



Business Leadership Network

Network News and Notes

January 2018



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

BLN Fall Community Events



Conversation Café: Clarinda, IA

Paul Gilbert, with the Department of Community and Behavioral Health, spoke about his research studying lowans who have overcome alcohol addiction without formal treatment. Gilbert's research attempts to find out why people choose to forego treatment, the strategies they use to change alcohol use, and how their experiences might help others with an alcohol problem.

[View a summary of the conversation.](#)



Community Forum: Oelwein, IA

The forum in Oelwein focused on building a healthy and productive workforce. Discussions included helping employees to become more active through incentives and encouragement, developing soft skills such as conflict management and cooperation, and giving employees tools they need to understand mental health issues that can arise in the workplace.

[View a summary report of the forum.](#)

BLN Community Grant Awards



The UI College of Public Health Business Leadership Network awarded six grants through the Community Grants Project. The following organizations received cash grant awards of \$3,000:

- Cass County Memorial Hospital - Atlantic
- Fayette County Substance Abuse Coalition - Fayette
- Lee County Health Department - Fort Madison
- Living Proof Exhibit – Davenport and Muscatine
- Muscatine Center for Social Action - Muscatine
- Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging - Bellevue, Cedar Falls, Marshalltown, and Waukon

Read more about the grant recipients and the [Community Grants Project.](#)

Smoking and Smaller Workplaces



Christine Kava recently completed her PhD in Community and Behavioral Health at the UI College of Public Health. Her dissertation examined smoking behaviors and outcomes at smaller workplaces in Iowa. As part of this research, she interviewed 32 Business Leadership Network members about the smoking policies and programs at their workplace. The findings from this study show that:

- The smallest workplaces (less than 20 employees) offer less protection against smoking.
- Workplace characteristics, such as how supportive workplaces are of healthy behaviors, can affect employee smoking.

A summary of Christine's research, including key findings, can be [accessed here](#).

The UI College of Public Health in the News

UI report provides recommendations for prescription opioid, heroin epidemic in Iowa

A new report from the University of Iowa includes several policy and program recommendations to address the state's opioid crisis after a review process involving dozens of stakeholders from across the state.

UI working with Michael J. Fox Foundation on potentially game-changing Parkinson's study

The UI College of Public Health's Clinical Trials Statistical Data Management Center will collect and analyze data for a follow-up study testing whether a drug approved to treat cancer can be repurposed for Parkinson's patients, potentially slowing the disease's progression or even reversing its effects.

Enhancing Iowa's flexibility to reform health insurance markets

Brad Wright, CPH assistant professor of health management and policy, recently co-authored an opinion piece stating that now is the time for Iowa to craft a new state innovation waiver for the individual insurance market and ease the concerns that derailed the stopgap measure last fall.

Researchers examine role of paid family leave in reducing nursing home use

A new study from the University of Iowa and Syracuse University suggests that a more inclusive paid family leave policy could be effective in reducing nursing home use among older adults.

Study shows firework injuries more than doubled after new law in effect

A review by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) Department of Emergency Medicine, UI Injury Prevention Research Center and the UIHC Department of Surgery, shows a big increase in the number and severity of injuries from fireworks during the first legal period for their purchase this past June and July.

UI to study HPV vaccine disparities in rural areas

UI investigators are beginning a yearlong study to better understand why HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine coverage in rural areas of the state lags behind other adolescent immunizations. "This vaccine is nearly 100 percent effective at preventing cancer, so we want to make sure that all adolescents in Iowa have the opportunity to benefit from this vaccine when they are getting their other adolescent vaccines," says Natoshia Askelson, CPH assistant professor of community and behavioral health.

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