

# Budget Unit Brief

## FY 2017



## University of Northern Iowa — Economic Development — Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund

### Purpose and History

The [Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund](#) (SWJCF) appropriation to the [University of Northern Iowa](#) (UNI) began with FY 2014 and is for ongoing economic development efforts related to the Metal Casting Center, the MyEntre.Net Internet application, and the Institute for Decision Making. The programs are part of the University's [Business and Community Services](#) Division.

- [Institute for Decision Making \(IDM\)](#): Established in 1987, the IDM guides organizations and community-based groups in making decisions and taking organized action toward economic and community development results. The IDM serves and advises economic development corporations, chambers of commerce, convention and visitor bureaus, community planning organizations, and other similar groups.
- [Metal Casting Center \(MCC\)](#): The MCC provides foundry research, applied technology, and technical business assistance directly to the foundry industry. The MCC links university research and resources to private sector applications by providing cutting-edge technology and concepts as well as modern metal casting facilities capable of providing full pilot plan capabilities.
- [MyEntre.Net Program](#): The MyEntre.Net Program is an entrepreneurship development system consisting of an online social network and free web resources, coupled with collaboratively delivered services for entrepreneurs in Iowa. In 2009, MyEntre.Net became a statewide interactive community offering live webinars, peer learning, and other business services. A component of the MyEntre.Net Program is the [Business Concierge](#) service, designed to provide secondary research and on-demand business information to answer the clients' most pressing business questions via e-mail, online chat, and over the phone.

The UNI is required to focus expenditures on projects that will provide economic stimulus in Iowa and emphasize providing services to Iowa-based companies.

### Funding – State General Fund

The UNI Economic Development Programs received an annual General Fund appropriation to support general operations until FY 2014.

### Other Sources of Revenue

Beginning with FY 2014, the appropriation was moved to the SWJCF. These programs operate with various levels of support from other funds. All three programs pursue grants and contracts, foundation support, federal funds, fees for services, and other sources of revenue. Approximately 58.0% of the SWJCF appropriation is required to be used for the UNI Regional Business Center and Economic Gardening Program.

### Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [268](#)

Revised August 30, 2016

### More Information

University of Northern Iowa Business and Community Services: <http://www.bcs.uni.edu/>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

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