

Grace Ann Mims, Ph.D. Brief Bio

Grace Ann Mims has been a counselor educator and supervisor for 27 years teaching and advising doctoral, specialists, and masters students in clinical mental health counseling, school counseling, and higher education student affairs. She holds six state and national professional counseling credentials. She has a distinguished and sustained record of excellence and advancement at the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK; 2008-present) and the University of South Dakota (USD; 1993-2008).

As Interim Dean, Grace represents the UNK College of Education at state (e.g., NDE, NCTE, NACTE, Buffett Institute, NE Early Childhood Education Workforce Commission, UNO & UNL COE Dean's, Early Edu Alliance, NE etc.), national (i.e., CAEP & AACTE) and international (China ATM & EliteK-12) partners to learn of workforce challenges and opportunities. She served as a member of the UNK Administrative Council, Dean's Council, Enrollment Management Steering Committee, First Generation Committee, and Community College Transfer Team. Fiscal responsibilities include strategic planning and management of approximately \$7,900,000 for personnel, operating, and NU Foundation accounts. She partnered with the NU Foundation and the UNK Alumni Association to secure financial resources for the College, including cultivation of long-term relationships with alumni, employers, donors, and other stakeholders.

Grace served as Chair of UNK Counseling and School Psychology Department (CSP) in the College of Education 2010-2019. She was responsible for the continuity, quality and effectiveness of four graduate programs with approximately 200 students, and a graduate certificate program. During enrollment challenges, Grace strategically diversified undergraduate course offerings via course delivery and the approval of a General Studies portal course. She helped the department transition into online course delivery while at the same time preserving intensive clinical training which resulted in a significant increase in majors and the approval of an additional faculty line for the Higher Education Student Affairs online program.

Grace secured approximately \$880,000 in external grants through university/community partnerships all geared toward providing graduate students experiential learning opportunities and promoting mental health. Grace wrote and was awarded a \$350,000 VAWA federal grant in partnership with the UNK Counseling and Health Care and the UNK Women's Center. She received the *2011 UNK Student Affairs Partnership Award* for establishing a coordinated response for women who are victims of violence on campus and the surrounding five counties. The grant was renewed for \$900,000. Her advocacy efforts led to the creation of the UNK/Buffalo County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) for which she served as a member for six years. Grace established a successful 12-year university/school partnership with the Sioux Falls School District via a service-learning project for graduate students to conduct small group diversity training for 16,500 high school students and 1500 teachers, school counselors, and administrators.

Grace has extensive involvement in national and state accreditation processes. She coordinated and wrote the self-reports for the 2014 CACREP Review for the UNK Clinical Mental Health Counseling program, the 2010 Academic Program Review (APR) for UNK CSP Department, and the 2007 CACREP Self-Report for the Doctoral Program at the University of South Dakota. She served as a consultant for the UNK College of Education in the preparation of the 2017 CAEP self-report as author of the Educator Preparation Programs Recruitment and Retention Plan and serves on the UNK Assessment Committee.

Grace served as UNK Faculty Senate President 2017-2019, a member of the UNK Equity, Access, and Diversity Committee 2018-19, and the University of Nebraska Diversity Officer Collaborative (D.O.C.) (2018-present). She is engaged in state leadership with the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) Advisory Council, and is the Vice President of the NE Department of Health and Human Services Region 3 Advisory Council. She has held many state, regional, and national professional leadership roles.

In her spare time, Grace can be found searching for antique treasures many of which are displayed in her office. Her husband, Matthew, is also a professor at UNK and graciously tolerates the antique collections. Their son, Griffin, graduated last summer from UNL and is pursuing adventure photography in Lake Tahoe, CA.