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Hello and welcome to this annual report that highlights just a sample of the public engagement activities happening at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. As a pre-eminent public research university with a land-grant mission and a global impact, an important part of our purpose is to be a beacon of knowledge and service for our community, state, nation and world. And by this standard, it is clear that this has been a year of many successes.

The idea that universities should educate broadly seems natural. But for centuries, access to education was offered to only the privileged, an extremely small percentage of society. It wasn’t until the Morrill Act of 1862 that this all changed. One momentous day, Abraham Lincoln signed that act into law and changed the trajectory of higher education forever. That framework gave way to establishing land-grant universities. And as one of the original 37, Illinois holds this distinction with great pride and purpose.

Since our founding in 1867, Illinois has shattered the idea that education should be available to only those with a certain socioeconomic status. And we have made it our mission to disseminate knowledge across the globe. Truly, Illinois fulfills its highest calling when the innovative, cutting-edge research and scholarship that happens on campus is disseminated out into the world to offer solutions, educate our local and global community and inspire the next generation.

Our university’s engagement with the world takes many forms. But whether it is an Illinois Extension program, an office in China, a summer camp for girls in engineering, a partnership with the United Way, programs for children in local schools, a video on YouTube or a research collaboration, the mission remains the same.

As you read this annual summary of our efforts, I think it will be clear that engagement is a strategic priority. We are positioning ourselves today for the grand societal challenges facing our world in the coming 20 or 50 years, because we feel we are responsible for helping to solve them. Our ability to engage locally, nationally and globally will be critical to fulfilling this mission.

At Illinois, we are grateful to have impressive rankings, numerous citations and one of the largest living alumni networks in the country. But our success goes beyond this narrow scope – it is found in how Illinois impacts the world.

Sincerely,
Phyllis M. Wise
Chancellor
I am pleased to share with you the third issue of Public Engagement Highlights. Public Engagement on the University of Illinois campus encompasses a wide range of programs and initiatives, from local efforts to global initiatives. As a land grant institution, our public engagement mission plays a critical role in defining our culture and the types of values we hope to instill in our students and our graduates. I hope you will enjoy reading some of the stories that follow about our efforts and those of faculty, staff, and students across the campus to address critical issues at all levels of society.

Over the past year, our office has led the establishment of two new initiatives addressing the needs of the local community, a Local Food System Symposium and a Financial Stability Summit. The Office of Public Engagement hosted the Local Food System Symposium in October of 2014 which brought together over sixty people from campus and the community in an effort to increase awareness of the local food movement and to work towards a more sustainable local food system. In addition, we co-sponsored a Financial Stability Summit in July of 2014 where more than sixty local community members convened to discuss and identify opportunities to get engaged and to collaborate to improve the financial health of those in Champaign County. Another event is scheduled for Spring, 2015. In addition to these events, our office also sponsored the Campus and Community Day of Service in which over 1,200 participants came together for a day long service event which helped provide food to families throughout Champaign County.

At the state level, the Office of Public Engagement assumed responsibility for two educational programs designed for school students, the State of Illinois Science Olympiad and the First® Lego® League Central State Tournament. These events brought thousands of school aged students to campus to compete in competitions that tested their science knowledge and skills and also encouraged them to explore careers in STEM fields.

2014 also saw the opening of the University of Illinois’ first International office in Shanghai, China, located within the State of Illinois China Office. We now have two employees working in China to develop partnerships with companies, to establish and cultivate relationships with alumni, and to further enhance our academic partnerships throughout China. With almost 5,000 students from China on our campus and a rich history between the University and China, this represents an important market for our institution.

Each year, I am impressed with the number of programs and activities in which our faculty, staff, and students participate that benefit society, whether it is in our backyard, throughout our state, or across international borders.

Pradeep Khanna
Associate Chancellor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Two Statewide Competitions
 Bring Thousands of Youth to Campus

The University of Illinois serves not only adults in the community but also helps prepare younger students for success in college.

Two major programs hosted at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign last year, the Illinois Science Olympiad State Tournament and the First® Lego® League Tournament, brought thousands of elementary, middle and high school students to campus. These events provided the University with the opportunity to showcase its facilities as well as encourage younger students to open their minds to careers in STEM fields.

The Illinois Science Olympiad (ISO) State Tournament, hosted in the spring, 2014, brought over one thousand middle school and high school students to campus. ISO is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing student interest in science, and providing recognition for achievement in science education by students and by teachers. The students qualified for the state tournament by participating in regional tournaments which consisted of a series of team events that the students prepared for with classroom activities, research, and training. There was a balance between events requiring knowledge of science concepts, process skills and science applications.

The University of Illinois campus provided unique locations for the students to explore various science topics. Students participated in rotor egg drop competitions and air trajectory competitions in the Armory. Each student team also had the opportunity to undertake a geocaching exercise on one of the campus quads.

“Illinois Science Olympiad is a great opportunity for students to be able to use science outside of the classroom,” explained Joe Muskin, Visiting Education Coordinator, Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering.

The Office of Public Engagement, on behalf of the University, also hosted the First® Lego® League Central Tournament in January, 2014. This event brought students in grades 4-8 from around the state to campus to compete in the friendly competition. The teams designed, built, and programmed autonomous robots using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology. First® Lego® introduces students to real-world engineering challenges as they build the robots and allows them to discover career possibilities in the STEM fields. The initial pilot program for the First® Lego® League started in 1998. Since then, the tournament has continued to grow and currently over 27,000 teams participate in the tournament.

As host of the ISO State Tournament and the First® Lego® League Tournament, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign had the opportunity to engage with thousands of students from across the state. The participants were able to explore the variety of facilities and disciplines available at the University as they begin to plan their next educational steps. Even for the younger students, the campus visit allowed them start thinking early about their educational future and exposed them to the many possible careers in the science fields.

For more information about the Illinois Science Olympiad State Tournament or the First® Lego® League Tournament, please contact Megan Puzey at mpuzey@illinois.edu.
April’s mother suggested that she check into a program called Money Mentors in the Fall of 2013. April admitted that she attended the first meeting to satisfy her mother, but soon realized there was valuable information that would greatly improve the way she managed her limited budget.

**Money Mentors – Making a Financial Difference in People’s Lives**

Thanks to Money Matters, a program coordinated by the University of Illinois Extension, residents of Champaign, Ford, McLean, and Vermilion counties have a resource to assist in building strong financial knowledge and practice. (The program plans to expand to Iroquois, Livingston and Woodford counties in 2015.) Money Mentors teaches individual community members the basics of personal money management through one-on-one mentoring and also offers outreach programs with informational displays at community events as well as other financial education projects.

In August, 2013, University of Illinois Extension Unit #13 started recruiting volunteers to be trained as Money Mentors. Four training session have occurred since then and as of November, 2014, 55 volunteers have completed the 30 hours of training necessary to become a Money Mentor. Upon completion of training, the mentors began working with community members who have requested assistance with their personal finances. Money Mentors continue their training through monthly meetings and additional study.

Kathy Sweedler, Consumer Economics Educator with the University of Illinois Extension, trains the Money Mentors in Champaign and Vermilion counties and expressed, “Our Money Mentors care tremendously about helping others – and they are what make this program work! In less than one year, the Mentors spent a total of approximately 600 volunteer hours, including over 250 hours of Mentor/Mentee volunteer time.”

To evaluate the program participants’ current financial awareness and practices, they are asked to complete a survey prior to entering the program. The Extension staff then assigns a mentor to each person with whom they are able to meet with on a one-on-one basis as many times as necessary in order to gain financial knowledge and develop plans to manage their personal finances more efficiently. There is no cost to the participants to be a part of the program. Money Mentors provide financial strategies and education on topics such as budgeting, building savings, establishing financial goals, managing credit, and organizing finances.

A majority of the over 75 enrolled community members continue to meet with their mentor and many have reported significant changes in their financial behaviors. Some of the participant’s accomplishments include paying off a payday loan with an Earned Income Tax Refund, starting to utilize an employer sponsored retirement plan for the first time, and returning purchases made with high interest ‘rent-to-own’ plans.

In addition to the Money Mentoring Program, mentors also contribute their time and training to assist with various financial stability community outreach projects offered by the University of Illinois Extension. They also participate in Money Smart Week and volunteer at educational displays at wellness resource fairs and food pantries.

Money Mentors is a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recognized volunteer program. For further information, please call 217.442.8615 or visit http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/moneymentors/.
Inspiring Each Other – Faculty Women of Color in the Academy Annual Conference

What are the challenges encountered by women of color in academia? What are some practical solutions to those challenges? These questions and more were the focus of the Faculty Women of Color in the Academy Conference, hosted March 28-29, 2014 by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign at the I Hotel and Conference Center. The conference gave participants the opportunity to discuss strategies to create a more welcoming and inclusive climate for women of color at all academic ranks.

This was the second annual Faculty Women of Color in the Academy Conference and was entitled “Taking it to the Next Level.” Participants from 18 states attended, making up the audience of graduate students, post-doctoral students, faculty, and university administrators. Conference attendees participated in featured presentations, discussions, panels, and networking events with fellow academic women of color from around the country. Aligned with the University’s Strategic Plan, the conference offered teaching and research components, as well as opportunities for public engagement and the arts.

The conference keynote speaker was Prof. Kimberlé Crenshaw of the UCLA School of Law. In addition to Prof. Crenshaw, Dr. Waded Cruzado, President of Montana State University, and Dr. Nell Painter, historian and professor emeritus at Princeton University addressed the challenges and triumphs of their experiences in higher education.

Throughout the two day conference, various sessions were offered that specifically targeted either faculty or post-doctorate scholars and graduate students. The faculty track workshops focused on the challenges, opportunities and best practices of interdisciplinary work in academia. In these discussions, scholars from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign’s Colleges of Engineering, Media and Business shared their experiences. One day also featured a session entitled “Race, Gender, and Class in Academia: A Workshop for Female Faculty of Color.” The facilitator was Carmen G. Gonzalez, Professor of Law at Seattle University School of Law and co-editor of “Presumed Incompetent: The Intersections of Race and Class for Women in Academia.” The workshop revolved around challenges encountered by women of color in academia, practical solutions to those challenges, and strategies to create a more welcoming and inclusive climate for women of color at all academic ranks.

The breakout sessions designed for post-doctorate scholars and graduate students focused primarily on preparing to enter the academy. Speakers included University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign faculty from Media and Cinema Studies, Latina/Latino Studies, and Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership. Participants received materials relating to visioning, job identification, CV preparation, job interview skills, and negotiation. An additional graduate track workshop was led by Dr. Regina Dixon-Reeves, Executive Director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Chicago Medicine and Biological Science. It was titled “Succeeding in the Academy.” That workshop focused on re-inventing the wheel where there are already people who know how. We need to be in contact to learn strategies to deal with the experiences we face in the academy. Anyway, I loved it! Thank you!!

Comment from a participant of the Faculty Women of Color in the Academy Conference in 2014.

I want to thank you for this conference. I really needed this, and it was clear that many of the women felt the same way. The conference is so helpful because we as graduate students and junior faculty realize that we are not alone. And so many of us are trying to re-invent the wheel, where there are already people who know how. We need to be in contact to learn strategies to deal with what we experience in the academy. Anyway, I loved it! Thank you!!

Comment from a participant of the Faculty Women of Color in the Academy Conference in 2014.
Social Innovation at Illinois and the Community Learning Lab

Food insecurity. Poverty. Violence. The digital divide. These issues all represent significant challenges facing our society, and are focus areas for the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Social Innovation at Illinois is a new initiative designed to create partnerships among faculty, students, and community organizations in order to address above issues. The goal is to create environments where students can experiment and lead initiatives that will inspire change.

Central to the Social Innovation Initiative is the Community Learning Lab (CLL), which identifies opportunities and makes them available to students and faculty. The CLL launched in 2013 as a system that creates and maintains partnerships between community social service agencies and the School of Social Work, in the areas of research, program development, and service. An online portal gathers and displays information so that it can be searched or browsed. Faculty can then select issues aligned with their research interests and create service learning projects and courses around them.

While the pilot initially focused on Social Work students, a number of other departments have collaborated with the CLL to create service learning courses for students in other disciplines. Faculty who teach Rhetoric in LAS, or in Business, among others, have used the CLL to offer service learning courses for their students. Wynne Korr, Dean of the School of Social Work, noted, “True societal impact requires interdisciplinary collaboration across many sectors, and we are excited to be a part of bringing students together to work on projects that impact our community as well as provide our students with an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to help others. Social service agencies often struggle with limited resources and this is one way that the University can provide assistance while giving students opportunities to work in teams to solve real problems.”

Projects vary; examples range from assistance with data collection or interpretation, to the development of research tools and program development. In some cases, students have provided help creating community service programs or manuals for corporations. The CLL was designed with flexibility in mind so that Social Work staff can work directly with beneficiary organizations or companies to determine their most pressing needs and match those with developmental opportunities for students.

Longer term, the vision for Social Innovation at Illinois is to design new social enterprises to address community needs and to develop a model for innovation and engagement that provides a transformative learning environment for students at the University.

For further information, visit: http://socialwork.illinois.edu/community-learning-lab/

Feedback from the conference was overwhelming positive as participants felt empowered by the presentations and the professionals surrounding them. The next Conference of Faculty Women of Color in the Academy will take place April 10–11, 2015. Professor Anita Hill, author, educator, attorney, senior advisor to the Provost, and Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University will be the keynote speaker for the conference. There will also be a feature presentation by Kerry Ann Rockquemore, President and CEO of the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity. In addition to a separate track for faculty and graduate students, next year’s conference will have a special track for early career administrators with less than 10 years of experience.

For additional information, please visit: http://diversity.illinois.edu_FWCA/index.html
Carnegie Classification
Illinois Recognized again as a Community Engaged Institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was recently recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and was re-classified as a community-engaged institution. The classification requires documentation of important aspects of the University’s institutional mission, identity and commitments, and requires substantial effort invested by its participating institutions. The University originally received classification in 2008 and the current 2015 Community Engagement Classification is valid until 2025.

The classification was received as a result of Illinois’ documented excellent alignment among campus mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement. The classification framework necessitates that universities illustrate examples of exemplary institutionalized practices of community engagement. Highlights of the University’s application included:

- More than 700 engagement programs focused on diverse areas such as education, economic development, health and wellness, social justice and sustainability.
- Approximately 200 external partners collaborated with the institution to address issues in the community.
- Nearly 500 service-learning courses were offered by the institution to over 6,200 participating students.
- More than 16,000 events and programs for the community that are sponsored by the University are listed on Public Engagement Portal.

The complete application can be found at: http://go.illinois.edu/CarnegieReclassificationDocumentation

Shanghai Office Opens as University of Illinois’ First International Office

The University grew a little larger in December, 2013 when Chancellor Wise visited China to open our campus’ first international office in Shanghai. The office, which currently has two employees, is charged with establishing relationships with Chinese companies to increase the number of internship and full-time opportunities available to students and graduates returning to China. The team will also market a number of leadership development programs offered on campus.

The office is located within the State of Illinois China Office, which was established in the 1980s to promote trade and non-commercial ties between the State of Illinois and China. The State of Illinois is a collaborator with the US Department of Commerce. The office is located in the Shanghai Center, a prestigious and central location in Shanghai.

The University of Illinois has an extensive and strong history with China which started in the early 1900s when President James spearheaded an agreement with China to encourage Chinese students to study in the US. Today, almost 5,000 students at the University come from China and many hope to return there to work after they graduate with their degrees.

Already the members of the Shanghai Office have reached out to many alumni and provided some logistical support for alumni gatherings and activities. “The alumni in China are excited to help to maintain the strong reputation of the University of Illinois in China. They have been very welcoming to us,” one employee noted. The office also played an important role in the planning of the first incoming student orientations held in China in three cities: Shanghai,
Chancellor Phyllis Wise and the Mayors of Champaign and Urbana, Don Gerard and Laurel Prussing, respectively, gave opening remarks, followed by a series of short and interactive presentations focusing on the three areas. Presenters included Superintendents of Champaign Unit 4 and Urbana School District 116 along with representatives from Champaign-Urbana Cradle to Career (CUC2C), the Champaign County Coalition, Research Park, the DCEO International Trade Center housed at the Champaign County Economic Development Corporation, and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. After the presentations, participants gathered in smaller groups to discuss what was working in each of the areas, to identify gaps, and to pull out lessons learned or opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

The main areas that participants felt were not being adequately addressed were mental health, financial literacy, homelessness, and general health. The idea of collaboration was a key theme throughout the discussions, specifically collaboration with a deliberate plan to move forward, making it easy and accessible for other people to get involved.

Sue Grey, CEO of United Way of Champaign County, talked about the value of bringing the community together to discuss important challenges. “I feel so blessed to work in a community where people want to dive in and work together to improve the standard of living for everyone. This is the ideal place for an organization like the United Way to thrive.”

The first transformational leadership event brought people together to identify important issues and to form smaller groups to focus on key action items that were selected by the participants. The groups were charged to limit the scope of their activities to something they could accomplish within sixty days. Subsequent sessions continue to provide updates on the actions items from previous gatherings and the next round of actions.
Community and Campus Day of Service and National Volunteer Week

As a land grant institution, the University realizes the importance of instilling a sense of civic duty in our students and graduates. The Community and Campus Day of Service, held on April 5, 2014, demonstrated just one way that the community and campus can collaborate to give back to the local community. The event also provided students and community members the opportunity to develop leadership skills through service.

Illini Fighting Hunger, a student group that organizes food packaging events, led the project with assistance from a large planning committee including representatives from across campus and throughout the community.

The level of support and participation from the community were two of the most exciting aspects of the Community and Campus Day of Service. More than 20 businesses and organizations in Champaign-Urbana contributed funding or in-kind support for the event. Community members not affiliated with the University as a staff member or student comprised more than one-third of the volunteers.

Greg Damhorst, co-founder and president of Illini Fighting Hunger and a student in the University’s Medical Scholars program, said, “We typically do meal packaging sessions and events several times a month, but this is definitely our largest. It requires a lot of organization, but seeing people having so much fun doing community service makes it all worthwhile.”

The meal packaging event kicked off National Volunteer Week from April 6-12, 2014 and represented the week’s largest activity, but a number of other groups also provided volunteer opportunities during the week. Austin’s Day, led by local high school Interact clubs in affiliation with the Rotary Club of Champaign, offered 21 projects with 13 agencies and recruited an additional 200+ volunteers. The College of Fine & Applied Arts sponsored a number of events in needy neighborhoods during weekends throughout April, and 150 local Rotarians planted trees in Gifford, which is still recovering from the aftermath of a strong tornado that destroyed a number of homes and businesses in 2013.

Overall, an estimated 1,420 volunteers contributed 3,360 volunteer hours throughout National Volunteer Week! What a tremendous impact and a wonderful demonstration of the power of partnership and collaboration between the University and the community.
There are countless reasons to buy local foods, and the local food movement is gaining momentum across the country. Locally grown food looks and tastes better, it is better for you, and safer. Buying local food also supports local families and builds communities. The University of Illinois is already a part of the local food system movement and is striving to better promote awareness of local foods. University dining services currently purchases milk, bread, meat and coffee from local producers and suppliers and plans to increase the amount of local food purchased to about 30% in the year 2015. They currently purchase and use 95% of all produce grown at the University’s Sustainable Student Farm (SSF). The SSF also sells fresh produce every Thursday during the summer at the Farm Stand on the Quad. The produce is picked, washed and transported fresh from the farm located on the south end of campus and is available for sale on the Quad behind the Illini Union.

In an effort to expand on the University’s mission to increase awareness of the local food movement, on October 22, 2014, the Office of Public Engagement hosted a Local Food System symposium on campus. The symposium brought together over 60 people from diverse disciplines on campus as well as from the community, who have an interest in local foods and the local economy. The community participants included produce, dairy and grain farmers from Illinois as well as representatives from different organizations ranging from the local school districts, to local farmer’s markets and co-ops, to various farm bureaus.

The focus of the half-day symposium was to identify gaps in the infrastructure, processing, storage, marketing, distribution, and consumption of local foods. The participants considered ways in which the University and the community can work together to make the local food system efficient for the local economy and the symposium served as a basis for initiating discussions through collaboration.

As part of the symposium, select University participants shared information regarding their projects in the area of local foods. Richard Weinzierl (Crop Sciences) presented on the New Illinois Fruit and Vegetable Farmer training program...
while Zachary Grant (Sustainable Student Farm) and David Emmons (Architecture) discussed design and construction of equipment and infrastructure for the Sustainable Student Farm. Other presentations included Todd Rusk (Urban and Regional Planning) on the local foods economic development initiative in Rantoul, a graduate student from Jeremy Guest’s group (Civil and Environmental Engineering) on managing wastewater as a renewable resource on local farms, and Samuel Wortman (Crop Sciences) on the Urban Agriculture Research Lab.

The participants were also divided into pre-selected groups, representing multi-disciplinary groups of people, and tasked with a design process activity in order to identify gaps in the local food system. From the resulting topics, a few were selected for further exploration based on a vote. The issues identified included aggregation of producers to deal with large buyers, food hub (a balance of supply and demand), infrastructure for institutional buyers, availability and affordability for consumers and lobbying, and policy and market making. The participants then engaged in discussions focused on potential areas of change, the barriers that need to be modified, what new systems or processes need to be developed, who will be able to provide the labor and capital to bring the change, and who would champion the change. Approaches to develop ideas to fill these gaps will be addressed in future meetings of interested parties.

Together with the University of Illinois Extension, the Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment (iSEE) and University Housing and Dining Services, the Office of Public Engagement was pleased to bring together so many campus and community leaders who have the common goal of working together towards a more sustainable local food system.

For further information, please visit: http://publish.illinois.edu/local-food-system-symposium

Very thrilled from participating in the workshop/meeting. I think we had great conversations with people from the larger Illinois community.... Very refreshing to me!

Comment from a participant of the Local Food Symposium in 2014.
CAEPE Awards
Public Engagement Awards Honor Faculty, Staff and Students

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 Awards for Excellence in Public Engagement (CAEPE). Recipients during recent years have assisted in activities that benefit the LGBTQ community in Champaign-Urbana. They have also created materials and training for volunteers who advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children. Other recipients of CAEPE awards have engaged students in communities and schools and linked student classroom experiences with community projects. They have also promoted arts, humanities and cultural programming through Krannert Center for Performing Arts, Krannert Museum or the University Library.

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. In the student category, $1,500 cash awards are given to undergraduate, professional, or graduate students to be used for professional development and to support other educational activities.

Typically, one team award is 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: http://go.illinois.edu/CAEPE.

The recipients of the 2014 CAEPE awards were:
- Lynne Dearborn, Department of Architecture (Faculty Award)
- Jesse Miller, Department of Chemistry (Academic Professional Award)
- Joan Crockett, Illinois State Geological Survey (Academic Professional Award)
- Megan Paceley, School of Social Work (Student Award)
- Catherine Corr and Natalie Danner, Department of Special Education (Student Award)
- Illini Mentor Program (Team Award)

Public Engagement Grant Program

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. The Office of Public Engagement was thrilled to provide 28 separate grants during 2014 that totaled over $230,000.

Since 2009, the Public Engagement Grant Program has provided more than $1.2 million in support for 146 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 globe from the Americas to Asia and beyond.

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 supported from the Office of Public Engagement.

For more information visit http://go.illinois.edu/engagement_grant.
CCFD Success!
Campus Charitable Fund Drive: Illinois Employees Donate $1.25 Million to Charity in 2014

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 $1.25 million during the 2014 campaign. Sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor and managed 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 also generously donate.

More than 2,900+ donors contributed donations to twelve charitable agencies (see sidebar), which serve more than 600 different programs. All money raised goes directly to the charities as the University covers all administrative costs for the drive.

More than 250 individuals across campus volunteer as leaders for their 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 2014 Advisory Board Chairperson was Wynn Korr, Dean of the School of Social Work.

The CCFD Advisory Board has begun planning for next year’s campaign, which will run from September 21 through November 13, 2015. For more information, contact the Office of Public Engagement, (CCFD@illinois.edu) or visit ccfd.illinois.edu.

Benefitting Agencies:
- America’s Charities
- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association and American Stroke Association
- Black United Fund
- Community Health Charities of Illinois
- Community Shares of Illinois
- Earth Share Illinois
- Global Impact
- Independent Charities of America
- Special Olympics of Illinois
- United Negro College Fund
- United Way of Champaign County

Chancellor’s Public Engagement Student Fellows Program

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.

The 2014 Chancellor’s Public Engagement Student Fellows Program Award Winners were:
- Ryan Singh (Finance)
- Kamil Matejewski (Molecular and Cellular Biology)
- Asha Kirchhoff (Bioengineering)
- Zonghe Chua (Mechanical Engineering)
- Suma Devanga (Speech and Hearing Science), and Natalie Danner (Special Education).

For more information, visit engagement.illinois.edu/studentfellows.
The Public Engagement Colloquium, sponsored by the Office of Public Engagement, is a series of invited presentations that takes place during the fall and spring semesters. It promotes the sharing of best practices in public engagement among members of the Urbana-Champaign campus community and its external partners. The Colloquium series started in 2013 and has featured nine 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.

For additional information, please visit http://go.illinois.edu/publicengagementcolloquium or contact Bhavna Hirani (bhavna@illinois.edu)

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**Public Engagement Colloquium Brings Together Engaged Faculty and Community Partners**

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**2014 featured the following programs in Public Engagement Colloquia**

- **Campus-Community Synergies: Learning, Research, and Change through Engagement** presented by Lynne Dearborn, Associate professor of Architecture and Urban Planning

- **Center for Education in Small Urban Communities: Cultivating Effective School-University Partnerships** presented by Lisa Monda-Amaya, Director of Research Collaboration for the Center for Education in Small Urban Communities and Professor in the Department of Special Education

- **Learning in Community: Enabling Student Learning through Community-Based Projects Around the World** presented by Bruce Elliott-Litchfield, Director of the Illinois Engineering First-Year Experience; the Creativity, Innovation, and Vision program; and the Learning in Community program

- **Creative Engagement with Mathematics: The Illinois Geometry Lab** presented by Jayadev Athreya, Assistant Professor of Mathematics

- **Illinois Business Consulting: Models for Effective Student Engagement and Learning** presented by Andrew Allen, Director of Illinois Business Consulting

- **Towards a Model for Developing Community-based Collaborative Spaces: The Urbana-Free Library Teen Open Lab** presented by Martin Wolske, Senior Research Scientist and Lecturer for the Graduate School of Library and Information Science
Step into the Public Engagement Symposium and you will find yourself surrounded by wall-to-wall people discussing thrilling public engagement initiatives from all around campus. It takes just a moment to notice the excitement filling the hall as presenters demonstrate their outreach efforts to curious students, staff, faculty, and community members.

Each year, the Office of Public Engagement provides the campus and the community an opportunity to learn about and share information about the scholarly and creative community engagement efforts at the University of Illinois through the Public Engagement Symposium. Community partners are especially encouraged to attend to learn about opportunities to collaborate with campus programs that could benefit their constituents. The focus of the 2014 Symposium was “Shaping Our World” and featured over 50 presenters. Details of these displays can be found at: http://www.conferences.illinois.edu/engagementsymposium/Documents/PES2014FinalProgram.pdf

At the Public Engagement Symposium, community members and campus faculty, staff and students have the opportunity to share knowledge in the areas of environment and sustainability; science, technology and education; youth and family; and community outreach. Many of the displays provide hands-on experiences, such as demonstrations with the Champaign-Urbana Community FabLab, an open source community of people who like to design and make things. Symposium visitors also have the opportunity to learn about programs such as the Learning in Community (LINC) program, which is an inquiry-guided service-learning program that has engaged hundreds of students in diverse projects related to social and environmental issues, engineering and technical problems, education, community health, sustainability, and international development.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) collaborations with schools and the local community are a popular highlight of the Symposium each year, including a program called NetMath which is an online distance learning program that brings academic resources from Illinois to students around the world.

For more information, contact Megan Puzey (mpuzey@illinois.edu) or visit http://www.conferences.illinois.edu/engagementsymposium/.
Public Engagement Portal Connects the Community with University Events and Services

Looking for university sponsored events in your area? The Public Engagement Portal is the most complete source for information about public engagement programs and events offered by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Portal provides comprehensive details and contact information for a variety of university-related programs and events intended for the public, including workshops, seminars, festivals and summer camps.

The Portal is a straightforward tool that allows the user to browse or search programs based on location, keyword, content area, or location. The valuable resource assists faculty, staff, and students in engaging with external audiences and partners to help address the needs of the community.

Search activities for kids, find resources for teachers, and browse through ongoing programs at engage.illinois.edu.

FAST FACTS:

- Average number of publicly available entries over the course of 2014: 1,192
- Entries since 2008: 19,877
- 2014 Portal Visits: 46,703
Summer Camps
Offer Youth Variety, Education, Fun, and Adventure

Each spring, many families begin to consider summer activities for their children. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign provides many educational and fun filled summer camp opportunities for the local community.

The Office of Public Engagement publicizes these summer opportunities through the Public Engagement Portal at http://engage.illinois.edu/SummerCamps.

Sampling of 167 total camps topics:
- Aerospace
- Media
- Architecture
- Music
- Dance
- Philosophy
- Engineering
- Sports
- Fire school
- Theater
- Food, human and environmental sciences

A poster distributed to community organizations and schools is available for download at the link above. For a copy of the poster, please contact the Office of Public Engagement at publicengagement@illinois.edu.

CUVolunteer

Have you ever wanted to volunteer but got frustrated because you weren’t able to get anything scheduled easily and quickly? Well, if you have had that experience, you are not alone. Enter CUVolunteer, a partnership between the University of Illinois and the United Way.

CUVolunteer is a website that provides nonprofit organizations with a vehicle for posting volunteer opportunities and local community members with a resource to learn about what is available when they have time to volunteer. Easy to use and free to organizations and volunteers, CUVolunteer enables users to search opportunities based on a number of criteria so that they can find a project that matches their interests, skills, or availability.

Younger volunteers or parents can identify family- or kid-friendly opportunities so that students can fulfill volunteer requirements for clubs, awards, and other programs. James Barham, owner of the Indigo Art Gallery, serves as one of CUVolunteer’s greatest advocates. He boasts that he thought he was going to have to shut the gallery down because he could not find good volunteers, but all of the sudden he started getting more people coming in to volunteer. “Every one of them said they found me on CUVolunteer – it saved the gallery!” For further information, please visit cuvolunteer.org.
University of Illinois Extension: Transformative Impact, Enduring Commitment

Making a difference for Illinois
University of Illinois Extension is the largest and most sustained outreach and engagement effort of the University of Illinois. With 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 2014, and drew over 65 million page views on Extension websites—more than 175,000 views per day. One in twelve Illinois youth is reached by 4-H, the University’s youth development program, and 25,000 adult volunteers each year give back to their communities through Extension programs. The University and residents statewide marked Extension’s 100th anniversary in 2014, an opportunity to celebrate and reflect upon the campus’s enduring commitment to its land grant mission through Extension.

A proven model of engagement and impact
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 educators work directly with stakeholders to assess local conditions and needs and establish long term program goals; then engage with faculty and specialists on campus to develop educational resources that address community priorities and reflect the latest research. Local, regional, and statewide advisory councils ensure continuous engagement and accountability with the businesses, farmers, families, agencies, and organizations the University serves through Extension.

Research and experience shows that accessibility and trust are critical for successful knowledge transfer. Despite a century of social, economic, and technological change, the individual educator—embedded in, known, and trusted by their community—remains at the heart of Extension’s engagement model. In the past, educators relied upon public meetings, home and farm visits, and field demonstrations. Although these are still important methods, today’s educators also expand their reach through new media, websites, video, teleconferencing, social media, and mobile technology.

Every day throughout Illinois, people hear from University of Illinois Extension experts in newspapers, TV news, and radio. Over 85,000 people follow Extension on Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest, where they can interact with Extension educators on a daily basis. More than 700 instructional videos on YouTube have drawn 2.3 million views (about 2,400 views per day) on topics ranging from growing, cooking, and preserving food to economic development to STEM education. The combination of mobile devices, video, and interactive social media holds particular promise for scaling-up the educator-based model, and Extension is developing tools for increasingly sophisticated, customized, on-demand delivery of information in usable form.

New audiences
Although it originally focused on farmers and rural families, Extension long ago expanded programming in Chicago and in other cities statewide. The University reaches the young and old, rural and urban, and people of every race and ethnicity through Extension. In the past three years, underrepresented youth participation in 4-H clubs grew by 30%. A new initiative within 4-H looks to expand access and inclusion of Hispanic youth and families in 9 underserved counties. More than 80 Extension websites are available in Spanish and other languages, and these sites account for nearly 10% of web traffic—16,000 views per day. Extension contacts and impacts 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 expanded programming in 2014 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 established new partnerships with faculty from Business, Engineering, Computer Science, Fine and Applied Arts, Library Sciences, and others to reach diverse audiences statewide with new programs addressing computer programming, 3D printing, advanced manufacturing, marketplace literacy, pharmaceutical waste, designing for health, and more.

• Extension’s Local Food Systems and Small Farms team expanded to 16 educators, and supported programs such as the Small Farms Webinar Series, local food hub proposals in Peoria and Rantoul, a new urban farming initiative in Chicago, the Grand Prairie Grain Guild, and a nationally-recognized new farmer training program.

• 4-H expanded its Teens-as-Teachers program, a new model for engaging first-time 4-H youth in their teens. Participants design and deliver teaching curriculum for school aged children, and build mastery, public speaking, and leadership skills.

• Extension’s Community and Economic Development Team partnered with U of I Institute for Government and Public Affairs to deliver a webinar series targeting local elected officials and staff, addressing state finances and fiscal policy, land use planning, zoning, and climate adaptation planning for local governments.

• Extension STEM initiative in Cook County includes a team of highly trained specialists developing and delivering cutting edge math and science curriculum utilizing U of I faculty and research, to Chicago Public School teachers.

Committed to Public Service

The University of Illinois’s land grant mission ensures that public investment in research and teaching offers tangible benefits to residents, businesses, and communities throughout the state. University of Illinois Extension educators and staff are proud to help demonstrate the University’s commitment to public service.

For more information about University of Illinois Extension, visit your local Extension office or visit extension.illinois.edu.
Mark Your Calendar

Campus Awards for Excellence in Public Engagement
Announcement .....................October 30, 2015
Nominations Due ..................December 5, 2015

Campus Charitable Fund Drive ........ Sept 21 – Nov 13, 2015

Public Engagement Grant Program
RFP Available ......................August 24, 2015
Submission Deadline .............September 25, 2015
Award Notifications ...............November 20, 2015

Public Engagement Student Fellows
Announcement .....................January 25, 2016
Applications Due ..................February 26, 2016
Winners Announced ...............March 15, 2016

Stay in Touch with Public Engagement Website
http://engagement.illinois.edu/