

# Engagement at Iowa Updates



# IOWA

Office of Community  
Engagement

## August 2022

**Elevate your Community-Engaged Learning, Teaching,  
and Research as the Academic Year Begins**



This August, the Office of Community Engagement encourages faculty, staff, students, and community partners to make the most of preparations for community engagement activities by accessing the many resources we have available. Community Engaged Courses, research activities, and professional development opportunities will kick off in full swing once the academic year begins, and we are here to support you.

These resources can help prepare instructors to ensure they hit the ground running once classes begin in a few weeks. Faculty, staff, and student researchers looking ahead to community-engaged projects can also find campus and community partner information, publishing outlets, and even submit an engaged research inquiry form to have a one-on-one consultation with our office about community-engaged research opportunities.

We will also be sharing news about upcoming workshops and training opportunities in future newsletters and on social media, so make sure to follow us to stay updated on community engagement at Iowa.

In partnership,

Nick Benson

Nick Benson  
Executive Director

## Join Our Team



Community engagement is central to the University of Iowa's strategic plan. As our office continues to work with campus and community partners to **impact lowans** across colleges, disciplines, arts, and more, we are growing and invite you to join us in our mission to **help Hawkeyes impact Iowa communities**.

We are now hiring a full-time Community Engagement Coordinator to develop programming, policies, and tools to **enhance community engagement activities** on campus and build community partnerships with organizations locally and across Iowa. This position is an excellent opportunity to **be at the heart of engagement activities on campus** while creating new opportunities for impact.

Contact our office today to learn more or reach out to Nick Benson, executive director, to discuss how your ideas and experience can have a far-reaching impact on classroom experiences, instructor development, community partner relationships, and the lives of lowans across the state.

Employment Opportunities

## Event Spotlight

### Campus Compact Programming & Resources

Hear Campus Compact President Bobbie Laur, Compact staff and experts in the field highlight all of the programs, resources, communities, and opportunities to support your community engagement work in the coming 2022-23 academic year.

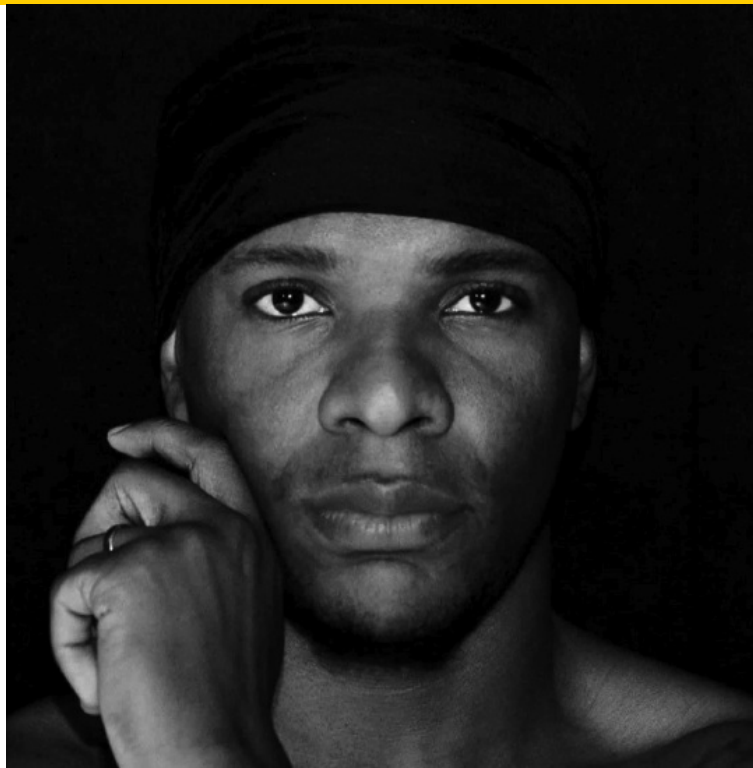


Campus Compact is a national nonprofit organization and the largest and oldest higher education association dedicated to higher education civic and community engagement. Members make up a force of thousands of presidents, faculty, researchers, students, and civic and community engagement experts at colleges and universities.

Wednesday, August 31st  
1:00 – 1:45 PM (CT)

[Register Here](#)

## Voices of Community Engagement



**Grant Wood Art Colony fellow Kieron Sargeant challenges students to think differently while bringing rich African Caribbean dance traditions to the University of Iowa**

*Our Voices of Community Engagement series this August features Kieron Sargeant, 2022-23 Grant Wood Art Colony Fellow in Dance at the University of Iowa.*

A Trinidadian-born interdisciplinary artist, choreographer, dancer, and dance

### **INSPIRING INSIGHT AND CHANGE THROUGH DANCE**

The GWAC Interdisciplinary Performance – Dance fellowship allowed Sargeant to continue to explore his research while interacting with the community to enhance understanding and engage University of Iowa students with new ways of interpreting the art form and themselves.

"I will have more time to do my research and work on developing new aspects of my artistic practice, which will lead to new collaborations, and audiences for my work," Sargeant said. "I am particularly interested in developing courses that fit the University's vision for diversity, equity, and inclusion."

researcher emerging from the African-Caribbean tradition, Kieron Sargeant received an MFA in Dance Performance and Choreography from Florida State University and an MA in Community Dance Practice from Ohio University.

In 2020 Sargeant founded and launched the Kieron Sargeant Dance and Dance Education Foundation of Trinidad and Tobago, a new platform for artists and dancers to 'nurture their creativity, inspire their environments, and empower themselves and the future of the arts industry' in Trinidad and Tobago.

In 2022, Sargeant won the competitive process to join the Grant Wood Art Colony (GWAC) fellowship. This in-residence program allowed him to further his research while teaching University of Iowa students and impacting campus and community partners by sharing his work in African dance traditions.

The GWAC fellowship provides a creative home for the next generation of artists at the University of Iowa while continuing Grant Wood's creative advocacy in the School of Art & Art History and the Division of Performing Arts through artist residencies, teaching fellowships, symposia, and community programs.

Sargeant learned about the GWAC fellowship from the University of Iowa Department of Dance chair, Dr. Rebekah Kowal, when he first arrived at the University of Iowa as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Contemporary Forms and African Diaspora.

"Dr. Kowal was the one who encouraged me to apply for the position," Sargeant said. "I felt honored to be encouraged and supported by her."

Sargeant was attracted to the fellowship position as it aligned with his artistic, teaching, and research goals.

As a Dance artist from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Sargeant's focused his teaching on African Caribbean and African Diasporic dance practices and Spiritual and Ritual Practices.

"I firmly believe in the value of personalized discovery as a vital tool for student learning and inquiry," Sargeant said. "My approach to teaching is to foster an embodied understanding of Caribbean and African Diasporic culture and identity, which helps students recognize how their bodies and personal histories play a role in the larger discourse of the Caribbean and African Diasporic culture."

Through his lessons, Sargeant constantly challenged students to delve into their 'personal body histories,' asking what it meant for the body to 'exist in this space, time, day, and age' and 'what are the more significant contextual effects of life' that impact the how and why of their movement or behavior.

"I believe in making the material relevant to students' lived experiences, so they possess a better ability to make a connection and investigate the relationship between dance practices and the historical context from which those practices emerge," Sargeant said.

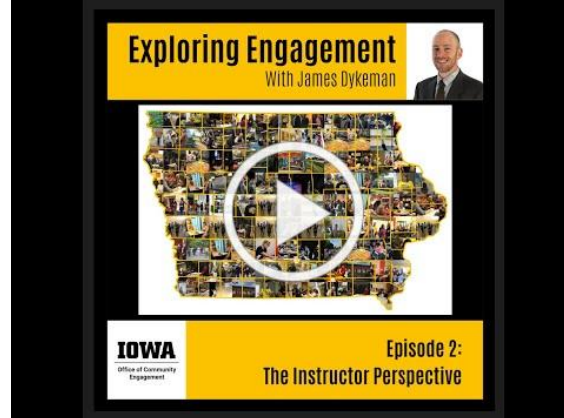
The University of Iowa is one of the few academic institutions in the United States that offers Brazilian dance and Afro Caribbean and African diasporic dance.

"I appreciate that the Dance Department and the University at large try to expose students to the global rather than just the provincial," Sargeant said. "They try to open up space for students and faculty to engage with difference... and I am happy to be a catalyst for this new direction."

[Read the Full Story](#)

## Community Engagement Resources

### Exploring Engagement



Is it your first time taking or designing a Community Engaged Course (CEC)? Our *Exploring Engagement* audio series is designed to give you a broad overview of what community engagement is, what the experience is like in the classroom, and what community partner expectations are as learning experiences move into the field.

[See the Full Series](#)

## Workshops and Professional Development



### WORKSHOPS

When designing a Community Engaged Course, there are many aspects to consider, from the pedagogical approach to community partner selection and relationship building while understanding the partnership-based process compared to traditional service-learning.

Our workshop series contains a selection of recorded training programs to help instructors understand critical principles and explore new avenues when engaging with communities.

[Learn More](#)

### HOW-TO GUIDE

Developing a CEC is a unique experience and we have you covered with a step-by-step *Plan for Developing a Community-Engaged Course* which will take you through the process of course creation, from project development and management, to creating a syllabus and evaluating outcomes.

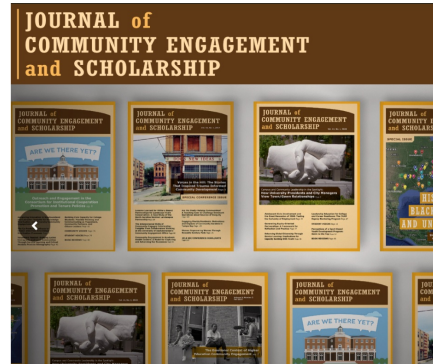
Our office is also here to answer questions along the way. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance.

[Get the Guide Here](#)

# Community Engaged Research

University of Iowa faculty and staff are leading scholars in community engagement, advancing discovery in engaged teaching and learning, and community-engaged research.

We encourage our engaged researchers to submit papers and articles for publication and attend workshops on innovation in this field. Our website contains a library of publishing outlets and conferences to help you advance community-engaged research.



[Learn More](#)

We are also here to help with letters of support and one-on-one meetings with our office to discuss upcoming courses, research projects, and community partnerships.

[Submit an Inquiry](#)

## Upcoming Events and Activities



**FREE**

**Iowa State Fair**

**Aug 11 - 21, 2022**

- **ADMISSION**
- **PARKING**
- **SWAG**



**THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**



**IOWA**

**SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

All this planning and preparation can be stressful. Before the summer comes to a close, enjoy the Iowa State Fair while sharing your Hawkeye Pride during a 3-4 hour volunteer outreach shift while snagging free parking and swag.

Every year, the University of Iowa engages with communities from every corner of Iowa during the Iowa State Fair. Becoming a volunteer is an excellent opportunity to enjoy some fun in the sun while sharing the important and impactful engagement work and helping Iowans gain a greater understanding of the impact and reach we are having through our community-engagement efforts.

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

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

**STAY CONNECTED**



