About Us

The Office of Community Engagement aims to advance the public purpose of higher education through:

- Providing students with paths to community-engaged learning
- Supporting university faculty and staff
- Enhancing community and university partnerships

In 2016 the University of Northern Iowa's (UNI) President signed an Action Statement, a declaration of shared commitment to the public purpose of higher education and a promise to develop a Campus Civic Action Plan. In 2016 UNI also started developing a new university strategic plan. The efforts in developing a Civic Action Plan and new strategic plan complemented each other. That Civic Action Plan served as part of the implementation plan of UNI's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.

This report highlights significant accomplishments in each goal area of the Civic Action Plan from 2017 - 2022.
Goal 1: Students

From Fall 2017 through Summer 2022:

- 1,227 students enrolled in Service-Learning Courses.
- The Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement awarded 45 students a total of $67,480 in scholarships for unpaid/underpaid internships in the state of Iowa.
- 167 Projects were showcased at the annual Community Engagement Celebration Day event.
- Students completed over 1,000 projects and dedicated over 3.25 million hours toward community engagement projects (through Summer 2021).

**1,227 Students Enrolled in Service-Learning Courses**

**$67,480 Total Funds Awarded**
Goal 2: Faculty/Staff

From Fall 2017 through Summer 2022:

- 73 faculty/staff participated in a Service-Learning Institute, partnering with community agencies to implement mutually beneficial projects.
- 24 courses designated as a Service-Learning Course.
- The Veridian Community Engagement Fellowship awarded 19 projects with over $49,000 in funding for community engagement projects.
- Faculty/Staff completed over 1,000 projects and contributed over 94,000 hours toward community engagement projects (through summer 2021).
Goal 3: Community Partners

From Fall 2017, the Office of Community Engagement/UNI has:

- Strengthened our partnership with the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley
- Developed 866 Community Partnerships
- Enhanced our network

Goal 4: Office of Community Engagement

From Fall 2017, the Office of Community Engagement has:

- Hosted 3,124 volunteers for MLK Day’s Back Packin’ the Dome, packing 112,800 bags of food.
- Written and linked 19 Stories of Impact to our website.
- Launched a monthly newsletter to keep UNI faculty and staff informed and engaged.
- Developed a community engagement database to track university/community partnerships.
- Sponsored UNI faculty/staff to participate in the Cedar Valley Leadership Institute, hosted by Grow Cedar Valley.