

The logo for the University of Northern Iowa, featuring the letters 'UNI' in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a horizontal line underneath.

**University of  
Northern Iowa.**

Community  
Engagement



**Newsletter: August 2024**

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## August 2024

We hope you enjoyed your summer!

With the start of August, the planning of the fall semester begins. This edition contains information for you to consider in planning for your courses and information on events to share with students for their fall planning. As always you can find other information, funding and scholarship opportunities, and information specific to service-learning on our [Community Engagement Website](#).

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## Service-Learning Courses

Here is a list of [Fall 2024 Service-Learning courses](#). If you have embedded a community service project into your fall course, but don't see it listed, please apply for the designation. Email Julianne Gassman at [gassman@uni.edu](mailto:gassman@uni.edu) your course syllabus (the formal application process is being updated).

The service-learning (SL) designation allows students to intentionally seek out courses that include a high-impact practice. [High-impact educational practices](#)

have been proven to be significantly beneficial for students of all backgrounds. Other benefits include:

- The process assures best practices for service-learning;
  - Students can identify which courses include a community project;
  - UNI is a Carnegie Classified Institution for Community Engagement and to uphold this classification we must demonstrate course based service-learning (we are preparing for re-classification).
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## Information for your Syllabus

### Fall Volunteer Fair

Thursday September 5th, 2024 - Consider adding this date to your syllabus to inform students when they can learn about volunteer opportunities in our community. 40+ nonprofit organizations will be on campus that morning.

### Civic Action Academy

Consider embedding the [Civic Action Academy](#) into your fall course/student organization/planning. This event brings students from Iowa and Minnesota together to learn new ways of making a difference and building skills through civic and community engagement. Funding and transportation available through the Office of Community Engagement. Contact Kristina Kofoot.

Date: November 15th-16th

Location: Wartburg College Waverly, IA

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## Resources

### Seed Coalition (formerly Iowa Campus Compact)

Seed Coalition strengthens the capacity of colleges and universities to fulfill the public purposes of higher education through its coalition of diverse college campuses in Iowa, Minnesota, and the Midwest.

We connect higher education professionals who work in the spaces of community and civic engagement and educate students through community and civic learning experiences.

## Seed Talks

Seed talks offer virtual spaces in hopes of making conversation and connection accessible. Few people have "electoral engagement" as a significant part of their job or course description, yet it's something people care about and want to prioritize. Please join for these important conversations.

Session 1: Election 2024 Series - Setting Intentions

Date & Time: Aug 9, 2024 10:00 AM

[Register by clicking here](#)

Session 2: Election 2024 Series - Planning Exercise

Date & Time: Aug 13, 2024 10:00 AM

[Register by clicking here](#)

To learn more about Seed Coalition and member resources you can access [click here](#).

## Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley

Our partnership with the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley (VCCV) is a great benefit to faculty, staff and students. Staff from the VCCV are on campus twice a week and willing to come to your class, department meetings, etc to support your volunteer needs.

Please share with students the weekly email they receive, the Panther Experience, which includes volunteer opportunities that best fit UNI student's needs. To view these needs on the VCCV website [click here](#).

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## Funding

This funding opportunity is specifically for students. Please inform them early in the semester for their planning purposes. To access the complete list of funding opportunities and applications please visit our [Funding and Scholarships page](#).

## Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement

[The Robert and Yvonne Koob Fund](#) for Student Community Engagement is an endowment supporting students who are completing internships in positions of service in Iowa. Awards up to \$2,000 (undergraduate students) and up to \$3,000 (graduate students) will be given and approximately \$10,000 total is awarded annually. Fall applications for Spring 25 internships are due November 15th, 2024.

## Office of Community Engagement

University of Northern Iowa

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[engagement.uni.edu](http://engagement.uni.edu)

