Dear Friends and Supporters,
University Outreach wants to thank you again for making our year a success. With your support through collaborations, partnerships, and learning opportunities, we’ve been able to advance our shared vision of healthy and prosperous communities.

University Outreach made curricular strides this year. In addition to logistical and consulting support we provide students, faculty, and partners for civically engaged courses, we launched the Civic Engagement Course Implementation Grant program to support the financial costs as well. Alternative Spring Break partnered with community groups to make a positive impact in greater Flint and the Innovation Incubator helped create businesses and jobs. University Outreach launched the Impact Circle to build connections between the University and community around the City of Flint’s new master plan. Finally, a student-funded place-based education program is partnering with our School of Education and Human Services to implement their new place-based education curriculum – a first in the nation.

All of these accomplishments would not be possible without your support. Thank you, and we look forward to partnering with you in the future.

Jacob Blumner, Interim Director

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values

**Being in Service**
University Outreach engages with hundreds of community-based organizations each year. Most often that engagement involves students. We identify the needs, struggles, and common interests of our partners so we can best access collective resources. Through this process, community needs are met and students are transformed. By maintaining balanced partnerships with those we serve, University Outreach has built trusted relationships to benefit the greater community.

**Healthy Relationships**
Building stronger connections between people, land and community is at the core of University Outreach work. Building upon Michigan’s rich history of resource conservation, University Outreach is concerned with the relationships between land, water, people and our state. We embrace contributing to healthy lifestyles and communities, while building a stronger, more resilient Michigan.

**Economic Vitality**
University Outreach supports innovation and creativity, and fosters a culture of entrepreneurship. Working collectively to develop and retain talent will lead to a vibrant local community. Our Innovation Incubator helps students navigate the extraordinary economic challenges facing their communities.

Community-building
University Outreach supports communities that are working to protect natural assets and rebuild their economies. We provide neutral spaces for those with resources and those with needs to come together to solve problems, which builds community. Our inclusive and solution-based approach helps unite communities, and builds local, regional, and national networks. These contribute to a positive and prosperous future for those we serve.

**Justice and Fairness**
University Outreach promotes justice and fairness in our work. By acknowledging that all voices and viewpoints are important and valuable, we demonstrate our commitment to sharing power and challenging others to do the same. Providing access to University and community resources, fostering relationships, supporting partnerships, and promoting action contribute to a fairer, more just community.

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support

The number of courses with the Civic Engagement Course indicator reached an all-time high in 2014. There were 80 Civic Engagement courses during the winter 2014 semester and 137 courses during fall 2014.

In an effort to support the innovative projects and partnerships that develop as part of the Civic Engagement courses, the Civic Engagement Course Implementation Grant program was launched during the winter 2014 semester. Faculty teaching at least one CECI course are eligible to apply for up to $800 in funds to support the civic engagement activities that they incorporate into their courses.

In 2014, University Outreach awarded Implementation Grants to 23 courses totaling over $14,000 in funds to support civic engagement activities that included blood drives, group projects with community partners, field trips, bus tours, guest speakers/panels, and public presentations.

go.umflint.edu/CEgrants

Women, Education and Globalization students taught science workshops to Girl Scouts as part of their Civic Engagement course in Fall 2014.
The Innovation Incubator served 188 students and community members, 48 for-profit and non-profit businesses and held nine business workshops in the last fiscal year.

Student business, Moses Music Productions offers songwriting and music production services to artists and advertising jingles to companies. Part of her business’ social mission is to encourage girls to become producers and songwriters.

Aleah Moses started her company after attending the Innovation Workshop series. Since taking advantage of [IN]'s free business planning resources, she has produced more than 50 full songs and instrumentals for musicians including Flint’s Jon Connor as well as out-of-state clients, many of whom she connected with through her self-made website, www.lovemosesmusic.com. Her downtown office inside the Incubator’s Creative Suite has served as her main recording studio since it was renovated to provide soundproofing panels to improve recording quality.

In April 2014, [IN] helped pay for her travel costs to attend the ASCAP “I Create Music” Conference in Los Angeles, California. During her stay in Los Angeles, she received the opportunity to write and record with international recording artist, Rime.

[IN] is primarily funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation.
The University of Michigan-Flint's Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program enables students to learn about issues such as homelessness, poverty, hunger, violence, environmental issues, and complex social and cultural issues. Students develop an understanding of community needs and a commitment to community service and social change.

This year the ASB board decided to work with the following sites: Boys and Girls Club, Carriage Town Ministries, Dailey Elementary School, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Habitat for Humanity, Humane Society, King Karate, North End Soup Kitchen and Salem Housing.

We had 61 individual students volunteer throughout the week of spring break, for a total of 188 service days. At 5 hours per day, the students donated approximately 940 hours throughout the week. According to the Independent Sector, these hours can be billed at $22.13 per hour for $20,802.20 worth of service. UM-Flint students once again made an enormous impact on the greater Flint area!

ASB has now expanded into an Alternative Breaks model. This includes Alternative Spring Break, Service Saturdays and Alternative Summer Break.
University Outreach continues to build stronger connections between the campus, community and the local environment. We are increasing communication across our academic departments and engaging community members in campus activities through the campus-wide Impact Circle, and providing public engagement expertise in local communities.

University Outreach launched the “Impact Circle” to galvanize partnerships that support the City of Flint’s Imagine Flint Master Plan, a visionary blueprint for Flint’s future development. The interdisciplinary core group of more than a dozen faculty, staff, students and community partners are identifying and working on projects that will strengthen the community in transformative ways. Class projects, internships, and research are being focused on this effort to address complex community issues such as neighborhood stabilization, education and economic development, and access to healthy environments.

Recent projects with the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission and agencies in the Kawkawlin River Watershed allow University Outreach to ensure that the development of recreation facilities and environmental restoration investments are informed by the public. We work directly with local, state, and federal decision-makers to create and implement public engagement activities.

go.umflint.edu/ImpactCircle + go.umflint.edu/LandWaterPeople
Discovering Place

Since 2009, the Discovering Place place-based education program has supported schools in incorporating learning experiences that tie K-12 classroom curriculum to community projects. Discovering Place students and teachers engage with community partners to explore local food systems, advance habitat restoration, and promote healthy communities and healthy watersheds, and have an impact on locally relevant issues. Through these multidisciplinary, place-based learning experiences, youth are empowered, learning is enhanced, and our communities are strengthened.

UM-Flint Neff Center

The UM-Flint Neff Center supports the partnership between the UM-Flint/Beecher Community School District and serves as an off-campus destination for UM-Flint civic engagement efforts. In addition to supporting a college-going culture at the Beecher Middle/High School, the Neff Center coordinates tutoring, mentoring and volunteering experiences that join UM-Flint and Beecher students, offers community education opportunities, and has supported more than twenty civically-engaged UM-Flint courses working in the Beecher and northern Flint community since 2012.

The Healthiest Schoolyard Project at Beecher 9th Grade Academy (9GA) was completed in 2014. Students at 9GA designed and built an outdoor classroom space using sustainable construction techniques and reclaimed urban wood. These activities support place-based learning at the school.
University Outreach connects campus and community to support learning, collaboration, and partnerships.