

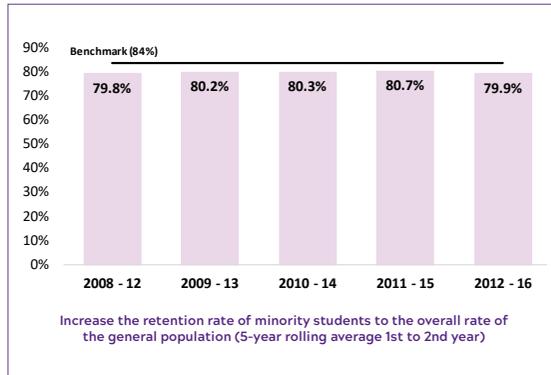
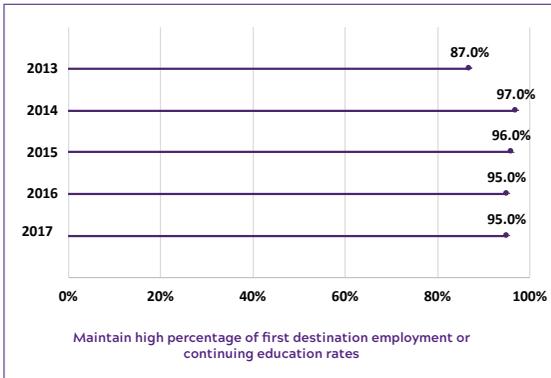
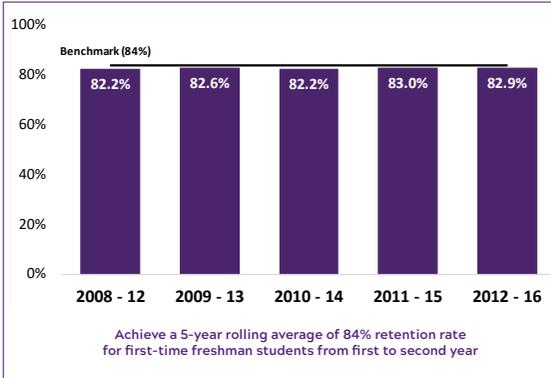
**UNIFYING GOAL:**

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

Develop and support engaged learning experiences, dynamic and high-quality academic programs, and outstanding faculty and staff to foster student success.

**FY2018 INITIATIVES:**

- UNI provides students with opportunities to engage in hands-on research with faculty, often beginning as early as their freshman year. These opportunities allow students to gain valuable skills, discover or confirm career plans, work with setbacks and ambiguity, and establish personal, academic and professional life goals. In one example, honors students presented their research in the spring in the First Floor Rotunda of the Iowa Statehouse at the "Research in the Capitol" event. This event highlights undergraduates learning by doing research in a variety of fields.
- UNI's commitment to supporting transfer students has been nationally recognized. UNI was one of only 112 institutions named to Phi Theta Kappa's Transfer Honor Roll for excellence and success in community college transfer pathway development. The Phi Theta Kappa 2018 Transfer Honor Roll recognized UNI's work in creating dynamic pathways to support transfer students and ensure their success at UNI.
- A remarkable 90% of UNI students gain experience in their profession before graduation. In one example, UNI Psychology MA students gain practical skills, while helping to meet the mental health needs of the community, by serving as interns at locations such as Mental Health Institute in Independence, IA and the Iowa Medical Classification Center in Coralville, IA.



**SUPPORTING GOAL 1:**

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

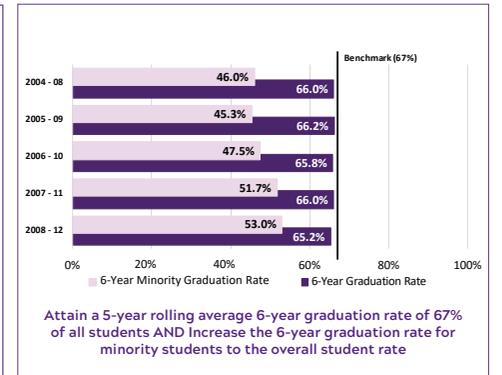
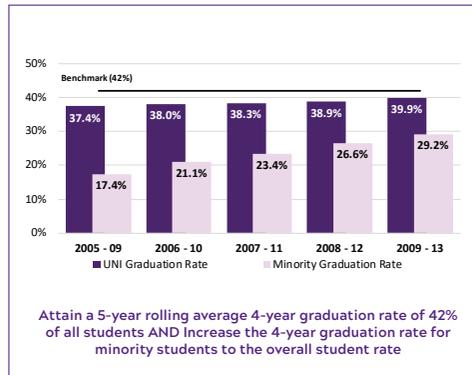
Provide a campus culture that reflects and values the evolving diversity of society and promotes inclusion.

**FY2018 INITIATIVES:**

- In a collaboration between the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the College of Education, the UNI Textiles and Apparel (TAPP) program partnered with the university's Hip Hop Literacy Summer School for a Hip Hop Fashion STEM Day Camp. The Hip Hop Literacy Summer School is an 8 week program in which 40 students formed 4 unique Hip Hop music groups, each led by a UNI student teacher. Each group composed and recorded 5 songs, created social media marketing plans and in collaboration with the UNI Fashion program, designed group logos, presented their design concepts to professional designers from the Target Corporation, and performed their work publicly at the Waterloo Riverloop Theater and at Target Corporate Headquarters in Minneapolis.
- UNI's Diversity Colloquium was launched last year, spearheaded by Marybeth Stalp, department head for Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology (SAC), in partnership with chief diversity officer Gwenne Berry, and Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning director Susan Hill. The discussions are meant to help create a dialogue on campus, focusing on some of the major topics concerning diversity that the country has and is continuing to experience. For this reason, each discussion is open to the

greater Cedar Valley community. Last year's colloquium series had over 250 people in attendance at the six events held over the fall and spring semesters.

- UNI's Center for Urban Education (UNI-CUE) launched the Discover the Dream mentoring program in fall 2017. In order to be eligible for Discover the Dream, students from the UNI-CUE Leadership Academy must enroll in UNI-CUE's Educational Talent Search (ETS) program, which is for sixth through 12th graders. ETS helps students graduate high school and become college admissible through study skills workshops, ACT and SAT prep, career exploration, scholarship and financial aid application assistance and other opportunities. Students who take part in Discover the Dream are mentored by UNI students from the Black Student Union, Center for Multicultural Education and the Hispanic/Latino Student Union. Mentoring takes place weekly in a variety of ways, including in person and through letters. Discover the Dream aims to keep students engaged in school and help them graduate high school. Not only is this program free, but for the high school graduates who are college-admissible with plans of attending UNI, their tuition will be paid in full.



**SUPPORTING GOAL 2:**

**CAMPUS VITALITY**

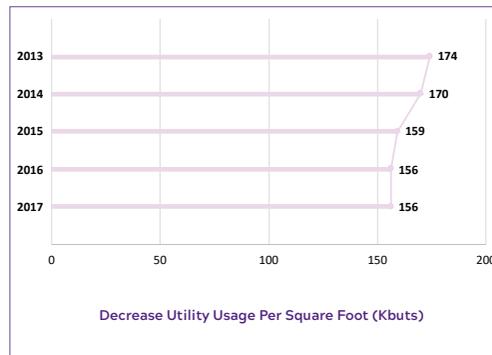
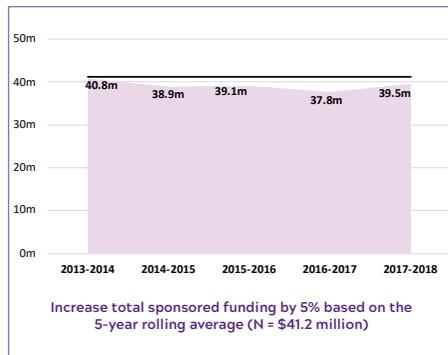
Enhance resource and facility development to provide an enriched campus life experience which is both environmentally and fiscally responsible.

**FY2018 INITIATIVES:**

- Alex Oberle, associate professor of geography and director of the National Geographic Alliance of Iowa, was recently named a National Geographic Education Fellow by the National Geographic Society (NGS) for the 2017-18 academic year. Oberle was one of five fellows selected worldwide to receive this fellowship and the only representative from higher education. Oberle plans to bring what he learns back to Iowa to provide opportunities for Iowa teachers, UNI pre-service teachers and geography majors. He is also a National Geographic Explorer, which gives him the opportunity to collaborate with other Fellows and Explorers on research and to assist each other throughout this entire fellowship.
- UNI is leading the way to ensure Iowa students are prepared for the 21st-century workforce. UNI is currently the only school to offer coursework to satisfy the state's newly created Computer Science Endorsement. This endorsement will help meet the goal of Senate File 274 passed in 2017, requiring that every elementary, middle and high school offer high-quality computer science courses by July 1, 2019.

To help meet this goal, three UNI professors of computer science, Sarah Diesburg, Philip East and Ben Schafer, applied for and were awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. This was the largest NSF grant awarded to the UNI computer science department and will fund research-practitioner partnerships to facilitate computer science teacher professional development across Iowa.

UNI was recently recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council with a LEED 2009 Gold Certification after the renovation of Schindler Education Center. The LEED 2009 Green Building Rating System for Commercial Interiors promotes healthy, durable and environmentally sound design solutions for building occupants. The design team for the remodel of UNI's Schindler Education Center incorporated Energy Star rated equipment throughout the building to save on operating and maintenance costs, including computers, LED displays, touchscreens and A/V equipment. The direct result of this effort was a 55% reduction in utility costs for the building, or \$183,000/year.



**SUPPORTING GOAL 3:**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Create opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to build external relationships that enhance local and global learning experiences and contribute to the cultural and economic vitality of the Cedar Valley and Iowa.

**FY2018 INITIATIVES:**

- UNI's Business and Community Services (BCS) has again been nationally recognized for their work to strengthen Iowa's communities. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) awarded UNI's Regional Entrepreneurship Project with the 2017 Excellence and Innovation in Regional and Economic Development Award.
- This year, the GBPAC teamed up with the Waterloo Writing Project to bring a new perspective to the 2017-18 Artist Series. Made up of elementary and high school students, the Waterloo Writing Project is a "place for students to write, publish, and perform." These young writers experienced all

aspects of the shows then gave a full review of their experiences.

- The Department of Geography's GeoTREE Center received a small grant from the Iowa Geographic Information Council to create a process for collecting geo-referenced points and 360-degree imagery utilizing inexpensive cameras linked to mobile devices. The center is utilizing this process to design lesson plans for local 4th-grade classes to map their school buildings and campus.

