

## Summer 2024 Our News

*Focusing the creative expertise of the University of Iowa on Iowa communities to produce significant impacts.*



### Celebrating a Year of Work with Bondurant

Fast-growing Iowa community provides unique learning opportunities

A new **StoryMap** highlights the work completed in the past year as part of the Bondurant-IISC partnership. Among the state's fastest growing communities, Bondurant identified infrastructure and quality of life amenities, such as recreation, as high on their list of priorities.

UI faculty with expertise in community law, urban planning, and civil engineering, to name a few of the areas involved, provided oversight and



### Second Dubuque Partnership Culminates in Multiple Successes

Sustainability leader offers exciting challenges

More than a decade after IISC first partnered with the City of Dubuque, we returned to complete 16 projects that included more than 100 UI students and faculty. Many of the needs identified by the city were related to its goal to cut carbon emissions by 50% by 2030.

A new **StoryMap** shares highlights of the student-led projects, including action plans for alternative transportation and affordable housing.

guidance of nearly 100 UI students. Via UI classes, students completed a new Parks, Trails, and Greenways Master Plan; legislative policy recommendations for redevelopment of an idle grain silo complex; and plans for a new public works facility.

At a closing celebration in May, city administrator Marketa Oliver said that many of the plans received from IISC matched or exceeded work from professional firms. She promised the work would be put to good and immediate use.

[VIEW BONDURANT STORYMAP](#)

Gina Bell, Director of Sustainable Dubuque, noted that Dubuque's City Council is using ideas and data from IISC's work to inform goal setting during summer work sessions. "I'm excited to think about the body of work we have inherited and how Dubuque can put it to continued development and good use," says Bell. "This partnership helped me better understand many things about my community as well as inspire me to continue the work IISC has started."

[VIEW DUBUQUE STORYMAP](#)



### "Community" Is Central to IISC Team's Values

Our year of service & volunteering

We, the staff of IISC--Travis Kraus, director, and Jennifer New, public engagement specialist--are passionate about community in its many forms and at various levels. Travis serves on multiple boards as part of his commitment to the communities of planning and public engagement. Both of us are active in local nonprofits. This work in the community informs IISC projects and partnerships and, we hope, makes them better because of our involvement.

"We both thrive on and in community," Jennifer says. "Combined, we have a lot of experience serving on boards and as active volunteers. All of this shows up in the work we do with IISC."



### Announcing 2024-2025 Partners

IISC heads to West Burlington/Burlington and Pathfinders RC&D

This coming academic year, IISC will work with two community partners, completing a minimum of 10 projects with each. West Burlington and Burlington combined forced on their application; they are focused on infrastructure and engineering needs. Our work with them will include an Arts, Culture, and Wayfinding plan and a park redevelopment plan.

Pathfinders RC&D works across 15 counties in southeast Iowa, including Ottumwa, Oskaloosa, and Fairfield, among others. Many of their project ideas involved the role of youth (ages 14-25) in economic development and community building. One project will be the creation of a single

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application for area social services.

IISC is currently in conversation with both partners to finetune their project ideas. We'll share more formal and detailed announcements about these collaborations in the fall.

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