



## Business Leadership Network

### Network News and Notes

June 2017

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*At the University of Iowa College of Public Health, we understand that our work is very place based; it happens out in the "real world" where people live and work. We also recognize the mutual benefits that might come about through collaborative relationships with communities and businesses around the state. We invite you to keep in touch with us through these quarterly messages and through our initiatives around the state.*

- Edith Parker, Professor and Head, Department of Community and Behavioral Health



### The Economic Health of Business

A REGIONAL SUMMIT

#### BLN Regional Summit

This spring, the Business Leadership Network held a regional summit in Ottumwa. The summit focused on developing low cost strategies for workplace health and safety that can be used by employers and community organizations.

A [summary report](#) of this event details key issues facing workplaces in the Ottumwa area and surrounding region and includes the discussions and action steps generated during the summit to tackle these issues.

#### BLN Community Grant Spotlight

##### United Way of Wapello County, Ottumwa

The *Crock Pot Cooking Classes* project seeks to combat diabetes and obesity by making healthy eating easier for families living in poverty. Free cooking classes, a free crockpot, and healthy recipes, which utilize food items families receive from local food pantries and community gardens, are offered.

Participants report they are using their crockpots regularly and many have attended the classes repeatedly to learn new cooking techniques and obtain new recipes. New classes have been offered to involve participants' children in developing recipes and making meals.



### **Rathbun Lake Area YMCA, Centerville**

The *NuStep Quality of Life Fitness Equipment* project aims to keep seniors who have completed physical therapy healthy through use of fitness equipment designed specifically to provide safe low-impact workouts in order to continue their employment, live independently and be engaged in their community.

A community fundraiser was held to raise the remaining funds needed and the YMCA has purchased the NuStep exercise bike. Seniors, who would not otherwise have access to this unique and costly equipment, have started using the bike to continue their rehabilitation.



## **Undergraduate Degree program in Public Health**

Learn more through this [video](#) about the new UI College of Public Health undergraduate degree program from a first year student. The public health undergraduate degree is expected to help meet Iowa's need and respond to an expected shortage for trained public health professionals who can directly support citizens' health.



## **The UI College of Public Health in the News**

### **Survey finds workplaces aren't well-prepared for violence**

A survey from the University of Iowa shows that many companies have significant gaps in how they prepare for the potential for workplace violence, even though more businesses are taking the possibility for such a threat seriously.

### **Study shows that tele-emergency services save patients money**

Patients in small towns can save thousands of dollars in health care costs if their local rural hospital is part of a tele-emergency room network, according to a new study from the University of Iowa College of Public Health.

### **How Iowa is impacting the safety of bicyclists**

Research from Cara Hamann, associate in the UI College of Public Health, and the university's National Advanced Driving Simulator help make America's roads safer for bicyclists. Hamann is using her research to inform lawmakers who create policy.

### **Panel talks about treating violence as a public health problem**

A conversation about programs underway in Iowa that are combating violence, using some of what's been done in Baltimore as an example. Iowa Public Radio host Ben Kieffer talks with Dr. Leana Wen, health commissioner for the city of Baltimore; Carlettea Knox Seymour, president of Iowans for Gun Safety; Corinne Peek-Asa, director of the UI Injury Prevention Research Center; and Binnie LeHew, coordinator for Injury and Violence Prevention at the Iowa Department of Public Health.

### **UI College of Public Health, Cornell College create new dual degree**

The University of Iowa and Cornell College are teaming up to give students more opportunities with a new dual-degree program in public health. Cornell students can earn a bachelor's degree from Cornell and a master's degree from the UI College of Public Health in just five years, instead of the typical six years.

### **Janssen comments on tractor crashes**

A story about tractor-motor vehicle crashes in Iowa mentions several UI studies, including one that will mount cameras on tractors to record and observe drivers' behaviors as they approach from behind. "Rural roads are actually getting busier, as there's more agri-tourism and as suburban development pushes its way" into farm country, said Brandi Janssen, director of Iowa's Center for Agricultural Safety and Health.

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**College of  
Public Health**

