



August 2021

IowaRISE Pilot Grant Final Report May 2020 - June 2021

The Path Forward Engagement Work Group's IowaRISE Initiative received pilot grant funding supported by the Path Forward program. Funding was received in May, 2020 and work continued through Academic Year (AY) 2021. The first year of funding was intended to develop the initial foundation for the IowaRISE Initiative (Research, Internship, Service learning, and civic Engagement), a campus-wide support program for increasing experiential research and educational opportunities for UI students. IowaRISE Initiative activities will continue in AY 2022 having received P3 Year 0 funds as part of a competitive process internal to the University. Since this P3 support will allow us to continue building the IowaRISE Initiative for the next year, we have included goals for the coming year as part of this report.

IowaRISE Goals

The goals of the IowaRISE Initiative are:

- Provide high impact learning experiences for students to improve career/life discernment
- Improve student pipeline, especially retention, of all students: from honor students to underrepresented students, first generation students and student veterans
- Contribute to making the UI a “Destination University”
- Improve recruitment and retention of high quality faculty and staff by creating more opportunities to work closely with students and community partners on research and education related to their professional interests
- Increase mentoring opportunities with UI Alumni, especially mid-career alums still professionally active
- Improve UI's value to Iowa by engaging more effectively statewide and retaining more graduates in-state
- Increase AAU rankings by providing opportunities for adding “broader impacts” to NSF grants

IowaRISE Activity Summary for Use of Pilot Funds May 2020 to June 2021

Overall, the IowaRISE Initiative development and implementation is on track to produce the expected outcomes as proposed in the pilot grant application.

1. PhD level staff member successfully hired to assist with IowaRISE development.
2. 70+ Faculty, staff, and students involved in Engagement Work Group and subcommittees.
3. 26 students participated in the inaugural Summer Policy Research Institute (Summer 2020).
4. 450 students participated in Life Design class (Fall 2020 and Spring 2021) and 60 students participated in Explore Iowa class (Fall 2020) - redesigned as potential ways to introduce students to IowaRISE.
5. 7 students research teams were operational for 55 students during AY 2021.
6. Prototype learning module completed; these modules will allow students to asynchronously earn a badge (a micro-credential) to support students and faculty/staff with RISE-related activities.
7. Undergraduate mentoring pilot tested during Spring 2021 with 13 criminology majors and 10 political science majors to determine feasibility of a broader team-based mentoring approach that could involve mid-career alumni.
8. Initiated planning phase for campus-wide graduate course on engaged ethics and practice; established a subcommittee on graduate mentoring and internship.

IowaRISE Initiative - P3 UI Strategic Plan

Co-chairs:

Pete Damiano

Director and Distinguished Research Fellow, Public Policy Center
Bernstein Professor, College of Dentistry
peter-damiano@uiowa.edu

Kajsa E. Dalrymple

Associate Professor, School of Journalism & Mass Communication
Director, Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab
Director, Media, Policy, and Public Opinion Program, Public Policy Center
kajsa-dalrymple@uiowa.edu

IowaRISE Progress Details and Goals for AY2022

The IowaRISE pilot proposal has been successful across all of the objectives in the original pilot proposal in the following manner:

1. **IowaRISE Support Staff Hired – Infrastructure Development**

The Public Policy Center (PPC) hired an Education Support Services Manager in June 2020 to help staff the IowaRISE development. Christopher Kromphardt, PhD, is a political scientist with extensive teaching and research experience, who's primary role is to help develop the infrastructure that will support all four aspects of RISE activities. Since being hired, Chris developed the content and taught the inaugural Summer Policy Research Institute for 26 undergraduate and professional students, preparing them for participation on research teams; built the first IowaRISE learning module and the associated badging system; played a significant support role in developing the Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab; and co-lead a team of students exploring health policy research topics. During the upcoming YO of the P3 award period (FY 2022), we will continue building this key program infrastructure with these goals: hire a Graduate Assistant to assist primarily in learning module building across all IowaRISE areas (summer 2021); design, create and deploy the IowaRISE website by Summer 2022.

2. **Advisory Committees Actively Guiding Development**

Over 70 faculty, staff and students have participated in guiding the development and implementation of the IowaRISE activities. These include the Path Forward Engagement Work Group, and the IowaRISE research, internship/mentoring and service learning/civic engagement subcommittees. Collaboration with central offices such as ITS, Division of Student Life, and Office of Distance Education has been key to our initial and ongoing successes (see addendum).

3. **The Summer Policy Research Institute (SPRI)** was started in Summer 2020. The purpose of SPRI is to provide more students with high-impact, meaningful experiences outside the classroom while developing a model for exposing students to academic research through a mentored, team-based experience. 26 undergraduate and graduate students participated in the inaugural SPRI, which was held over eight weeks from June to August. Programming consisted of guided discussion sessions on essential topics for social science research methods, including content on quantitative methods, qualitative methods, research ethics, and communicating research. Participants also presented their ongoing research to their peers, who provided an attentive audience and gave valuable feedback. A number of additional sessions were held to give students greater insight into data analysis and for them to hear compelling stories from members of the University of Iowa community about their personal journeys as researchers. In addition to participating in the programming, eight students completed policy briefs with the guidance of their faculty mentors, which were published on the Public Policy Center's web site to be made available to the public. SPRI 2021, began June 21, 2021, and has enrolled 35 graduate and undergraduate students in the 6-week course. To help facilitate the higher numbers and provide more student experiences, we have engaged 2 peer mentors (students from last year's SPRI) and a post-doc scholar to help facilitate additional sharing sessions and work with those who wish to produce policy briefs.

4. **Classes that could be precursors to IowaRISE:** The PPC, in partnership with University College and other campus units, redesigned several classes that could act, in part, as a way to direct students earlier in their careers at the UI to the resources available through the IowaRISE Initiative. Additionally, these courses introduce the concepts of community engagement, experiential learning, reflection, and mentoring. Two specific classes, Life Design and Explore Iowa, were redesigned during the past year as potential pathways to IowaRISE in the future:

- a. **Life Design** (450 students, 18 peer mentor, and 2400 alumni participated in AY 2021): Through stories, lectures, assigned readings, guest speakers, and reflective writing, Life Design is organized to help students discover what they are innately drawn to do. Topics include the integration of one's worldview and professional life, practical skills and exercises for investigating different career paths, cultivating mentors, the relationship between ambition, drive, and success, and the role of happiness in achieving excellence and fulfillment. Additionally, the instructor worked closely with the Office of Academic Support and Retention to reserve class seats specifically for First Generation students in the GEAR UP program. The goal was to try and ensure a diverse enrollment and engage GEAR UP students early, while encouraging their ongoing participation in IowaRISE and other experiential activities. This is an 8-week course offered twice each semester. An additional 300 alumni were involved in a version of this class with the University of Iowa Center for Advancement in Spring 2021. In AY 2022, we expect similar Life Design enrollment numbers; we will also be designing "Life Design 2" – a course that builds on lessons from the first course, but focusses on specific skill-building, such as working collaboratively, finding projects to create change in students' interest areas, etc. Pilot launch is planned for Spring 2022.
- b. **Explore Iowa** (60 students in fall 2020): (<https://www.exploreiowa.org/>) Explore Iowa is designed to introduce first semester students to explore the University of Iowa, the community and beyond. Students attend concerts, plays, museum showings, food festivals, and sporting events, among other events, and reflect on these experiences both in class and in written reflections. A lecture series accompanies the class, exposing students to experts in a variety of fields including: the FBI, astronomy, national politics, and University organizations. Small discussion sections are led by Peer Mentors - undergraduate students who have been through the Explore Iowa experience already. Enrollment in Fall 2021 is expected to be 168, with 16 peer mentors.

5. **Student Research Teams:** Since Summer 2020, we have developed and/or supported **6 faculty-led research teams**, engaging 34 undergraduate and graduate students in research. Areas of study include Health Policy, Sociology and Criminology, Political Science, Journalism, and Social Science Informatics. Teams receive up to \$3,000 per academic year to support student research-related expenses. Our goal for FY2022 is to help facilitate an additional 6 teams that engage 24 more students.

Two additional research teams that we specifically mentioned in the proposal included:

- a. **The Iowa Policy and Opinion Lab (IPOL)** was developed during the Spring/Summer of 2020 and supports 20+ undergraduates on an on-going basis with older, experienced students, along with a graduate student, working as mentors to new recruits each semester. IPOL studies policy and representation in Iowa. Participants are collecting and analyzing data on state government policy activity, including legislation, regulation, and executive orders. Specific topic areas include: race and crime, health and COVID-19, the environment, and social and women's issues.
- b. **The Civics Education in Iowa project** is a faculty-led research project exploring Basic Educational Data Survey from the Iowa Department of Education and developing surveys to look at how well K-12 schools have implemented the curricular social studies standards and offer insights about school opportunities for students to be more engaged. The project has engaged a committee of stakeholders across the state (Department of Education, UNI, Iowa State, Regent members, policy-makers, others), which will reconvene in Fall 2021 to determine next steps. This effort is being led by Cassie Barnhardt, associate professor in Education, and two students.

Student Research Team Support Grants: To further encourage student research team development, 9 Summer Research Policy Grants have been awarded for summer 2021, as a value-added effort by the PPC, to support and encourage faculty to engage undergraduate student(s) in their research. Investigators will receive between \$2,500 to \$4,000 to fund student-related research activities on their team. 15 undergraduates will participate on these research projects in Summer/Fall 2021. The PPC is coordinating this program, in collaboration with ICRU and the OVPR.

6. **Module/Badging development:** A foundational effort for establishing a sustainable IowaRISE Initiative is the development of an asynchronous process to introduce and prepare students to participate in RISE activities. By completing an asynchronous module of curated videos and readings, and a competency assessment, students will earn "digital badges" that indicate an introductory level of proficiency in a topic area. This preparatory work could be particularly helpful for students who might be less comfortable participating on a research team or being involved in other experiential opportunities.

During this past year, we have developed the first prototype module—we used the topic area of "Introduction to Survey Research" for this first module. This prototype consists of originally recorded and curated content and utilizes formative and summative assessments to evaluate students' learning. The prototype is a working online module that is currently being vetted with students and others involved in IowaRISE. Eventually students will earn a digital badge, including metadata that verifies the rigor of the module. These badges can then be displayed in various locations such as an in-development co-curricular transcript and social media. The prototype is serving as a template for designing additional online modules, including those related to DEI, service learning, and social science research methods. The goal for FY2022 is to develop, test, and deploy at least 8 additional learning modules (2 in social science research and 5-6 in community engagement, as noted below in item 7).

These modules are being designed to operate in ICON/Canvas for use by UI students, and can be ported to UI Learn for use by the community. The courses' pedagogical and design principles have been crafted in collaboration with a Lead Instructional Designer from Distance and Online Education and after an intensive review of scholarly and trade publications on the topics of online education, instructional design, and digital badging. We are also working with staff at the UI Digital Studio regarding the development of a public-facing web site, which will explain IowaRISE and provide navigation to the online courses.

Another "value added" during the past year is that the attempt to align the development of "Hawkeye Engage" with the IowaRISE development. The goals of Hawkeye Engage, to develop a co-curricular transcript and other asynchronous supports to assist with student experiences and reflection while at the UI, fits perfectly with IowaRISE and the potential value of digital badges earned by students.

7. **Service Learning and Community Engagement:** During FY2021, the service learning sub-committee co-chairs identified members and began the development of online learning modules that will support faculty who are teaching service learning courses by introducing students to tenets of community engagement, including equity and power hierarchies, collaboration, communication, project development, and more. The team started developing its first module, "Community Engagement 101," at the end of this funding year and will test and deploy it in Summer/Fall, 2021. The group is planning to develop 5-6 learning modules in AY2022.
8. **Undergraduate mentoring pilot program:** The internship component of IowaRISE is dependent on having a strong foundation in mentoring, to prepare students for an off-campus experiential opportunity. The following are on-going efforts to increase mentoring opportunities (peer-to-peer, faculty-to-student, student-to-alumni, and student-to-community leader) by developing scalable models appropriate to both the Pomerantz Career Center and Departmental interests. Connecting with UI Alumni is also a priority of these efforts.
 - a. A Mentoring Pilot Course for criminology majors has been developed and led by John Zielke, a Sociology and Criminology adjunct faculty member, who recently retired as head of the Federal Probation system in Northern District of Iowa. The goals of the course are to assist students in their career search through self-exploration, career research, readings, guest speakers, and discussion; and to better prepare students for the Criminology Capstone and/or Internship Program. The course includes the creation of an individual development plan for each student,

and meetings with the instructor to discuss aspects of Criminology from a practical perspective, all designed to help students identify their interests and potential career path. The Spring 2021 enrollment was 13 students. John Zielke will increase enrollment to 50 students in AY2022.

- b. A second mentoring class was offered in spring semester 2021 with a Political Science alumnus, following a similar format as the Criminology mentoring pilot. This course will continue in AY2022.
 - c. A Graduate Assistant will be hired in July, 2021, to help identify, foster, and coordinate mentoring opportunities between alumni and students and to create preparation materials for participants entering mentoring relationships.
 - d. A Mentoring Subcommittee that includes members from across campus including the Pomerantz Career Center, University of Iowa Center for Advancement, the Office of the VP for Student Life, and Departmental representatives, is exploring more ways to expand mentoring options and guide the pilot efforts. The group has held regular meeting since Fall 2020 and is currently considering:
 - i. Ongoing efforts to introduce new software and/or additional software that uses mentoring tools to help connect students to faculty, peers, alumni, and community members (Salesforce, People Grove, or other vendors).
 - ii. A centralized, clearing house-type website for students across campus to access mentoring information, tools, opportunities, etc.
9. **Graduate mentoring and internship development:**
- a. Initiated planning phase for campus-wide grad course on engaged ethics and practice.
 - b. Provided pedagogy and practice training in June, 2021 for 15 faculty members participating in graduate student experiential learning/mentoring.
 - c. A subcommittee is being establishing to guide future activities related to graduate mentoring and internship.
10. **Evaluating IowaRISE.** In FY2022 we will develop a robust evaluation plan for IowaRISE activities. The evaluation team will be led by IowaRISE co-chair, Kajsa Dalrymple, PhD, associate professor of Journalism and Mass Communications, and will include team members from the Iowa Social Science Research Center, the PPC, the Office of the Provost, and the co-chairs of each of the IowaRISE sub-committees, among others.

IowaRISE Sub-Committees

Research

Co-chair, Fred Boehmke, Political Science
Co-chair, Bob Kirby, Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates
Michael Fallon, Earth & Environmental Sciences
Karen Heimer, Sociology & Criminology
Scot Reisinger, College of Public Health
Louise Seamster, Sociology & Criminology
Silvia Secchi, Geographical & Sustainability Sciences
Sophie Switzer, Career Preparation and Engaged Learning (CPH)

Internships & Mentoring

Co-chair, Brian Lai, Political Science
Co-chair, Jennifer Noyce, Experiential Education
Lori Adams, Biology
Lynn Baker, Center for Advancement
Chris Kromphardt, Public Policy Center
Cornelia Lang, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education
Dana Larson, Center for Advancement
Angi McKie, Career Center
Michael Noel, ITS
Angie Reams, Dean of Students
Teri Schnelle, Projects & Partnerships (GC)
Lynne Seville-White, Career Center
Shaun Vecera, Psychological & Brain Sciences
John Zielke, Sociology & Criminology

Service Learning & Civic Engagement

Co-chair, Nick Benson, Office of Community Engagement
Co-chair, Rachel Young, Journalism and Mass Communication
Lori Adams, Biology
Thomas Arce, Multicultural & International Programs
Loyce Arthur, Theater Arts
Cassie Barnhardt, Higher Education & Student Affairs
Ken Brown, College of Business
Shelly Campo, Graduate College
Jamarco Clark, Leadership & Engagement, SLIF
Chuck Connerly, School of Planning & Public Affairs
Dellyssa Edinboro, Graduate Fellow (COE)
Christine Getz, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Dave Gould, Public Policy Center
Paul Hanley, Civil & Environmental Engineering
Heidi Lung, Anthropology
Noel Mills, Graduate Teaching Assistant
Jocelyn Roof, Undergraduate Student
Carrie Schuettpelz, Rhetoric
Joyce Tsai, Museum of Art
Ian Van Anden, Leadership & Service Programs

Graduate Student Experience

Co-chair, Dave Cwiertny, Civil & Environmental Engineering
Co-chair, Teresa Mangum, Obermann Center

IowaRISE Advisory Committee

Saba Ali, College of Education
Andrew Beckett, University College
David Bennett, Geographical & Sustainability Sciences
Nick Benson, Office of Community Engagement
Fred Boehmke, Political Science
Chelsea Burk, IVETS
Jamarco Clark, Leadership & Engagement, SLIF
Kent Clark, Center for Advancement
John Culshaw, University Libraries
Dave Cwiertny, Civil & Environmental Engineering
Kajsa Dalrymple, Journalism & Mass Communication
Kelly Danaher, Psychological & Brain Sciences
John Doershuk, State Archaeologist
Kelley Drowne, Center for Advancement
Christine Getz, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Stratis Giannakouros, Geographical & Sustainability Sciences
Sarah Hansen, Student Life
David Hensley, Management & Entrepreneurship
Emily Hughes, College of Law
Bob Kirby, Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates
Brian Lai, Political Science
Lucie Laurian, Planning & Public Affairs
Lauren Lessing, Art Museum
Erin Litton, Health & Human Physiology
Teresa Mangum, Obermann Center
Dan Matheson, Health & Human Physiology
Laura McLeran, Office of the President
Jennifer Noyce, Experiential Education
Mary Noonan, Sociology & Criminology
Edith Parker, College of Public Health
Ann Ricketts, Office of the VP for Research
David Ryfe, Journalism & Mass Communication
David Supp-Montgomerie, Communication Studies
Paul Thelen, Nonprofit Resource Center
Elizabeth Tovar, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
Ian Van Anden, Leadership & Service Programs
Shaun Vecera, Psychological & Brain Sciences
Sherry Watt, Education Policy & Leadership
Joshua Weiner, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Rachel Young, Journalism & Mass Communication
Anne Zalensky, Distance & Online Learning