## Faculty

# Catalog

2026-2027

### 2025-2026 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)
*Associate Professor of Political Science*
B.S., 2005, Baker University; M.S. 2007, Ph.D., 2009, University of Mississippi.

**Maria G. Becker** (2019)
*Associate 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.

**Kevin P. Bower** (2005)
*Professor of History*
B.S., 1996, University of Evansville; M.A., 1999, Ph.D., 2003, University of Cincinnati.

**Audrey Brydl-Andrews** (2025)
*Assistant Professor of Elementary Education*
B.A., 2009, Doane University; M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction, 2010, Doane University; M.Ed. Administration, 2016, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Ed.S., 2022, Doane University.

**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.

**Nathaniel Cunningham** (2010)
*Professor of Physics*
B.S., 1999, University of Notre Dame; Ph.D., 2006, University of Colorado.

**Rebecca Czaja-Stevens** (2018)
*Associate Professor of Social Work*
B.S.,2002, University of Nebraska-Kearney; M.S.W., 2006, University of Nebraska-Omaha

**Gregory DeGirolamo**
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D., 2018, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Brent Echols** (2026)
*Visiting Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Bands*
.

**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.

**Matt Flores** (2020)
*Associate Professor of Elementary Education*
B.S., 2005, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.S., 2012, Bakers University; Ph.D., ABD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Steven Foertsch** (2025)
*Assistant Professor of Sociology/Criminology*
B.A., 2017, Assumption College; M.A., 2020/2022, The New School for Social Research; Ph.D., ABD, Baylor University.

**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)
*Professor of Biology*
B.S., 2001, M.S., 2003, Middle Tennessee State University; Ph.D., 2008, Miami 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.

**Rachel Hayes** (2017)
*Associate Professor of Psychology*
B.A., 2002, Southern Methodist University; M.A., 2006, Ph.D., 2017, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Mary Hickman** (2015)
*Associate 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.

**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.

**Amber Johnson**
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*
Ph.D., University of Oklahoma

**Kyle Johnson** (2025)
*Associate Professor of Biology*
B.S., 2008, Concordia University; Ph.D., 2012, Michigan State University.

**Ishrat Kamal-Ahmed** (2026)
*Assistant Professor of Health and Human Performance*
.

**Ryan Kathman** (2017)
*Associate Professor of Theatre*
B.A., 2003, Nebraska Wesleyan University; M.F.A., 2010, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Phil Kaus** (2025)
*Assistant Professor of Business Administration*
B.S., Chadron State College; M.S., University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Samantha Kaus** (2025)
*Instructor of Accounting*
M.P.A., 2022, 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)
*Associate 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.

**Lenni Kmiec** (2025)
*Assistant Professor of Theatre/Acting*
B.M., 1975, University of Iowa; M.A., 1977, University of Iowa; DMA, 2002, Central Pacific University-Honolulu, HI.

**Megan Kobs** (2025)
*Assistant Professor of Athletic Training*
M.S., 2017, South Dakota State University.

**Bradlee LaMotte**
*Assistant Professor of Theatre-Scenic Design*
M.F.A, 2024, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**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.

**Tamra Llewellyn** (2013)
*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.

**Sarah Lyons**
*Head of Electronic Resources and Access Services*
M.S.L.S., University of Kentucky.

**Chelsi Marolf** (2026)
*Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology*
.

**Cynthia J. Marolf** (1990)
*Senior Associate 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.

**Brent McKain** (2020)
*Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science*
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.

**Sara Jane Miles** (2006)
*Professor of French*
B.A., 1993, University of Oregon; M.A., 1996, Ph.D., 2005, University of Virginia.

**Austin Mohr** (2013)
*Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science*
B.S., 2007, M.S., 2008, Southern Illinois University; Ph.D., 2013, University of South Carolina.

**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.

**Michael Nolan** (2025)
*Assistant Professor of Athletic Training*
Ph.D., 2024, Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions.

**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 Professional Studies*
B.A., 1979, J.D., 1982, 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.

**Adrianne Prokupek-Pickett** (2010)
*Professor of Biology*
B.S., 2002, Nebraska Wesleyan University; Ph.D., 2008, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Erin Putney**
*Assistant Professor of Nursing*
Ed.D., , Doane University.

**Terry Ratzlaff** (2022)
*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.

**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)
*Associate Professor of Political Science*
B.A., 2010, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; M.A., 2015, Kansas State University; M.A., 2017, Michigan 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.

**Scott Susong** (2025)
*Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre/Directing*
B.A., 1995, University of Texas at El Paso; M.F.A., 2002, Towson University.

**Christopher L. Swift** (2001)
*Professor of Business Administration*
B.S., 1987, M.B.A., 1994, Ph.D., 2009, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Martha Tanner**
*Head of Research Services and Archives*
Ph.D., Tulane University.

**Kelsey Thiem** (2023)
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*
B.A., 2011, Creighton University; Ph.D., 2016, University of Iowa.

**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.

**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.

**Nicholas Wohlgemuth** (2024)
*Assistant Professor of Biology*
Ph.D., , University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Susan Wortmann** (2009)
*Professor of Sociology*
B.S., 1996, Wayne State College; M.A., 1999, Ph.D., 2003, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Evi Wusk** (2025)
*Assistant Professor of Secondary Education*
B.S., 2006, Peru State College; M.S., 2008, Peru State College; Ed.D., 2011, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**Eric Wyler** (2025)
*Assistant Professor of Music*
M.M., 2021, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

**James Yankech** (2024)
*Assistant Professor of Business Administration*
Ph.D., 2015, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

*( ) denotes year of original appointment*

## 2026-27 Officers of the Faculty - *Faculty Council*

**Toni Jensen**
*Faculty President*

**Steve Wills**
*Vice President for Faculty Affairs*

**Matthew Flores**
*Vice President for Undergraduate Curriculum*

**Tanya Martin**
*Vice President for Faculty Development*

**Samantha Wilson**
*Vice President for Graduate Curriculum and Standards*

**Rachel Hayes**
*Secretary-Archivist*