



University of
Northern Iowa.

Community
Engagement



Newsletter: December 2025

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Spring into Service: Cats Who Care

It's almost time to *Spring into Service* and join UNI students, faculty and staff, alumni, friends and family in showing we are *Cats Who Care*! We are excited to celebrate 150 years of the University of Northern Iowa, by honoring our legacy through service.

Throughout the spring 2026 semester, we will come together to give back — strengthening the communities that have supported us for generations. Together we will demonstrate the power of Panther Nation's collective impact.

MLK Day of Service - Pack the Dome will kick off our Spring into Service semester. This event first started in 2014 with the Service and Leadership Council Student Organization. They planted the seed that grew into one of the largest volunteer events in the region. In 2020 the event was moved to the UNI Dome and now nearly 2,000 volunteers pack about 65,000 backpacks annually.



[Click here to hear more about Spring into Service: Cats Who Care](#)

Holiday Volunteers Needed

VOLUNTEER!



Many Cedar Valley organizations are looking for assistance with holiday activities. Find time to spread cheer through giving of your time. [Click here to view opportunities on the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley website.](#) Opportunities include but are not limited to bell ringing, adopting a student/family, caroling, and more!

Service-Learning

Service-Learning Institute - Winter Session Online

Seed Coalition is providing an online, asynchronous Engaged Faculty Institute (same as UNI's Service-Learning Institute). The winter session is January 3 to January 16 with an introductory call on December 12, and calls on January 9 and 16. The EFI includes:

- Foundations and Critical Commitments
- Planning and Facilitation
- Partnerships and Engagement
- Learning Outcomes and Reflection
- Assessment and Evaluation

[Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

UNI's Day of Service - April 8, 2026

As part of Spring into Service: Cats Who Care, UNI is hosting its first ever Day of Service on Wednesday, April 8, 2025. The purpose of this day is to enhance student learning through service.

Submit Your Service Project/Volunteer Opportunity

We invite both on and off campus service projects and volunteer opportunities. [Click here to learn more and submit your project.](#) The next deadline is Friday, December 19, 2025.

Free T-Shirts and Funding

The first five service projects/volunteer opportunities submitted by December 19th will *receive up to 15 free t-shirts for their group/class.*

In addition, you will receive an invitation to apply for up to \$1500 for your service project/volunteer opportunity.



Get Ideas / Secure a Project for your Group

To see what is already planned for April 8th and to get ideas, [click here.](#)

If you see an “open” project that is a good fit and learning opportunity for your students or fits your mission and purpose, contact Julianne Gassman at gassman@uni.edu and we will consider pulling that project for your group.

Have questions? Need to talk through your ideas? We can help! See below for planning sessions or links to schedule a one on one meeting.

January 8 - Online Planning Session

- 12-1:00
- [Click here to join via Zoom](#)

January 14 - Online Planning Session

- 10:00-11:00
- [Click here to join via Zoom](#)

Schedule a One on One Meeting

- Faculty/Staff/UNI Centers [click here](#)
- Student/Student Organizations [click here](#)

[Visit the UNI Day of Service Page for more details by clicking here.](#)

National Credential

Certified Nonprofit Professional Credential (CNP)



Did you know that the nonprofit sector is the fastest growing employment sector in the U.S.? Give your students a competitive edge with the Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP) the only nationally recognized credential for nonprofit leadership.

Adding “CNP” to their résumé can instantly signal to employers that they have the skills, knowledge, and leadership potential to make an impact.

This credential, valued at \$1,800, is available to all UNI faculty, staff, students, and alumni for just \$100.

Empower your students to lead with confidence and stand out in a thriving sector!

If you would like to learn more set-up a meeting with the Director of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Program at UNI, Kristina Kofoot by [clicking here](#).

Season's Greetings

Wishing you a season filled with joy, rest, and meaningful connections. As we reflect on the year, we are grateful for the partnerships and service that strengthen our campus and community. May this season inspire continued collaboration and collective impact in the year ahead.



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