



The University of Iowa

Civic Engagement Program

...connecting campus and community for the common good

Civic Engagement Program Strategic Plan Summary

The Civic Engagement Program prepares students for community leadership and citizenship. In doing so, CEP helps connect students, faculty members and staff with communities, responds to community needs and opportunities, and serves as a portal to the University for community organizations seeking student involvement. (*CEP Mission Statement, 2008*)

In 2008, the CEP Advisory Board adopted a strategic plan that will guide the development and activities of the CEP over the next three years. The plan capitalizes on the CEP's strengths, identifies core values, and provides specific actions toward leveraging its resources to support its mission, vision, and strategic goals.

CEP Vision: The Civic Engagement Program is a well-recognized and energetic portal that actively promotes students' life-long citizenship and learning through service, enhances public engagement scholarship, and strengthens vital community partnerships. The Civic Engagement Program is a bridge that connects the campus and communities for the common good.

CEP Core Values:

- Community - The CEP seeks to enhance collaboration among faculty, students, staff, alumni, and community members on efforts toward the common good in the local community, as well as at the state, national, and global levels.
- Diversity - The CEP aims to create an environment in which diverse people can interact with one another in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.
- Responsibility - The CEP promotes responsible citizenship among campus and community members toward becoming caring stewards of each other and our environment.
- Learning - The CEP supports the educational mission of the University of Iowa, by involving students, faculty, and staff in learning, personal development, and meaningful reflection on civic engagement.
- Respect - The CEP affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all campus and community members and fosters an appreciation of our differences as well as our similarities.
- Excellence - The CEP strives to develop high-quality programs and initiatives that meet the needs of campus and community members and promote effective outcomes for all involved.
- Integrity - The CEP holds itself to the highest standards of honesty, fairness, and professional ethics in working with campus and community members on activities of mutual benefit.

Major Strategic Goals:

The CEP staff and advisory board will:

- Promote an Institutional Culture of Engagement - Encourage and support the institutional culture of engagement at the University of Iowa through annual civic engagement recognition awards for faculty, students, staff, and community partners and through the establishment of a student engagement scholarship program.
- Identify and Meet Community Needs - Identify and understand the needs and strengths of the surrounding community through collaborative efforts with students, faculty, administrators, and key community stakeholders and opinion leaders.
- Build on Iowa's Ethic of Service through State Service and Outreach - Actively support the goals and strategies of Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service Strategic Plan, Iowa's State Service Plan: *A Blueprint for Building on Iowa's Ethic of Service* (2007-2010) by building on 4 national days of service and by increasing service learning to provide students with a wide range of community engagement.

For more information about the UI Civic Engagement Program please contact us:
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The Civic Engagement Program (CEP) was established in 2005 as a collaborative initiative between the Vice President for Student Services and the Provost, and works to the mutual benefit of the campus and larger community.