

2016

Ferial Pearson, Faculty Spotlight

University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Ferial Pearson

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Ferial Pearson, M.S., is the founder of the Secret Kindness Agents. Ferial started the Secret Kindness Agents to create a kinder community following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary.

The *Sandy Hook Elementary School* shooting happened on Dec. 14, 2012, in Newtown, Connecticut, when 20-year-old Adam Lanza shot and killed 20 children. Deeply saddened by this tragedy, Ferial, a teacher at Omaha South High School, asked her students - "Do modest acts of kindness and compassion have the power to change someone's life?"

Together in the Spring of 2013, Ferial and her students shared ideas and brought the project to life. Ferial's students participated in anonymous acts of kindness, along with other group activities such as weekly journaling about their feelings before and after their secret acts of kindness. Ferial's goal has been and continues to be "to create a kinder community, and to break down the walls between different groups of people - so that we can understand that we are all human beings." Now, the Secret Kindness Agents are in more than 40 schools, ranging from elementary to college.

"The Secret Kindness Agents has given me back my faith in humanity and hope for my kids and my sense of community, safety, and hope."

Watch Ferial's TED Talk:



Thank you for all you do for your community!

Community engagement and service are fundamental components of UNO's identity.

Ferial Pearson exemplifies UNO's commitment to community engagement.



The Secret Kindness Agents | Ferial Pearson | TEDxOmaha

Additional Resources

[Buy the Book](#)

[Awakin Call with Ferial](#)

Ferial's dedication to education can be shown through the following list of awards and recognition.

[Secret Kindness Agents Facebook](#)

[Speaking of Happy](#)

[About Ferial Pearson, M.S.](#)

Share Your Story:

Did you organize or participate in a community-oriented project or service? UNO wants to hear from you!

UNO is committed to community engagement in its broadest form, and wants to feature your community service story.

[Click here](#) to share your story.

2010 Recipient of the [Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network's Educator of the Year Respect Award](#)

2011 Recipient of the [National Education Association's Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights](#)

2015 Named one of "[Ten Outstanding Young Omahans](#)" by the Omaha Jaycees.

2016 Recipient of the [Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Center Inspirational Teacher Award](#) recognizing influential and inspirational teachers throughout the country.

Ferial Pearson was born in Nairobi, Kenya, was an award-winning high school teacher and currently works as an instructor and Instructional Coach in the Department of Teacher Education at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

[Click to read Ferial Pearson's blog post for the U.S. Department of Education](#)



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