

**UNI**

**University of  
Northern Iowa.**

Community  
Engagement



**Newsletter: January 2026**

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# UNI Earns Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement



Congratulations! UNI earned the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement.

UNI is among fewer than 240 U.S. colleges and universities to receive the 2026 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, an elective designation awarded by the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This honor underscores the university's

longstanding commitment to meaningful, mutually beneficial partnerships with its communities. [To read more about this honor click here.](#)

**Thank you** to our champions across campus and community partners who made this reclassification effort a success! This distinction recognizes institutions when engagement is *embedded into the fabric of its curriculum and programs*. UNI had countless examples to highlight in the application. Once again, congratulations!



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## UNI's Day of Service - April 8, 2026

To check out what is already planned 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](mailto:gassman@uni.edu) and we will consider pulling that project for your group.

**The final deadline to submit an “open” project is Friday, February 6, 2026.**



The next ten service projects/volunteer opportunities (open or closed) submitted by February 6th will *receive up to 15 free t-shirts for their group/class* and an invitation to apply for **up to \$1,500** for your service project/volunteer opportunity.

Have questions? Need to talk through your ideas? Click below for online planning sessions and appointments.

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

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# Professional Development

## Engaged Department Institute: Save the Date, May 26-27

This May we will offer an Engaged Department Institute. Grounded in the success of the Service-Learning Institute and SL Course Designations, the Engaged Department Institute expands service-learning and community engagement beyond a single faculty member to an entire department/academic unit. Courses will be reviewed to identify where community engaged learning is most appropriate for a scaffolded approach to engaged learning across the curriculum.

More information and application coming soon.

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## Events

### Volunteer & Internship Explore-A-Ganza

Join the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley and the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance student association for the Volunteer & Internship Explore-A-Ganza. This event will allow students to speed network with local nonprofit organizations about volunteer, internship, and job opportunities. Attendance will be limited.

**When:** Monday February 9, 2026

**Where:** Maucker Union Ballrooms A/B

**Time:** 3:30-5:00 pm

[Student Signup Here](#)

### Community Engagement Celebration Day



Save the date! This year will be an extra special opportunity to celebrate our **Spring Into Service: Cats Who Care** and UNI's reclassification as a **Carnegie Community Engagement Institution**. Community Engagement Celebration Day is an opportunity to showcase your community engagement work. Registration will be released soon!

**Save the Date:** April 24th 2026

**Location:** Applied Engineering Building

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## UNI Engaged Podcast



In this episode of UNI Engaged, learn how public administration students in Dr. Jayme Renfro's senior seminar course studied how policies from years ago impact individuals today and what they did to combat this impact in Waterloo, IA.

Thank you to students in Cornerstone who recorded, edited, and produced this podcast as a service project for the Office of Community Engagement. Thank you to Dr. Deb Young for her ongoing efforts in supporting her students as they elevate great partnerships between UNI faculty, staff, and students and various community organizations.

[To download and listen to our Podcast click here!](#)

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## Pack the Dome - Thank you!

Thank you to all that participated in another successful Pack the Dome and kick off to Spring into Service: Cats Who Care!



## Office of Community Engagement

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