History and Timeline of Pilot Development:
First Year Program initiated by faculty in 2002 and operated through 2008. Program utilized existing UNK courses with Student Peer Leaders. The program underwent an APR in spring 2008; although positive, the sustainability of the current program structure was questioned.

At request of (then) SVCAA&SL Murray, the First Year Task Force was formed in the spring 2008 semester and charged with evaluating the feasibility of continuing the existing First Year Program at UNK, consider possible alternatives for providing the essential elements of a First Year Program to a greater number of students, and submit its recommendations to the SVCAA&SL by October, 2008. The committee’s recommendations, which were accepted by SVCAA&SL Murray, was for the First Year Program to go on hiatus during AY 2009/10 so that input from the campus community could be gathered and incorporated into a revised structure for the FY program. In addition, SVCAA&SL Murray requested that the proposed revisions to the FY Program be completed and ready for presentation to the campus by the end of the 2009/10 AY.

During spring and summer 2009, the following activities were completed: input on the structure of FY Program has been gathered through meetings with faculty and Student Life personnel; worked with Noel Levitz retention consultant to expand audience and to ensure program structure is consistent with UNK’s recruitment/retention goals; resulting FY Action Plan presented as part of EMC recommendations to Chancellor’s Cabinet as Action Plan 16.5.

In September 2009, the report, “First year Program at UNK: Recommendations for the Future” (prepared by Kristi Bryant, Interim Director FY Program), was submitted to SVCASA Bicak. The report, which represents the culmination of the work completed since spring 2009, included a set of recommendations for the revised FY Program (complete details available on request).

In October 2009, Dr. Bicak accepted the recommendations outlined in the above identified report and charged Dr. Zeller and Dr. Bridges to begin working out the logistics of implementing those recommendations while maintaining consistency with on-going campus wide initiatives in recruitment/retention.

In carrying out our charge, Dr. Zeller and I used the following framework to guide our development of the proposed revised First Year Program:

- Common curriculum (deliberate, intentional curriculum) designed to achieve FY goals;
- Utilizes peer-mentoring;
- Program serves to bridge Academic Affairs and Student Affairs in achieving overall FY program goals;
- Assessment built into the program from the beginning and is part of the overall program structure;
- Faculty involvement that does not reduce load, is faculty driven, and is not part of the General Studies requirements; and
- Cost/revenue sharing between colleges and Student Affairs.

Through on-going discussions during the fall 2009 semester, the following structure for the revised First Year Program, which will be piloted in Fall 2010, emerged:
- **Create First Year Program Office with a full-time director as well as adequate support staff.**

Full implementation of the FY Program remains a long-term goal; however, for the 2010/11 AY, Kristi Bryant, Interim Director of First Year Program, will continue on as Director and will supervise the Fall 2010 Pilot.

- **Freshmen Seminar (1 credit hour) for incoming freshmen.** The seminar should: meet for one hour a week for a total of sixteen contact hours; focus on helping students learning to be successful UNK students (provide the elements to assist student in transitioning from high school to college); have an intentional, common curriculum; be team taught by Student Life personnel and student peer leaders with input and support provided by faculty; be linked to each of the four undergraduate colleges; and count towards graduation as an elective hour.

LNSK 117 Freshmen Seminar (1 hour) course has been created for the FY Pilot. The seminar has common content coverage and built in program assessment. Instruction for the course will be provided by Student Life personnel and student-peer leaders.

Fall 2010 Pilot will consist of 8 sections; seminars will be offered using the LNSK prefix with section numbers delineating undergraduate colleges (i.e., similar to a special topics course):

LNSK 117-01 Freshmen Seminar NSS  
LNSK 117-02 Freshmen Seminar Social Sciences  
LNSK 117-03 Freshmen Seminar Business  
LNSK 117-04 Freshmen Seminar Technology  
LNSK 117-05 Freshmen Seminar Fine Arts  
LNSK 117-06 Freshmen Seminar Humanities  
LNSK 117-07 Freshmen Seminar Education  
LNSK 117-08 Freshmen Seminar HPERLS

Within each individual seminar, 4 class periods have been set aside to provide the college in which the seminar is housed access to students registered in that section and to present whatever information the college deems appropriate.

Each section will have a student peer leader (SPL). Student Peer Leaders will receive monetary compensation for their service as well as training and ongoing leadership development.

- Ongoing leadership and professional development will be provided (and built into the program) for both SPL and instructors
- FTE goes to colleges and to support FY Program
- Existing FY budget can be used to run the pilot

The above pilot FY Program was presented to and approved by the Deans Council in December 2009. Since then, the proposed pilot has been presented to the Enrollment Management Council, the Chairs Council in each of the four undergraduate colleges (COE, CBT, CNSS, and CFAH), the Library, and the Directors within Student Affairs.