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Office of Community Engagement Newsletter, March 2022

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Office of Community Engagement Monthly Newsletter

March 2022

In this edition:

- Meet your Community Engagement team!
- Highlighting community engagement
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Meet Emily White, Community Engagement AmeriCorps Member!

Hello! My name is Emily White and I serve as the Community Engagement AmeriCorps Member. I am a 2021 UNI alumna and graduated with my bachelors degree in Leisure, Youth, and Human Services. During my time as a student, I participated in the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance which led to my position as the AmeriCorps member in the Office of Community Engagement. I have always had a passion for community engagement and the belief that all people should give back to their community. It was always instilled in me growing up that you should give back to the community that helped mold and shape you into the person you are.



Through my time as a student and now as an AmeriCorps member at UNI, I have seen this same ideal embedded into the culture across campus. Students and faculty invest

time into this community, as UNI invests time into them. It has been really rewarding to be able to see the “behind the scenes” of this community engagement work happening across campus throughout my time as an AmeriCorps member. This is why I am so excited for the opportunity to help showcase community engagement work at Community Engagement Celebration Day. I am looking forward to helping bring to light the different projects and programs that are centered around community engagement, and give individuals and groups the recognition they deserve for their contributions to our community!

Highlighting Community Engagement

Community Engagement Celebration Day is returning Friday April 22nd, 9:00-12:00 at Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center! The Office of Community Engagement invites UNI faculty, staff, and students to showcase their community engagement work! If you have taken part in community engagement work through the Service Learning Institute, coursework,



internships, class projects, professional service, student organizations, research, or individual or professional service from summer 2020 to present, we would like to invite you to showcase your work! Community Engagement celebration day gives presenters an opportunity to win \$200 to support their projects, sponsored by Veridian Credit Union!

Registration Deadline: **April 13th, 2022**

Event Details:

https://engagement.uni.edu/sites/default/files/ce_day_event_details_3.pdf

Registration link:

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

Service Learning

Service-Learning Institute (SLI)

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 and



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. Participants will receive a \$500 stipend. 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 high-impact practice, a feature proven to be significantly beneficial for students of all backgrounds. To learn more and apply [click here](#).

Civic Action Plan 2.0

The University of Northern Iowa's 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan is taking shape and once again, community engagement is central to UNI's future. As the overall university strategic plan is nearing its final phases, UNI's Office of Community Engagement is developing their next strategic plan - the Civic Action Plan 2.0. Our Civic Action Plan 2.0 will continue to support the actions our campus will take as we move forward with a continued sense of focus, in the pursuit of a just, equitable, and sustainable future for the communities beyond our campus while enhancing the student learning experience.



The Civic Action Planning Team has met a few times and we'd like your feedback as we continue to develop the next plan. We invite you to provide us with some feedback by answering 4 questions. [Click here](#) to give us your input.

Get Connected

2022 Civic Action Academy - Iowa & Minnesota Campus Compact is hosting the Civic Action Academy for students! This conference is free and open to all students and will be held April 8th. Students will have the opportunity to learn from professionals in the community professionals in the community engagement field about this unique time

of service and civic action during and coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. The event will run from 10 am - 2 pm, with a break for a brief lunch. The event is designed to be come-as-you-may, with the expectation that schedules may only allow for students to participate in specific sections or time frames. We encourage anyone interested to participate and attend!

Students can [register online at this link](#).



Funding and Awards

Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement - The Robert and Yvonne Koob Fund for Student Community Engagement is an endowment supporting students who are completing internships in positions of service in Iowa. Please share with your students, as this is a great opportunity for anyone who is going to be completing an unpaid or underpaid internship in the state



of Iowa to receive some additional funds. Applications are due Wednesday, April 13th by 5 p.m.

For more information, [visit this link](#).

'22-'23 Newman Civic Fellow -

Congratulations to Nixon Benetiz on being selected for the 2022-2023 Newman Civic Fellowship! Newman Civic Fellows are selected by Campus Compact member presidents & chancellors because of their leadership and potential to make positive change locally, nationally, & around the world. Nixon is a first-generation college student at UNI majoring in Digital Media Journalism and minoring in Web Development. Benetiz is also a student leader active in addressing the lack of diverse voices in the media and giving voice to youth concerns.

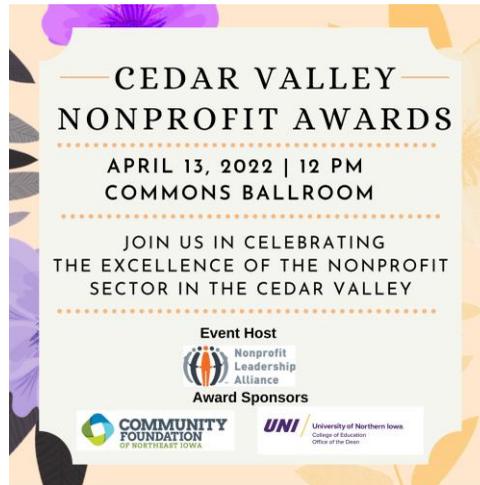


To learn more about Nixon and his advocacy work, [visit the Campus Compact website](#).

Events

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

For more information, [click here](#).

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! Event Details can be found [here](#).



Registration Deadline: **April 13th, 2022**

You can also [register using this link](#).

In Other News

In early March, Campus Compact released [this statement](#) in response to the crisis in Ukraine.

ReShonda Young, a Waterloo native, is setting out on the mission of starting a black-owned bank. If successful in getting it up and running, it will be the only black-owned bank in the state of Iowa and could be the first in the U.S. to open in nearly two decades. In the second season of “The Heist” podcast you can learn about ReShonda’s story.

You can listen to the first few episodes [here](#).

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

Office of Community Engagement

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