I chose to pursue teaching because of some inspiring teachers I have had in the past,” Betsy (Bat-treall) Plunkett said. Plunkett, from Holstein, Neb., graduated in 2013 with a double major in basic endorsement: secondary business 6-12 and subject endorsement for secondary math 7-12.

When Plunkett visited UNK for the first time, she sensed an atmosphere of belonging. “It was not a surprise how easy it was to form connections with professors. I liked the relationships I formed with instructors in the education and math departments.”

“My secondary methods class taught by Jane Peterson was phenomenal in preparing me to teach. I left that class with many, many resources that I could use.”

Plunkett is a teacher at Lexington Public Schools and continues to keep in contact with many of her UNK professors. Her advice to underclassmen is, “It really is a small world – you never know when the relationships you make in college will impact your career.”

Did you know...

Over 25 percent of Nebraska’s current teachers are UNK graduates, and UNK alumni are equally prominent as school administrators, counselors, athletic coaches and psychologists throughout the state.

BETSY PLUNKETT

Alumni profile

Studying business education is great training for a variety of careers. After graduating, you will be qualified to work in:

- Education
- Customer service
- Computer training centers
- Manager trainer positions
- Real estate agency
- Office management
- Technical support
- Market research
Business education organization

Phi Beta Lambda is the national organization of Future Business Leaders of America for college students. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in business.

Personal traits for success in business teacher education

- Expresses enthusiasm in subject
- Demonstrates above-average analytical and math skills
- Enjoys working with others
- Communicates well
- Manages a classroom
- Uses effective discipline skills
- Promotes positive behavior
- Implements learning strategies

Scholarships available

- Shirley Houston Memorial Scholarship
- Alice Elmore Memorial Scholarship
- Ray Schmitz Family Scholarship
- Clara Ockinga Business Ed. Scholarship
- Patricia Rhoades Baconrind Scholarship

UNK advantages

- Smaller classes
- Low student-to-faculty ratio
- Opportunities for student research
- Contact with local professionals
- Mentoring
- Academic advising
- Shadowing programs
- Phi Beta Lambda club

Q&A

Why did Joel Ratzlaff choose UNK?

“I chose UNK because it offered a great education program and was the right size. It is a relatively big university – but does not make me feel like a number.”

Major: Business and History Education
Hometown: Aurora, Neb.
Graduation year: 2015

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