

# Northern Illinois University



**Lisa C. Freeman**  
**President**

Chartered in 1895, Northern Illinois University (NIU) first opened its doors as the Northern Illinois State Normal School in 1899 as a teachers' school. NIU has grown into a world-class, research-focused public institution that attracts students from across Illinois, the country and the world.

The vision of Northern Illinois University is to be the premier student-centered, research-focused public university in the Midwest, contributing to the advancement of knowledge for the benefit of the people of the region, the state, the nation and the world.

With this vision, the mission of the university is to promote excellence and engagement in teaching and learning, research and scholarship, creativity and artistry, and outreach and service.

In pursuing its vision and fulfilling its mission, the university values:

- A community of diverse people, ideas, services and scholarly endeavors in a climate of respect for the intrinsic dignity of each individual.
- Access for a broad spectrum of students to high quality undergraduate, graduate and professional programs that prepare them to be lifelong learners and productive, socially conscious citizens.
- Engaged teaching and learning that evolves from the synergy of research, artistry and service.
- Research and artistry in creating, transmitting, expanding and applying knowledge.
- Student success supported through academic and co-curricular programming and activities.
- The application of current technology in enhancing and broadening all institutional endeavors.
- A system of shared governance that incorporates input from faculty, staff and students in decision- and policy-making.
- Commitment to a public purpose addressing regional, state, national and global challenges and opportunities.

NIU is included in the Research Universities – High Research Activity category of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and is a member of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

The university and its colleges have institutional membership or other affiliations in or with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Council on Education, Association of State Colleges and Universities, Council of Graduate Schools, and Universities Research Association.

The university is also fully accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and offers several teacher certification programs, which are approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.

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Northern Illinois University's east lagoon was part of the original 63 acres deeded to the state by Joseph F. Glidden in 1895. Holmes Student Center is visible on the left and Altgeld Hall is in the center.