If this is the first time you are hearing about Spotlight Day, then you have been missing out! Spotlight Day is a 20+ year UNI tradition. Spotlight on STEM Day showcases award winning K-12 classroom projects from across the state of Iowa. The best part is, it is FREE and OPEN to UNI students, faculty, staff, and the public. Spotlight Day will be February 26, 2015 at the Innovative Teaching Technology Center (ITTC) on campus.

Spotlight day not only provides a wonderful experience for UNI pre-service teachers and faculty, but also provides an experience K-12 students never forget. Spotlight Day highlights around 15 different student created school displays. These displays highlight all grades, K-12, and a variety of rural and urban schools. “This is the perfect opportunity to go and talk to real students, real teachers, and real administrators face to face,” said Doreen Hayek, IT Projects Administrator, who created and directs the event. “It is just an absolutely wonderful day for the students. We have students tell us this is the ‘highlight of the year’ for them because they get to go to UNI to present and talk with UNI faculty and they are just so excited about that.”

At Spotlight Day pre-service teachers and faculty learn first hand how STEM is playing a role in curriculum. The event gives UNI students an opportunity to ask K-12 students what they like about their coursework and what they don’t like. Preservice teachers discover what types of teaching methods work best for different types of students and talk to the teachers about what teaching methods are working for their classroom now.

During the morning, K-12 students will use table displays to showcase an innovative project that their class has been working on over the past months. An example from last year is one class presented their work on water quality issues affecting mussels in the Cedar River watershed. Oh! And did I forget to mention, these were lower elementary school aged kids! The displays are amazing.

In the afternoon, 12 schools will make presentations about their projects and discuss what they are doing with STEM in their classrooms. Presentations will occur every 30 minutes, beginning at 1:30 PM in three different rooms. UNI Students, faculty and the public are invited to attend and ask questions.

Spotlight Day provides a huge advantage to our pre-service teachers. The students and teachers are coming to you, but it is up to you to take the opportunity and discover for yourself what is going on in today’s classroom. And who knows, this might become the highlight of the year for you too.

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**Spotlight Day Schedule—February 26**

**ITTC Building**

9:30 AM-11:30 AM—Spotlight Gallery Displays
open to public

1:30 PM-3:30PM—Spotlight Presentations
Rooms 134, 136, 138

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