

# Engagement at Iowa Updates



July 2022

## Summer is a Time for Renewal, Reflection, and Connection

Now that the summer months are firmly upon us, we are focused on the importance of building and maintaining relationships in preparation for the Fall. We encourage faculty, staff, researchers, students, and our community partners to use this time to connect and reach out to colleagues in the field while reflecting on the triumphs and challenges of the previous academic year.

We encourage everyone to read the growing list of community engagement impact stories on our website for inspiration on forming new partnership opportunities and take a moment to catch up on the training and workshop recordings available in our archive. You can also take advantage of the resources and training offered by Campus Compact during their open houses in July.



As always, please reach out to the Office of Community Engagement to discuss new project ideas or brainstorm engagement opportunities for the Fall semester.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Benson".

Nick Benson  
Executive Director

## Event Spotlight

### CAMPUS COMPACT OPEN HOUSE



Tuesday, July 12th, 2:00 – 3:00 PM (CT)  
Tuesday, July 28th, 11:00am – 12:00 PM (CT)

[Register Here](#)

Find out how to get the most out of a Campus Compact membership to impact your community engagement activities and professional development.

Two virtual Open House workshops will be held in July to learn more about the tools, resources, and programs available to Campus Compact members, including information about ways faculty, staff, senior leaders, and students can leverage a Campus Compact membership to support institutional priorities and move forward civic and community engagement work.

## Voices of Community Engagement



University of Iowa Nursing practicum exposes students to military culture and veterans' health needs across the state of Iowa through community engagement

Our Voices of Community Engagement series this July features Stephanie Latham, adjunct lecturer of nursing at the University of Iowa.

Stephanie Latham, adjunct lecturer of nursing at the University of Iowa, was preparing to start a residency at the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) in Iowa City when a nurse executive approached her about an opportunity for collaboration.

Between the University of Iowa College of Nursing and the Iowa City VA Health System (ICVAHCS), there was potential for pre-licensure Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) students to build awareness around veterans' health issues.

"With my doctorate in advanced public health nursing, it was a perfect fit," Latham said. "I'm passionate about veteran populations and public health. It was a win-win."

Latham began thinking about creating a community-engaged nursing practicum focused on veteran and military health, utilizing resources from her doctoral program that she could share with students.

"I had previous experience as a VA employee and was completing my doctoral residency at the ICVAHS in suicide prevention with a veteran emphasis," Latham said. "So, I could utilize that as a springboard to collaborate with community partners with whom the class worked." Latham then started looking to build connections and cross-collaboration in public health to identify and impact the needs of veterans in populations often missed by community health needs assessments.

"Veterans are part of our population and have specific health needs," Latham said. "They are in our communities, and we must have that awareness to look at how communities support these individuals, what kind of funding is available, how we use and collect data, and how to move forward."

Latham met her husband when he was a member of the Iowa National Guard, and their children were middle and high school age when he was activated to serve as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"When we met and were first married, I never considered that he might go to war someday," Latham said. "He was going to do flood duty and things like that, but going to war in another country was never part of the landscape for us. When that changed, I quickly realized that our family and other Iowa National Guard families did not have the necessary resources to help cope."

The experience impacted Latham's children, who didn't have a peer group at school that understood the challenges of being in a military family.

"They were in a school with only two or three other children with those experiences," Latham said. "So, I reached out to staff at their schools to raise awareness, but at that time (2003), there was very little understanding of how experiences of military-connected children differed from that of other children. This experience was important to my eventual collaboration with the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and the School Liaison Officer at the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA)."

"One of the things we don't have in Iowa is an active-duty base, so many of the resources you would see in other states, we don't have in Iowa, Latham said. "In Iowa, there is a substantial population of Iowa National Guard members, but there is a deficit in Iowa communities related to knowledge and resources important to supporting military-connected children," Latham said.

Understanding the importance of community collaboration and engagement, Latham connected with DoDEA and the School Liaison Officer at the RIA to begin a conversation about addressing the needs of military-connected children in Iowa, which led to a collaboration with the Iowa Department of Education.

"The Iowa Department of Education had completed the Project AWARE Iowa grant program, and data collected through this grant program demonstrated that military children in Iowa were struggling," Latham said.

"Through these conversations, it became evident that members of our school districts in Iowa do not have sufficient information about working with military-connected children," Latham said. "It became an excellent experience for students to recognize that they have knowledge that Iowa school nurses don't have, but desperately need, and created an opportunity for pre-licensure BSN students to share new information with their future colleagues and peers."

Engagement at the state and national level with members of the military and education "communities" was an important step. The next involved reaching out to the Iowa Community School District to create an opportunity for students to work with seasoned school nurses working with this population and provide education to address this knowledge deficit.

"When I started teaching, I never would have considered partnering with a community school district," Latham said. "It wouldn't have occurred to me, so I think this demonstrates the importance of throwing your net wide and asking, why aren't we engaging with our community more?"

College of Nursing students assigned to fulfill practicum requirements via Latham's class had an opportunity to learn about military and veteran health challenges unique to those populations.

Read the Full Story

Engagement and the Arts

Arts Share

Pandelirium! Steel Drum Band to Entertain RAGBRAI Riders in New Hampton, IA





The *Pandelirium! Steel Drum Band* performs on instruments cut and hammered from 55-gallon oil barrels. The quartet is based in Iowa City and includes current and former members of the PanAmerican Steel Drum Band from the University of Iowa. Their performances include a blend of musical styles ranging from traditional Calypsos and Soccas of Trinidad to Reggae, arrangements of popular songs, and jazz standards.

on July 29th

About 15,000 riders will be entertained by *Pandelirium!* when RAGBRAI travels through New Hampton, who invited the band to play as soon as the schedule was announced due to being a big hit with riders when the route went through the area in previous years.

Participants from all 50 states and a host of international locations descend on Iowa annually to be part of RAGBRAI, the “oldest, largest and longest recreational bicycle touring event in the world.”

[Learn More](#)

## After a two-year absence due to COVID-19, the Arts Share and Grant Wood Art Colony Summer Camp returned in full force

In June, seventy-five elementary school-aged children attended the art camp, which included workshops in theatre, music, movement, art, and creative writing, taught by Arts Share graduate students.

One of the highlights of the camp was when the children created bees for Grant Wood Art Colony fellow Elena Smyrniotis’ *Bee Project* installation, which they got to visit at the new Stanley Art Museum sculpture park.



Attendees came from all over Iowa, including the Iowa City/Coralville area, North Liberty, Tiffin, Solon, Wellman, Riverside, and Cedar Rapids.

[Learn More](#)

## Grant Wood Art Colony



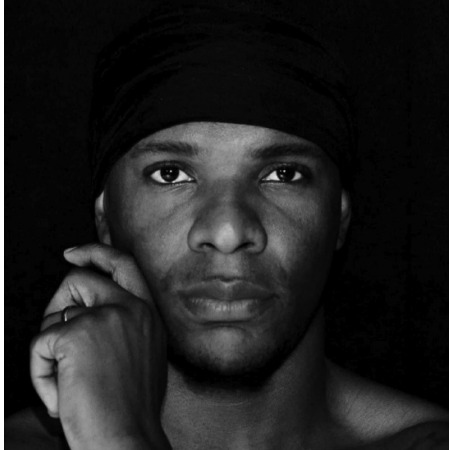
## Grant Wood Art Colony kicks off 2022-23 Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities partnership with Clinton, Iowa

University of Iowa representatives met with Clinton administrators on Monday, June 20th and included Grant Wood Art Colony Director Maura Pilcher, who was joined by University of Iowa MFA candidate Sean Tyler and Visiting Assistant Professor Drew Etienne on a tour of possible mural sites.

Karen Rowell, Director of Downtown Clinton, has established a strong relationship with University of Iowa artists. In 2017, Downtown Clinton commissioned Ali Hval (MFA 2019) to create *Sunset on the Mississippi* on a local building.

## First 2022-23 Grant Wood Art Colony Fellow Arrives in Residence This Month

Over the past 20 years, Sargeant has been



Kieron Dwayne Sargeant is a Trinidadian-born interdisciplinary artist, choreographer, dancer, and dance researcher emerging from the African-Caribbean tradition.

[Learn More](#)

involved in documenting, assessing, and analyzing dance traditions of the Caribbean and establishing a canon of dance teachings and workshops, informed by his research, to popularize the ancestral survival of movement traditions between the Circum-Caribbean and Western Africa.

Sargeant received an MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Florida State University and MA in Community Dance Practice from Ohio University and was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Contemporary Forms of the African Diaspora at the University of Iowa during the 2021-22 academic year.

## Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities

### Maquoketa River Watershed Short Film Released

As part of a community engagement partnership project, Department of Cinematic Arts student Andrew Senneff recently finished the creation of a short informational film about the Maquoketa River Watershed, with the goal of educating the public about the importance of watershed management.



[Watch Here](#)

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### CAMPUS COMPACT OPEN HOUSE

Campus Compact  
June 12th and 28th  
Virtual

### Pandelerium! Steel Drum Band

Williamsburg, IA  
July 30th, 6:00 PM  
Williamsburg Public Library

[Learn More About These and Future Events](#)

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

STAY CONNECTED

