial pathogens including but not limited to Shiga toxin-producing E. coli, and salmonella. Her lab also focuses on identifying bacterial pathogens and genes important for antimicrobial resistance.

10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

Tour of Learning Spaces.

**University Suite Living Room Entrance.
Barsema Hall, Engineering Building, Anderson Hall.**

11:30 to noon

Meet with president.

Douglas.

Noon

Team returns to hotel.

Contacts

The NIU Accreditation Team is thrilled to welcome you to NIU! Amy Buhrow, Carrie Zack, Tawanda Paul, Susan Smith and Mia Hannon will be stationed at the front desk throughout your visit to assist you with any questions or needs you may have. Don't hesitate to approach any of them for assistance during your time here.



**Amy Buhrow, assistant vice provost,
Assessment and Accrediation, Accreditation Liaison Officer**
815-739-8821



**Carrie Zack, associate director,
Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation**
815-753-0816



**Tawanda Paul, senior research associate,
Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation**
815-753-1197



**Susan Smith, IT associate director/project manager,
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost**
815-753-1035



**Mia Hannon, administrative assistant,
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost**
815-753-9400

DeKalb-Sycamore Favorites

Bea's Wok N Roll

1402 Sycamore Road, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-756-1660
beawoknroll.com/menu#829

Unassuming Vietnamese establishment featuring fresh ingredients in entrees, stir fries and rolls. Vegetarian and fish options available. The crab Rangoon and spring rolls are favorites, as is Bea, the spunky proprietor.

Hours:	
Saturday	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday	Closed
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Burger Naan

121 N. 2nd Street, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-517-1348
burgernaan.com

New to DeKalb, Burger Naan is an Indian fusion, quick-service restaurant. You'll find Indian favorites with an American flair. Vegetarian options available.

Hours:	
Saturday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Monday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

El Jimador Mexican Grill

260 E. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-301-5008
eljimadordekalb.com

Features a diverse selection of classic Mexican dishes, including vegetarian and Del Mar options.

Hours:	
Saturday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday	11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Monday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Ellwood Steak and Fish House

2219 Sycamore Road, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-901-0270
ellwoodsteakandfishhouse.com

Contemporary, upmarket choice for aged steaks, fish entrees and wine. Menu includes pasta and salads with and without protein. Ellwood has a private room that can be reserved.

Hours:	
Saturday	Noon to 10 p.m.
Sunday	Noon to 9 p.m.
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Noon to 9 p.m.
Wednesday	Noon to 9 p.m.

Fatty's Pub and Grille

1312 W. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-758-7737
fattysniu.com

A favorite of NIU students, faculty and staff and bar food at its best. Menu includes salads, fish and sandwich options that can be prepared without protein. The Cajun Fried Potao Salad is legendary. Local tip: Ask for a half and half and dip your fries in the leftover dressing.

Hours:	
Saturday	11 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Sunday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Monday	11 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 1 a.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Fushi Yami

822 W. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115,
located in the Junction Shopping Center
815-748-8868
fushiyami.com

Casual, quick-service establishment serving sushi, hibachi, fried rice, Japanese noodles and Mochi desserts.

Hours:	
Saturday	11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday	11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Monday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Jamrah Middle Eastern Cuisine

12672 DeKalb Ave., Sycamore, IL 60178
815-517-0007
jamrahrestaurant.com

Quick-service restaurant featuring freshly prepared Middle Eastern dishes. Some vegetarian options available.

Hours:	
Saturday	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday	Closed
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Keg & Kernel by Tangled Roots Brewing Company

106 E. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-526-0285
tangledrootsbrewingco.com

Gastropub specializing in locally brewed beer and dishes made from fresh local ingredients. Menu includes limited vegetarian and fish options.

Hours:	
Saturday	11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Nat's on Maple

2112 South Maple Street, Sycamore, IL 60178
815-895-4243
natsonmaple.com/our-menu

Local upscale favorite featuring meat, vegetarian and fish dishes. A private room can be reserved.

Hours:	
Saturday	4 to 10 p.m.
Sunday	Closed
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Omi Sushi

23206 Sycamore Road, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-517-0098
omisushiil.com

Omi Sushi is full-service restaurant offering sushi, K-chicken, fried rice, noodles and Korean entrees. Vegetarian and fish options are available.

Hours:	
Saturday	Noon to 10 p.m.
Sunday	Noon to 9 p.m.
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Noon to 9 p.m.
Wednesday	Noon to 9 p.m.

Tapalaluna

226 E. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-217-0990
tapalaluna.net

Globally inspired menu including tapas, bruschetta, sandwiches, sliders, pizza and sushi, in addition to entrees. Fish and vegetarian options available.

Hours:	
Saturday	11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Sunday	Closed
Monday	11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Tuesday	4 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 4 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Thai Pavilion Restaurant

251 E. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-756-6445
thaipavilionskokie.com/indexMenu.php

Extensive menu includes curries, stir-fries and noodle dishes. Each dish blends sweet, sour, spicy and savory flavors that delight the palate. Vegetarian, vegan and fish options are available.

Hours:	
Saturday	11 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sunday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Monday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Flame

209 E. Lincoln Hwy, DeKalb, IL 60115
779-270-2000
theflamedekalb.com

New to DeKalb, The Flame is a traditional Greek grill with vegetarian and fish options.

Hours:	
Saturday	11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Sunday	11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Monday	11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday	11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday	11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

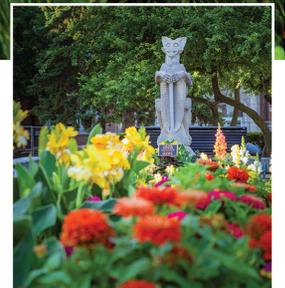
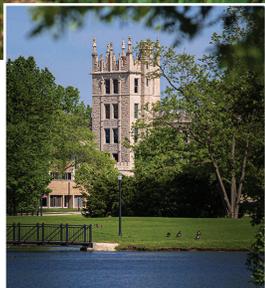
The Grove Tavern

204 N. 4th Street, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-264-2125
thegrovetavern.com

A neighborhood tavern offering a modern take on comfort food. Some vegetarian and fish options.

Hours:	
Saturday	11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday	11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Wednesday	11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.





Thank You

