



Office of Community Engagement

Your quarterly news & updates



New Name, New Website, Same Commitment to Engagement

Greetings from the Office of Community Engagement! Previously known as the Office of Outreach and Engagement, the office now has a new name that reflects our commitment to community engagement and building mutually beneficial partnerships between our campus and community. Along with the new name comes a new website, engagement.uiowa.edu. This site provides faculty and students resources for community engaged teaching, learning and research, and highlights the impact of engagement on our campus and in communities across Iowa and beyond.

I invite you to check out upcoming workshops and trainings and contact us if you have questions or would like to discuss how you can be involved with community engagement at Iowa. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic that keeps us physically apart, engagement has never been more important and we look forward to connecting with you soon.

Nick Benson
Executive Director

Upcoming Workshops and Trainings

Open to all UI faculty, staff and students. Learn how to teach community engaged courses, build community partnerships and conduct community engaged research.

Community Engagement for Inclusion and Justice, October 15th, 12 - 2 pm, [register](#) for Zoom link. *In Partnership with Iowa Campus Compact.*

This training will provide an overview of key concepts of how to build inclusive and engaged classrooms and facilitate dialogue across differences. A panel discussion will offer insights from faculty and students who have experience in community engaged classrooms.

Defining and Sustaining Community Partnerships, November 12th, 3 - 4 pm, [register](#) for Zoom link.

Learn how to build community partnerships for engaged teaching and research that last! Hear from faculty, students and community partners about what makes campus and community partnerships successful.

Engaged Faculty Institute, offered through Iowa Campus Compact and now online, January 8 - 25th. This two week asynchronous training is for any faculty member or grad student interested in teaching engaged learning courses. [Register](#) for University of Iowa supplemental training at the conclusion of Institute!

Meet our AmeriCorps Staff

The Office of Community Engagement welcomed two new staff members this fall, Jon Soffa and Suha Taha. Jon and Suha come to our office through a grant from [Iowa Campus Compact](#) and the AmeriCorps program. Both Jon and Suha are Community Engagement AmeriCorps Coordinators, and also work with the Graduate College and the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities through their AmeriCorps positions.

Jon and Suha will be working on a variety of projects with faculty, staff, students and community partners this year. Their work will include a civic action plan, faculty and student workshops, and development of assessment metrics for engagement. We are thrilled to have them on board!

Jon may be reached at jonathan-soffa@uiowa.edu and Suha may be reached at suha-taha@uiowa.edu.



Jon

Soffa



Suha

Taha

Arts and Engagement



Three new fellows are living at the Colony this year while teaching courses, engaging with communities and making art.

Grant Wood Art Colony

The Grant Wood Art Colony welcomed three new artists to serve as Grant Wood Fellows during the 2020-21 academic year. Through an internationally competitive search, the following talented artists were selected by their peers: [Margarita Blush](#) (Interdisciplinary Performance--Theatre), [Johnathan Payne](#) (Painting & Drawing), and [Elena Smyrniotis](#) (Printmaking). During their year at the University of Iowa, the fellows will live at the Grant Wood Art Colony, each teach one course per semester, engage community members across the state, and make work. While the Colony will continue to explore safe, in-person opportunities for the fellows to engage a broad audience, mark your calendar to meet the fellows through virtual studio visits in collaboration with the [Stanley Museum of Art](#):

November 10 at 7:30—Margarita Blush
November 17 at 7:30—Elena Smyrniotis
December 8 at 7:30—Johnathan Payne



Trevon Coleman, grad student in Cinematic Arts, works on a video promoting wineries and distilleries in Iowa

Arts Share

Arts Share has three returning Graduate Assistants (GAs) this year: Keegan Hockett from Music, Kim Fain from Theatre, and Jake Jones from the School of Art & Art History. The new assistants are Dani Charles from the Writers' Workshop, Juliet Remmers from Dance, Steven Willis from Theatre, and Arianna Edevenson from Music. We are excited about the innovative programming the GAs are developing to meet the needs of audiences during our current pandemic world. Online programs that will be produced this fall include a video on the Pipe Organ and the Physics of Sound for elementary school children, a production of How the Raccoon got its Stripes to celebrate Native American Heritage month, and a curated series of artist talks for general audiences.

To learn more about how Arts Share is working with faculty, students and community partners across Iowa, contact Leslie Finer, Director of Arts Share, at leslie-finer@uiowa.edu.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES & DEADLINES

[Engagement Scholarship Consortium \(ESC\) Virtual Annual Meeting](#) and [Outreach and Engagement Practitioners Network Virtual Gathering](#). Deadline to register for ESC meeting varies (Oct. 4 - 13th). Register for the Practitioners Network by October 9th.

[Iowa Campus Compact Network Meeting](#), October 7th, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm, [register](#) for Zoom link.

[Obermann Center Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy](#), deadline for graduate students to register is October 13, 2020 (5:00 pm).

Community Engagement for Inclusion and Justice workshop, October 15th, 12 - 2 pm, [register](#) for Zoom link.

Defining and Sustaining Community Partnerships workshop, November 12th, 3 - 4 pm, [register](#) for Zoom link.

[Civic Action Academy](#), November 13th, 12 - 5 pm, registration now open. Professional development opportunity for students to build skills in civic and community engagement.

Office of Community Engagement | [Website](#) | [Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED

