



**University of
Northern Iowa.**

Community
Engagement

Newsletter: April 2023

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Community Engagement Celebration Day



It is time to CELEBRATE! On Community Engagement Celebration Day, **leaders from across the Cedar Valley and campus will attend** to learn more about the impact UNI faculty, staff, and students are having in the community. Don't miss out on the opportunity to showcase your work. Share your community project work from courses, research, student organizations and professional service. If you're engaged in the community come tell us about it. Veridian Credit Union sponsors **\$200 each to projects in 8 categories.**

When: Friday, April 28th

Where: Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center Lobby

Time: 9:00-11:30 am

[Learn more about the project categories and event details.](#)

Register your project: [Click here](#)

Service-Learning

UNI's Service-Learning Institute

There are still a few slots available for the Service-Learning Institute, May 22-24. Applications accepted until Thursday, April 6th. Participants receive a stipend. Easy application process. [Click here to learn more and apply.](#)

Engaged Faculty Institute (EFI)

If you're unable to attend UNI's in-person SLI, Iowa/Minnesota Campus Compact is hosting an *online* Engaged Faculty Institute (similar to UNI's SLI and with a slightly different name). The institute works best for those who are ready to design or redesign at least one specific community-engaged course and is open to all faculty (tenured/tenure-track and instructors).

The online EFI is May 15-26. Registration closes Friday, April 28th. [Registration is available by clicking here.](#)

Service-Learning Course Designation

UNI's will be reapplying for the Carnegie Classified Institution for Community Engagement and to uphold this classification we must demonstrate course based service-learning. If you are teaching a course with a community-engaged project, please apply to have the course designated as Service-Learning.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, however if you want your course designated for fall 2023, apply soon. [Click here to apply.](#)

Faculty/Staff Engagement

Engaged Scholars Initiative (ESI)

Campus Compact, in partnership with the University of Nebraska at Omaha and the Lang Center for Civic & Social Responsibility at Swarthmore College, are now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 cohort of the Engaged Scholars Initiative (ESI).

The 2023-2024 cohort will consist of up to 20 early-career faculty and staff from Campus Compact member institutions. \$1,000 fee covered by Academic Affairs. If interested contact your Dean or Julianne Gassman.

Practicing Democracy: A Toolkit for Educating Civic Professionals

This new publication by Nicholas V. Longo offers practical approaches and strategies for developing students' capacity to engage in collaborative, public problem solving.

The toolkit is divided into 12 lessons designed to engage students in critical reflection and sustained dialogue that helps them connect with others across differences of background, experiences, and perspectives. The lessons are targeted to students of all majors and were created with the goal of educating a new generation of "civic professionals"- students who are prepared to facilitate inclusive and participatory problem-solving in communities.

[To access the tool kit and learn more click here.](#)

Advising Corner: Info to Share With Students

National Assessment of Service and Community Engagement



On April 10th students will receive the National Assessment of Service and Community Engagement (NASCE) survey. This survey is an institutional assessment for measuring how well participating colleges and universities fulfill their mission as they relate to service and community engagement. Please encourage your students to complete this survey. **If possible, consider offering time in your courses, or during a meeting, for completing the survey April 10-20.**

Volunteer Iowa: Disaster Training

Starting tomorrow, this two-part series is hosted by Volunteer Iowa's Disaster Program Officer, Michael Rojas. Rojas will outline how to:

- Prepare for disasters;
- Develop contingency plans;
- Take a leadership role in helping communities during times of disaster.

Disaster management is becoming an in-demand field and Volunteer Iowa is looked upon as a leader during times of Disaster. Participants will also learn how to make disaster management a career. Attend and get started in building a more resilient Iowa.

All are welcome to attend - Tuesday April 4th & Thursday April 6th, 11:00-12:15, WRC 155. [Register here](#).

Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) Credential at UNI

As a Campus Partner with the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance, UNI offers a preferred track to prepare students for the Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) Credential. The CNP Credential is the only national nonprofit credential preparing students for leadership and service in the nonprofit sector. At the University of Northern Iowa students can choose to earn their CNP Credential through two pathways ([detailed at this link](#)). If you would like to earn your CNP at UNI please contact: Kristina Kofoot at kristina.kofoot@uni.edu or call (319) 273-4507.

Awards/Nominations

Veridian Community Engagement Fellows Spring 2023

Congratulations to the 2022/2023 Veridian Community Engagement Fellows. This Fellowship encourages faculty to engage with community partners to better the community in a manner that also enhances their teaching and scholarship. The 2022/2023 recipients are as follows:

- Jennifer Onuigbo & Eric Lange
- Michael Fleming
- Gary Gute
- Lindi Roelofse & Partners ReShonda Young & Matthew Gilbert

We will celebrate these individuals at Community Engagement Celebration Day. Join your colleagues to celebrate.

[To learn more about these individuals and their projects visit the Community Engagement website here.](#)



UNI Engaged Podcast: Sexual Assault Awareness Week

This episode of the UNI Engaged Podcast features information around the problem of sexual assault and resources available for support. This month's episode "UNI Engaged: Sexual Assault Awareness Week" can be found on [Spotify](#). Follow us on social media for the release of additional episodes.

Events

College of Business's VITA Program

UNI Business offers free tax help to low- to moderate-income people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program was established by the Internal Revenue Service to help those who may find it difficult to pay for tax preparation services. Certified volunteers receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. The UNI accounting department staffs a site to serve members of the Cedar Valley community.

[To learn more click here.](#)

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

During the month of April, Green Dot is partnering with organizations across campus and within the community to promote sexual assault awareness, support survivors, and encourage others to get involved.

[To view a list of events and event sponsors click here.](#)

For more information on events, visit the [Community Engagement Website!](#)

In Other News

NCCE Releases Five Civic and Community Engagement Benefits Topical Briefs

As part of the Contributions of Civic and Community Engagement in Higher Education Series, North Carolina Campus Engagement just released five [Civic and Community Engagement Benefits Topical Briefs](#). These briefs make the case for the benefits and value of higher education civic and community engagement (CCE) in these areas: Civic Learning, Empathy, Faculty Flourishing, Student Success, and Sustainability and Sense of Place.

Impressive Numbers for MLK Day

1,235 students, faculty, staff, and alumni participated in the MLK JR. Day of Service Pack the Dome Event in January. Thank you to all who participated and we hope to see you again next year!

Office of Community Engagement

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