



THE CENTER FOR COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Alma College At Fall Festival



In late October, Alma College students volunteered at the Fall Festival in downtown Alma. Students from fraternities, sororities, and several student organizations participated in Trunk or Treat and handed out countless pieces of candy. LEAPS, an environmental student organization, set up a table for kids to create art using pressed leaves. In addition, we worked with the Alma Community Art Center on a booth where community members painted wooden candy corn. In all, more than twelve organizations at Alma College participated, and around 1,000 children attended. It was fantastic to share in this joyous event.

Upcoming Events

Scot Speaker Series:
Veterans Day Commemoration
November 8, 7 PM, Wright-Leppien
Opera House

In honor of Veterans Day, community members will speak about how military service impacted their perspective. There will be free food, and the event is open to everyone.

STEM Day,
November 11, 12 -4 PM, Forest Hill Nature
Area

Our AmeriCorp VISTA Grace is working with Forest Hill on a STEM event. While the event focuses on families with students from 3rd to 8th grades, everyone is welcome to attend! Additionally, if interested in volunteering at this event, please sign up on the Golden volunteering platform. (<https://volunteer.uwgic.org/>)

Basketball & Donations
November 11, 2:00 PM, Art Smith Arena
The Alma College basketball team will be sponsoring a toy drive for A Kid Again Michigan. If you bring a toy to the game, you will be entered in a drawing for a gift card to the book store or Qdoba.

Speed Introductions
November 17, 3:30 - 5 PM
Alma College, Andison Center

As part of Alma College's Friday Forum series, we are inviting community groups to meet members of our faculty and explore potential collaborations. If your organization would be interested in attending, please fill out this form. (<https://tinyurl.com/nov17intro>)

Community Garden

October was the end of a successful season at the Gratiot County Community Garden. Both community members and students from Alma College were engaged in the garden this year. The garden produced over 1,000 produce items and much of it was supplied to people visiting the food pantry and community café. This summer, several community members also donated produce grown in their personal gardens, which was then taken home by others. The community garden facilitators are looking forward to the upcoming 2024 gardening season.



ACE Scholars In Our Community

We have 39 Alma Community Engagement Scholars working in the community this year. The program, which provides scholarships for local students, completed its midterm evaluation and the results were incredibly positive. This year we have

- 5 working in education
- 3 working with churches
- 6 working with sports organizations
- 8 working with other non-profits
- 3 working directly with the 3CE
- 3 working with the government
- 11 working with other groups or on special projects

We are very proud of the service these students provide our community!



Police Athletics League (PAL) & Alma College

As part of the community-engaged Honors Program at Alma College, Matthew Przepiora worked with Alma Police Athletic League (PAL) to have some of their youth soccer players join our soccer team on the field during a home game. As part of the class Matthew devised, planned and managed the event. Moments like the one Matthew created show our commitment and connection to our community in a profound and direct way, and we were very proud of how it turned out. Several other students in the same class will complete projects in the community by the end of the year.



Community Member And First Responder Stress Testing

In late October and early November, ~15-20 community members and first responders (firefighters and police officers) will come to the Integrative Physiology and Health Science (IPHS) department to complete an exercise stress test with students in the IPH 419 Stress Testing class. This test will inform the individuals of their heart health and functional capacity, which is important for daily living activities but also to ensure that individuals with an active/stressful job are not putting themselves or others at risk during their shifts.

First Year Students Working With The Community

Every First Year Seminar course at Alma College is working with community partners on projects that will help them to understand and positively impact the community. Themes for these projects range from Animal Welfare to Housing and Disaster Relief. In October they met with non-profits, government officials, and others to begin planning their projects. Dr. Sheryle Dixon and Dr. Vicki Walker's students, for example, enjoyed a panel of the arts organizations in Alma and Mt. Pleasant: the Gratiot County Players, the Alma Community Arts Center, the Pine River Arts Council, Keep Alma Beautiful, the City of Alma, and Art Reach Center (Mt. Pleasant). Representatives of the organizations shared their history, what they offered to the communities of Alma and Mt. Pleasant, as well as the challenges they faced. The students will present their work to their community partners at an event on December 5th.

