

## **CHRISTOPHER R. NELSON, Ph.D.**

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**ASSOCIATE DEAN** (no Dean) | UND School of Graduate Studies, 2019 to present

### Career Readiness

- Secured UND's participation in NC State's [Accelerate to Industry](#) (A2i) [first cohort](#) with VA Tech, U of VA, U of OK, Ohio State, UNC Charlotte, NC Central, Penn State, NC A&T, and U of DE
- Work closely with local/state government, development organizations: GF Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC), City of GF, ND Department of Commerce, ND Workforce Development Council, GF Community Foundation, NonProfit Business Alliance
- Partner with local/national industry and nonprofits: Northrop Grumman, General Atomics, Edgewood, Ideal Aerosmith, AE2S, EERC, SkySkopes, Airtonomy, Minnkota Power, True North Equipment, CVIC, Northern Plains UAS Test Site, 50 South Capital, Thales, Bio-Techne, Great North Ventures, WCCO Belting, TruWeather Solutions, Cirrus, EvolveGF, Flight Corp
- Placed interns: ND Dept of Commerce, GF Community Foundation, City of GF, Bio-Techne, EERC
- Took 15 students in range of fields to full-day site visit at Northrop Grumman
- Developed Job Search Strategies module featuring 11 talks or panels with local and national leaders
- Made A2i resources available: NC State's Industry Job Search Strategies program, PhD Leadership Development program and internship opportunity, U of Delaware's wind energy panel
- Established jointly funded PhD Traineeships and micro-internships with City of Grand Forks
- Established jointly funded (VPR) Pre-PostDoc Grant Writing Experience with faculty mentor
- Established jointly funded Bridge Entrepreneurship Fellowship with Center for Innovation
- Established Nonprofit Summer Internship program with stipend
- Received A2i training at NC State and meet regularly with team and cohort Graduate Deans
- Designed longer A2i [brochure](#) and shorter [flyer](#) to use in recruiting sponsors and students

### Program Quality

- Wrote 10-page proposal then selected for \$25,000 subaward from NSF and CGS for UND to be 1 of 10 institutions participating in the Master's Career Pathways Exit Survey Project 2022–2024
- Complete all graduate program reviews on rotating basis (5-12 per year)
- Hold 1-hour follow-up conversations with each program under review
- Built Academic Program Review template in Taskstream
- Provide Taskstream training
- Worked with UAP for planning and review of Academic Program Review dashboards for data needs
- Participate in accreditation site visits (e.g., Nursing, Public Health, Art, Public Administration)
- Spearheading group discussion and working groups to revise and restart Nursing PhD
- Designing Exiting Graduate Student Survey to measure program success (August 2022)

## Program Development

- Guided development of 25 new Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs across campus
- Guided development of 6 new Professional Science Master's degrees across campus
- Leveraged A2i work to develop cutting-edge Digital Engineering class taught by professional
- Worked with English to develop course to build STEM graduate student writing skills
- Working to establish cross-disciplinary core competencies in ethics and data analytics
- Established pathways for [employees to earn graduate degrees](#) (EERC, Digi-Key, City of GF)
- Assisted in development of Indigenous Health PhD (policies, steps to degree, catalog)
- Work with programs on issues like capacity (MLS, Space Studies), marketing (ESSP), advising (Psychology, Nutrition/Dietetics, Aviation)
- Collaborative grant design and review (NSF, NSF NRT, EDA (Economic Dev Authority))
- Designed and implemented survey of interest in competencies coursework with revenue sharing
- Working with CEHD on possible ELL modular courses to assist international graduate students
- Working with a diverse group of faculty on interdisciplinary subplans for graduate degrees.
- Supporting development of new Master's: Applied Statistics, Communication, Criminal Justice, Human-Machine Interaction
- Assisted as needed in revision and approval of MS in Data Science and Cybersecurity

## Recruitment and Enrollment

- Helped produce [record-setting enrollment increases](#) each semester, including [online](#) and in [revenue-generating Master's programs](#)
- Worked with Marketing and Admissions to develop long-term recruitment plan: developed automated email campaigns and program-specific messages, promotion of ABM programs
- Utilized new national McNair Scholars Directory for targeted recruitment campaign
- Attend events to recruit students (Big Data conference, Career Fairs)
- Held UND Graduate Fair (2021) and promoted to regional schools
- Working with program directors on potential adoption of recruitment platform GradSchoolMatch
- Designed and implemented Entering Graduate Student Survey to capture expectations, concerns
- Wrote template and implemented Annual Graduate Student Progress and Performance Review to support communication, retention, and timely completion for all thesis and dissertation students
- Assisting CEM international recruitment, including west Africa, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia
- Working with Tamba-Kuui Bailey on establishing recruitment at HBCUs and HLCUs

## Process Improvement

- Working to develop HR criteria and funding structure for fellowship stipends
- Partnering with UNDAAF to better track employment outcomes using CRM
- Worked with HR and VPAA to improve efficiency and accuracy of GA hiring process
- Worked with UAP to build a [graduate retention dashboard](#), dashboards breaking down survey data
- Found way to provide campus services to students who have completed coursework but not defense
- Changed process to add graduate certificates from application with fee to form submission
- Collaborated on process to track and advise students in 4+1/combined programs
- Removed arbitrary maximum credit cap (eliminating 600+ Registration Action Forms)
- Meet regularly with Admissions and MCS to work on issues/processes (e.g., inquiry sharing)

## Student Support

- Participated in years-long process of developing the [Gershman Graduate Center](#) and promoting the [signature space](#) supporting graduate student success, programming, and belonging
- Wrote and distributed a new 26-page [Graduate Mentoring and Advising Handbook](#) laying out best practices in mentoring and being mentored
- Offered department- and program-specific training sessions on best practices in mentoring
- Developed a new Dissertation Writing Boot Camp with the University Writing Center
- Providing programming to McNair students to better prepare them for graduate school
- Organized mental health programming with a [diversified approach to mental health and wellness](#), including a student satisfaction survey and working with mental health inventory working group
- Secured agreement of Deans to raise PhD stipends (provided research, data analysis)
- Created template for a graduate program handbook to be used by every program to communicate information, provide guidance, and enhance recruitment
- Working with Tamba-Kuii Bailey to establish underrepresented student and faculty affinity groups

## Advocacy and Representation

- Worked with Gershman and Foundation to create a [virtual tour](#) of the Gershman Graduate Center
- Give interviews, like this [podcast interview](#) released by the UAS Summit & Expo and this [radio interview](#) and this [television interview](#) on workforce development and Accelerate to Industry
- Working with UNDAAF on increasing alumni participation in and sponsorship of [A2i](#) at UND
- Report on SGS: weekly updates to VPAA for President's office; biweekly VPAA Executive Council meetings; monthly participation in Executive Council; annually to University Senate
- Attend annual meetings for Council of Graduate Schools, Western Association of Graduate Schools
- Network with alumni, community, employers: conferences, dinners, hockey games, site visits, city government meetings
- Meet with candidates for faculty positions (e.g., multiple programs in EHD, Space Studies)
- Asked to present on "Strategic Communication" to new cohort of 10 universities for A2i training
- Invited to serve on Council of Graduate Schools groups:
  - 2-year term on Advisory Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy 2022-2024
  - 1 of 10 Deans in session on "Lessons Learned 2020: Regional Comprehensive Universities 2021 and Beyond"
  - 2021 Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee for Humanities and Fine Arts
  - Deans' focus group planning CGS 2020 virtual meeting
  - Nominated (2021) to serve on CGS National Board of Directors, but not elected
- Attended monthly WAGS meetings to collaborate with Deans regionally on pandemic response
- Took 6 top graduate students to UND Showcase Day March 2019 to present research to state legislators and SBHE members

## Pandemic Response

- Created new policy for Master's and PhD defenses, and issued guidelines for use of Zoom
- Created new policy and electronic forms to replace the thesis and dissertation signature pages
- Sent guidance to graduate assistants on work expectations during remote learning period
- Collaborated with SMHS so students with delayed graduations remain under liability insurance
- Moved all forms digital (Perceptive Content, DocuSign)

- Built and revised asynchronous online orientation
- Offered all professional development opportunities in an online/hybrid format
- Offered new virtual weekly Bring Your Own Coffee topical meeting series for all graduate students and graduate faculty (e.g., Using Zoom for Defenses). Co-led discussion on “Work/Life Balance”
- Planned mindfulness conversation for faculty, led by UCC Director and Lead Psychologist
- Identified graduate courses needing online development assistance from TTAaDA
- Sent out tips for “Staying Productive as a Graduate Student during Covid-19”
- Established virtual staff walk-in hours and Starfish appointments

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS** | UND Division of Research and Economic Development, 2020 to present

### Developing New Research

- Produced white paper on “Autonomy Literacy” with team of faculty (A&S, CEM, CEHD), selected by VPR office to move forward into development for a full 2022 NSF NRT grant submission
- Drafted white paper, “Committee for the Strategic Enhancement of Autonomous Systems Research (CSEASR): A Proposal,” calling for finding existing synergies, building a research database, and proposing new research to expand funding of ASR and support the Research Institute for Autonomous Systems (RIAS)
- Drafted 37-page “National Security: Three-Phased Roadmap for Strategic Enhancement and Expansion of UND Research,” entailing extensive research and events like Department of Defense webinars on funding opportunities within DARPA and the Minerva Initiative
- Produced and assisted in revision of multiple drafts of 2 position descriptions and job advertisements in area of National Security: an Executive Director and an AVPR
- Assisted in drafting of ARPA funding requests for Behavioral Health, National Security, Intellectual Property, and Rural Health
- Worked with EERC on multiple drafts of a DEI plan for submission with grant proposals

### Supporting Existing Research

- Worked with Assistant AG to develop non-disclosure agreement/intellectual property memorandum of understanding template, process, and timeline for PhD students doing external research
- Finalized the research project submission form for CSEASR
- Serve on ND EPSCoR State Steering Committee and on Science and Technology Subcommittee
- Drafted Guidelines for Restarting Human Subjects Research at UND after pandemic hiatus
- Produced a first draft of a new Research Data Management Policy

### Analyzing Research

- Worked with UAP on data needed regarding GA expenditures to ensure accurate reporting for the Higher Education Research and Development Survey. A reporting process was implemented
- Wrote “UND Stewardship of State Research Investments,” focused on dollars earmarked and results produced from Centers of Excellence from 2005 to present
- Assisted in Executive Summary Report on Retention of Faculty, addressing reasons research-active faculty choose to depart UND and possible solutions to reduce this number
- Provided detailed feedback on most recent EPSCoR ND-ACES Year 1 Report

## Representing Research

- Proposed, organized, and moderated 2-hour, 10-person panel [Accelerate to Industry: Workforce Opportunities and Higher Education in the UAS Sector](#) at the UAS Summit & Expo held at the Alerus Center 10/14/21 and watched by 100 A2i participants nationwide. Panel was hosted by SGS in collaboration with *UAS Magazine* and generated [regional](#) and [industry](#) media attention
- Serve on biweekly Research News and Promotion Strategy group
- Assisted in production of “talking points” about space-related education and research capabilities
- Helped produce packet representing UND research efforts for ND Commerce

## ASSOCIATE DEAN | UND School of Graduate Studies, 2017-2018

- Composed SGS action plan identifying four multi-part steps to advance UND’s strategic plan and four new SGS initiatives to support those steps
- Began representing SGS in campus governance (Dean’s Council, VPAA Senior Staff, Chairs Leadership Institutes, Red Team), and events ([commencement](#); panels like Honors, Nursing)
- Began meeting every semester with each College’s Directors of Graduate Studies
- Administer disciplinary processes (grievances, academic dishonesty, research misconduct, probation and dismissal), coordinating with Colleges, General Counsel, Equal Opportunity, OSRR
- Weekly Graduate Curriculum Committee meetings
- Assisted in policy changes to Graduate Faculty Status
- Decide petitions and topic proposal approvals
- Plan and implement budget, including managing two 10% cuts and loss of operating budget
- Supervise staff, including position descriptions, annual evaluations, hiring, and staff reductions
- Manage duty reorganization and increasing workload given 9 position cuts and loss of GA budget
- Transitioned graduate admissions to University Admissions: implementation of new CRM, revised application (Admissions Attributes for Program Success survey), streamlined processes (moved from deadline to immediate processing, proposed 2-tier review structure)
- Represented SGS on search committees for University Analytics and Planning Director; VP for Strategic Enrollment Management; [VP for Research & Economic Development](#)
- Wrote new Standards of Professional Behavior policy for Graduate students
- Developed Recommended Graduate Program Director Roles and Responsibilities document and compensation metric
- Established [Graduate Student Advisory Council](#) comprised of 1 student per college

## FACULTY FELLOW | UND School of Graduate Studies, 2016-2017

- Instituted first Graduate Research Achievement Day, held [annually](#) thereafter. [150 students](#) from all areas of campus plus around 80 [judges](#) and multiple business [sponsors](#) participated in 2019 GRAD
- Organized [first](#) 3-Minute Thesis competition, held [annually](#) thereafter. Recruited director of 3MT training; 20 students presented their work in wholly online 3MT in 2021, judged by community members and faculty. Winner represents UND at Western Association of Graduate Schools; in 2018, UND student won WAGS competition and represented UND [nationally](#)
- Initiated and helped provide first graduate student professional development programming, which has grown AY20-21 to 28 workshops on a wide range of topics offered with partners across and off campus plus 10 community-building events. Our hybrid online/in-person offerings each garner 50-150 registrations, with attendance from 30-50% and many requests for recordings



- Recruited and chaired [Gradvocates](#) group with 1 member from each college (funding cut 2019)

## **DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES** | UND Department of English, 2010-2017

- Completed Graduate Program Review, 2013
- Revised PhD comprehensive exam structure and foreign language requirement
- Led restructuring of MA degree project, greatly improving graduation and time-to-degree
- Designed advisement framework and guidelines to improve mentoring
- Wrote new Graduate Student Handbook and PhD exam guidelines
- Developed and led orientation and transition of new graduate students (8-12 new students annually)
- Taught Introduction to Graduate Studies, Teaching College English, and History of Theory
- Chaired 18 and served on 16 additional MA final degree project committees
- Directed 12 PhD exam committees, 3 exams per student, and member of numerous additional individual exam committees especially in ethnic studies, minority literatures, and race theory
- Served on 15 PhD dissertation committees
- Dissertation Director for 7 PhD students
- Managed recruitment (adopted GRE Search Service), admissions, and assistantships
- Administered policies, petitions, and disciplinary processes

## **FACULTY** | UND Department of English, 2005 onwards

- Awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in 2011
- Peer-reviewed publications focus on Native American literature
- Reviewer for *Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States* and *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*
- Awarded research funding for *Rural Noir* book project from the Rural Health and Communities Grand Challenge seed program 2019
- Attended day-long Supporting Indigenous Research Capacity Training Workshop 2019
- Teaching specializations include Race and Ethnic Studies; Critical Race Theory; Modern and Postmodern American Fiction; American Indian, Latino/a, Asian American, and African American Literatures; and Violence and Justice
- Elected Associate Department Chair 2009-10, Executive Committee 2006-08
- Chaired 2 Tenure and Promotion and 10 Annual Evaluation Committees (member of 6 more)
- Chaired 2 tenure-track faculty search committees and member of 1 additional, all successful
- Chaired College Board's national CLEP Composition Committee 2017-2021

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- "State(s) and Statements: Reflections on Native American Literary Criticism" *Great Plains Quarterly* 35:4 (Fall 2015): 377-389.
- "Review of "'That the People Might Live': Loss and Renewal in Native American Elegy, by Arnold Krupat" *Early American Literature* 50:1 (Spring 2015): 253-258.
- "'Created in Words": Theorizing (Postmodern) Native American Survival through Story in James Welch's *Fools Crow*." *Cultural Critique* 81, no. 1 (2012): 31-69.
- "A Style of Horror: Is Evil Real in Cormac McCarthy's *Outer Dark*?" *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*. 53.1: 30-48, 2012.

- "Genetic Crossing: Imagining Tribal Identity and Nation in Gerald Vizenor's *The Heirs of Columbus*." *Studies in American Indian Literature*. 23.3 (Fall 2011): pgs. 1-33.
- "Gerald Vizenor." *The American Midwest: An Interpretive Encyclopedia*. Eds. Christian Zacher, Richard Sisson, and Andrew Cayton. Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP, 2007: 514-515.
- "Embodying the Indian: Rethinking Blood, Culture and Identity in James Welch's *Winter in the Blood* and *The Death of Jim Loney*." *Western American Literature* (Fall 2006) 41(3): 301-34.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2002

- Certification in Critical Theory, Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory
- Dissertation title, *Ethnographic Criticism and Native American Fiction: Cultural Texts, Textual Culture in the Novels of James Welch*. Advisor, Robert Dale Parker

M.A., English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1996

B.A., English, University of Iowa, 1991