

## Fall 2023 Our News

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



IISC is the University of Iowa's premier program for providing experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students from colleges across our campus. During 2023-24, we are working with the cities of Dubuque and Bondurant to provide 15 projects in each community. Learn about the kickoff events we held and the students whose work we'll follow throughout this year!



### Bondurant's Fast Growth Is Focus of IISC Projects

"We have a big need with regard to infrastructure," the mayor of Bondurant told a group of 20 UI students and faculty who traveled to the central Iowa community for the kickoff of a yearlong IISC partnership.



### Dubuque Inspires with Sustainability Goals

When IISC visited Dubuque in early September, the day was filled with surprises. The group of 21 students and faculty were welcomed by Mayor Brad Cavanagh, a former therapist and UI alum

In a welcoming presentation, Mayor Doug Elrod (pictured above) shared how quickly the city has grown--from 3,860 in 2010 to more than 9,000 today.

The UI group toured multiple new housing and commercial developments, including a large Amazon fulfillment center that employs more than 2,300 people. The tension between rapid growth and maintaining a small-town flavor is the focus of multiple IISC projects this year.

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who arrived by bicycle (and no, not an e-bike, which is saying something in this city of hills). They took a city tour that included visiting the Port of Dubuque where a WWII era ship was anchored and then saw the world's shortest and steepest railroad. At **Convivium**, a nonprofit restaurant and collection of neighborhood gardens, they were treated to lunch and a talk by the organization's co-founder Leslie Shalabi.

"Dubuque is an inspiring place," says IISC director Travis Kraus. "I know we'll be able to help the city move some of its goals forward while also learning from their innovative team."

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## IISC Helped Launch Muralist's Career

5 questions for Ali Hval

As a graduate student, Ali Hval (MFA, '19) began painting murals for some of IISC's partners, including Clinton and Mason City. Today, she works as a public muralist with contracts across the country. Hval told us there's nothing that compares to painting in a small town: "People stop to chat and bring you cold drinks and snacks. In Webster City, the mayor had a dinner party for me, and personally installed the panels with a lift. If I'm painting in a big city, these things don't happen—you just show up and do your job"

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## Manchester Park Celebrates River Location

Engineering students lay groundwork

This summer, Manchester reopened a park on the Maquoketa River that was redesigned based on plans made by four Civil and Environmental Engineering students. Shelly Park is an example of how the city has embraced its location and become a hub for water enthusiasts. The students' project included ADA compliant pedestrian access in and around the park, replacement of crumbling retaining walls, and stabilization of steep slopes.

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