

## Engagement at Iowa Updates

# IOWA

Office of Community  
Engagement

January 2022

### The year begins with new engagement opportunities at the University of Iowa



With January under way and classes starting today, the Office of Community Engagement is invigorated by the multitude of exciting community engagement projects and partnerships that have launched in full with the start of the new year. Nearly two dozen community engaged courses, designated in MyUI, begin today and will connect hundreds of Hawkeyes to community partners across the state of Iowa while enriching learning experiences and making a difference in our communities.

Also launching earlier this month was the Graduate Engagement Corps (GEC) orientation, which successfully concluded with twenty-two graduate and professional students from across diverse disciplines and colleges at the University of Iowa completing a three-day introduction to the pillars of community-engaged learning and research, with visits to local community partners Open Heartland and Public Space One. Students in the GEC will now begin to deploy community engaged research practices and connect with community partners across the state and beyond to start impacting Iowa communities.

While the challenges of 2020 and 2021 are still with us in many ways, the Office of Community Engagement is inspired by the dedication and support that faculty, students, and community partners have shown in their resolve to make a difference through community engagement. We look forward to connecting with you, perhaps through one of the new engagement initiatives taking shape across campus this year, and wish you best of luck with the new semester.

In partnership,

**Nick**

Nick Benson  
Executive Director

## Workshop Spotlight

### Coalition Conversations: Re-Engaging Students in Community



**Wednesday, January 19th**  
**2:00 pm - 3:00pm**  
**virtual meeting via Zoom**

[Register today](#)

Join Campus Compact in a discussion about institutions re-engage their students in deep, meaningful community engagement following the pandemic. The safety concerns of the last 18 months have disrupted both curricular and co-curricular student engagement. Now, the transition back to “normal” has begun.

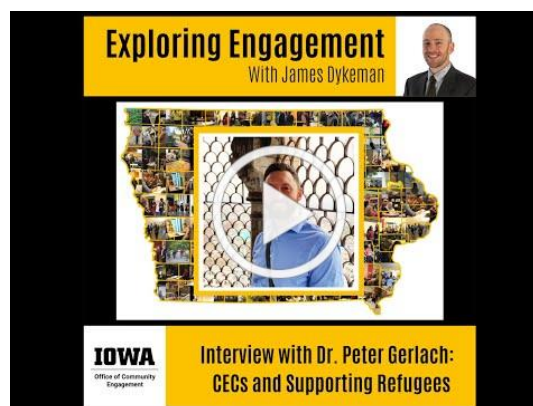
While we recognize that many innovative practices resulted from the pandemic, most campuses are now facing lower student engagement levels due to challenges like low motivation, increasing academic demands, increasing mental health concerns, and changes in campus community belonging traditions and practices.

# Voices of Community Engagement

## Students in Community Engaged Courses Work to Meet the Needs of Iowa's Immigrant and Refugee Populations

In this episode of Exploring Engagement, we met with Dr. Peter Gerlach to talk about his philosophy and approach to structuring mutually beneficial community engaged courses and the vital work that he is doing with his students to impact community partners serving immigrants and refugees across the state of Iowa.

Our Voices of Engagement series this January features Adjunct Assistant Professor Dr. Peter Gerlach.



[Read More Stories of Impact](#)

## Engagement and the Arts

### Former Arts Share Graduate Assistant Micah Ariel James now North Liberty's First Outreach and Equity Coordinator



"I found in my journey in this sort of work the kind of revelations that 2020 brought about really stirred up in me a desire to engage more deeply in that direct work of engaging communities in thinking about how to be more equitable, how to be more inclusive, how can we better support each other and build deeper community"

-Micah Ariel James, from a story by Izabela Zaluska in *The Gazette*

[Read The Full Story](#)

### Grant Wood Art Colony (GWAC) Fellowship Applications Now Open

The University of Iowa is now accepting applications for Grant Wood Fellowships in Printmaking, Painting & Drawing, and Interdisciplinary Performance-Dance.

The Grant Wood Fellowship program currently provides three one-year fellowships. Fellows are selected through a national competition and provided with furnished living quarters at the Grant Wood Art Colony.

During the academic year, each fellow will teach a total of two courses at the University of Iowa, leaving the rest of the time for the artist's own work and research. A teaching salary, benefits, and studio are provided.

Please direct questions about fellowship opportunities to [maura-pilcher@uiowa.edu](mailto:maura-pilcher@uiowa.edu)



[Apply For Fellowship Opportunities](#)

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### Life in Iowa as a Refugee and Immigrant

Wednesday, January 19, 12:00pm  
Iowa City Foreign Relations Council

### Coalition Conversations: Re-Engaging Students in Community

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 2:00pm - 3:00pm  
Campus Compact

[Learn more about these and future events](#)

**STAY CONNECTED**

