



Business Leadership Network

Network News and Notes

July 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, Dean

BLN Community Forums

This past May, the Business Leadership Network held two community forums:



Community Forum - Oelwein, IA

The forum in Oelwein focused on ways that businesses and community organizations can improve workplace safety by identifying hazards and develop action plans in case of workplace violence. View a [summary report of the Oelwein forum](#).



Community Forum - Sioux City, IA

The forum in Sioux City focused on worker wellness and safety, improving soft skills and worker readiness, and behavioral health. View a [summary report of the Sioux City forum](#).

BLN Steering Committee Meeting



Business Leadership Network Steering Committee members traveled to Iowa City last month. Members met with the UI College of Public Health dean, faculty, and staff to discuss plans for the BLN in the year ahead.

Pictured, back row: A. Eric Neu (Carroll), Edith Parker (CPH Dean), Greg Fenton (Centerville), Gerald Edgar (Garner), Tony Cannon (Oelwein). Front row: Diane Rohlman (Iowa City), Claudia Gates (Ottumwa), Rich Paulsen (Creston), Tara McKee (BLN Coordinator).

Not pictured: Jill Baze (Centerville), Tom Douglas (Mason City), Maureen Elbert (Algona), Mona Everson (Webster City), Don Woodruff (Fort Dodge).

BLN Community Grants: Upcoming Funding Opportunity



The call for proposals for the next round of funding for the Business Leadership Network Community Grant Program will go out this fall. Cash grant awards of up to \$3,000 will be made to recipients. To see examples of previously funded grant projects visit: www.public-health.uiowa.edu/bln-community-grant-project.

The UI College of Public Health in the News

Grants help Iowa's small cities revitalize their downtowns

Job losses and online competition have hit rural regional malls and retailers hard. But Ottumwa and other small Iowa cities are using state and federal grants to revitalize their downtowns. A grant partially funded by the college's Business Leadership Network helped spur a new bagel shop and public art in Ottumwa.

Video focuses on preventing workplace violence

Carri Casteel and Corinne Peek-Asa from the UI Injury Prevention Research Center talk about risk factors for and prevention of workplace violence in a new video from Healthier Workforce Center of the Midwest.

UI students, faculty make a difference in Mason City

The Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities is working with Mason City on roughly 20 projects throughout the community to make positive changes. Several UI groups are focused exclusively on the North End to improve the quality of life and the reputation of the neighborhood. As part of their work, a group of four public health graduate students explored stigma theory, which suggests that stigma can lead to negative health outcomes.

Risk of preterm birth reliably predicted by new test

A team of scientists, led by Kelli Ryckman, CPH associate professor of epidemiology, have developed a new blood test to predict a woman's risk of preterm birth when she is between 15 and 20 weeks pregnant, which may enable doctors to treat them early and thereby prevent severe complications later in the pregnancy.

CPH student uses tractor simulation study to make roads safer for farmers

Kayla Faust, a doctoral student in the College of Public Health, is conducting a study that uses a tractor simulation to help reduce the number of tractor-related fatalities. "Our goal of this study is to design realistic simulators so that we can prevent some of those crashes in the future and make rural roads safer," Faust said.

Questions or comments? Contact:

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