

## Late Winter 2024 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.**

**This year, we are partnering with Dubuque and Bondurant to bring hundreds of UI students to address issues in these two unique Iowa communities.**



### Grad Students Create Affordable Housing Action Plan

Affordable housing is one of the most pressing problems facing U.S. communities. According to a 2021 Federal Reserve Economic Data survey, nearly half of Americans (49%) noted housing as a major problem in their community, underscoring a



### Follow a Yearlong IISC Partnership

We are thrilled to share a **new ArcGIS StoryMap** showcasing the process and accomplishments from our recent yearlong partnership with the City of Manchester. If you are a potential community partner, curious faculty member, or UI administrator,

nationwide lack of affordable and safe housing options. To help identify meaningful strategies in their community, the City of Dubuque asked IISC and its students to create an affordable housing action plan as part of our yearlong partnership.

While the city has produced multiple recent reports regarding housing, it does not have an action plan focused solely on affordable housing. A team of four graduate students—Hannah Lyons, Ethan Wherry, Gabin Kundwa, and Kaylynn Sieverding—began collaborating with city officials and community stakeholders last fall to create a comprehensive document they hope will provide Dubuque with direct actions to implement over the next five years. They will present their work at the IISC-Dubuque Closing Event on May 2.

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we invite you to spend some time with this site which provides a sense of the impact UI students and faculty can make on an Iowa community.

In 2020-21, IISC completed 14 projects for Manchester, which involved seven UI departments. Projects ranged from a watershed management plan to school district marketing. The StoryMap highlights the many positive outcomes from the partnership, including the installation of a sculpture and external funding Manchester obtained to realize projects initiated by IISC students.

As Manchester's City Manager Tim Vick says, "We have done so many of the projects the IISC team helped us develop. The City of Manchester has truly benefited from this partnership."

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### Five Questions for Lorin Ditzler

Associate Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful champions Iowa's small towns

We spoke to Lorin Ditzler (MS URP, 2011) about her current work as with Keep Iowa Beautiful and Group Creative Services, a Des Moines-based public art consulting firm. As a volunteer, intern, and in entry-level jobs, Ditzler worked in multiple small towns around the state and gained an appreciation for the learning experiences they afford.

"I really appreciate how proactive people



### Celebrate a Year of Collaboration in Bondurant and Dubuque

Closing events on April 26 and May 2

This spring, we hope you'll join us as IISC students present their projects to city officials and community members in Bondurant and Dubuque. In addition to sharing their work, we'll present awards, hear from city leaders, and celebrate the relationships that have been built during our year of collaboration.

**Bondurant Final Event:** Friday, April 26, 10 am to 12:30 pm. Presentations at City Hall; celebration at Reclaimed Rails.

can be in these towns." she says. "As someone starting in their career, these are great places to learn because you're usually able to do a little of a lot of different things; it's not as siloed as in a larger city workspace. You can also often see results more quickly."

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**Dubuque Final Event:** Thursday, May 2, 3:00-5:30 pm. Presentations at The Jule; celebration at Wayfarer Coffee.

**Invitations and registration available in April. All are welcome!**

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