

## Engagement at Iowa Updates

# IOWA

## Office of Community Engagement

### March 2022

**With the change of the season comes new possibilities for growth, opportunity, and community engagement.**



March is an exciting month for the Office of Community Engagement. The prospect of melting snow and increased sunshine brings new optimism and enthusiasm to our community engaged work in Iowa. It also signals the next steps in our effort to expand community engagement to more classrooms, faculty and student experiences, and Iowa communities.

New mutually beneficial partnerships are formed every day between our campus and community partners across Iowa and beyond through community engaged teaching, learning and research. Registration is still open for instructors looking to add their Fall 2022 courses as community engaged classes, and the Graduate Engagement Corps (GEC) is well underway. Based on the success of the GEC, we are now exploring the formation of an undergraduate engagement corps to further support and elevate students who are interested in community engagement.

March also signals the beginning of One Day For Iowa. This year, we are committed to raising funds as an office for establishing grants to enable our community engaged students to begin new partnerships and projects and further advance their meaningful and impactful work across Iowa and beyond. More information is below, and we look forward to achieving these goals with your support so that we can continue to empower University of Iowa students who are making a difference in our communities.

In partnership,

## Nick

Nick Benson  
Executive Director

## Help Us Empower Students to Impact Iowa



Mark your calendar! One Day for Iowa, the University of Iowa's 24-hour online giving day is Wednesday, March 30! □

This year, we have set an ambitious fundraising goal for the Office of Community Engagement to provide grants for students who desire to work with community partners through engagement partnerships and programs like the Graduate Engagement Corps (GEC).

Please help us support students who want to help Iowa communities by sharing this link and message. Together we can make a difference! Giving Day is March 30th, although we will be accepting gifts throughout the month of March.

**100% of funds raised through the Office of Community Engagement's One Day for Iowa campaign will be dedicated to supporting University of Iowa students engaging with communities across Iowa and beyond.**

We also encourage you to support two arts

[Click Here to Support our Students](#)

and engagement programs in the Office of Community Engagement, Arts Share and Grant Wood Art Colony. Both programs leverage the University of Iowa's strength in the arts and humanities by connecting students and faculty with community partners to advance creativity and artistic expression.

## Fall 2022 CEC Faculty Registration Open



Community Engaged Courses (CECs) offer students a unique experiential education opportunity through a partnership with an organization not affiliated with the University of Iowa.

Instructors may apply to designate their course through a short online application. All applications for **Fall 2022 courses must be submitted by Friday, April 1st at 5 pm**. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

[Register Your Course Here](#)

## Workshop Spotlight

### [Beyond a Spirit of Altruism: Reimagining “Community Service” for Full Participation](#)



**Thursday, March 24th  
2:00pm - 3:00pm  
virtual meeting via Zoom**

[Register today](#)

Join Campus Compact in a discussion about the ways Brandeis University has historically defined and rewarded service and how such policies are shifting to increase the accessibility of community engagement experiences for all students.

A primary objective of this webinar is to hold space for colleagues to engage in conversation about the implicit and explicit definitions of community service on their campuses and how they may prohibit or deter full participation for underrepresented students.

## Voices of Community Engagement

### 'This is a community of students looking for the opportunity to make an impact in the world through research and teaching'

The Graduate Engagement Corps (GEC) is an opportunity for students seeking advanced degrees to learn about and receive support for community engaged teaching, learning, and research. Members of the GEC will also be part of a network of like-minded, community engaged students that can provide friendship and connection throughout their time at the University of Iowa.

"This is a community of students looking for the opportunity to make an impact in the world through research and teaching," said Nick Benson, executive director of the Office of Community Engagement. "The GEC will give you training, resources, and a community to join to advance those causes."

The GEC was born out of the sunset of the Obermann Center's Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy. Benson and Obermann Center worked to transition the program over the summer and fall and ensured the program was accessible and impactful for any graduate student. Jennifer New, Associate Director of the Obermann Center, co-directed the inaugural GEC Orientation with the Office of Community Engagement in January 2022.

The GEC offers graduate and professional students training, support, and financial

*Our Voices of Engagement series this March features the Graduate Engagement Corps, which empowers University of Iowa graduate students to impact Iowa communities through teaching and research.*



"There are also opportunities to informally get together with other members of the GEC to talk about the progress you are making with your research or teaching, ask questions, or potentially collaborate with other graduate students on your work," Benson said. "One of the best things about being a part of the corps is that you connect with other types of graduate students to learn about ways your work can intersect with what they are doing."

Graduate students who care a lot about their research and building a research portfolio get a jump start on that process with opportunities to connect with other researchers, and the ability to amplify the work they want to do.

"After that, it's as much of a connection as you want to have with your community. It's about taking part in a couple of workshops, and the best thing is that at the end of the



resources to help impact their communities through engagement. The orientation and workshops provide the training, the GEC network provides support, and grants launching summer of 2022 will provide the financial resources through grants for which GEC members can apply.

"The wonderful thing about the GEC is that it is accessible for everybody, and it is a reasonably brief time commitment," Benson said. "The orientation in the middle of January for three short half days gives students the opportunity to learn about engaged research and teaching while making connections with community partners."

process, you can apply for grant funding," Benson said. "One of the most challenging aspects of getting a research project off the ground is funding, and the GEC gives you opportunities for pilot funding to start that process."

[Continue Reading](#)

## 2022 Engagement Scholarship Consortium Annual Meeting

The 2022 Engagement Scholarship Consortium: *The Impact of Engaged Scholarship: People, Purpose, and Passion* will be held September 21 and 22, 2022.

The consortium is seeking proposal applications from undergraduate and graduate students involved in community and university engagement and/or who are studying the impacts of service-learning and community engagement.

The conference will not only highlight the positive impacts of engaged work but also explore ideas around how to define and evaluate the success of this work and the resulting scholarship.



[Register Here](#)

Proposals will be considered on any topic clearly connected to the advancement of community engagement.

## Engagement and the Arts

### The Arts Share and Grant Wood Art Colony Summer Camp is BACK!

Classes will be informal and energetic, in an intellectually safe, stimulating environment that fosters creative expression and interaction. Workshop leaders are UI graduate students.

**Dates and times:** M-F, June 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 am -12:00 pm

**Location:** UI Theatre Building  
200 N. Riverside Dr., Iowa City

**Fees:** \$125/week

**Children are grouped together by age/grade**  
Each section is limited to 18 students

**\*SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED\***

The University of Iowa Arts Share and Grant Wood Art Colony programs are offering a week-long arts program for children entering first through sixth grades. These are half-day sessions featuring workshops in visual arts, theatre, music, movement and creative writing.

Spark your child’s creative side this summer!

[Learn More](#)

## Upcoming Events and Activities

**Beyond a Spirit of Altruism: Reimagining “Community Service” for Full Participation**  
Thursday, March 24th, 2:00pm - 3:00pm  
Campus Compact

**Grant Wood Fellow Talk - "A Growing Payne: Self-Meditations, Chronologies, Surrendering. Who Am I Now? " with Johnathan Payne**

Thursday, March 24th, 7:00pm  
Virtual

**Grant Wood Fellow Talk - A session exploring Contemporary Regionalism in Musical Contexts with Josh Henderson**  
Monday, March 28, 2022 7:00pm  
Virtual

Learn more about these and future events

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

**STAY CONNECTED**

