The Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement will host its semi-annual Engagement Poster Day from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 3 in Velzy Commons in Ullsvik Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

Approximately 500 UW-Platteville students participated in a PACCE project this semester. These students gained first-hand experience and got a head start on their career by engaging with a community and faculty partner to complete a PACCE project. Ranging from agriculture to art, from education to engineering, each and every project benefited a community partner in some way.

Congratulations to all the participating students, faculty, and community partners on amazing work. See you at Poster Day on Dec. 3.

Here are a few of the projects you can learn more about at Engagement Poster Day.

**PACCE Faculty Partner: Dr. Robert Schmitt**

This fall, civil engineering students participated in design work projects for public and private entities in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa. The projects involved student teams who worked closely with community partners to address a wide variety of needs. Examples include tourist paths with bridge design, flood restoration, planning analysis for industrial site certification, roofing system reconfiguration, and an archway design commemorating the 150th anniversary of General Ulysses S. Grant returning to Galena, Illinois, after the conclusion of the Civil War. As students applied technical knowledge in solving civil engineering problems, they also experienced teamwork in solving real-world problems in serving community partners as clients. These students look forward to sharing their results at PACCE Engagement Poster Day on Dec 3.

**PACCE Faculty Partner: Dr. L. Lynnette Dornak**

Students in Dr. Lynnette Dornak’s Introduction to Geographic Informational Systems class created maps of local and regional food producers in the Driftless area. Working with the Driftless Market in Platteville and the Dubuque Co-op, students created maps to highlight suppliers and producers in that defined geographic region. In addition to printed copies, online interactive maps were created for the community partners. Students learned the ‘start to finish’ skills required of a real-world GIS project in addition to increasing their awareness of local and regional food markets. Their work will be presented at the Dec. 3 Engagement Poster Day event.

**PACCE Faculty Partner: Ryan Schmitz**

Students in the Fundamentals of Biological Investigations class worked with the BioEco Research and Monitoring Center in Hampton, Illinois, to evaluate the drivers of bird-window collisions in urban landscapes. UW-Platteville collaborated with 40 other colleges and universities through the United States, Canada, and Mexico as part of a broad geographic scale study. Students gathered bird carcasses and measured factors thought to influence bird-window mortality. The students gained research experience, identification, and record-keeping skills on a multi-collaborative project. Join us at Engagement Poster Day to hear more about this large scale project.

**Northern Exposure for PACCE**

Dr. Kevin Bernhardt and Dawn Lee attended the Engagement Scholarship Consortium in Edmonton Alberta Canada in October. ESC is composed of higher education member institutions, a mix of state, public, and private institutions. Their goal is to work collaboratively to build strong university-community partnerships anchored in the rigor of scholarship, and designed to help build community capacity. Lee presented a poster highlighting one of Dr. Tera Montgomery’s PACCE projects. Bernhardt led a roundtable discussion on engagement at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Lee and Bernhardt both found ESC to be a valuable tool in strengthening their engagement network for learning, resource sharing, problem solving, and collaboration.
Culture of Entrepreneurship Grows

Entrepreneurship is now the third most popular major among current college students (right behind neuroscience and bioengineering).* UW-Platteville began offering the minor last year and there are now more than 40 students who have selected the course of study. The minor in entrepreneurship is open to all majors and includes both a business and a non-business track. There are no pre-requisites for beginning the minor. Students can choose from a variety of electives that align with their own personal entrepreneurial interests.

UW-Platteville Assistant Professor, Dr. Marcia Harr Bailey, is coordinating the Entrepreneurship minor. To learn more visit www.uwplatt.edu/entrepreneurship.

*The State of the Gen Y Worker, Boston-based Gen Y Consulting Firm Millennial Branding

On Oct. 1, the Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement hosted its 5th annual “Meet ’n Eat with an Entrepreneur.” UW-Platteville students were joined by an eclectic group of entrepreneurs including Don Wickstrum (Quest Industrial LLC); Sara Burks (UW-Platteville Lecturer and Co-Owner of MaCandies Boutique); Scott and Laura Skelly (Corn Mazes of America and Skelly Farms); Dan Rohrbach (Southwest Health Center); Kyle Vesperman (Vesperman Farms); Jacob Luginbuhl (Hometown Painting Services LLC); Joseph Pometto (Modern Woodmen of America); and Adam Weigmann (4x Innovations). Also on hand to share their expertise were Lisa Johnson, Vice President of Entrepreneurship and Innovation for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, and Jonathan Cook, Licensing and Grants Associate at the WiSys Technology Foundation.

Pioneer Launch Lab Home to UW-Platteville Entrepreneurs

The Pioneer Launch Lab at UW-Platteville helps students, faculty/staff, and recent alumni in their search for a scalable and repeatable business model or product idea. The Lab Coordinator, Brock Waterman, works with each member, or group, on a tailored basis. Our role is to be the consultant who helps members find their focus, understand and prioritize tasks, and locate resources to achieve their business goals. We have members from many backgrounds, varying from freshmen to alumni, and at various stages in their business formation. The networking the launch lab members have with each other is an important part of the experience, because it allows students to meet other students with similar interests and to learn from successes and mistakes in a low-risk environment.

To apply for Pioneer Launch Lab membership, visit www.uwplatt.edu/entrepreneurship.

Upcoming Events

Business Model Workshop – Feb. 11, 2015
Business Model Competition – March 11, 2015

Register at www.uwplatt.edu/entrepreneurship

For more information about engagement and entrepreneurial events at UW-Platteville, contact Kevin Bernhardt, Director, at 608.342.6121, or Kathy Neumeister at 608.342.6020, or visit the website at www.uwplatt.edu/pacce or uwplatt.edu/entrepreneurship.