Hydrogen-Nitrogen (CHN) Elemental
Springfield has received a grant from the National Science Foundation for the addition of an instrument that will improve research, teaching and outreach in many of the university’s science departments, including at UIS’ Emiquon Field Station.

The equipment will benefit the field station at the Emiquon Preserve, one of the country’s largest river floodplain restoration sites located between Lewistown and Havana.

A point of pride
UIS is proud to now have professorships in every college, a notable achievement for a university of our size and age.

College of Education and Human Services: The James Smklek Professorship in Educational Leadership
College of Public Affairs and Administration: The Wegner Distinguished Professorship of Political Science
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: Louise Hartman Schewel and Karl Schewel Professorships
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: The Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Professorship for Lincoln Studies
College of Business and Management: National City Professorship in Banking and Finance and Ameren Distinguished Professorship in Business and Government.

Advantages for the university
The university benefits as well from professorships. They allow us to attract to UIS top-level scholars • who have extensive experience, • who deepen and broaden our curriculum, • who serve as beacons to other scholars.

Dr. McDermott brings all these advantages to UIS and the Springfield community.

As the Ameren Distinguished Professor of Business and Government, Dr. Karl McDermott enhances two of UIS’ distinctive strengths — our excellent business education and our stellar reputation in public affairs,” said Chancellor Richard D. Ringleisen. “We are extremely pleased to have him with us.

Dr. McDermott comes to UIS with extensive experience in public utility regulation: • Vice president of National Economic Research Associates • Commissioner on the Illinois Commerce Commission • President and co-founder of the Center for Regulatory Studies at Illinois State University

Senior research associate at the National Regulatory Research Institute at The Ohio State University

Consultant with the Select Joint Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform of the Illinois Legislature

Consultant with Argonne National Laboratory

Consultant with the Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources’ Governor’s Sunset Task Force on Utility Regulation Reform

Advantages for the community
With our location in Springfield, the state capital, UIS stands at the intersection of business, politics, government and education, where any discussion of laws and regulations is enriched by the perspective of education and research. National City and Ameren serve as models for how business, government and universities can work together for the good of Illinois and the larger global marketplace.

 UIS receives grant to purchase elemental analyzer
The University of Illinois at Springfield has received a grant from the National Science Foundation for the addition of an instrument that will improve the quality of research, teaching and outreach in many of the university’s science departments, including at UIS’ Emiquon Field Station.

The instrument, called a Carbon-Hydrogen-Nitrogen (CHN) Elemental Analyzer, was obtained thanks to a grant proposal written by De Ha Chen and Michael Lemke, assistant and associate professors, respectively, of biology at UIS.

“It is very beneficial for our teaching and research to have this equipment,” said Dr. Chen. “The departments of biology and chemistry can potentially use this instrument in several of their courses. Students will learn how carbon and nitrogen analysis is conducted, and they can then generate datasets.”

Chen and hands-on training on the CHN Elemental Analyzer will help students develop an appreciation for carbon and nitrogen cycling, as well as enhance their skills in advanced environmental instrumentation analysis, all of which has implications for research in such fields as the effects of global warming and species change on ecosystems.

Advantages for the university
Online and blended learning programs are one of the highest honors that a faculty member can receive. This is the second endowed professorship within UIS College of Business and Management, the other being the National City Distinguished Professorship in Banking and Finance.

UIS faculty named Ameren Distinguished Professor in Business and Government
Dr. Karl A. McDermott was named the first Ameren Distinguished Professor in Business and Government at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Dr. McDermott received the honors from Dr. Ria McNeel, dean of the College of Business and Management, and UIS Chancellor Richard Ringleisen noted, “The leadership of Ameren Illinois Utilities have demonstrated by their endowment their belief and confidence in this institution. Today we honor Ameren, and we are grateful that you share our vision.”

Investiture as a named professor is one of the highest honors that a faculty member can receive. This is the second endowed professorship within UIS College of Business and Management, the other being the National City Distinguished Professorship in Banking and Finance.

Prior to joining the ICC, Dr. McDermott was named the first Ameren Distinguished Professor in Business and Government at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Dr. McDermott received the honors from Dr. Ria McNeel, dean of the College of Business and Management, and UIS Chancellor Richard Ringleisen during an investiture ceremony held September 25 on campus.

“Strategic plan is carrying us forward with confidence and purpose as we pursue our three primary goals — academic excellence, enriching individual lives and making a difference in the world,” said Chancellor Ringleisen. “It is our responsibility to the people of our state to preserve the excellence of one of our distinguished professorships, that have helped us reach this point and that will assure our success in realizing our vision. The Ameren Professorship in Business and Government symbolizes how far we have already come.

Dr. McDermott’s special area of expertise is public utility regulation. He most recently served as vice president of National Economic Research Associates and before that he was a commissioner with the Illinois Commerce Commission, where he initiated an investigation of electric restructuring options.

UIS recently began offering a number of its degree programs in blended format where the number of on-campus sessions is reduced by half over the completion of the degree. Half of the sessions among the courses required for the degree are held online, reducing the need to commute to campus and allowing child care expenses by 10 percent.

“On-campus and blended programs is consistent with national trends. Students are seeking to reduce the costs, in terms of both time and money, of commuting to classes on campus,” Schroeder said. He noted that more than 135 UIS faculty members are teaching at least one online class this fall.

Slightly more than 38 percent of online majors have making addresses outside of Illinois, and nearly 85 percent of the Illinois online students live outside of Sangamon County.

The new blended learning program is part of a larger initiative in part by a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

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Dr. Karl A. McDermott

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