Office of Public Engagement
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

330 Illini Union Bookstore Building
807 South Wright Street, MC-319
Champaign, IL 61820
217-333-9525
publicengagement@illinois.edu

Join the Public Engagement Listserv.
go.illinois.edu/joinpelistserv

Front (left to right):
Keely Ashman, Project Coordinator
kashman@illinois.edu
Sarah Zehr, Director of Operations
szehr@illinois.edu
Bhavna Hirani, Program Coordinator
bhavna@illinois.edu
Laura Frerichs, Director, Economic Development
lfrerich@illinois.edu

Back (left to right):
Pradeep Khanna, Associate Chancellor
pkhanna@illinois.edu
Moira Nolan, Accountant I
menolan@illinois.edu
Rita McCoy, Administrative Assistant I
rmccoy@illinois.edu
Melinda Garrelts, Program Coordinator
melindaa@illinois.edu
CONTENTS

2 Message from the Chancellor
3 Message from the Associate Chancellor

Feature Stories
4 ADMI reaches out to Global Community
5 The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP)
7 Encouraging Innovators: A High School Initiative
8 Making Media for a Healthier U
9 Performance Based Placement in College Courses: A High School Initiative
10 Institute for Nonprofit Leadership
12 Holistic Learning with Art and Technology

Special Events
14 Community and Campus Day of Service
15 Financial Summit 2015

Signature Programs
16 Public Engagement Colloquium: Sharing of best practices in engagement
17 Public Engagement Symposium: Building bridges between campus and community
18 Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement: Recognizing engaged scholars
19 Chancellor’s Public Engagement Student Fellow Program: Student grants for projects in community
20 Campus Charitable Fund Drive: Support for charitable organizations
21 Public Engagement Grant Program: Financial support for community engaged projects

Extension
22 University of Illinois Extension: Making a difference for Illinois

Service and Support
11 Sesquicentennial Anniversary 2017: Celebration of 150 years
11 Public Engagement Network
11 Illinois Science Olympiad: Science education and recognition for students
11 CU Volunteer: Network for student volunteers and nonprofit organizations
21 Local Food System Initiative: Institution-wide engagement effort
24 Public Engagement Portal: Database and search engine for engagement activities
24 Allied Agencies: Organizations associated with the University
24 Summer Camps: Education, fun and adventure for the youth
Welcome to this year’s look at some of the highlights of our engagement activities here at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

As part of our 1867 land-grant founding, we were charged with the responsibility to create knowledge that would have significant and direct impact on the society around us. We were to be a university that didn’t simply study the world, but one that was actively engaged with it.

Today, nearly 150 years later, we continue to deliver on that promise to our state, nation and world. Whether it is in the form of public lectures, volunteer service or continuing educational opportunities, we strive to open the doors here at Illinois to anyone, anywhere, any time. We are a public university and we believe that we can and should be a resource for everyone who wants to learn.

As you read this report, I think you will see that our geographic home may be in East Central Illinois, but that our reach goes far beyond because of our dedicated and talented faculty, staff and students who call this home.

Sincerely,
Barbara J. Wilson
Interim Chancellor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
As a land grant institution, the University of Illinois works to achieve four missions: teaching, research, public engagement, and economic development. We define public engagement broadly to include a number of activities, from research that involves community participants to students studying and improving marketplace literacy in villages in India to Extension programs and services throughout Illinois. I hope you enjoy reading the stories included in this annual report to learn more about how the efforts of our students, faculty, and staff impact local to international communities. But first, I want to highlight a few projects that demonstrate the University’s commitment to serving the State of Illinois and beyond.

In April of this year, the annual Community & Campus Day of Service took place at Memorial Stadium. More than 1,500 volunteers helped to package 160,000 meals. Most of the meals were sent to Eastern Illinois Foodbank, but we were also able to send about 12,000 of the meals to benefit families impacted by devastating tornadoes in northern Illinois counties earlier in the month. Governor Rauner joined us to help load the van headed north to deliver the meals. I enjoyed seeing families and multiple generations working together for such a great cause.

At the state level, read about the Celebrating High School Innovators program that identified budding entrepreneurial high school students from across the state. These students attended an event here on campus last May and received certificates from Governor Rauner. During their time on campus, the students shared ideas with university and government leaders, worked on joint projects, and learned more about available resources. Hopefully many of these students will choose to join us at Illinois as they continue on their paths of accomplishment.

Public engagement efforts extend beyond our nation’s borders as well. The ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss is leading an ongoing project in Bihar, India to implement techniques to reduce postharvest loss. The ultimate goal of the project is to create a hub for international training of farmers in this high-poverty region. Also this year, ADM hosted the First International Congress on Postharvest Loss Prevention with more than 250 attendees from 60+ countries around the world. Sessions focused on challenges and potential solutions and will ultimately result in the development of a shared roadmap to reduce postharvest loss that involves participants across the globe.

Please join me in celebrating the many facets of public engagement in which our campus community engages. I appreciate the efforts of those throughout our campus who are dedicated to improving our local, state, national, and international communities.

Pradeep Khanna
Associate Chancellor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
In January 2011, the Archer Daniels Midland company (ADM) presented a $10 million gift to the University of Illinois to found the ADM Institute (ADMI) for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss. The Institute was created in response to the rising amounts of oilseeds and grains lost each year in food chains around the world. The Institute is an international information and technology hub for evaluating, creating and disseminating economically viable technologies, practices and systems that reduce postharvest loss in staple crops such as rice, corn, wheat, and oilseeds.

The ADMI Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss has emerged as a leader in the field of postharvest loss prevention. Through groundbreaking research it has worked to create new, evidence-based knowledge and develop and introduce technologies. The Institute has built the capacity of stakeholders while driving a critical dialogue worldwide on how through the reduction of crop losses, food security and rural development can be greatly improved for producers and consumers worldwide.

The ADMI Institute launched three exciting new initiatives in 2015 to address a critical global food security issue by engaging the Illinois community and strengthening ties to stakeholders around the world.

In August 2015, ADMI Institute launched the project “Reduction of Postharvest Loss for Smallholder Farmers,” which will create its “ADMI Village” in India. The ADMI project will be a practical implementation of postharvest loss-reducing technologies that match Bihar’s specific challenges by focusing on postharvest loss reduction in wheat, maize, rice and lentils in the districts of Samastipur, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Motihari in Bihar, India. The project termed as the “ADMI Village” aims to be an international training, technology demonstration and development hub that will further focus and expand activities of postharvest loss prevention research, education and training, gender and minority development in agriculture, increase farm income and other related issues.

The project is a partnership between the ADMI and two Indian agricultural universities, Rajendra Agriculture University (RAU), Bihar Agricultural University (BAU), as well as the Borlaug Institute for South Asia (BISA). The Information Technology Research Academy (ITRA) will participate to develop communication tools for the project.

The project in Bihar will allow researchers to focus on improving lives and livelihoods for some of the world’s poorest people. The village will also attract international attention by demonstrating in the real world how reducing postharvest losses can impact food security.

A strategy formulation meeting (SFM) in New Delhi in 2014 resulted in 28 topics surfacing to address the postharvest loss issues in India with the top three problems being drying, storage and farmer education. The ADMI project was launched in Bihar
Speaking at the launch, Prasanta K. Kalita, Director of ADM Institute said, “At ADM Institute, our aim is to reduce the postharvest loss, a significant problem in India, particularly in states such as Bihar. A substantial amount of crop (up to 50%) is lost in the postharvest processes due to lack of knowledge of the farmers and inadequate technologies. With the launch of this project we aim to reduce this postharvest loss, addressing the problems of the farmers and educating them, thereby successfully improving the lives of farmers.”

The first stage of ADMI Village in Bihar involved conducting surveys to establish a baseline of postharvest loss in Bihar and it is almost complete. A team of 16 field investigators and two research coordinators has been collecting data from about 3,200 households from 64 villages across four districts in Bihar. The research team is working to identify appropriate drying and storage technologies for smallholders to evaluate and will demonstrate that at community level towards the end of 2015.

Using new technologies, the ADM Institute for the Prevention of Postharvest Loss greatly expanded its knowledge in community this year. In February 2015, the first class of “Global Postharvest Loss Prevention: Fundamentals, Technologies and Actors” convened online. Nearly 4,000 learners from 153 countries assembled through a Coursera massive online open course (MOOC) to learn about the worldwide challenges and opportunities presented by postharvest losses. The class was a great success, and a second offering of the course began on July 20. The lectures, course materials, and previous course discussions are always available on the course website at coursera.org/course/postharvestloss

In October 2015, ADMI hosted the First International Congress on Postharvest Loss (PHL) in Rome, Italy. The Congress was first of its kind to convene around issues of PHL prevention. The focus of the three-day, high-level event was to develop better tools and interventions to prevent postharvest loss for smallholders in developing countries. It included 260 participants from 62 countries. The Congress concluded with the creation of a roadmap for postharvest loss prevention by formulating needs and plans for future action. The Congress was co-organized by the Rockefeller Foundation and with support from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the John Deere Company, College of ACES at the University of Illinois, and other global partners. Representatives from the University of Illinois were keynote speakers throughout the event, demonstrating Illinois’ excellence in research and public engagement to address societal challenges of improving food security and reducing postharvest losses.

THE AUTISM PROGRAM OF ILLINOIS (TAP)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is the fastest growing disability in the U.S. according to the Center for Disease Control. One baby in every sixty eight is born with Autism and about five times as many boys as girls receive this diagnosis.

ASD is one of a group of neurodevelopmental disorders. ASD is characterized by difficulties in social communication and social interaction, along with restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities. ASD begins very early in a child’s life, with signs and symptoms typically emerging by age 3. 1% of all children in the U.S. have been diagnosed with ASD.

The statistics are astounding, but nothing compares to the moment a child is diagnosed as being on
the Autism Spectrum. Parent’s lives are turned upside down in an instant when their toddler with unique developmental abnormalities is labeled and their distinct differences are identified. While parents have usually suspected something is different with their child, receiving the diagnosis can feel devastating.

When looking for answers, seeking information and reaching out for someone who understands, many families turn to The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP). TAP serves and supports people with ASD and their families through a coordinated network of providers, parents and university programs while developing, utilizing, and sharing best practices.

TAP is an academic-community partnership that focuses on providing a resource and referral center for parents and professionals as well as developing and evaluating model programs in training, treatment and family support. TAP at the University of Illinois also helps facilitate collaborations between agencies, schools, individuals with ASD and their families. Resources include phone support, resource room, new diagnosis orientation for families, social skills programs, training and technical assistance for professionals, and diagnostic collaborations.

Academic partners at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign include the Departments of Human Development and Family Studies, Special Education, Speech and Hearing Science, the Psychological Services Center, and the School of Social Work. Community partners include local school districts and Carle Clinic.

TAP is funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services, with additional support from the Family Resiliency Center. It is administered by the Departments of Human Development and Family Studies and Special Education.

In 2001, parents as well as private and public health experts began to express concern regarding the prevalence of ASD among children. In 2003 the Illinois General Assembly responded by passing Public Act 93-0395 establishing The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP). TAP, at the University of Illinois, began in a small space at the Doris Kelley Christopher Family Resiliency Center with a small grant and a big vision. The vision was to increase community awareness and education of ASD as well as improve family access to early diagnosis and appropriate interventions. In addition, TAP facilitated several research projects to evaluate different treatment interventions for effectiveness. In 2007, the Illinois Legislature expanded TAP from a training and research program to a statewide network that also provides direct services to children with ASD and their families.

According to Linda Tortorelli, the project coordinator of The Autism Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, people come to TAP for a myriad of reasons. It is a place to go for information, education and support about ASD. TAP lends an empathetic ear to people who are facing the many and diverse challenges of ASD. TAP provides training for parents along their ASD journey. TAP offers social skills enhancement programs for children with ASD. TAP also offers expertise regarding diagnosis.

Aaron Ebata, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Human Development and Family Studies, emphasized that TAP facilitates and supports research on many levels. There are many advantages to TAP being on the U of I campus. TAP provides doctoral student opportunities as well as internships for Speech and Hearing Sciences and Psychology students. Evidence based practices are highlighted along with research focused on interventions that are effective. TAP fills the gaps for services not provided by others in the community and at the same time engages U of I faculty.

As you enter the Family Resiliency Center at 904 West Nevada Street in Urbana, Anne Hall, Resource Room Coordinator, greets visitors with a calm and kind approach. There is a wide array of people Anne helps. She may be consoling a tearful mom, toting a recently diagnosed toddler or she may be providing support materials to an elementary teacher. Anne is a wealth of information about picture exchange systems, regulating emotions and applied behavior analysis. TAP sponsors over thirty trainings annually and more than one thousand people utilize the Resource Room and online resources about ASD. Linda, Aaron and Anne, all part of TAP, are passionate about early intervention, delivery of information, connection to experts and intensive therapy to help children with ASD achieve maximum progress. Their future plans include staying informed and being connected to cutting edge advancements in the diagnosis and treatment of ASD. They would like to expand their training capacity as well as focus on ASD programs for adults including consultation, information, resources and referrals. They are concerned about the future of TAP, due to State of Illinois budgetary cuts. TAP is currently the only ASD parent training and education facility in the Champaign-Urbana community. TAP wants to continue to provide consultation, education and support for children and families impacted by ASD now and into the future.
ENCOURAGING INNOVATORS 
A High School Initiative

The Celebrating High School Innovators initiative was introduced by the Illinois Foundry for Innovation in Engineering Education in 2015. The University partnered with Paul Ritter, a dynamic and innovative Illinois high school teacher, to identify the most innovative, creative, and inspirational high school students from across the state. The program earned endorsements from the Governor of Illinois, several Illinois teachers associations, and regional superintendents of schools, among others.

Twenty students were selected from the applicants to the program and came to campus for two days in May 2015 to network with other innovative students and professionals, engage in projects together, speak to high-level university and government officials about their ideas, and learn about resources available to them throughout the state. Despite their young age, many of these students have started companies or significantly impacted the lives of others through their ideas and efforts. Ray Price, one of the program founders, said this about the selection process: “This competition requires no GPA and no test scores – just contributions and results.”

For example, Nathan Hartley is a junior at Naperville North High School who owns a woodworking business called Uniquely Able, Inc. He makes wood frames and then takes them to a company called Aspire for staining and gluing magnets to them. Aspire employs the disabled, so they have access to paid work, which is why Nathan chooses to work with them. Then Nathan takes the completed frames and sells them.

Sometimes taking initiative means spending some time to do something that others are not willing to do. Kelly Fraher, a senior at Pontiac Township High School, participated in a class project where she and her classmates went to a local cemetery where Civil War soldiers were buried. Many of the tombstones were illegible so the class was assigned to try to figure out who the tombstones belonged to. After the project, Kelly felt that the project needed more time since the class could not identify all of the soldiers. She convinced her mother to purchase a subscription to ancestry.com so she could find the names and background information for all the soldiers. Then she decided to purchase new tombstones from the federal government so that visitors could read the names.

“ These are just a couple of examples of the inspiring accomplishments of high school students from Illinois. Hopefully some of these innovators will decide that Illinois is the right place to further exercise and develop their passions! ” - Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rate of obesity among children has tripled over the past twenty years and is now considered an epidemic. Learning about healthy nutrition has many positive implications for a student’s physical well-being. Studies have shown that food habits learned at an early age are hard to influence and change. Today’s children, ages 8 to 18, consume multiple types of media and spend more time (44.5 hours per week) in front of computer, television, and game screens than any other activity in their lives except sleeping. Research has found strong associations between increases in advertising for non-nutritious foods and rates of childhood obesity, and between increases in advertising for nutritious foods and healthier eating.

Through a grant from the Office of Public Engagement, Dr. Michelle R. Nelson, Associate Professor of Advertising at the University of Illinois, and her collaborator, Dale Kehr, Extension Educator with the University of Illinois Extension, worked with the Waukegan School District on a project to integrate nutrition education and media literacy content into elementary school curriculum. The grant allowed the researchers to develop and test the curriculum, Making Media for a Healthier U, with the help of teachers and nurses in the district.

Their premise was that advertising literacy can be part of the solution to childhood obesity rather than part of the problem. They addressed the critical need for educating young people about the media they consume and the food they eat while at the same time enhancing the district’s common core requirements for the students’ English literacy and mathematical skills.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Waukegan is a community of almost 90,000 people, many of whom are immigrants. Moreover, almost 20% of Waukegan residences live below the poverty line. A vast majority of students who attend school in Waukegan qualify for free and reduced school lunch.

Nelson and Kehr conducted focus groups with teachers to find out about their current nutrition or media curriculum and to learn ways to engage students. They then developed six pilot lessons for third-grade classrooms to try in spring 2014. The lessons provided knowledge about food groups and the foods that belong to those groups. Students learned more about nutrition labels and how to use math to understand food labels. Finally, students learned advertising literacy skills including information about how to recognize, understand, evaluate and create advertisements for fruits and vegetables and showcased those in their classrooms and school. A total of 10 classes participated in the field study, including six classes that received the curriculum (N=144) and four that served as control-group classes (N=86). Results of the post-test survey showed that children who received the curriculum training significantly improved their knowledge of the food groups and of advertising literacy and scored significantly better than children who did not receive the curriculum training. Students also created advertising promoting fruits and vegetables.

In spring 2015, teachers from grades K-5 participated in media literacy and nutrition workshops, evaluated the curriculum and provided feedback on the lessons. Teachers reported that their students got very excited when learning about nutrition and advertising. One kindergarten classroom made posters for the school cafeteria to encourage students to select healthy foods. Additional outcomes included the development by teachers of additional curriculum throughout the summer 2015 and supplementary information for use in the future. The goal is for teachers in grades K-5 to have access to nutrition and advertising literacy curriculum for their students so that their students have health and wellness knowledge and media literacy skills.
Making Media for a Healthier U achieved its objective by helping Waukegan 3rd graders learn how to consume healthy food and healthy advertising. Plans are in the works to expand the reach of the program to a wide age range of children. Discussion regarding media habits of children as it relates to their age and environment is also being considered for future research studies. The study titled ‘Developing Persuasion Knowledge by Teaching Advertising Literacy in Primary School’ was published by Michelle Nelson in the Journal of Advertising in 2015. The research evaluates effectiveness of advertising literacy classroom intervention among elementary school children and suggests ways to increase advertising literacy by weaving it within the school curriculum in lower-income groups.

Resources for school teachers are available at publish.illinois.edu/makingmedia/2015/05/21/hello-world

Every incoming freshman student at the University of Illinois was once a high school student. Throughout the campus, many public engagement efforts focus on high schools, ranging from identifying outstanding students to encouraging more underrepresented students to consider STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) degrees to improving outcomes for those who may struggle academically. One example of these efforts is an initiative that the Department of Mathematics initiated in partnership with Urbana School District 116, Urbana High School Department of Mathematics, Parkland College, and the CU Schools Foundation. A couple of years ago, former Chancellor Richard Herman mentioned a program he had developed during his time at the University of Maryland to improve mathematics outcomes in Maryland public high schools. He talked with Mathematics chair Matthew Ando, who became excited by the idea and decided to reach out to incoming Urbana School District 116 Superintendent Donald Owens and several mathematics teachers at Urbana High School.

Matt Ando could see real potential in providing Urbana High School teachers with more data on performance of students. The University Department of Mathematics uses ALEKS (Assessment and LEarning in Knowledge Spaces), an online interactive software that can assess mastery of mathematics concepts and provide tutoring to develop deficient skills) to place incoming freshmen into appropriate mathematics courses. Parkland College uses the software in some courses as well. Matt wanted to introduce Urbana High School math teachers to ALEKS for use both inside and outside the classroom. Alison Reddy, Director of Math Placement Programs, talked with McGraw Hill about the idea and they agreed to provide ALEKS at no cost to the high school for the first year.

The teachers agreed that ALEKS would be an effective tool to use in the classroom and selected the Algebra I block of students to pilot it. Typically, students in this block struggle with math. After some initial challenges, they found that ALEKS served as an effective tool to improve mathematics outcomes for their students. The partners involved felt that the pilot needed a second year and secured funding to cover a few additional costs to expand the program to more students. Kevin Kennedy, the Chair of the Math Department at Urbana High School said that “some students had success in ALEKS who hadn’t been successful in math for years and some students were able to better understand what was being taught in the classroom. I am looking forward to a second year with the program so I can use the results of the assessment data to help improve how and when I present material.”

Read more at math.illinois.edu/ALEKS

PERFORMANCE BASED PLACEMENT IN COLLEGE COURSES
A High School Initiative

Children at the Waukegan School District created advertisements with fictitious brands featuring ‘healthier food’ options by adding headlines to the advertisement and even a coupon to the product.
Management training and development programs abound for corporate executives, but there are few affordable options for nonprofit executives. With 10% of the Illinois workforce in the nonprofit sector, representing more than $20 billion in payroll, there is a need for effective and accessible options for these professionals throughout the state.

Laura Huth of do good Consulting and Sue Grey of the United Way of Champaign County were concerned about the lack of options for nonprofits in the central Illinois region. They teamed up and assembled a core advisory group from more than fifty counties in central Illinois to discuss what could be done to address the lack of professional development for nonprofit leaders. Group members represented the for-profit and non-profit sectors, local government, and several Central Illinois educational institutions, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois State University, Eastern Illinois University, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Parkland College. The Office of Public Engagement and the School of Social Work were both represented on the advisory committee.

The group agreed that a solution should be developed and provided input to shape the program. The result of their efforts is the newly formed Institute for Nonprofit Leadership. The primary offering will be a comprehensive, cohort-based program delivered online and in person over an eight to twelve month period. Additional programming will be added over time, based on the needs of the nonprofit sector.

Impact of collaboration between nonprofits and higher education on the social and economic development of communities.

In addition to advanced coursework such as intensive instruction on core topics, the Institute may host networking or social events to encourage collaboration. Target participants include nonprofit leaders from around fifty mid-state Illinois counties. Each year, individuals will have an opportunity to apply to join the program, and ten to fifteen will be selected to enroll.

The Institute reached an agreement in early 2015 with the Illinois State University’s College of Business to host the program. Program graduates will earn certification from Illinois State University, which will also be recognized by Eastern Illinois University and the University of Illinois. Based on current plans, the Institute hopes to welcome its first class in 2016.

The United Way supports a number of nonprofit social service organizations in the local community. When asked about her involvement in the planning process, Sue Grey said, “Being part of this process has been wonderful, knowing that at the conclusion of all this planning and preparation, our region will have access to high quality professional development – specifically tailored to nonprofit professionals.”

The Office of Public Engagement provided a seed grant to the School of Social Work to support their engagement in this effort. The grant will enable the Institute to hire a part-time position to assist with establishment of the organization and enrollment of the initial cohort of participants.

Non-profits play a critical role in meeting the needs of vulnerable populations. They also make valuable contributions to the economic development of our community. These activities are
consistent with the mission of the School of Social Work: to educate, innovate, and advocate for vulnerable people. Given the benefits nonprofits provide, training opportunities are needed to ensure a nonprofit workforce led by high-performing and high-achieving leaders. The educational mission of the University can help to meet these training needs. When higher education and non-profits collaborate together, there can be a direct and positive impact on the social and economic development of communities. Read more at nonprofitleadershipinstitute.org

SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY 2017: Celebration of 150 years

2017 will be here before we know it, marking a significant milestone in the history of the University of Illinois. Chartered in 1867, the University will celebrate its Sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary throughout the 2017 calendar year.

Visit the Sesquicentennial website 150.illinois.edu to learn more about the celebrations. Highlights include:

• Several major projects, including a building dedicated to teaching design skills, three books, an exhibit at Spurlock Museum, development of outdoor points of dialogue, and much more
• Events throughout the US and at select international locations to celebrate the Sesquicentennial
• Performances inspired by the University’s accomplishments and future plans
• Conferences, speaker series, and other programs discussing the University’s past and future
• A comprehensive interactive timeline of major events in the University’s history
• Opportunities to contribute and share your memories or stories of the University

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT NETWORK

Over the course of several months in Summer and Fall 2015, a couple of staff from Office of Public Engagement held meetings with people in each unit across campus who organize or are aware of the unit’s public engagement efforts. Starting in early 2016, the Office of Public Engagement will hold a meeting each semester to bring public engagement leaders from the units together to discuss engagement activities and opportunities for collaboration among units. The purpose of the meeting is to create a network of people who are involved in public engagement, and to raise awareness of engagement programs and activities, to share best practices, and to work together across units to engage with the community.

ILLINOIS SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
Science education and recognition for students

Illinois Science Olympiad is a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. In 2015, middle-and high-school students from 97 schools in Illinois participated in events from disciplines of biology, earth science, chemistry, physics and technology. Read more at illinoisolympiad.org

CU VOLUNTEER: Network for student volunteers and nonprofit organizations

Many local nonprofit organizations rely heavily on volunteers to serve those in the community who are in need. But finding volunteers – especially on a regular basis – can be a significant challenge. CUVolunteer is a website that connects nonprofit organizations that need volunteers with those who are interested in giving back. Organizations can post opportunities on the site, and individuals can search for opportunities based on their interests, age, schedule, etc. to find a good fit. Learn more at cuvolunteer.org
HOLISTIC LEARNING WITH ART AND TECHNOLOGY

The Champaign-Urbana Community (CUC) Fab Lab is an open and collaborative workshop space for computer-driven innovation, design and fabrication. Makers of all kinds visit the lab to imagine, design and create using open source software and DIY equipment, making the lab a place where entrepreneurial initiative, collaboration and lifelong learning are enabled and celebrated. Many resources, including skilled volunteers, computers, computer-controlled (CNC) machines, advanced materials and electronics assembly tools are available to the entire community. These high tech tools have made it possible for patrons to build virtually anything imaginable, from simple stickers to fully-functional robots. The uniqueness of the lab site has encouraged local inventors to develop prototypes for their designs. The CUC Fab Lab is part of a global network of over 500 Fab Labs, making possible many connections with like-minded people around the world sharing experience globally, and being actively involved in several local networks, which has made it possible to actively cultivate public engagement through community-focused art, entrepreneurship, research and education.

What is the Fab Lab?
Functionally, Fab Labs encourage people to become makers by exploring the entire design process. They do this by providing tools, human assistance and inspiration that enable people to go from (1) concepts and questions to (2) digital designs and models to (3) physical prototypes and redesigns to (4) a final product they can share, which may in turn help others begin the cycle. This process is rather unique because it is possible for people with little technological expertise to engage in design thinking to develop complex creations using technology and knowledge previously only available to expert artists and engineers. Tools at the Lab include laser, 3D printers, CNC milling, electronic cutters, sewing and embroidery machines, soldering, and electronics.

Organizationally, CUC Fab Lab is a public engagement program of the Illinois Informatics Institute. The lab works with a variety of units, including The Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois Extension, Department of Business Administration, School of Art and Design and Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences to collaborate on grants, facilitate classes and support research.

The CUC Fab Lab’s public engagement mission helps play a
major role in the Digital Innovation Leadership Program (DILP), a University of Illinois partnership of the Center for Digital Inclusion at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Illinois Extension, and the Champaign-Urbana Community Fab Lab. Through this partnership a mobile Fab Lab has been deployed around the state to offer week-long youth camps in southern Illinois, Peoria, and Champaign, reaching more than 250 Illinois youth. CUC Fab Lab also represented DILP throughout the state with exhibits and activities at 4 county fairs, 4 regional career awareness events for youth, and the Illinois State Fair. Perhaps the most successful aspect of this program has been the Teens as Teacher component; CUC Fab Lab staff, as well as other DILP personnel, train, mentor, and work beside teens to deliver programming for 4H camps, community events, and adult education. DILP is supported with funding from the Illinois Extension & Outreach Initiative (a special partnership between Extension, the Dean of ACES, and the Office of the Provost), the Illinois Informatics Institute, and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Who is the Fab Lab for?

CUC Fab Lab users are a diverse group in many ways as they come from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. They have ranged from 10 years to 92 years old, and include adult hobbyists, students and researchers, retirees and professional artisans.

Some maker spaces are small, close-knit but isolated clubs. Others are large corporate or university Fab Labs. CUC Fab Lab strives to break out of this model to get to the underserved parts of the community. Besides maintaining a lab that is free to use CUC Fab Lab reaches people where they are in four different ways:

1. Open Lab – The lab is open to the public 5 days (30+ hours) a week. This includes times during the day, night and weekends.
2. Summer Youth Camps – In 2014 weekly summer camps were offered in the Fab Lab for children ages 9 and up. Camps include general introductions to various fabrication tools and methods, special interest camps such as bag making or wearable electronics, and even playful themes such as Minecraft 3D printing and Game-based design. In 2015, 25 different camps were offered and nearly 250 youth participated in those camps.
3. Bringing in Groups – Fab Lab arranges special workshops with organizations frequently. Thanks to the regular staff that the Lab is able to host these workshops at virtually any time.
4. Capacity Building and Event Deployments – CUC Fab Lab often goes out and runs remote camps, workshops, and booths at events. There is a dedicated set of mobile tools, example creations and publicity materials to make this easy. This allows networking with many people and break the lab out of the lab to raise awareness and build capacity.
5. Mini Labs – CUC Fab Lab has set up several mini labs around town to directly insert Fab Lab opportunities into powerful contexts – including public libraries, schools, after-school centers and, hopefully soon a retirement village.

CUC Fab Lab strives to connect computer-based making and rapid fabrication to many areas, like art and design, computer science, architecture, engineering, mathematics, science, and technical trades. Community access, provided at a reasonable cost and in cooperation with the global Fab Lab network, builds local capacities by enabling personal growth, economic development and cross-cultural understanding. Activities at the Fab Lab and partner sites embody the principle of life-long learning by cultivating digital literacies, including cognitive skills like computational, divergent or critical thinking, but also related cultural competencies and other underlying traits that prove fundamental to holistic learning, such as civic engagement or confidence with art and technology. To learn more visit cucfablab.org
COMMUNITY & CAMPUS DAY OF SERVICE

University of Illinois student volunteers at Campus and Community Day of Service event helped package meals for displaced families in northern Illinois.

More than 1,500 members of the local and campus communities joined the Office of Public Engagement for the third annual Community & Campus Day of Service on April 11, 2015! Memorial Stadium was packed with people for a meal packaging event led by Illini Fighting Hunger (IFH), a registered student organization that runs food packaging events throughout the state. Volunteers packaged 160,266 hearty rice casserole meals and 56,304 servings of oatmeal.

The goal for this year’s event was to package 148,000 meals to benefit Eastern Illinois Foodbank, which serves more than 530,000 individuals in the local community on an annual basis. Because the volunteer response was overwhelming, the Office of Public Engagement also agreed to take on an additional oatmeal repackaging project for the foodbank. After volunteers ran out of ingredients for the meals – significantly exceeding the 148,000 goal in the process – they transitioned to the oatmeal project.

A few weeks prior to the event, Governor Rauner’s office contacted Public Engagement and expressed interest in attending. He planned to arrive at Memorial Stadium in the early afternoon to talk with volunteers and participate in the meal packaging. The Thursday before the event, severe weather brought strong tornadoes to several northern Illinois counties. A number of families in Fairdale and Rochelle, Illinois lost their homes. Public Engagement worked with a representative from Governor Rauner’s office to modify plans for the meal packaging event so that approximately 12,000 meals were redirected to the shelters serving the tornado victims. Incidentally, since volunteers exceeded the goal by more than 12,000 meals, Eastern Illinois Foodbank still received 148,000 meals, as planned, though they were more than willing to give up some of the meals to benefit the tornado victims.

A unique aspect of this event is the opportunity for groups to volunteer together, including families... volunteers ranged in age from four to ninety-four! Jim Hires of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank captured the essence of what makes this event so inspiring. He said, “The Community & Campus Day of Service is a perfect example of the strength of collaboration and activism in truly nourishing stronger communities. This year was very special, as literally generations of families gave back to the community by working together to fight food insecurity. Joining together to solve problems in this manner lets us know that things can be changed.”

This year’s event was unique for another reason – IFH had recently achieved a very impressive milestone. In February at an event in Monticello, the group packaged their millionth meal. They celebrated with a banquet at the 77 Club at Memorial Stadium on April 14th after the Day of Service. IFH has organized events for a number of community groups over the past three years, including student groups, University activities and events, entire towns, 4H clubs throughout the state, and many others. The leadership team frequently spends evenings and weekends planning and managing events that provide service opportunities as well as benefit needy families throughout Illinois and beyond. Some of their events have benefited other countries, such as a meal packaging event for Haiti. Going forward, they have established the Damhorst Grant, which will provide funding to other groups that want to start leading packaging events in their community. The grant will enable them to purchase equipment and other resources to host meal packaging events. Max Colon, President of IFH, said “The Day of Service events have greatly contributed to IFH’s success in packaging more than 1.3 million meals for those in need. We look forward to continuing our public engagement activities as we move forward in our hunger fighting efforts!” Greg Damhorst, founder and past president of IFH, added, “This incredible milestone after just three years is really a result of a collaborative efforts between many community and campus groups, brought together by student leaders.”

The Community & Campus Day of Service would not be possible without the leadership of IFH and a number of other community and campus leaders. Sponsors include

A group of volunteers work as a team to package healthy meals for needy families from the local community during the Campus and Community Day of Service at Memorial Stadium.
More than 16% of the population in Champaign County lives in poverty. Eastern Illinois Foodbank reports that 50% of their regular clients have jobs but do not make enough to afford food for their families. The mean rent in Champaign County is $860 per month while the mean wage provides about $500 per month for housing. Though it may seem hard to believe, financial need is a significant problem in our local community.

The Office of Public Engagement decided to work with members of the community to address the financial health of our community. In 2011, the United Way of Champaign County released a Community Report that identified Financial Stability as one of four community building blocks that needed attention. The next year, Public Engagement worked with the United Way to bring together a few members of the campus community who participated in community efforts related to financial health. The group came up with a few ideas to move forward with and a task force was formed that included members of the campus and local communities.

The task force met regularly over the past two years and hosted a Financial Empowerment Summit in July 2014. More than sixty local community members attended. Lucy Mullany of the Illinois Asset Building Group provided an overview of the financial state of Champaign County, and several individuals gave quick five-minute summaries of more than ten current initiatives to address financial instability. Next, attendees gathered in small groups to discuss key issues. At the conclusion of the event, three subcommittees were identified: Financial Literacy, Credit Building, and Safe & Secure Financial Resources.

Over the past year, these subcommittees have met several times to outline goals and action plans. In February of 2015, the task force hosted a working conference in Rantoul to discuss efforts in other communities that may apply to Champaign County. The subcommittees also met during this session and then shared their goals and plans with those present. Since then, subcommittees have met to start putting action plans into place and to identify opportunities for individuals and organizations to get involved. Valerie McWilliams of the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation said, “Issues of debt management, credit repair, and predatory lending are critical issues for the clients my organization serves. I really appreciate the work of the Office of Public Engagement in bringing together other stakeholders in the community who also care about these important challenges.”

These efforts culminated in a second Financial Stability Summit in July of 2015. At this event, a Policy Analyst from Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs Office shared the Treasurer’s agenda for improving financial literacy throughout Illinois. His presentation was followed by a panel that focused on the impact of financial instability on housing in Champaign County. Panel members included Sheila Dodd from Habitat for Humanity, Kerri Spear from the City of Champaign, Kelly Mierkowski from the City of Urbana, Esther Pratt from the Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union, and Edward Bland from the Housing Authority. These sessions were followed by subcommittee meetings and then each of the subcommittees reported out on their progress and future plans.

The financial community represented the target audience for the summit, but other attendees included social service organizations involved in serving families in financial need. “The Financial Stability Task Force has brought people and services together that don’t usually interact yet they each play a role in developing the financial knowledge of residents in Champaign County,” said Beverley Baker of the United Way of Champaign County. The main goals of the program were to educate attendees on the current financial state of the local community, encourage collaboration among agencies and financial institutions, and to highlight opportunities for both individuals and organizations to get involved and to contribute to potential solutions.
The Public Engagement Colloquium, sponsored by the Office of Public Engagement, is a series of invited presentations by engaged scholars on campus. It promotes sharing of best practices in public engagement among members of the Urbana-Champaign campus community and its external partners. The Colloquium brings together engaged faculty and community partners for greater discussion. The Colloquium series started in 2013 and has featured 15 engagement programs.

Presenters are invited based on demonstration of exceptional success in developing and delivering public engagement programming that creates new knowledge, contributes to solving critical societal issues, furthers the teaching and research mission of the campus, and strengthens the University’s ties with its external partners. Each Colloquium presentation highlights a specific campus-community initiative and is focused on a particular theme related to public engagement such as building relationships with community partners, developing and delivering engagement programming, and program evaluation.

The following programs were featured in 2015 Public Engagement Colloquia.

**Supporting New Teachers through Public Engagement, The Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC) Network Project** presented by Jodi Bouris and Mary Ellen Leonard, from Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education

**Launching the Everyday Arts Lab** presented by Tyler Denmead, from School of Art and Design; Hong-An Wu, graduate student in Art Education; and Jennifer O’Connor, Coordinator of Art Education and Clinical Experience.

**Social Innovation and Community Learning Lab** presented by Wynne Sandra Korr, Dean of the School of Social Work; Sherrie Faulkner, from School of Social Work and the Community Learning Lab; Erez Cohen, from Cohen Center for Jewish Life; Noah Isserman and Ryan Singh, from Social Innovation

**Marketplace Literacy project** presented by Madhubalan Viswanathan, from College of Business

**CU Community Fab Lab - A Sustainable Community-University Partnership** presented by Lisa Bievenue and Jeff Ginger from Illinois Informatics Institute; Hon-An Wu from Art Education; and Betsy Su and Sarah Butt from Champaign Public Library.

**Growing a New Vision for Reutilization of a Former Air Force Base** presented by Todd Rusk, from Smart Energy Design Assistance Center

For more information, visit engagement.illinois.edu/events/public-engagement-colloquium.html
There is energy, enthusiasm and conversations among people at the Public Engagement Symposium. Engaged scholars consisting of students, staff and faculty from University and members of the community display and share their outreach and engagement efforts with public. There is room from casual greeting to serious dialog all under one roof.

The Office of Public Engagement every year provides the campus and the community with an excellent opportunity to share the scholarly and creative community engagement efforts at the University of Illinois through the Public Engagement Symposium. There is learning and sharing among community-engaged scholars across disciplines.

Community partners are encouraged to attend the symposium to learn and explore opportunities to collaborate with academicians and researchers on campus. The theme of 2015 Symposium was “Changing Lives through Engagement”. The symposium featured over 60 presenters in areas of Community Outreach; Environment and Sustainability; Health, Well Being and Social Justice; Math, Science and Technology; Youth and Family.

Some of the displays at the symposium provided hands-on experience, for example the demonstration of equipment and display of creations by community at with the Champaign-Urbana Community FabLab. Fab Lab is an open source community of people who like to design and make things.

Some of the visitors to symposium found out more about the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative (INTC) Induction Networks, which helps school districts support new teachers’ bridge the gap between pre-service training and the realities of the classroom.

Some of the attendees at the symposium found out more about Social Innovation at Illinois, a cross-campus initiative that aims to provide students and faculty with more ways to apply their knowledge to solving social challenges of the 21st century. Through curriculum, applied research and related programs in service encourage social entrepreneurship and design, launch and scale products and create social value in local and global communities.

The 2016 Public Engagement Symposium will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 from 3-6 pm at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign. For more information, visit engagement.illinois.edu/events/public-engagement-symposium.html.

A team of students from Engineering and Neuroscience express the development of affordable prosthetic hand with both motor and sensory functions for people in impoverished regions at the 2015 Public Engagement Symposium.

The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP) at University of Illinois – (from L to R) Linda Tortorelli, Anne Hall and Dr. Aaron Ebata. The program provides support and services to people on the autism spectrum, training for professionals and internships for students.
CAMPUS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
Recognizing engaged scholars

Each year, the Office of Public Engagement recognizes faculty, academic professionals, and students who engage the public to address critical societal issues through the Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement (CAEPE). Past recipients have ranged from those who assisted in activities that improved the lives of Haitians negatively impacted by the 2010 earthquake to those who created a program to expose underrepresented elementary age boys to STEM, using innovative approaches. The recipients encouraged the interaction between local communities and information technologies with a focus on social informatics. Others spearheaded programs focusing on anti-violence, justice and helping girls involved in or at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system. The work of some of the recipients was related to diversity, multiculturalism and the advancement of education for socioeconomically challenged children.

Individuals and teams are eligible for these awards. Each individual faculty member and academic professional award winner receives a $1,500 cash award and a $1,500 permanent salary increase. Cash awards of $1,500 are given to undergraduate, professional, or graduate students to be used for professional development and to support other educational activities.

One team award is typically given to recognize outstanding contributions uniquely accomplished through a team effort. The award includes a $5,000 contribution to the sponsoring unit, intended to support or enhance the winning project.

To learn more, visit engagement.illinois.edu/grants-awards/award-for-excellence.html

Recipients of 2015 CAEPE Awards were:

- Jerrod Henderson, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering (Faculty Award)
- Mark Taylor, School of Architecture (Faculty Award)
- Rachel Storm, Women’s Resources Center (Academic Professional)
- Vivian Felicio, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (Student Award)
- Noah Lenstra, Graduate School of Library and Information Science (Student Award)
- Psychological Services Center (PSC) Advocacy Project (Team Award)
The Chancellor’s Public Engagement Student Fellows Program provides small grants to students who partner with an outside entity, such as a school, government, or non-profit agency, to solve a problem or provide a service while utilizing their education and developing leadership skills. The goal of the Fellows program, sponsored by the Office of Public Engagement, is to enable individual undergraduate, graduate, and professional students, or groups of students in student organizations or classes, to increase and sustain the University’s public engagement capabilities. The program gives students the opportunity to expand their learning environment through community-related projects, scholarly work, creative endeavors, course development and other activities within the broad framework of public engagement.

To be eligible for a grant, the project or service proposal must be authored by one or more students and have the approval or sponsorship of a faculty member. The sponsoring unit must agree to serve as the fiscal agent for the project. The project must also have approval or sponsorship from an external community partnership agency outside of the University of Illinois, such as a school, governmental unit, or non-profit organization.

For more information, visit engagement.illinois.edu/grants-awards/student-fellows.html

Attendees at the of 2015 Chancellor’s Public Engagement Student Fellows program awards ceremony: (from L-R) Meghan Fisher, Anjana Krishnan, Kip Kuster, Alberto Lara Valdivieso, Aadeel Akhtar and Xiaoling Xiang with former Chancellor Phyllis Wise (second from right).

2015 Chancellor’s Public Engagement Student Fellows Program Award Winners:

- Aadeel Akhtar, Neuroscience
- Alberto Lara Valdivieso, Sociocultural and Linguistics Anthropology
- Claire Merriman, Mathematics
- Jeff Ginger, Library and Information Science
- Kip Kuster, Finance and Student Alumni Ambassadors
- Meghan Fisher, Human Development and Family Studies
- Xiaoling Xiang, Social Work
School of Social Work employees donate their time to Wesley Food Pantry for 2015 You Can Make a Difference Day as a part of the Campus Charitable Fun Drive (CCFD) campaign.

CAMPUS CHARITABLE FUND DRIVE
Support for charitable organizations

Illinois Employees Donated $1.3 Million to Charity in 2015

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Campus Charitable Fund Drive (CCFD), through which Illinois employees donate more than all other state agencies combined, raised more than $1.3 million during the 2015 campaign. Sponsored by the Office of Public Engagement, CCFD is the annual, eight-week employee fund drive that has supported charitable organizations since 1929. Retirees and community members are generous donors.

More than 3,038 donors contributed donations to twelve charitable agencies (see sidebar), which serve more than six hundred different programs. All money raised goes directly to the charities, the University covers all administrative costs for the fund drive.

More than 260 individuals across campus volunteer as leaders for their sections and units, providing important information about the campaign and encouraging colleagues to make pledges large and small. The CCFD Advisory Board, a committee appointed by the Chancellor, works year-round to create the fund drive and guide its execution. The 2015 Advisory Board was chaired by Allan Stratman, Executive Director of Facilities and Services.

You Can Make a Difference Day was a new addition to the 2015 CCFD campaign. The day-long event held on Friday, October 23, 2015 engaged employees of the University across campus to give their time, talent and treasures and have a positive impact on others by donating to CCFD. It encouraged employees to volunteer for community service or engage in a Random Act of Kindness.

The 2016 campaign will run from September 19, 2016 through November 11, 2016. For more information, contact the Office of Public Engagement, email ccfd@illinois.edu or visit ccfd.illinois.edu

CCFD Agencies:
1. America’s Charities
2. American Cancer Society
3. American Heart Association and American Stroke Association
4. Black United Fund of Illinois
5. Community Health Charities of Illinois
6. Community Shares of Illinois
7. EarthShare Illinois
8. Global Impact
9. Independent Charities of America
10. Special Olympics of Illinois
11. United Negro College Fund
12. United Way of Champaign County
As a preeminent public research university, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign greatly values an effective public engagement strategy focused on addressing critical issues facing our society. In today’s global environment it is essential to ensure the creation of socially relevant knowledge that produces real-world solutions. With this goal in mind, each year the Office of Public Engagement conducts a small grant program that seeks proposals from faculty, students, and staff to fund community-related projects, scholarly work, creative endeavors, course development, and other activities within the broad framework of public engagement.

Since 2009, the Public Engagement Grant Program has provided more than $1.4 million in support of 175 programs developed by a variety of campus units. These programs address critical issues in agriculture, community development, education, economic development, entrepreneurship, social justice, and sustainability, among others. The positive impact of programs supported through the Public Engagement Grant Program affects people across the street and around the globe.

Initiatives that address critical societal issues which are developed by campus community members in collaboration with diverse external partners, will continue to receive financial and administrative support from the Office of Public Engagement. At this time, the PE Grant Program has been put on hiatus due to uncertainty in the State of Illinois budget. We hope that it will resume in the future.

For more information visit engagement.illinois.edu/grants-awards/program.html

LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM INITIATIVE
Institution-wide engagement effort

The University Dining Services held a day-long workshop on November 16, 2015 for local producers, processors and distributors to discuss ‘Local Foods for Institutional Buyers’. The participants included students and researchers from University, educators from University of Illinois Extension, dining staff of higher-education institutions in Illinois, vendors and distributors of local foods for University Dining and staff of University Dining. University of Illinois has a sustainable student farm on campus and is the first Big Ten School to implement “trayless” dining. The University Dining is working to increase the amount of local purchase (about 25% in the present) with the hope that they can serve the new generation of students even better with food that is local, healthy and sustainable in the community. Learn more at housing.illinois.edu/dining/about-dining/local-foods

The Office of Public Engagement organized a symposium (publish.illinois.edu/local-food-system-symposium) on Local Food System in 2014 as an institution-wide engagement initiative to encourage inter-disciplinary partnerships among University researchers and community experts in the field. The University Dining Services followed up the engagement efforts to continue dialog between campus and local community. The work was presented by Office of Public Engagement at the Engagement Scholarship Consortium meeting at Penn State University in September 2015. The initiative inspired many conference attendees to pursue similar efforts in their institutions. The Office of Public Engagement hopes to bring more campus and community people together in future on other themes like nutrition, aging and education.

Buckles made by chefs at University Dining Services using local apple and local flour.
MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR ILLINOIS

University of Illinois Extension is the largest and most sustained outreach and engagement effort of the University of Illinois. Through its network of skilled Extension educators offering locally-tailored programs in every county of the state, the University made 1.5 million educational contacts with the public in 2015, and drew over 67 million page views on Extension websites – more than 185,000 views per day. One in twelve Illinois youth is reached by 4-H, the University’s youth development program, and 25,000 volunteers give back to their communities through Extension programs.

Strategy, tools, and scale
Acting as a bridge between campus and the broader public, Extension educators translate university research and expertise into accessible programs that improve the health and welfare of families, communities, and businesses throughout Illinois. Extension staff work directly with stakeholders to assess local needs and establish long term program goals. They engage with faculty and specialists on campus to develop educational resources based on current research. Local, regional, and state advisory councils ensure continuous engagement and accountability with the businesses, families, agencies, and organizations the University serves through Extension.

Accessibility and trust are critical aspects of Extension’s engagement model. Extension’s network of community-based educators has greatly expanded their reach through the innovative use of media, video, web, social media, and mobile technology. Every day throughout Illinois, people hear from University of Illinois Extension experts in newspapers, TV, and radio. Over 100,000 people follow Extension on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest, where they ask questions and interact with Extension educators on a daily basis. More than 700 instructional videos on YouTube have drawn 3.3 million views (averaging 2700 views per day) on topics ranging from growing, cooking, and preserving food to economic development to STEM education. Extension is developing tools for increasingly sophisticated, customized, on-demand delivery of information in usable form.

New audiences
The University reaches the young and old, rural and urban, and people of every race and ethnicity through Extension. In addition to traditional audiences, 4-H continues to expand service to underserved youth. Overall, state participation in 4-H is 17% minority youth and 10% Hispanic youth, with many county programs significantly more diverse. A new initiative within 4-H looks to further expand access.
and inclusion of Hispanic youth and families in 9 underserved counties. More than eighty Extension websites are available in Spanish and other languages, and these sites draw 11,500 views per day. Extension’s network is a vital resource to faculty and researchers, whose partnerships with Extension offer opportunities for service and impact as well as access to resources and data. Extension programs build awareness and appreciation of the University throughout the state.

New programs, new partnerships
In addition to longstanding programs in agriculture, horticulture, nutrition, consumer economics, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and 4-H, Extension continued to expand programming in 2016 through new partnerships designed to address urgent and emerging needs.

• A special initiative of the Office of the Provost and the Dean of the College of ACES, the U of I Extension and Outreach Initiative includes partnerships with faculty from Business, Engineering, Computer Science, Fine and Applied Arts, Library Sciences, and others to develop new programs related to public health, 3D printing, coding, entrepreneurship, water quality, and more.

• Extension’s Local Food Systems and Small Farms team continues to serve the fast-growing local food movement, providing resources and training such as the Small Farms Webinar Series, farm tours and test plots, an innovative “Food Forest” in Normal, and assistance to small producers and backyard poultry enthusiasts during the bird flu outbreak.

• 4-H hosted its largest Illini Summer Academies, bringing over 280 high school youth to the University of Illinois to experience college life in 13 academies hosted by campus academic departments.

• Extension’s Community and Economic Development Team hosted a five month Leadership Academy for county elected and appointed officials across Illinois.

Committed to Public Service
University of Illinois Extension educators and staff proudly embody the University’s commitment to public service. For more information about University of Illinois Extension, call your local Extension office or visit extension.illinois.edu.
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PORTAL: Database and search engine for engagement activities

During any given month, there are hundreds of programs offered by the University that are open to and/or targeted toward the general public. Lectures, camps for students, and other events provide opportunities for faculty, students, and other members of the campus community to share their research with others. How can you find out about these amazing opportunities? The Public Engagement Portal, managed and administered by the office of Math, Science, & Technology Education, provides a repository for all of these programs, including a comprehensive search function to find the events that match your interests. There are over 20,000 events listed on the Public Engagement Portal with over 4,000 events visible to the general public. Visit engage.illinois.edu to find out more about the unique and educational programs available.

ALLIED AGENCIES: Organizations associated with the University

It takes a village to support the University of Illinois. Allied Agencies are those organizations that are affiliated with the University but not technically under its umbrella, such as the Daily Illini, the University of Illinois Foundation, companies in the Research Park, etc. Many of these organizations provide significant benefits for the University, and in exchange, they have special access to campus recreational facilities, the library, discounts at certain University events or programs, etc.

SUMMER CAMPS: Education, fun and adventure for the youth

The University offers a wide range of summer activities and camps for youth in the community. In the year 2015, about 40 unique summer camps were offered by colleges and departments across campus across disciplines and an additional 40 camps were provided by the University of Illinois Extension regional offices. The Office of Public Engagement distributes a poster each spring to schools and organizations in community in order to promote participation of youth. More details available at engage.illinois.edu/filter/SummerCamps

High school student, Katie Finn experiments in a lab at the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology as part of ResearchStart summer camp. The High School Summer Cancer Research was an 8-week joint program of University of Chicago and University of Illinois.

A student painting at the Summer Intensive camp for high school students that was sponsored by College of Fine and Applied Arts.
Wheelchair basketball summer camp sponsored by Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) in College of Applied Health Sciences. About 80 campers participated in the program.

Dance at the Summer Intensive camp for high school students sponsored by College of Fine and Applied Arts.

Bridget Sweet, Assistant Professor in School of Music, works with Junior Chorus in the Illinois Summer Youth Music summer camp sponsored by College of Fine and Applied Arts.

Student campers learn the waggle dance that bees use to communicate with each other in locating food sources. The Pollen Power camp was funded by the National Science Foundation and the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology.

Students at the Imagination U camp race their hand-crafted cardboard boats and determined the most viable prototype in the product development session of Media University. The camp was offered by College of Media.
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Public Engagement Symposium
March 16, 2016

Public Engagement Colloquium
February 17, 2016
March 9, 2016
April 21, 2016

Campus Awards for Excellence in Public Engagement
Nominations Due
February 24, 2016
Awards announcement
March 31, 2016
Awards ceremony
April 26, 2016

Campus Charitable Fund Drive
Sept 19 – Nov 11, 2016

Public Engagement Student Fellows
Applications Due
March 11, 2016
Winners Announced
April 8, 2016
Awards ceremony
April 26, 2016

JOIN THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT LISTSERV FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS | GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/JOINPELISTSERV

OFFICE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT | ENGAGEMENT.ILLINOIS.EDU