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Office of Community  
Engagement

## **Office of Community Engagement Monthly Newsletter**

**May 2022**

**In this edition:**

- UNI Engaged: Stories of Impact
- Award Recognition
- Service-Learning Institute
- Civic Action Plan 2.0 - Input Requested
- Upcoming Events
- In Other News

### **UNI Engaged: Stories of Impact**

Megan Walsh, a senior majoring in elementary education, was a part of a service-learning class that helped with outreach for the Walnut Neighborhood Coalition in Waterloo. This experience helped her grow, not only in her professional life, but also in her personal life.

“Hearing from the voices that are not heard as much, we can use those conversations to

take our education to another level to help those who don't have the same resources or privileges that we do," Walsh said. "It makes you more aware of some of the issues that might come into the classroom."

Through this service-learning course, Walsh said she learned more about the people in her community, especially those that are underrepresented. This experience expanded her awareness of societal issues that could potentially come into the classroom through her students. Additionally, it allowed her to gain more of an understanding of how to provide opportunities for all individuals in the Cedar Valley.

To read more about how UNI's involvement is making a difference in student's lives and in our community, read our full article on the [Community Engagement website](#).

## Award Recognition

**Veridian Fellows** - Congratulations to Denita Gadson and Lindi Roelofse with their project the 529'ers Project and Carmen Durham, and Aliza Fones with their project Community Based Support for Refugee and Immigrant Students for being awarded Veridian Community Engagement Fellowships! These faculty members will complete their projects during the Spring and Summer 2022 semesters. To learn more about both students and faculty projects, visit the [Community Engagement website](#).

**Koob Fund for Student Engagement** - Congratulations to Kristine Hoskinson and Kaitlyn Moran, Spring 2022 Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement scholarship recipients. Kristine will be completing an internship with UNI Counseling Services in Fall 2022. Kaitlyn will be completing an internship in Summer 2022 with Try Pie in Waterloo.

**Community Engagement Celebration Day Award Winners** - Congratulations to all our Community Engagement Celebration Day awardees:

- Service Learning/Live Client Project Award - Blessings 2 Celebrate
- Student Organization / Student Group Project Award - Panther Academy for Water Safety (PAWS)



- Research-Based Project Award - Connecting the Dots: Story Circles in Art and Design Studios
- Social Justice Award - Speaking Out: Stories of KBBG Radio

- Sustainability & Environmental Awareness Award - Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC) Food Waste Project
- Individual Student Project/Internship Award - Panther Pantry
- Commitment to Service Award - Black Business Entrepreneurship Accelerator
- People's Choice Award - Panther Academy for Water Safety (PAWS)

**Engaged Campus Awards** - May 4th, Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact celebrated the Presidents' Engaged Campus Award winners. Help us as we recognize a number of UNI individuals and partners who are recipients of these awards!

- Engaged Campus Award for Community Collaboration - UNI Public Health Majors' Farm to School Program.
- Presidents' Student Leadership Award - Black Student Union.
- Presidents' Civic Engagement Leadership Award - John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center.
- Presidents' Community Partner Award - Veridian Credit Union.

To read more about the awardees, visit the [Campus Compact website!](#)

## **Service-Learning Institute**

**Applications due Thursday, May 19th** - applications take less than 5 minutes to apply!

This Service-Learning Institute (SLI) will include an option for participating in the Walnut Collective Cohort or the Sustainability Cohort. This 2-day workshop will focus on incorporating service-learning activities into courses in ways that align with course learning goals, enhance student growth and civic awareness, and strengthen our community, specifically the Walnut neighborhood in Waterloo or sustainability efforts. This SLI provides a path for connecting with others and to efforts that can enhance your teaching, research, and service. Faculty will be invited to continue their participation with these groups in various forms, through courses, advising of student organizations, research, and service. More details can be found on the [Community Engagement website](#).

## **Civic Action Plan 2.0 - Input Requested**

The University of Northern Iowa's 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan is taking shape and once again, community engagement is central to UNI's future. As

the overall university strategic plan is nearing its final phases, UNI's Office of Community Engagement is developing their next strategic plan - the Civic Action Plan 2.0. Our Civic Action Plan 2.0 will continue to



support the actions our campus will take as we move forward with a continued sense of focus, of a just and sustainable future for communities beyond our campus while enhancing the student learning experience.

The Civic Action Planning Team has met a few times and we'd like your input as we continue to develop the next plan. We invite you to provide your input by [answering a few questions](#).

## Events

**Dementia Simulation House** - UNI's gerontology program has been running the only dementia simulation that takes place in an entire house in Iowa. Sessions last 45 minutes and there is a 4 person limit per session. You can check the [house's calendar](#) for open sessions and to sign up to go through the simulation. To learn more about the simulation house, read this article on [InsideUNI's website](#).

**RSP Summer Grant Writing Workshop** - [May 18th, 1-2:30 p.m.](#) A 5-session grant-writing seminar for UNI faculty and staff, this workshop offers sessions on various grant-writing topics. Seminar sessions will be a mix of Zoom virtual sessions and in-person events. Learn about the services of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the UNI Foundation, and how to: find funding opportunities, understand Requests for Proposals and sponsor priorities, write a concept paper, and communicate with program officers. To sign up or learn more information, visit the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs [registration website](#).

**College Hill Farmers Market** - Starting [May 18th](#), the market will be on [Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m.](#) The market is a producer only market offering quality products including fresh seasonal produce, homemade jam, healthy snacks, popcorn, baked goods, eggs, lamb, chicken, beef, and more. The College Hill Farmers Market's mission is to provide an enjoyable environment where customers can find quality, local products and provide economic opportunity for local vendors. For more information, visit the [College Hill Farmers Market's website](#).

## In Other News

Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement published the study, "[We Are About Life-Changing Research: Community Partner Perspectives on Community-Engaged Research Collaborations](#)".

The [Campus Compact Podcast](#) leads conversations with community engagement professionals and discusses new research and innovative work in the field.

**Note:** Thank you for following us since we launched our newsletter in January 2022. We will pause publishing newsletters for the summer months and will return to monthly newsletters in August. In the interim, we will continue to post updates on InsideUNI, and our office will remain open throughout the summer.

Contact us anytime: [kristina.kofoot@uni.edu](mailto:kristina.kofoot@uni.edu); 319-273-4507.

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