



PRESIDENT'S HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE HONOR ROLL

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WINNER

Award Focus: ECONOMIC



STUDENT SERVICE

TOTAL ENROLLMENT
11,981

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS
9,417

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS 2013-14
484,051

KEY SERVICE AREAS
**Food insecurity, poverty,
economic development and
positive youth development**



ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S HONOR ROLL

Each year, the President of the United States recognizes higher education institutions for their exemplary commitment to and achievement in community service. The National Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition of the contributions that colleges and their students make to local communities and the nation. It is an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that engages millions of Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

UNIQUE APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Students and faculty at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) believe community engagement is both a high-impact learning method and a powerful tool to strengthen the community. UNI is connected and committed to always improving the Cedar Valley community, with over 78 percent of the student body volunteering during the 2013-2014 school year.





SERVICE SUMMARY

UNI recently engaged in a strategic planning process to focus more resources toward community engagement, which is the largest initiative across campus. In fact, a Fellow was designated to specifically focus on coordinating and elevating community engagement into all aspects of UNI. This dedication to service has produced great outcomes. The Student Involvement and Activities Center hosted National Service Day events during which 817 students “Stopped and Served” and packaged 25,000 meals. The “Students Today Leaders Forever” organization also engaged in a Pay it Forward Tour, spending a week traveling and completing projects between UNI and Jacksonville, FL.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Economic Assistance for Low Income Waterloo Neighborhoods:** As a catalyst for entrepreneurial and economic activity, UNI partnered with many local and area organizations to provide assistance, training, and unique learning opportunities for small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs. A neighborhood small business expo called EntreBash! celebrated and promoted local businesses and encouraged residents to launch entrepreneurial ventures of all types. As a result, 41 business exhibitors participated and 25 additional businesses and residents received counseling on growing or starting a small business.
- **Combining Service & Learning Through Entrepreneurship:** To help encourage entrepreneurial thinking and foster community support, UNI has partnered with numerous local and area organizations to provide assistance, training, and unique learning opportunities for existing businesses and young and aspiring business owners. One program, Be Your Own Boss Lemonade Stand Camp, taught the students a variety of entrepreneurial fundamentals, which they then put into action to launch their own lemonade stands.
- **Improving Access to Fruits & Vegetables for Families in Need in Black Hawk County:** UNI’s Local Food Program has been strengthening the local food economy in Northeast Iowa since 1997, building on the region’s foundational assets: good land and skilled people. UNI staff worked with farmers and institutional food buyers, and in 2013-14, 17 institutional food buyers purchased nearly \$3 million in local foods (as opposed to \$100,000 in 1998), supporting the region’s food and farm businesses.

LOOKING FORWARD

The University of Northern Iowa looks forward to enhancing programming and supporting all involved in community engagement, from on-campus students to those within the greater community. Everyone deserves to feel the impact of service while working together across the community.