

# Growing Community Partnerships Highlights from 2014-2015

The University of Iowa Office of Outreach & Engagement  
[outreach.uiowa.edu](http://outreach.uiowa.edu)



## Linda's Letter

From the Associate Provost



Our newly appointed University of Iowa Provost's Office of Outreach & Engagement has created renewed energy in our connections to Iowans throughout the State. The Office brings students, our most important asset, faculty, staff, and community colleagues into an engaged partnership. The connections our publicly engaged university offers has brought us into 58 Iowa counties involving the university's 11 colleges during 2014-15.

The University of Iowa has identified one of its major strategic priorities as engagement placing it in one of its four strategic pillars, Better Futures for Iowans and Beyond. Faculty, staff, and students working in harmony with our communities share knowledge, resources, and challenges and opportunities to enhance the quality of lives throughout the State. From experiential learning courses to improvement in dietary habits in the South Pacific, the university impacts the local, state, national, and international communities.

This year we were awarded the Carnegie Classification, a designation that recognizes our dedication to collaborative efforts in community programs with emphasis on enhancing our University of Iowa learning goals to allow our students a clear path to success in the job market. This classification places our university in a group of universities and colleges across the nation committed to showing our desire to use our talents to enhance existing community programs.

In addition, this was a year of major events for the Office, including growing staff and programs. Our six featured programs have started in or joined our Office because their primary mission is outreach and engagement: Arts Share; the Grant Wood Art Colony; Hawkeye Lunch & Learn; the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC); the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Partnership; and Theme Semester. Each program focuses on collaboration between faculty, staff, and students and diverse external groups in mutually beneficial partnerships that are grounded in scholarship and consistent with the university's role and missions of teaching, research, and service.

The Grant Wood Art Colony Fellows integrated engagement events in communities across the State. Our Hawkeye Lunch & Learn series continues to bring our university work to communities in Des Moines and Iowa City by presenting research and projects to our Iowa citizens. The IISC's efforts have allowed us to include interdisciplinary networking across our campus to meet the needs of Iowa's communities. Additional infrastructure has been added to our Office through our work with the RC&D Councils. These partnerships include nine councils that span the entire state. In addition to regular workshops on a variety of topics, seven of the regions have been involved in a health-related grant writing project. The inaugural Theme Semester, titled *Food for Thought*, debuted in spring 2015. The Theme Semester is a great opportunity to offer new teaching and learning opportunities on campus, while connecting with Iowans on topics that matter to them.

Moving into 2015-16, we are excited to have Arts Share join our office. With Arts Share, our programs have reached communities in all four corners of Iowa. Through the university's integration with communities, we can continue to achieve local and regional partnerships. These relationships will allow us to expand our teaching, research, and engagement activities and will contribute to solutions for important health, social, and economic issues. The work in our Office is richer for our experiences with Iowa communities and our students, faculty, and staff are energized by our community experiences.

The stories that this annual publication offers will provide a glimpse into the high impact public engagement work at the University of Iowa. The Office of Outreach & Engagement sends many thanks to the students, faculty, staff, and community partners who make all of this work possible.

Linda Inetselaar





## Mission

The University of Iowa Office of Outreach & Engagement seeks to foster connections between faculty, staff, students, and communities. We strive to facilitate collaboration among the multitude of outreach and engagement efforts on campus and connect our programs with the state of Iowa. Through campus-wide and state-wide initiatives we work to make a difference by growing community partnerships.

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The Grant Wood Art Colony seeks to provide a creative home for the next generation of artists and continue Grant Wood's creative advocacy in the School of Art & Art History and the Division of Performing Arts at the University of Iowa through artist residencies, teaching fellowships, symposia, and community programs.



Careena Melia's Collaborative Process class visits the American Gothic House in Eldon.

*“Our Grant Wood Program, that is to say, the Colony Fellowships; the Symposia and Lectures; and the Outreach to all parts of Iowa, the nation, and internationally; is now firmly in place under the auspices of the Provost’s Office of the University of Iowa. We are especially proud of the forward progress which has been made in 2015 under the leadership of our new director, Maura Pilcher. Thanks, Maura, and thanks to our talented and energetic Board. We have so enjoyed all the past Colony Fellows and are looking forward to welcoming those arriving this summer for 2015-2016. The Fellows are great ambassadors for the Program, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and the state of Iowa. I couldn’t be happier about all that has happened in making this Program great.”*

**Jim Hayes,**  
Chair, National Advisory Board  
of the Grant Wood Art Colony

The success of the expansion to include a performing arts fellowship and the growing interest in outreach and engagement led to the appointment of a full-time director and the Colony’s transition to the Office of Outreach & Engagement in 2015. The fellowship continues to be one of the most generous and competitive of its kind. In addition to their teaching assignments as Visiting Assistant Professors, the Fellows have ample time to create their work and engage Iowans.

The roots of Grant Wood’s artist colonies date back to the 1920s and 1930s when Wood gathered writers, artists, and craftspeople to collaborate in Cedar Rapids, Stone City, and Iowa City. His vision to form a community of kindred spirits has materialized at the University of Iowa through the Grant Wood Art Colony. The mission of the colony is to nurture creative work and teaching in disciplines relevant to Wood’s life and work. While much has changed since 1930, the Grant Wood Art Colony continues the endeavor for artistic outreach. The Grant Wood Fellows have visited four Iowa counties during their year at the university, serving nearly 250 residents and students.

During 2014-15, three exceptional fellows were hosted. Michele Lauriat, the Painting and Drawing Fellow, expanded her *beyond|return* series as well as the minds of her students. Serhat Tanyolacar, the Printmaking Fellow, explored political issues in his performance pieces and utilized

the University of Iowa's state-of-the-art printmaking facility. Careena Melia, the Theatre Fellow, advanced *The Gertrude Bell Project* while introducing her students to Grant Wood and the Intensive Cancer University to campus.

Careena, Michele, and Serhat spoke to Coe College, Loras College, and Kirkwood Community College students, respectively. They were able to share their expertise and experience with the next generation of artists and intellectuals.

Careena tailored her talk to the Design for the Stage class, providing slides and videos of her work on *Sleep No More* and her development of *The Gertrude Bell Project*. The students were inspired to travel to Iowa City to see Careena's presentation in April.

Many Iowa colleges have experienced a reduction in the number of art faculty. Loras College was able to enhance their students' education through a visit from Michele. "We were thrilled that with the help of the Grant Wood Colony, we were able to provide students with a classroom visit to Loras College by an artist of the quality of Grant Wood Fellow Michele Lauriat. Michele not only shared her work, but also generously spent one-on-one time with student artists," states Valorie Woerdehoff, Director of Foundation and Government Support.

Associate Professor of History David McMahon invited Serhat to speak about his public art installation. David is the campus director and contact for The Democracy Commitment and he "envisioned this as a timely discussion of free speech and the role art (and artists) play in a free and democratic society." The talk was well attended by Kirkwood and University of Iowa students as well as members of the public. David states, "We received a great deal of positive feedback. Many people felt as I did that it was important to see his art, hear the artist share his perspective on the controversy and have an open discussion free of recriminations. In short, it was a powerful lesson on the power of art."

With world-class artists-in-residence instructing and creating and a growing base of scholars and supporters expanding the comprehension of Wood's life and legacy, the Colony now looks to the future. In 2015-16, the Grant Wood Art Colony will celebrate the 125th anniversary of Grant Wood's birth and the opening of the new Studio Arts building. We will welcome new Painting and Drawing, Printmaking, and Music Fellows to the Colony. Public engagement will be expanded to ensure all Iowans benefit from Grant Wood's legacy—the Grant Wood Art Colony.



Serhat Tanyolacar addresses an audience at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art.



Michele Lauriat speaks with Loras College staff at the Grant Wood Fellows Exhibition.



Serhat Tanyolacar reviews his *Detroit Stacking*. (Serhat Tanyolacar)



Careena Melia presents her process to a class at Coe College.

*The combination of having Careena visit the classroom to share details and her enthusiasm for her project and then participating in the first public presentation was an enriching and meaningful experience for our students. These kinds of experiences are the ones they will remember. Careena was an inspiration for the students as an artist driven by her passion and committed to sharing her talents generously. Thank you for helping to connect us.*

**Susan Wolverton,**  
William R. & Winifred Shuttleworth Professor of Theatre Arts, Chair  
Coe College, Cedar Rapids



Pomerantz Career Center's Career Leadership Academy program staff conduct a leadership development workshop in Des Moines with RC&D staff.

## Fast Facts about RC&D Partnership

**All 9** operating RC&D councils included in the partnership  
Partnership reaches **all 4 quadrants** of the state and **covers almost 2/3** of all 99 counties in Iowa

TOPICS RANGE FROM

*economic development,  
leadership training,  
arts & culture development*

### On-Campus partners:

- Arts Share
- Career Leadership Academy
- College of Engineering
- Office of the State Archaeologist
- School of Art & Art History
- School of Urban & Regional Planning
- UI Partners
- Vice President for Research & Economic Development

### Off-Campus partners:

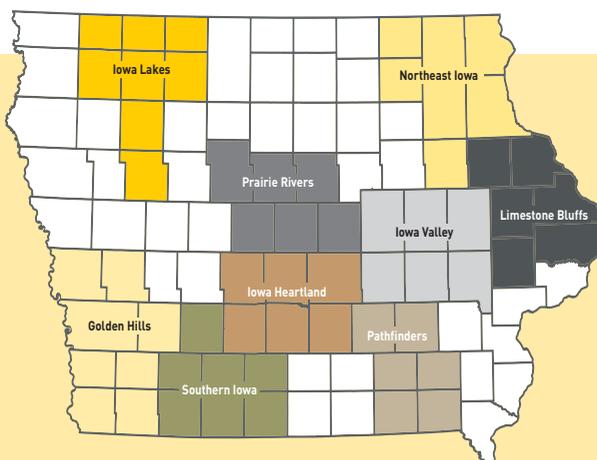
Partnership between Office of Outreach & Engagement and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs/Iowa Arts Council resulted in multiple regional arts workshops for RC&D councils

The Office of Outreach & Engagement launched a 3-year partnership with Iowa's Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) councils this past year, seeking to align University of Iowa resources with RC&D's efforts to assist rural Iowa communities with community and economic development, environmental conservation, public health, and arts and culture development efforts. RC&Ds are regional non-profit organizations that represent multiple-county regions across the state of Iowa, and work to help rural Iowa communities care for and protect their natural resources, develop their local economies, and improve overall quality of life throughout the state. Through this partnership, the Office connects RC&D staff members with university faculty, staff, and students to assist RC&Ds with their work.

This year, the RC&D Partnership consisted of a variety of collaborative efforts between the university and RC&D councils involving multiple departments on campus. Workshops led by faculty and staff covered topics ranging from economic development in rural Iowa to leadership and skills development for non-profit organizations. Additional workshops will be held on non-profit organizational development, fundraising, and arts and culture development. On-campus partners like the Vice President for Research and Economic Development's UI Partners collaborated with RC&Ds on website development and technology consulting, while the Office of the State Archaeologist teamed up with the RC&Ds to conduct a state-wide book tour for the new *Archaeological Guide to Iowa*. An off-campus partnership with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs' Iowa Arts Council resulted in further alignment of university arts and culture resources with state-wide arts programming to assist RC&Ds and their communities with arts and culture development. In addition, RC&D staff collaborated with the Office of Outreach & Engagement to submit a National Institute of Health grant that seeks to address community health concerns, specifically nutrition in school-aged Hispanic populations across Iowa.

The RC&D Partnership looks forward to establishing new on-campus and off-campus partners as additional projects and community-based research opportunities with the RC&Ds develop over the coming months and years.

## Iowa RC&D Councils



*"The leadership assessment workshop was great. It really energized our program staff. We are now going to meet as a team and discuss how we have divided up work responsibilities and see if different approaches might be better based on what we learned in the leadership workshop."*

Detra Dettman, Executive Director of the Pathfinders RC&D

*"The University of Iowa has not just partnered with us, but has stepped forward in commitment to rural Iowa. Their investment in RC&Ds is truly an investment in Iowa's small communities, natural resources, and cultural heritage."*

Jessica Rilling, Executive Director of the Iowa Valley RC&D



The Hawkeye Lunch & Learn Lecture Series holds monthly lectures in Iowa City and Des Moines. Beginning in January 2014 at the John and Mary Pappajohn Education Center, the lectures quickly expanded and have covered a variety of topics from across the university. The lecture series continued during the 2014-15 academic year as a way to showcase the university's teaching, research, and service. The lectures are designed to connect Iowa communities with university faculty, staff, and alumni and government and industry leaders through presentations over lunch throughout the state.

During the 2014-15  
Academic Year

18 Lectures  
Average attendance 55 people

99% learned something  
**VALUABLE**  
as a result of their attendance

88% Of the attendees in  
*Des Moines*  
have an increased  
knowledge of how the University  
of Iowa and their community can  
collaborate after attending the  
events.

*"The University of Iowa has always been the university for Iowa, making life better for the people of this remarkable state through its ethic of service and engagement"*

Sally Mason, former University of Iowa President,  
November 20, 2014

### When attendees were asked how the lectures benefited or increased their quality of life:

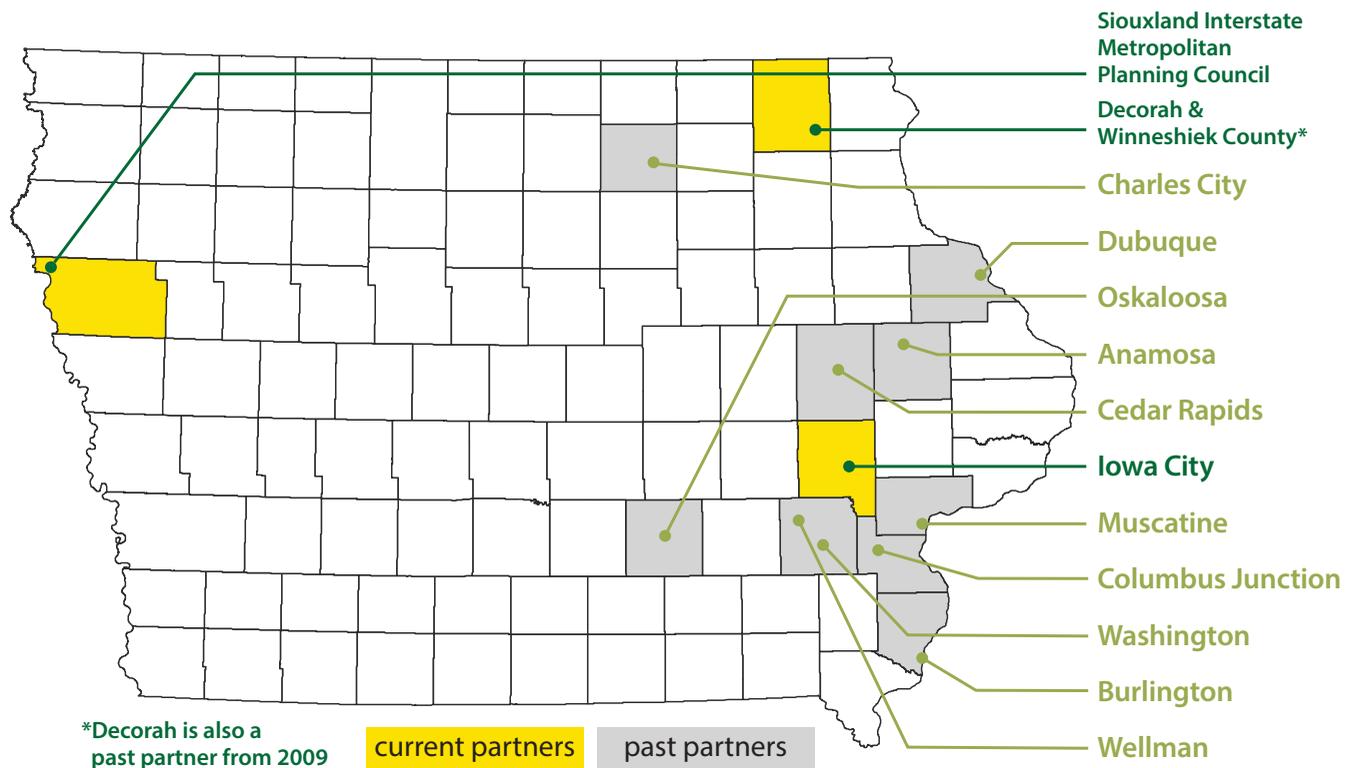
*"The lectures spurred me to further reading on a variety of topics and helped to develop new interests."*

*"Diverse topics presented by passionate experts in various fields... very powerful and well worth my time. Easy investment of an hour to learn about something interesting that I would not have likely taken the time to read about on my own."*

*"I became a more educated citizen. That both allows me to make better decisions and to better understand the role the University plays in society."*



Former University of Iowa President, Sally Mason, presents at the Hawkeye Lunch & Learn in Des Moines on November 20, 2014. [Bill Adams/UI Office of Strategic Communication]



### PARTNERING WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

An important strategy in working towards sustainable change is partnering with local organizations in communities. In Iowa City in spring 2015, students from the College of Public Health partnered with several organizations, including school districts and the Iowa City's Farmers' Market, to implement a communications campaign with the aim of raising local attention to radon safety.

The Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) is a campus-wide engaged learning organization that partners University of Iowa students and faculty with Iowa communities to work on projects that contribute to quality of life throughout the state. The IISC strives to facilitate meaningful engagement between the university and state that results in both beneficial community outcomes and transformed teaching and learning at the university.

Since the program's inception in 2009, the IISC has partnered with 13 communities across the state. In 2014-15, the IISC partnered with Winneshiek County and the City of Decorah, the City of Iowa City, and the Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Organization in Sioux City (SIMPCO), completing 33 projects. In total, over 270 students, 25 faculty, 13 academic departments, and 41 community partners were involved in these projects. Collectively, the projects addressed multiple components of sustainability within the community: economic prosperity, environmental conservation, social justice, and community health and wellness.

Throughout the state, several of the projects our students and faculty completed during previous partnerships have been implemented by the community, such as the Sustainability Indicators project with the City of Dubuque in 2012-13. The work on campus and in communities helps students, faculty, and community members tackle global challenges by focusing on local communities.

## IISC FAST FACTS

**33** projects

**34-40K**  
hours of work

**41** community partners

**13** UI departments

**270+**  
faculty & students

## To learn more

View the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities 2014-15 Annual Report at

[iisc.uiowa.edu](http://iisc.uiowa.edu)

*“IISC delivered information that otherwise would not be within reach of our resources.”*

*IISC Community Partner*

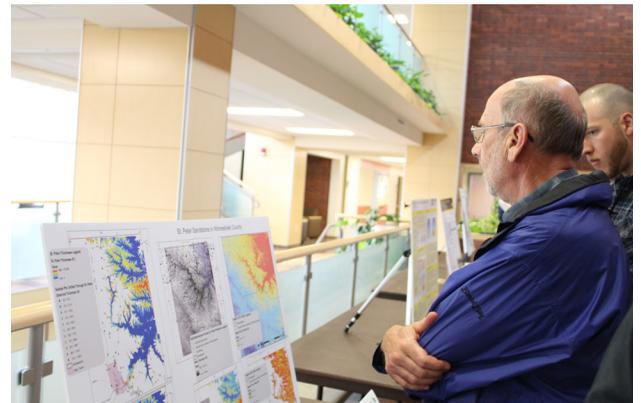
*“I gained valuable real world experience working on this project that I draw from for interviews and other class projects. My academic career would not have been nearly as fulfilling without it.”*

*IISC Student*



### PROFESSIONAL CONNECTIONS IN SIOUX CITY

After completing IISC projects for Sioux City on Active Transportation and Neighborhood Housing, Urban and Regional Planning students Kirk Lehmann and Kevin Randle were hired as planners at SIMPCO, where they now work as colleagues with the community partners that advised their projects. The professional development experience offered by the projects helps forward the careers of university graduates and retain young professionals in the state.



### INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION ON CAMPUS

To make decisions about the potential entry of the frac sand mining industry into the area, Winneshiek County requested that University of Iowa students and faculty conduct research on the benefits and costs of future mines and possibilities for regulating the industry. Students from the College of Engineering, School of Urban and Regional Planning, College of Law, and Departments of Geographical and Sustainability Sciences, Statistics and Actuarial Science, and Earth and Environmental Sciences collaborated on six trans-disciplinary projects that will inform the county's future policy decisions on frac sand mining.



## Theme Semester



Cookbook author and journalist Mark Bittman met with students, faculty, and staff at the College of Public Health.

### The Spring 2015 Theme Semester had four FOOD goals:

#### Focus:

Promote attention to food as a vital field of study across disciplines ranging from arts and humanities to environmental and health sciences to business and law.

#### Outreach:

Engage Iowans across the state in dialog about how changing practices of food production, distribution, and consumption shape their diverse communities.

#### Organization:

Build partnerships among individuals and groups working toward such vital goals as sourcing food sustainably, improving the nutritional status of vulnerable populations, and preserving the agricultural knowledge of older generations.

#### Development:

Secure ongoing support for the most promising initiatives that emerge from the food theme semester so as to retain the momentum for generations of Iowans to come.

The University of Iowa's Theme Semester grew out of an idea to have academics, campus activities, and community events surround a common theme each semester. The inaugural semester *Food for Thought* was a collaboration that brought diverse perspectives on a topic of importance to Iowa and the world: food. Grounded in the educational mission of the university, the Theme Semester provided opportunities for teaching, engagement, and learning both on campus and throughout the state of Iowa. The semester culminated in opportunities that allowed the university to forge new partnerships, promote publicly engaged scholarship, and contribute to communities statewide.

During the year a variety of food topics were discussed in the classroom, through research, at events, and online through social media. Activities included original museum exhibits, the Iowa Organic Conference, an academic symposium, health and wellness demonstrations, and featured speakers, including Andrew Pham, Kristin Porter, Hank Cardello, and campus experts.

Two events held during April connected communities in Iowa and touched on the topic of food insecurity in the state. During these Theme Semester activities new partnerships were fostered. In conjunction with *New York Times* journalist Mark Bittman's visit to campus to meet with students and give a public lecture, a food drive was held with Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc. (HACAP). This raised 1,500 meals for the local community. While Hancher presented *All Recipes are Home* in Grinnell, Decorah, and Iowa City, the United Way of Johnson & Washington Counties worked with local volunteers to host food drives in all venues. Campus and community partners thoughtfully brought many different conversation topics and worked together to develop meaningful programming on food.

## Fast Facts about Theme Semester

**18 Courses**

identified with connection to the theme

**36 news articles and media**  
from events and activities

**17** marquee events  
created for  
Food for Thought

**406 related activities**  
were tagged on the UI event calendar

### To learn more

about the Spring 2015 Theme Semester visit  
[foodforthought.uiowa.edu](http://foodforthought.uiowa.edu)



Dr. Vandana Shiva, environmental activist, spoke to campus and community members at the Old Capitol Senate Chambers.



Iowa Girl Eats blogger, Kristin Porter, dished up some of her recipes in the campus Market Places.



WorldCanvass kicked-off spring events with a panel discussion on food.  
[University of Iowa International Programs]



*“Having the opportunity partner with The University of Iowa Lecture Committee and the UI’s Food for Thought Committee at the Mark Bittman lecture was an amazing way to call on the community to help people who struggle to get enough to eat. Not only did we receive enough food and cash donations to assist local pantries during a slow period, but we were able to create awareness about the many myths that exist about the nature of domestic hunger and how it affects people we see every day here in Iowa City.”*

**Anissa Bourgeacq** Director, Food Reservoir,  
Hawkeye Area Community Action Program, Inc.

## What’s NEXT?

The second annual Theme Semester, Just Living, will focus on social justice.  
To get involved visit [justliving.uiowa.edu](http://justliving.uiowa.edu)



## Supported Programming through Grants

This year, the Office of Outreach & Engagement was pleased to financially support a number of outreach and engagement projects and initiatives across campus. The University of Iowa has a long tradition of college and departmental-level efforts that connect faculty, staff, and students with communities across the state of Iowa and beyond.

### University of Iowa Center for Human Rights

The Office was a supporter of the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights as it has continued to develop outreach activities throughout Iowa, particularly by building relationships with other academic institutions in the state. As the only academic human rights center in Iowa, the Center for Human Rights has the opportunity to serve as a hub for students, scholars, and the public.

During the 2014-15 academic year, the Office helped support 15 activities hosted by the Center. This included the first Iowa Human Rights Research conference, held at Drake University in Des Moines in April 2015. The Center is hosting the conference at the University of Iowa in April 2016 as part of the Just Living Theme Semester. Other activities hosted throughout the state included public lectures, continuing legal education presentations and programming, panel discussions, and more.

### Other projects and initiatives that received support include:

- Iowa Youth Writers Workshop
- Medical Student Community Engagement
- Rural Policy Research Institute
- Talented and Gift Language Acquisition
- UI String Quartet

*This shows the variety of programs and initiatives supported by the Office and is not a comprehensive list of all programming.*

The Office of Outreach & Engagement seeks to continue to support these efforts on campus and throughout the state. Grant opportunities are available for the 2015-16 academic year.

**Information on grants can be found at [outreach.uiowa.edu/grants](http://outreach.uiowa.edu/grants).**

## Arts Share Joins Office in Summer 2015

The Office of Outreach & Engagement has also been a supporter of Arts Share, the university's campus-wide arts outreach program. Arts Share offers schools and communities a variety of opportunities, including interactive performances, workshops, readings, residencies, and master classes. They have facilitated programming in 82 Iowa counties. Arts Share joined the Office in July 2015, which will allow the program to expand their partnerships on campus and throughout the state.

For more information on Arts Share, and to learn about the work they completed during the 2014-15 academic year, visit [artshare.uiowa.edu](http://artshare.uiowa.edu).



Arts Share facilitated the Q-Brothers' visit to Tate High School in Iowa City for workshops and performances.

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# Office Milestones

## March 2015

- Grant Wood Art Colony Fellows begin holding outreach events across the state
- Office participates in Hawkeye Caucus in Des Moines



## June 2013

- Linda Snetselaar appointed associate provost for outreach and engagement
- Tasked with creating a website for outreach and engagement activities on campus
- Task force starts working on application for Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation

## January 2015

- **Grant Wood Art Colony** joins office from College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- UI receives Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement
- *Food for Thought* Theme Semester officially begins programming



## April 2014

- Office participates at Hawkeye Caucus in Des Moines

## October 2014

- Office presents at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Engagement Scholarship Consortium in Edmonton, Canada

## January 2014



- First programs develop:
- **Hawkeye Lunch & Learn** lecture series begins in Des Moines, Iowa City, and rotary clubs
  - **Resource Conservation & Development Partnership** established
  - **Theme Semester, *Food for Thought***, scheduled to debut in spring 2015

## August 2014



- Centralized office expands staff and resources
- **Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities** joins office from Graduate College
- Office participates at the Iowa State Fair



## July 2015

- **Arts Share** joins office from College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
- Office participates in RAGBRAI in Coralville

## August 2015

- Office participates in Iowa State Fair



## April 2015

- IISC presents at 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainable City Year Conference in Minneapolis, MN
- Grant Wood Art Colony Fellows continue outreach at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art
- Grant Wood Art Colony holds the Grant Wood Fellows Exhibition to recognize their work

## May 2015

- Office partners on the UI Engagement Tour
- Grant Wood Art Colony National Advisory Board convenes in Iowa City

## June 2015

- Office presents at Upper Midwest Civic Engagement Summit in St. Peter, MN. The University of Iowa will host the conference May 31 – June 1, 2016



## September 2015

- Office hosts *Celebrating Outreach and Engagement at Iowa* with campus and community workshops and keynote speaker, Barbara Holland
- Office presents at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Engagement Scholarship Consortium in State College, PA




**Office of  
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Engagement**

To learn more about the  
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programs, and opportunities, visit

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