University of Northern Iowa Launches AI Rover to Help Students Build Career Skills

New "HIP Rover" AI tool helps Honors students reflect on high-impact learning experiences and translate them into career-ready skills

Mission Briefing: The UNI HIP Rover

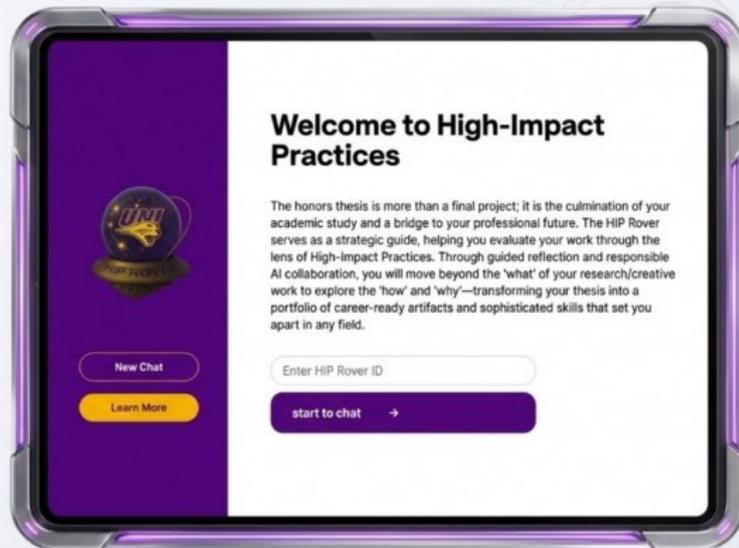**Onboarding & High-Impact Practices Guide**

Meet Your Co-Pilot: The HIP Rover

- **Definition:** A strategic guide and AI collaborator designed to facilitate guided reflection.

Background: Born from 'The Spaceship Academy' and built specifically for the UNI University Honors Program

- **Role:** Not a search engine, but a partner in meaning-making.

Welcome to High-Impact Practices

The honors thesis is more than a final project; it is the culmination of your academic study and a bridge to your professional future. The HIP Rover serves as a strategic guide, helping you evaluate your work through the lens of High-Impact Practices. Through guided reflection and responsible AI collaboration, you will move beyond the 'what' of your research/creative work to explore the 'how' and 'why'—transforming your thesis into a portfolio of career-ready artifacts and sophisticated skills that set you apart in any field.

New Chat

Learn More

Enter HIP Rover ID

start to chat →

Mission Capabilities & Outcomes

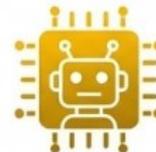Moving beyond academic theory into practical application.

Meaning-Making
Reflect deeply on the thesis process, outcomes, and your personal growth.

Career Readiness
Create specific artifacts for your professional portfolio to stand out in the job market.

AI Literacy
Build sophisticated skills in responsible AI collaboration and prompting.

Cedar Falls, Iowa Mar 12, 2026 (Issuewire.com**)** - The Spaceship Academy, in partnership with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Honors Program, has launched an AI-powered learning companion designed to help students reflect on their college experiences and translate them into career-ready strengths. The tool—called the High Impact Practices (HIP) Rover—supports Honors students as they document and make meaning of the high-impact learning experiences that shape their education.

The HIP Rover is part of The Spaceship Academy's Rover platform—custom AI learning companions designed to support reflection, skill development, and professional growth for students and organizations.

Through guided reflection prompts, AI-assisted conversations, and structured activities, the HIP Rover helps students connect academic work, research, service, and experiential learning to real-world skills and professional pathways. The tool also introduces students to thoughtful AI engagement, helping them build confidence interacting with emerging technologies that are increasingly shaping the modern workforce.

"Through our collaboration with The Spaceship Academy, we developed this customized AI tool to empower students to reflect on high-impact learning experiences and transform them into career-ready strengths," said Jessica Moon, Director of the UNI Honors Program. "I've been impressed by The Spaceship's thoughtful approach and their commitment to creating a resource that truly supports UNI students."

Students participating in the first cohort are already beginning to explore how the Rover can support both reflection and skill-building. Candace Hoisington, a senior psychology major in the UNI Honors Program, said she is eager to see how the tool can help her better understand the value of her college experiences.

"I am looking forward to being able to reflect on what my college experience is actually giving to me and what I can use in my future career," Hoisington said. "There's definitely going to be a lot of AI interaction in my career, and I'm hopeful it will help me get better at interacting with AI itself. We're the first group to try it, and I'm excited that what we learn could help future students benefit from the program."

Craig Vezina, CEO of The Spaceship Academy, said the initiative reflects a growing opportunity for universities to combine high-impact learning with responsible use of artificial intelligence.

"High-impact experiences are often the most transformative parts of a university education, but students don't always have the tools to translate those experiences into career strengths," said Vezina. "By combining human reflection with responsible AI, universities can help students better understand the value of their learning and prepare for a rapidly changing world."

About The Spaceship Academy

The Spaceship Academy is an education and AI innovation organization focused on preparing the next generation for leadership in the age of artificial intelligence. Through partnerships with universities, schools, and organizations around the world, The Spaceship designs learning experiences and AI-

powered tools that help students develop future-ready skills, global perspective, and responsible approaches to emerging technologies.

Learn more at

https://www.thespaceship.ai

Media Contact

The Spaceship Academy Ltd.

*********@thespaceship.org

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