Partnership Highlights

Over the past semester, we have had the opportunity to explore outreach and engagement at the University of Iowa on a new level. We held successful workshops for campus and community members on outreach and engagement in early fall, and we have seen new partnerships form. Additionally, we’ve been working with our campus liaisons to learn more about their outreach and engagement programs and collect information to be used for our website, outreach.uiowa.edu. As we move into the spring semester in January, we look forward to continuing to grow our network on campus and throughout the state.

Outreach & Engagement Grants due January 7, 2016

The Office of Outreach & Engagement is providing three grant opportunities for the 2015-16 academic year. The grants are available to university faculty and staff working to make a difference in communities across the state of Iowa. The final opportunity to apply for funding this fiscal year is approaching. Proposals are due Thursday, January 7, 2016.

For more information on the grants and application process, visit outreach.uiowa.edu/grants.

Stay connected with us on social media! You can like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and view us on Instagram.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Arts Share

The City of Washington hosted a reception and ribbon cutting for the Mural Unveiling on November 24th. MFA graduate student, Erin Rappleye, designed and painted a two-story mural on the Washington Public Library. The event was well attended by members of the community and representatives from the Office of Outreach & Engagement.

Community partner Debbie Stanton received the Larry J.
Grant Wood Art Colony

Each year, the Grant Wood Art Colony hosts one fellow in interdisciplinary performance. The fellowship rotates between dance, theater, and music. This year's Fellow in Interdisciplinary Performance, Christopher Jette, is a composer and new media artist. Jette’s Collaborative Performance class (taught in coordination with the Department of Dance, Department of Theatre Arts, School of Music, and School of Art and Art History) held their semester-culminating event, INTERRUPTED: A Collaborative Performance, in early December. All three shows were sold out!

During his year, Jette is also directing the Laptop Orchestra at University of Iowa (LOUi). According to Jette, the goal "is to explore the elements of performance and range of musical ideas by focusing the creative energy on performing the works of composers beyond the Iowa community and then creating works in reaction to lessons learned." On December 12th, LOUi performed five works that approached the ensemble in different ways.

Hawkeye Lunch & Learn

The Hawkeye Lunch & Learn lecture series is celebrating the end of another successful semester! Attendees had the opportunity to learn about STEM outreach, community research partnerships, food and community, and Hancher Auditorium from passionate experts. Missed a fall lecture? View the YouTube playlist to see past presenters!

Stay tuned for the spring 2016 lecture series announcements coming soon. The complete schedule of Hawkeye Lunch & Learn lectures will be announced at outreach.uiowa.edu/HawkeyeLL.

Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities

This has been an exciting month for the IISC to look forward to new partnerships and back at the accomplishments in the 2014-15 academic year. Earlier this month, the IISC's 2014-15 annual report was released, and showcases the ways that past projects are making an impact across the state of Iowa. View the 2014-15 annual report.

Additionally, the Request for Proposal for new community partners for 2016-17 was released. In the coming weeks, the IISC will receive applications from potential community partners and take steps towards preparing for new partnerships. If you are interested in working with the IISC as a community, contact the IISC Program Director at nicholas-benson@uiowa.edu to find out more.

RC&D Partnership

The RC&D Partnership attended the Iowa Lakes RC&D annual board meeting and picnic on Thursday, December 3rd in Spencer, Iowa. Back on campus, students in the Strategic Communication Campaigns course presented their draft report on marketing the Historic Hills Scenic Byway to Pathfinders RC&D, which was very well received by the community partners.
RC&D Partners In Action: Nick Benson presents on the UI RC&D Partnership at the Iowa Lakes RC&D annual board meeting in Spencer, IA. Credit: Brandy Hoeffert.

Theme Semester

Congratulations to the Taylor Mac Facebook contest winner, Matthieu Biger! Biger had the opportunity to meet Taylor Mac following his performance on Saturday, December 5th. Connect with the Office of Outreach & Engagement on social media, and join the conversation using #UIjustliving, to follow all of the great activities with the Just Living Theme Semester! Keep an eye out, there will be more giveaways next semester!

The Just Living Theme Semester on social justice begins at the start of classes in January. A wide array of courses, events, and activities will be offered during the semester surrounding the topic. There is still time to get involved and become a Just Living collaborator!

Additional student projects were developed for spring 2016, bringing the total number of spring semester projects to 15. The Limestone Bluffs RC&D signed onto to work with the University of Iowa and University of Arkansas on a public health grant working with Pacific Islanders. The RC&Ds continue to work on the National Institute for Health public health grant for Hispanic-aged children in school districts, which will be submitted in February 2016.

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