

1-2023

Community Engagement Newsletter, January 2023

University of Northern Iowa. Office of Community Engagement.

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Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. Office of Community Engagement., "Community Engagement Newsletter, January 2023" (2023). *Community Engagement Newsletter*. 9.

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**University of
Northern Iowa.**

Community
Engagement

Newsletter: January 2023

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Pack the Dome: MLK Day of Service 2023

Happy New Year! As we begin this new year, let's take a moment to reflect on the importance of community. By coming together and supporting each other, we can make a positive impact on our campus, in our neighborhoods and our communities. Here's to a year filled with collaboration, connection, and making a positive impact together!

Volunteering is healthy, increases self confidence, and makes you feel good. Start the year off by making a difference in our community and sign up to volunteer for Pack the Dome: MLK Day of Service 2023. Participants will help package food for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in support of their "Backpack Program". The Backpack Program serves 4,100 children at 159 different schools across northeast Iowa each month. Before school lets out for the weekend, children receive assembled bags of kid-friendly meals and snacks that can fit in their school bags.

[To register as a volunteer click this link.](#)

Faculty/Staff Engagement

Veridian Community Engagement Fellowship

If you are planning a project or event for a course and need funds to support your work, there are still funds available. These funds support faculty who engage with community partners to better the community in a manner that also enhances their teaching and scholarship. Applications are due for classes/projects for spring, summer, or fall 2023 by **Friday, February 24th**. [To learn more and apply please click here.](#) For questions please contact Julianne Gassman at gassman@uni.edu or 3-2204.

Board of Directors Match Program

UNI's Office of Community Engagement in partnership with the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley can assist faculty, staff, and students in finding a nonprofit organization for which to serve on their board of directors. If you or a student is interested in serving on a board of directors in the Cedar Valley complete an application [by clicking here](#).

Service-Learning Institute

Do you have an idea for a project or partnership and not sure how to get started or connect it to one of your courses? Please watch future newsletters for information about this May's Service-Learning Institute. Dates and details will be announced in next month's issue, however as you finalize your spring courses, and your imagination is in high gear, start jotting down ideas, making connections, and having discussions - success of community engaged learning is built on great relationships and partnerships.

Information to consider for your Syllabai

Spring Volunteer Fair

Please consider attending and invite your students to attend this spring's Volunteer Fair hosted by the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley and the Office of Community Engagement. This is a great opportunity to learn about volunteer opportunities in the Cedar Valley.

When: Wednesday, January 25th

Where: Maucker Union Ballrooms

Time: 10:30am-1:00pm

Community Engagement Celebration Day

Save Community Engagement Celebration Day on your calendars and encourage your students to attend and showcase their community engagement work including what they have done in your classes! April 28, 2023 from 9-11:30am in the Gallagher Bluedorn Lobby. [Registration is available by clicking this link.](#)

Advising Corner: Info to Share With Students

Nonprofit Explore-A-Ganza

The UNI Nonprofit Leadership Alliance invites you to the 2023 Nonprofit Explore-A-Ganza!

During this event, students will have the chance to network with local nonprofits in a “speed interviewing” format. The Explore-A-Ganza is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about internship, job, and volunteer opportunities that local nonprofit organizations have to offer. The event is being held February 13th, 2023 in the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center Lobby from 3:30-5:00 pm, and is open to all of campus! [To have a student register click here.](#)

UNI-CUE Needs Tutors

UNI-CUE has a history of providing free tutoring services to K-12 students in Black Hawk County and has been able to maintain the Tutoring Center with the help of UNI students. UNI Students meet once a week to tutor who they have been paired with for the semester.

Tutoring begins the first week of February. Please share this opportunity with students looking for ways to volunteer or connect with the community. This is a paid position.

Students can apply to tutor at UNI-CUE online at https://uni.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_23nbwJ0TXGuM8fk

Panther Experience

The Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley has developed a page for Panthers to connect with the Cedar Valley. This page includes opportunities specifically curated to be accessible for UNI students (faculty & staff too). Share this link and check out the new opportunities updated on a regular basis. [Check out the page here.](#)



UNI Engaged Podcast: Panther Pantry

The Office of Community Engagement is excited to share the next installment of the UNI Engaged podcast. This episode features the Panther Pantry. Listen as students learn and share about the work of Panther Pantry and providing basic needs for UNI students facing food insecurity. This month's episode "UNI Engaged: Panther Pantry" can be found on [Spotify](#). Follow us on social media for the release of additional episodes (links can be found below).

Events: Spring 2023

Spring Volunteer Fair

Have your students join the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley and the Office of Community Engagement as we host nonprofit organizations from across the Cedar Valley. This is a great opportunity to learn about volunteer opportunities in the Cedar Valley.

When: Wednesday, January 25th

Where: Maucker Union Ballrooms

Time: 10:30am-1:00pm

Cedar Valley Nonprofit Awards

Celebrate the Nonprofit Sector in the Cedar Valley by attending the Cedar Valley Nonprofit Awards. This event will honor local nonprofit leaders and organizations. Registration for this event is required. Cost is \$35 per person or \$260 for a table of eight.

When: Wednesday, April 5th

Where: Cedar Falls Womens Club

Time: 12:00-1:30pm

INSPIRE Conference

The INSPIRE Student Research and Engagement Conference is for undergraduate and graduate students to present their research projects and volunteer/internship experiences and club activities to the campus community. The conference is sponsored by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Northern Iowa and the Graduate College.

When: Monday, April 3-Tuesday, April 4th

Community Engagement Celebration Day

Many UNI faculty, staff, and students are involved in community engagement work through courses, research, student organizations and professional service. Community Engagement Celebration Day gives everyone an opportunity to showcase their community engagement work.

When: Friday, April 28

Where: Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center Lobby

Time: 9:00-11:30 am

For more information on events, visit the [Community Engagement Website!](#)

In Other News

Inside Higher Education. Opinion by Vicki Baker. [*Reimagining Community Engagement for a Post-COVID World.*](#)

This article outlines approaches for institutions of higher education to consider as community engagement becomes ever more necessary. As you read, consider how you can take action to create community engaged learning opportunities for students. If you have an idea you want to discuss, contact the Office of Community Engagement.

Office of Community Engagement

University of Northern Iowa
community.engagement@uni.edu / 319-273-4507
engagement.uni.edu

