

# Nebraska Wesleyan University

Catalog 2024-2025

## Faculty

### 2024-2025 Full-time Faculty:

**Cody L. Arenz** (1999)

*Professor of Biology*

B.S., 1993, Oklahoma State University; Ph.D., 1998, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Pamela A. Arnold-Johnson** (2007)

*Associate Professor of Chemistry*

B.S., 1995, College of William and Mary; Ph.D., 2001, Cornell University.

**Bailey Barnard** (2022)

*Assistant Professor of Art History*

B.A., 2008, University of Nebraska at Omaha; M.A., 2011, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.A., 2016, Ph.D., 2017, Columbia University.

**Lacey Batt-Peters** (2022)

*Assistant Professor of Health and Human Performance*

B.A., 2010, University of Nebraska at Kearney; M.A., 2015, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Zachary D. Baumann** (2020)

*Assistant Professor of Political Science*

B.S., 2005, Baker University; M.S. 2007, Ph.D., 2009, University of Mississippi.

**Maria G. Becker** (2019)

*Assistant Professor of Physics*

B.S., 2010, M.S., 2013, Ph.D., 2016, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Peggy L. Behrens** (2020)

*Assistant Professor of Nursing*

B.S.N., 1993, M.S.N., 2007, University of Nebraska Medical Center; Ph.D., 2019, Walden University.

**Talea Bloch** (2022)

*Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre*

B.A., 2007, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.M., 2011, D.M.A., 2014, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Melisa M. Borchardt** (2000)

*Professor of Social Work*

B.S., 1992, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.S.W., 1997, University of Denver.

**Manuela Borzone** (2022)

*Assistant Professor of Modern Languages in Spanish*

B.A., 2008, Universidad de Malaga; M.A., 2010, Nottingham University; M.A., 2015, Ph.D., 2020, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

**Kevin P. Bower** (2005)

*Professor of History*

B.S., 1996, University of Evansville; M.A., 1999, Ph.D., 2003, University of Cincinnati.

**Jerald S. Bricker** (2003)

*Associate Professor of Biology*

B.S., 1986, Western Michigan University; M.S., 1988, Ph.D., 1993, Arizona State University.

**Jaime Cano** (2020)

*Assistant Professor of Spanish*

B.A., 2012, M.A., 2015, Texas A&M International University; Ph.D., 2019, University of Houston.

**Kara A. Cavel (2010)**

*Associate Professor of Social Work*

B.S.W., 1999, Creighton University; M.S.W., 2002, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Gina Chambers (2013)**

*Assistant Professor of Health and Human Performance*

B.S., 1997, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.Ed., 2004, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Jay Scott Chipman (1994)**

*Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts*

A.A., 1974, Mid-Plains Community College-Nebraska; B.S., 1977, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.A., 1987, Louisiana State University; Ph.D., 1997, University of Pittsburgh.

**Hyeong-Gyu Choi (2023)**

*Assistant Professor of Business*

B.S., 2002, The Ohio State University; M.B.A., 2005, The University of Findlay; M.L.R.H.R., 2006, Cleveland State University; Ph.D., 2017, University of Memphis.

**Nathaniel Cunningham (2010)**

*Professor of Physics*

B.S., 1999, University of Notre Dame; Ph.D., 2006, University of Colorado.

**Rick Cypert (1987)**

*Professor of English*

B.S., 1981, McMurry College; M.A., 1983, Iowa State University; Ph.D., 1987, Texas Christian University.

**Rebecca Czaja-Stevens (2018)**

*Assistant Professor of Social Work*

B.S., 2002, University of Nebraska-Kearney; M.S.W., 2006, University of Nebraska-Omaha

**Rachel Dykstra (2021)**

*Assistant Professor of Health and Human Performance*

B.A., 2014, Grand Valley State University; M.S., 2018, Ph.D., 2021, Western Michigan University.

**Jennifer Eilts (2019)**

*Instructor of Nursing*

R.N., 2002, Bryan School of Nursing; B.S.N., 2004, M.S.N., 2015, Nebraska Wesleyan University.

**Elizabeth Ennis (2022)**

*Assistant Professor of Theatre Costume Design*

B.A., 2010, American University; M.F.A., 2018, Temple University.

**Nathanael L. P. Fackler (1998)**

*Professor of Chemistry*

B.A., 1990, Valparaiso University; Ph.D., 1995, Northwestern University.

**Robert W. Fairchild (1975)**

*Professor of Physics*

B.S., 1971, Rensselaer-Polytechnic Institute; Ph.D., 1975, Cornell University; M.S., 1993, Colorado State University.

**Molly Fitzke (2012)**

*Associate Professor of Nursing*

B.S.N., 2005, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.S.N., 2008, Ed.D., 2009, College of St. Mary.

**Matt Flores (2020)**

*Assistant Professor of Elementary Education*

B.S., 2005, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.S., 2012, Bakers University; Ph.D., ABD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Brittany Fritzing (2022)**

*Assistant Professor of Nursing, Traditional BSN Director*

B.S.N., 2010, Clarkson College; M.S.N., 2015, Ed.D., 2020, Nebraska Methodist College.

**Jo Ann M. Fuess** (1990)

*Professor of Spanish and German*

B.A., 1983, University of Delaware; M.A., 1985, Purdue University; Ph.D., 1992, University of Nebraska Lincoln.

**Gary Gerald** (2009)

*Associate Professor of Biology*

B.S., 2001, M.S., 2003, Middle Tennessee State University; Ph.D., 2008, Miami University.

**David R. Gracie** (2004)

*Associate Professor of Art*

B.F.A., 2000, University of Hartford; M.F.A., 2004, Northwestern University.

**Patricia A. Hawk** (1997)

*Professor of Communication*

B.A., 1985, Chadron State College; M.A., 1995, Doane College Lincoln; Ph.D., 2007, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Patrick M. Hayden-Roy** (1989)

*Professor of History*

B.A., 1981, University of Southern California; M.A., 1983, Ph.D., 1988, Stanford University.

**Rachel Hayes** (2017)

*Associate Professor of Psychology*

B.A., 2002, Southern Methodist University; M.A., 2006, Ph.D., 2017, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**C. Gerise Herndon** (1993)

*Professor of English*

B.A., 1985, Drury College; M.A., 1990, Ph.D., 1993, University of Texas at Austin.

**Mary Hickman** (2015)

*Assistant Professor of English*

B.A., 2003, Boise State University; M.F.A., 2006, M.A., 2012, University of Iowa.

**Jana J. Holzmeier** (1999)

*Professor of Music*

B.M.E., 1985, Truman State University; M.M., 1988, Indiana University; D.M.A., 2003, University of Texas at Austin.

**Jeffrey A. Isaacson** (2000)

*Professor of Biology*

B.S., 1983, Nebraska Wesleyan University; D.V.M., 1987, Kansas State University; Ph.D., 1996, Iowa State University.

**Thomas A. Jackman** (1991)

*Professor of Business Administration*

B.S., 1984, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.B.A., 1986, DePaul University; Ph.D., 2011, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Karla K. Jensen** (2000)

*Professor of Communication*

B.A., 1988, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.A., 1991, Ph.D., 1994, University of Kansas.

**Toni Jensen** (2014)

*Associate Professor of Social Work*

B.S.W., 2003, Dana College; M.S.W., M.P.A., 2007, University of Nebraska at Omaha; D.S.W., 2020, University of St. Thomas.

**Ryan Kathman** (2017)

*Assistant Professor of Theatre*

B.A., 2003, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.F.A., 2010, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Sarah A. Kelen** (1999)

*Professor of English*

B.A., 1990, University of California-Berkeley; M.A., 1991, M.Phil., 1993, Ph.D., 1996, Columbia University.

**Heba Khalil** (2021)

*Assistant Professor of Sociology/Criminology*

B.A., 2010, The American University in Cairo; M.A., 2018, Ph.D. (ABD), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**Viktor Khanzhyn (2017)**

*Assistant Professor of Economics*

B.F.A., 2004, M.F.A., 2005, Petro Mohyla Mykolayiv State University; M.A., 2007, Ph.D., 2012, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Chelsea Klinkebiel (2021)**

*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

B.A., 2008, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.A., 2011, Ph.D., 2016, Texas Tech University.

**Tyler Kohmetscher (2023)**

*Instructor of Health and Human Performance*

B.S., 2013, Concordia University; M.A., 2016, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Ed.D. (ABD), Logan University.

**Rita M. Lester (1998)**

*Professor of Religion*

B.A., 1989, Graceland College; M.T.S., 1991, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary; Ph.D., 1997, Northwestern University and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary.

**Shoon Lio (2023)**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology*

B.A., 1986, University of California - San Diego; M.A., 2003, Ph.D., 2008, University of California - Riverside.

**Tamra Llewellyn (2013)**

*Associate Professor of Health and Human Performance*

B.S., 2006, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.S., 2009, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Ph.D., 2013, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

**Lisa A. Lockman (1990)**

*Professor of Art*

B.A., 1985, Indiana University; M.F.A., 1988, Indiana State University.

**Cynthia J. Marolf (1990)**

*Assistant Professor of Biology*

B.S., 1986, M.S., 1988, Ed.D., 2020, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Tanya Martin (2016)**

*Assistant Professor of Education*

B.S., 1994, M.S., 1999, 2003, Ed.D., 2011, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Sandra K. Mathews (1996)**

*Professor of History*

B.A., 1986, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.A., 1988, Ph.D., 1998, University of New Mexico.

**Ann Matthews (2021)**

*Assistant Professor of Social Work*

B.S.W., 2002, Creighton University; M.S.W., 2004, University of Nebraska - Omaha; Ph.D. (ABD), University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Anne McAlexander (2020)**

*Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre*

B.F.A., 2005, State University of New York at Fredonia; M.F.A., 2019, University of Ohio.

**Sandra J. McBride (1991)**

*Assistant Professor of English*

B.A., 1984, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.A., 1991, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Kristin McGuire (2021)**

*Assistant Professor of Medical/Surgical Nursing*

B.S.N., 2009, Creighton University; M.S.N., 2019, Nebraska Wesleyan University; D.Ed. (ABD), Nebraska Methodist College - Omaha.

**Brent McKain (2020)**

*Assistant Professor of Mathematics*

B.A., 2011, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.S., 2014, Ph.D., 2017, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Angela McKinney (1998)**

*Professor of Biology*

B.A., 1989, Taylor University; M.S., 1991, Ph.D., 1996, The University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

**Mark Melichar (2021)**

*Associate Professor of Economics*

B.A., 2008, Hastings College; Ph.D., 2013, Kansas State University.

**Diane Mickey (2018)**

*Assistant Professor of Education*

B.S., 1981, M.Ed., 1986, Ph.D., University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Sara Jane Miles (2006)**

*Professor of French*

B.A., 1993, University of Oregon; M.A., 1996, Ph.D., 2005, University of Virginia.

**Jeanette Milius (2017)**

*Associate Professor of Accounting*

B.S., 1983, Peru State College; M.B.A., 2007, Ph.D., 2020, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Austin Mohr (2013)**

*Associate Professor of Mathematics*

B.S., 2007, M.S., 2008, Southern Illinois University; Ph.D., 2013, University of South Carolina.

**Jeffrey A. Mohr (2002)**

*Professor of Social Work*

B.A., 1980, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.S.W., 1983, University of Kansas.

**Sara Moore (2018)**

*Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice*

B.A., 2004, Concordia University Irvine; M.A., 2009, Concordia University Chicago; Ph.D., 2020, University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**Catherine E. Nelson (1997)**

*Professor of Spanish*

B.A., 1993, Texas Christian University; M.A., 1994, New York University in Spain; Ph.D., 2000, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Megan Pendley (2022)**

*Assistant Professor of Social Work*

B.S.W., 2006, Dana College; M.S.W., 2013, University of New England; D.S.W., 2021, Walden University.

**James E. Perry (1987)**

*Associate Professor of Sociology*

B.A., 1979, J.D., 1982, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Patricia Dotson Pettit (1980)**

*Professor of Health and Human Performance*

B.S., 1977, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; M.P.E., 1978, Ph.D., 1989, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Kristin A. Pfabe (2000)**

*Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science*

B.A., 1987, Concordia College; M.S., 1990, Ph.D., 1995, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Rachel M. Pokora (1996)**

*Professor of Communication*

B.A., 1990, Michigan State University; M.A., 1993, Ph.D., 1996, Purdue University.

**Adrienne Prokupek-Pickett (2010)**

*Professor of Biology*

B.S., 2002, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Ph.D., 2008, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Terry Ratzlaff (2022)**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Digital Media/Photography*

B.A., 2007, The Art Institute of Colorado; M.F.A., 2021, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Jonathan D. Redding (2017)**

*Associate Professor of Religion*

B.A., 2009, Wingate University; M.Div., 2012, Wake Forest University School of Divinity; Ph.D., 2017, Vanderbilt University.

**Ray Romero (2017)**

*Associate Professor of Business*

B.S., 1990, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.B.A., 1996, City University of Seattle, Washington; Ed.D., 2020, Creighton University.

**Jodi M. Ryter (2003)**

*Professor of Chemistry*

B.S., 1990, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Ph.D., 1997, University of Colorado.

**Justin J. Skirry (2006)**

*Professor of Philosophy*

B.A., 1991, M.A., 1998, San Francisco State; Ph.D., 2003, Purdue University.

**Nathaniel C. Smith (2019)**

*Assistant Professor of Political Science*

B.A., 2010, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.A., 2015, Kansas State University; M.A., 2017, Michigan State University.

**Amy Spears (2014)**

*Assistant Professor of Music*

B.M.E., 2003, Auburn University; M.M., 2007, University of Alabama; Ph.D., 2014, Arizona State University.

**John D. Spilker (2011)**

*Associate Professor of Music*

B.A., 2004, Brigham Young University; M.M., 2006, Ph.D., 2010, Florida State University.

**Christopher L. Swift (2001)**

*Associate Professor of Business Administration*

B.S., 1987, M.B.A., 1994, Ph.D., 2009, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Kelsey Thiem (2023)**

*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

B.A., 2011, Creighton University; Ph.D., 2016, University of Iowa.

**Mark Thompson (2022)**

*Assistant Professor of Education*

B.S., 1995, M.Ed., 1999, University of South Florida, Tampa. Ph.D., 2014, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Tami Thompson (2015)**

*Associate Professor of Business Administration*

B.S., 1987, Iowa State University; M.B.A., 2000, Bellevue University; Ph.D., 2010, Capella University.

**Bradford Tice (2009)**

*Associate Professor of English*

B.A., 2001, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; M.A., 2004, University of Colorado-Boulder; Ph.D., 2009, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**David A. Treichel (1994)**

*Professor of Chemistry*

B.A., 1987, Carleton College; M.S., 1988, Ph.D., 1993, Northwestern University.

**Tom Trenney (2020)**

*Assistant Professor of Music and Choir*

M.M., , Eastman School of Music.

**Rebecca Wagner Voight (1989)**

*Associate Professor of Nursing*

B.S.N., 1974; M.S.N., 1979, University of Nebraska College of Nursing; Ph.D., 2012, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Kaitlin Weskamp (2021)**

*Assistant Professor of Biochemistry*

B.S., 2014, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Ph.D., 2019, University of Michigan.

**David F. Whitt** (1991)

*Professor of Communication*

B.S., 1989, Wayne State College; M.A., 1991, Ph.D., 2002, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Lisa Atwood Wilkinson** (2002)

*Professor of Philosophy*

B.A., 1987, M.A., 1994, M.A., 2000, Ph.D., 2002, University of South Florida.

**Steven M. Wills** (2010)

*Professor of History*

B.A., 1997, University of Puget Sound; M.A., 2004, Ph.D., 2010, Columbia University.

**Samantha J. Wilson** (2016)

*Associate Professor of Health and Human Performance*

B.A., 2011, Buena Vista University; M.S., 2013, North Dakota State University; Ed.D., 2019, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Meghan K. Winchell** (2004)

*Professor of History*

B.A., 1994, State University of New York at Geneseo; M.A., 1998, Ph.D., 2003, University of Arizona.

**Susan Wortmann** (2009)

*Professor of Sociology*

B.S., 1996, Wayne State College; M.A., 1999, Ph.D., 2003, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

*( ) denotes year of original appointment*

## 2024-25 Officers of the Faculty - *Faculty Council*

**Kevin Bower**

*Faculty President*

*Faculty President Elect*

**Adrienne Prokupek-Pickett**

*Vice President for Faculty Affairs*

**Matt Flores**

*Vice President for Undergraduate Curriculum*

**Tanya Martin**

*Vice President for Faculty Development*

**Samantha Wilson**

*Vice President for Graduate Curriculum and Standards*

**Sarah Kelen**

*Secretary-Archivist*

**Zachary Baumann**

*Parliamentarian*