

2-2022

Office of Community Engagement Newsletter, February 2022

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Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. Office of Community Engagement., "Office of Community Engagement Newsletter, February 2022" (2022). *Office of Community Engagement Newsletter*. 2.

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February 2022

Welcome - Kristina Kofoot, Community Engagement Program Coordinator

Hello! My name is Kristina Kofoot and I serve as the Program Coordinator for Community Engagement here at UNI. As a graduate student I was recruited into the field of Community Engagement. For two years I served as a VISTA member helping to establish the Office of Community Engagement on campus. After my AmeriCorps service I was hired full-time to help coordinate and elevate the work of community engagement at UNI and in the Cedar Valley. I am excited to be able to work in a place that offers me the opportunity to give back to the community that I live in.



I am currently serving on UNI's strategic planning committee for 2023-2028. I am excited to know that community engagement is again embedded within and throughout our next strategic plan. Community engagement is part of what makes UNI unique and that is evident in our plans. This month we also kicked off the Office of Community Engagement's Civic Action Plan 2.0, which will serve as the university's implementation plan for its community engagement work. This work is a hallmark of our commitment to our students and our community to ensure that we are moving forward in a way that is beneficial to all.

As we continue the work of strategic planning both for our campus and for the Office of Community Engagement I look forward to the opportunity to support mutually beneficial partnerships that enhance student learning while also benefiting the organizations and businesses in the Cedar Valley.

Meet your Service-Learning Librarian!

Anne Marie Gruber is an Associate Professor of Library Services at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). She is a leader in research focused on the intersections between academic libraries and community engagement, with an emphasis on innovative information literacy instruction. Anne Marie first caught the service "bug" in high school (after grumbling about required service hours!), taking part in many service trips. She started Habitat for Humanity campus chapters in her high school and college. As a librarian early in her career at University of Dubuque, she inherited library instruction for service-learning courses and brought that model to UNI.



Anne Marie is the liaison librarian for the Office of Community Engagement and has served on the Service-learning Institute Planning Committee, Civic Action Planning Team, and Higher Learning Commission's Quality Initiative Project Implementation Committee. Many universities do not have their very own service-learning librarian; yet another reason UNI is unique and a leader in community engagement efforts. Anne Marie manages the Service-Learning Librarian Blog, which serves as a hub for information-sharing, professional development, and networking for the intersections between academic libraries and service-learning. The blog provides resources to assist with the expansion or improvement of library instruction and services to support service-learning and other forms of community engagement in a variety of disciplines. To learn more about how her work can be beneficial to you, go to <https://sllibrarian.uni.edu/>.

Get Connected

Eddie Bowles's Blues

Exhibit through March 27, 2022 - This exhibition celebrates the life and work of one of Cedar Falls's most unique Citizens. This exhibition was prepared in conjunction with English Seminar students in the UNI Department of Languages & Literatures under the advisement of Professor Jim O'Loughlin. Click here for more information: [Current - Hearst Center for the Arts \(thehearst.org\)](#)



Gather to Grow - How to Host a Story Circle

Gather to Grow: A Cedar Valley Story Circle Project is a UNI Imagining America initiative that provides the tools and opportunities for citizens of the Cedar Valley to grow together through a shared experience of telling and listening to personal stories. A storytelling circle is a gathering of individuals committed to tending to their collective wellbeing through the shared telling of stories. Consider hosting your own Story Circle. For more information, click here: <https://engagement.uni.edu/imagining-america/gather-grow>

GATHER TO GROW: A CEDAR VALLEY STORY CIRCLE PROJECT



The Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley is on campus!

Located in Maucker Union, Mondays & Thursdays 8:00am - 4:30pm. If you or a student are looking for volunteer opportunities in our community, the Volunteer Center is the place for you to get connected and explore opportunities!



**Volunteer Center
of Cedar Valley**

Service-Learning

Service-Learning Institute

UNI's Service-Learning Institute will be offered May 18-20, 2022. Applications due Friday, April 8, 2022. The purpose of The Service-Learning Institute is to support faculty/instructors with incorporating service-learning activities into courses in ways that align with course learning goals, enhance student growth and civic awareness, and strengthen our community. \$500 participant stipends. To learn more and apply click here: [Service-Learning Institute | Community Engagement](#)

Service-Learning Course Designation

Applications are accepted through the year. If you are teaching a course with a service project embedded, please consider applying to have the Service-Learning (SL) designation



on your course. The SL designation supports instructors in implementing best practices in the classroom and allows students to intentionally seek out courses that include a high-impact practice, a feature proven to be significantly beneficial for students of all backgrounds. To learn more and apply click here: <https://engagement.uni.edu/service-learning/course-designation>

Events

Cedar Valley Green Competition: Solving Sustainability Problems - Tuesday March 8th, 5:00-7:30pm;

This is a competition where teams will pitch their ideas to reduce waste. There will be \$500 for the best pitch, and the chance for an investment of \$5,000 for the best, implementable idea. This is a campus / community event inviting all faculty,

staff, students, and community members to participate. To Learn more and register, click here: <https://iwrc.uni.edu/cv-green-competition>.



**WANT TO REDUCE
LANDFILL WASTE?**

Register for Cedar Valley Green Business
Competition: Solving Sustainability Problems
to share your ideas and join the competition!

Cedar Valley Nonprofit Awards

Luncheon -

Wednesday

April 13th,

12:00-

1:30pm,

Commons

Ballroom. The

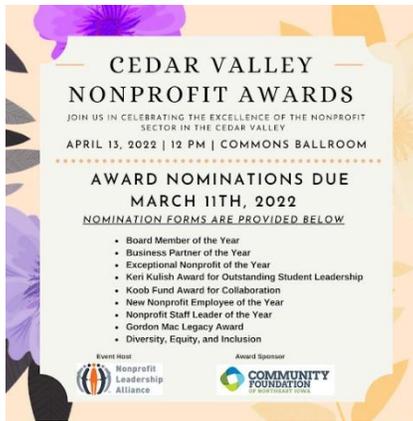
Nonprofit

Leadership

Alliance

Student

Association



will host the annual Cedar Valley Nonprofit Awards Luncheon to recognize the contributions of local nonprofits and nonprofit leaders. Awards that will be presented are for individuals and organizations.

To RSVP email kristina.kofoot@uni.edu

To submit an award nomination complete this link: <https://uni-nonprofit.org/community/luncheon/>.

Community Engagement Celebration Day -

Friday April 22nd, 9:00-12:00, Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. UNI faculty, staff, and students are invited to showcase their community engagement work. Whether it is through courses, research, student organizations, volunteering or professional service, we want to celebrate you!



To register, go to:

https://uni.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9oi4W8iL1vhYMya

In Other News

Campus Compact's Syllabi Archive - A collection of syllabi covering a wide range of disciplines and issue areas. If you need assistance in designing a syllabi with service-learning, a project, or community-engaged learning embedded, check out this resource: [Research: Resources - Campus Compact](#)

Bringing Down the HOUSE Podcast - This podcast is hosted by Ali Parrish and J'Kalein Madison and shares stories and insights of a local nonprofit organization - Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity. You'll learn about your local Habitat organization, hear stories, understand the power of partnerships, what it takes to build community, plus much more. Have a listen: <https://www.webuildhabitat.org/podcast>

For more information visit: <https://engagement.uni.edu/>

Office of Community Engagement

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engagement.uni.edu