With the change in seasons comes new, exciting changes at the Office of Community Engagement. A core mission of the Office of Community Engagement is to ensure graduate and undergraduate students have opportunities to participate in community engagement experiences during their time at Iowa. Community engaged courses are a great platform to provide these experiences. These courses transform how we teach and learn by moving students out of the classroom and into the Community where theory meets practice.

This year, we are pleased to launch the Community Engaged Course (CEC) designation, a process where courses across campus can be designated as Community Engaged and tagged as such on MyUI. For the first time, students can identify courses proactively that integrate community partnerships into course activities as they register for the Spring 2022 semester.

We are thrilled that instructors across campus are registering their courses as a CEC. I encourage you to reach out to our office at ui-engagement@uiowa.edu if you have questions or would like more information about the CEC designation program. Watch our website, engagement.uiowa.edu, and follow us on social media for more news about additional student-centered community engagement programming that we will be launching this year.

In partnership,

Nick Benson
Executive Director

CEC Designated Courses

Beginning in the spring, courses that get students outside the classroom and into communities across Iowa will be designated as a Community Engaged Course (CEC). Later this month, students who want to get involved with the community while earning course credit will be able to view upcoming Community Engaged Courses in MyUI.

While not every course that incorporates community engagement has the CEC designation, looking for the CEC icon on MyUI is an effective way to ensure a class will give a community engaged experience.

Learn more about CEC courses

Workshop Spotlight

Accessibility in Community Engagement During COVID-19 and Beyond

Join the Office of Community Engagement for a panel discussion on how to navigate community engaged teaching, research, and projects while being mindful of the needs of students, faculty, staff, and community partners during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Tuesday, October 5th, 2021
11 am - noon

Register today
Graduate Engagement Corps

The Office of Community Engagement is pleased to host the inaugural Graduate Engagement Corps (GEC) Orientation, replacing the Obermann Center’s Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy. The GEC Orientation will serve as a basic introduction to the principles, methods, and tools of publicly engaged teaching, research, and projects.

This program is non-competitive and open to students in any graduate program at the UI. Those who successfully complete the Orientation will be eligible to participate in workshops and apply for funding opportunities as a member of the GEC community. Only 25 graduate students will be accepted, and applications will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Learn more about GEC

Voices of Student Engagement

Community Engaged Courses and the Arts

Our Voices of Engagement series this October features Sean Tyler, MFA Program, Painting and Drawing Instructor of Record, Elements of Art

“When I signed up for the Public Art course I was expecting a traditional class experience, but our professor, Hannah Givler went above and beyond that. Over the course of the class we not only talked about trends and theories of public art, we also learned how to craft designs, find suppliers, and completed a real mural commission.”

“Hannah, and the folks at the Grant Wood Artist Colony and IISC, walked me through the process of working with clients to complete a design, and then continued their assistance after the class while I ordered supplies and completed the work on the murals in Waterloo. This class has become a springboard into a new career direction, and I am currently working on my second and third mural commissions!”

Read stories of students impacting Iowa communities

Arts and Engagement

Grant Wood Colony

Hold the Line

The Grant Wood Art Colony recently unveiled Hold the Line, a group exhibition of works by recent and current Grant Wood fellows that have themes of queerness, self-actualization, race relations, rupture, potentiality, Afro-futurism, and utopia.

The 2019-2021 Grant Wood Fellows Exhibition is ongoing through October 2, 2021, at the Levitt Gallery in the Art
Warp Trio

Grant Wood Fellow Josh Henderson will welcome the rest of his “trio” to the UI campus as the UI School of Music hosts Warp Trio October 4-8 as part of their String Quartet Residency program. Henderson (violin), Ju-Young Lee (cello), Mikael Darmaine (piano), and Rick Martinez (percussion) make up the ensemble. All are welcome to attend a public performance on Friday, October 8 at 7:30 p.m. Learn more [here].

Visit the Grant Wood Colony website to learn more

Arts Share

Siren Duo

Arts Share programming doesn’t stop in the summer. This past summer, the Siren Duo, a viola and clarinet duo made up of graduate students Dominique Archambeau and Arianna Edvenson, performed at eight different venues, including libraries in West Liberty, Hiawatha, Kalona, Solon, and West Branch, as well as Oaknoll Retirement residences and Pathways Adult Day Health Center.

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

Visit the Arts Share webpage to learn more

Upcoming Events and Activities

Hold the Line: 2019-2021 Grant Wood Fellows Exhibition
Art Building West, Levitt Gallery through Oct. 2, 2021

Siren Duo - Performance at West Branch Public Library
Oct. 2, 2021 12:00pm

Equity and Accessibility in Community Engaged Courses during COVID-19 and Beyond
Oct. 5, 2021 11:00am - 12:00pm

Ceramics Workshops with REACH students
Oct. 5 – 26, 2021

Campus Connect Workshop: Four Curricular Lenses for Centering Community Engagement, Equity, Justice and Movement Building
Oct. 7, 2021 2:00pm

Warp Trio
Voxman Music Building
Oct. 8, 2021 7:30pm

Campus Connect Workshop: Higher Education’s Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: