

# REGULA CENTER 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



The mission of the Regula Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement is to promote civic engagement, community outreach, and experiential learning with an emphasis on ethical decision-making, high standards of inclusivity, ingenuity, and long-lasting partnerships to make positive change.

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The accomplishments of the Regula Center featured in this report are thanks to the dedication of our students, community partners, donors, and colleagues who are continuously committed to civic engagement at all levels. I cannot express my gratitude enough as the Center's success is dependent on these collaborative efforts and the support of many.

Throughout this year we were able to mobilize volunteers, encourage voter participation, and educate students using many of our ongoing programming models while developing new ways to get things done.

Bringing many of our in-person events back to life while also offering take and make and virtual options allowed us to encourage participation from a wide audience. I have truly enjoyed being able to bring new programming to campus including literacy kit builds and a film screening for Constitution Day. We were also able to work with many new partners allowing students to learn about more agencies and organizations doing great work in our community.

The work of the planning grant we received from the Stark Community Foundation was fulfilling and brought together many partners to make great strides towards better serving our community. We are excited to continue this work and see what results come of it.

Each year I am proud of the work we do, and this year is no exception. Our students and community continue to be engaged with the Center in so many ways and I am excited for our future endeavors.



*Abigail Schroeder*

Abby (Honaker '11)  
Schroeder, MPA | Director



Abby Kimball '21  
Author, Contributor

# FACULTY LIAISON | DR. LORI KUMLER

Associate Professor, Political Science and International Studies, Department of Social Sciences,  
Internship Coordinator and Faculty Liaison to the Regula Center

We started the year off with a fantastic outdoor evening screening of *The Reunited States* for Constitution Day. The cinema sized screen brought the film and the Q and A with two of the film stars afterwards to life! Our experienced democracy fellow, Sky McCloskey, led the Q and A. Beyond Constitution Day, Sky worked weekly throughout the fall to help students across campus to register and to request absentee ballots. Sky and I both worked the polls on election day, giving us an up-close view of election details.

In October, local candidates for a wide range of races came together in HPCC for Meet the Candidates Night. Community members and students were able to ask questions, get to know the candidates, and mingle with each other and some of our alumni running for office.

Director Abby Schroeder and I attended the OAC All-In Challenge awards in early November, and we were pleased to earn a Silver Seal for Mount Union's high rate of voter participation. Additionally, we were awarded Best Action Plan for our written action plan to increase student voting engagement.

Although November is behind us, the primaries are around the corner! Democracy Fellows Sky McCloskey and new fellow Mohannahas Fitch-Pennybaker are continuing to reach out to students this semester to get help them to understand the importance of spring elections in addition to November.

We also began the semester with two student-focused events. In late January we held an internship panel featuring students who have completed internships

to help other students to think about and plan their own internships. Zach Berdysz '22, an NSFIA major, spoke about his internship with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; Tanner Dixon '23, an NSFIA and international affairs and diplomacy double major; and Sky McCloskey '23, political science, spoke about their internships with Senator Rob Portman, and Xae Cloud '22 spoke about his internship with the State Public Defender's office in Allen County, Ohio.

In February, Brothers Building Bonds hosted our first Civic Coffee and Donuts discussion, a guided discussion open to all students. The Freedom Society hosted our March discussion, while April and May will include Sister Circle, Gender Equity Matters, the Green Raiders, and Regula Fellows.

It's been a busy year so far, and we are so fortunate to have fantastic students and faculty who are excited about the Regula Center's mission. Together we are paving the way for students to realize "fulfilling lives, meaningful work, and responsible citizenship."



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Center facilitated campus-wide participation in the **ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge** and assisted with conference-wide outreach through OAC Votes.

NASPA and the Campus Vote Project awarded Mount Union the designation of **Voter Friendly Campus** based on the Regula Center's Civic Engagement Action Plan.



**Meet the Candidates Night** was a meet and greet event in which candidates from the Stark County ballot came to engage with members of the campus community.

*"I enjoyed being able to talk to candidates directly as it allowed me to get to know them personally. I also liked being able to ask questions about local issues. It helped me to grow academically by giving me a chance to learn more about how candidates campaign at the local level."*

**- Aiden Trummer '25**

“My job as a Campus Democracy Fellow is to encourage voter participation among students. Voting is one of the most important civic duties as an American citizen because it gives a voice to those who would otherwise remain unheard.



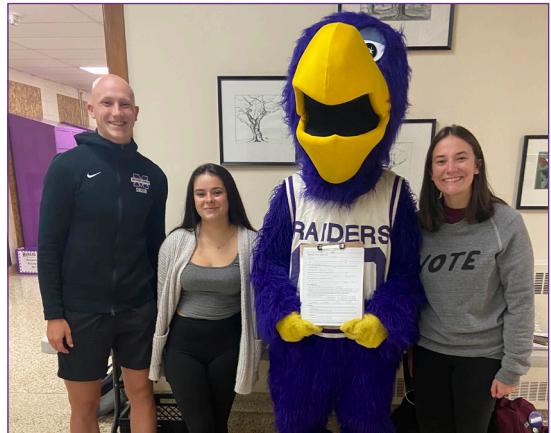
*Sky McCloskey*

It is our job to advocate for our needs in order to continue to make advancements that help the population as a whole. Many changes have been made throughout the years, giving rights to many who rightfully deserve them, and voting is how we can continue to make these important changes.”

**-Sky McCloskey '22**, *this year's Democracy Fellow, when asked why she felt that voting was important*

**Civic Coffee and Donuts** launched in the spring semester bringing together the campus community for monthly discussions. Conversations were hosted by student organizations included Brothers Building Bonds, Freedom Society, Sister Circle, Gender Equity Matters, Regula Scholars, and the Green Raiders.

**Constitution Day** was celebrated with a screening of *The Reunited States* on an outdoor screen in the quad. Afterwards, the film producer and actors virtually answered student questions.



# SERVICE PROJECTS

## Service Highlights:

**Literacy Kits:** An effort for adult education and family literacy week involved students and employees at the University, United Way, the Kiwanis Club of Alliance, Friends of Rodman Public Library, and Alliance Area Chamber of Commerce businesses. The efforts resulted in 900 literacy kits were designed to encourage familial connections through reading and emphasize the importance of literacy.



**Monthly Projects:** Each month the Center offered a take and make project and two in-person service opportunities. More than 200 students participated in fall take and make projects. In-person projects mobilized more than 400 participants and included collecting more than 6,280 pounds of food, parks clean-ups, upcycling with the Green Raiders, and more.



**Expanded Holiday Outreach:** The Regula Center increased the number of children sponsored through university efforts, and more than 100 children received gifts from members of the Mount Union community. Children were participants in outreach coordinated by the YWCA and the Salvation of Army of Alliance.



**MLK Day of Service:** More than 300 volunteers took place in MLK Day 2022 working with 16 community partners.

# RAIDERS COVE

Raiders Cove, a resource center focused on assisting students with food, hygiene items, and clothing needs opened in 2020 with support from AmeriCorps members through Serve Ohio and Ohio Campus Compact.

The Regula Center works closely with the Center for Student Success and the Office of the Chaplain to oversee Raiders Cove. Current AmeriCorps members include Mount Union students Justin Sturgill, Hayley Maher, Jon Starek, and Julia Polyak.

The Regula Center also facilitated monthly cooking classes for students through Raiders Cove.

## RAIDERS COVE *Resource Center*

The Regula Center and the Office of Advancement secured a \$30,000 gift from the Mary Renkert Wendling Foundation that will allow for continued and expanding services.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGED LEARNING

## **Pay it Forward**

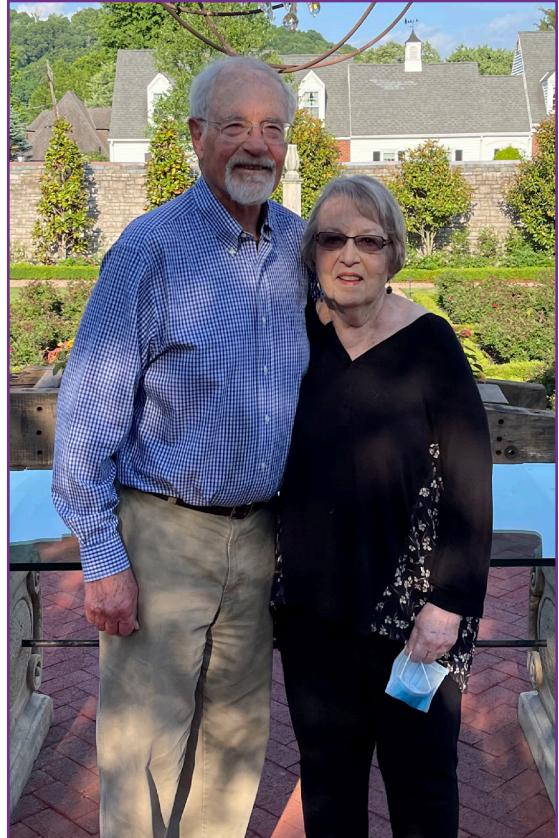
David '63 and Elaine (Venen '63) Dabelko have been dedicated to Mount Union and the work of the Regula Center.

In 2020, they created an additional endowment to support the Pay it Forward Program. The program is based on a model used by Ohio Campus Compact in which students participate in Service-Learning and ultimately award grants to area agencies.

Spring 2022 Courses using Pay it Forward funding include Kelsey Scanlon's exercise science course, Worksite Wellness, and Beth Canfield-Simbro's sociology course, Many Faces of Poverty.

## **Faculty Support**

The Center supported several faculty incorporating service in their courses. Support included visiting classes, overseeing project implementation, securing guest speakers, and coordinating projects with partners. Courses offering service components represented various departments and levels of engagement.



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This year Abby Schroeder, director of the Regula Center, began serving on the Ohio Campus Compact Advisory Board and the Talent Subcommittee of Strengthening Stark.

Faculty Liaison Lori Kumler began her first elected term as a member of the Alliance City Schools Board of Education.

## Mount Union Book Club

The Regula Center and the Office of Alumni Engagement continued the Mount Union Book Club by offering a discussion of *The Education of an Idealist* by Samantha Power to the entire Mount Union community.

September 11, 2021

The Center coordinated a city-wide event recognizing the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The event included a ceremony at Silver Park, brunch for veterans and first responders, and service projects.



# NEW ENDEAVORS



## Protecting Stark's Future

Abby Schroeder, director of the Regula Center, and Kristine Still, founding dean of the College of Applied and Social Sciences, secured a yearlong planning grant through the Stark Community Foundation's Protecting Starks Future Initiative. The grant funded training, needs assessments, and collaboration throughout the community to work towards ending childhood poverty. Formal findings and next steps will be published in the summer of 2022.



## Lunch with a Purpose

The Regula Center hosted monthly lunch gatherings featuring agencies serving the Alliance area. Guest speakers included Eric Taggart, Rodman Public Library; Kim Stanley, Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter; Stacie Weimer, YWCA; Niki McIlvain, Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity; Gina Bowers, Alliance Rape Crisis Center.

## Community Meals

The Regula Center started assisting with the Tuesday evening community dinners hosted at Christ United Methodist Church. During the months of December, January, February, April, and May volunteers from Mount Union will serve the meal. The YWCA of Alliance is sponsoring the cost of food served.



## Awards

The Center launched two new awards to recognize leaders in Stark County. The Ralph Regula Award for Public Service and the Mary Regula Award for Community Service will be awarded annually.

The Center cast a wide net for soliciting nominations from community members across Stark County. The Ralph Regula Award for Public Service recognized Judge Edward J. Elum and the Mary Regula Award for Volunteerism recognized Leigh Mainwaring.

# STUDENT ASSISTANTS

The Center's foundation is the work of dedicated student assistants who create programs, perform daily office tasks, recruit participants, and much more. Each year the Center hires student employees and works with some who intern or volunteer their time.

## Kaylee Adkins '24

Major - Primary Education

Kaylee's favorite Center event is any of the holiday events where she gets to help families in need.

## Logan Burns '22

Major - Marketing and Sport Business

Logan's favorite Center event is the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

## Jacob Buttar '24

Major - Sport Business and Integrated Media

Jacob's favorite Center event is the Saturday of Service event.

## Joseph Haas '24

Major - Human Resource Management and Spanish

Joseph's favorite Center event is the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

## Gina Hoffman '22

Major - Primary Education

Gina's favorite Center event is Christmas at the Park.

## Tori Keener '24

Major - Primary Education

Tori's favorite Center event is the Valentine's for nursing homes event.

## Abby Kimball '21

Major - Marketing and Human Resource Management

Abby's favorite Center event is the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

## Olivia Whitacre '23

Major - Nursing

Olivia's favorite Center event is Trick or Treat for Canned Goods.



# STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

## Charles J. Ping Award

Kaylee Adkins was nominated by the University for the Charles J. Ping award for outstanding leadership in community service. She is involved in Alpha Phi Omega, Habitat for Humanity, and the Regula Center.

*"Kaylee demonstrates maturity and compassion while leading her peers and having an impact on our campus and the community at large. She is always willing to try new projects, connect with community leaders, and advocate for more opportunities on our campus."*

- Dr. Thomas J. Botzman, President



## David Hoch Memorial Award

Dr. Kristine Turko, professor of psychology and director of the Spectrum Education Center, was nominated by the University for the David Hoch Memorial Award for service recognizing faculty for outstanding work in service learning and/or civic engagement.

*"Dr. Turko has continuously dedicated herself to high impact community-based health programming that has fulfilled a need in our community... A proven and respected faculty member, Dr. Turko is a leader in her field. Her vision for the Spectrum Education Center has allowed Mount Union to enhance the education of our undergraduate students while serving our community."*

- Dr. Thomas J. Botzman, President



# 2021-2022 REGULA SCHOLARS

The Center began the Regula Scholars Program in an effort to recognize outstanding students and provide them with additional opportunities. This program was initiated and continues to be possible thanks to a lead endowed gift from Bob '67 and Linda DeHoff. An additional endowed gift was added by David '63 and Elaine (Venen '63) Dabelko in 2014. Since then, all funds raised for the Regula Center

have been added to endowments for the Regula Scholars. The Scholars are nominated by faculty and participate in a lengthy selection process. Through the program they participate in training about public service, ethics, and leadership. Each Scholar takes part in at least 150 hours of community or public service. They each receive a stipend for experiential learning and tuition assistance.

## Jack Erickson

Major: Political Science  
Involvement: Active Minds

## Cla Figaro

Majors: International Affairs and Diplomacy and French  
Involvement: Sister Circle, Black Student Union, Alpha Mu Gamma, and Alpha Lambda Delta

## James Handwerk

Major: Political Science  
Involvement: Wrestling, Phi Kappa Tau, Alpha Lambda Delta, and Order of Omega

## Allison Hrovat

Majors: Psychology and Sociology  
Involvement: Peacebuilding Society, Alpha Phi Omega, Active Minds, DWOC Consultant, and Academic Support

## Sky McCloskey

Major: Political Science  
Involvement: Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellow, Model UN Club, Student Senate, Association of International Students, and Pre-Law Society

## Joshua Palmer

Majors: National Security and Foreign Intelligence Analysis and German  
Involvement: Men's Soccer, Honors Program, Spiritual Life Leadership (President)

## Olivia Powers

Majors: Primary Education  
Involvement: Track and Field, president of Aspiring Educators, Secretary of Kappa Delta Pi, FCA

## Gracyn Sage

Majors: Nursing and Peacebuilding  
Involvement: Alpha Phi Omega, UMU Library Student Staff, Preview/Raider Guide, and Student Nursing Association

## Daniel Sanatore

Majors: Physical Education and Health Education  
Involvement: Kappa Delta Pi, UMU Aspiring Educators

# VISION

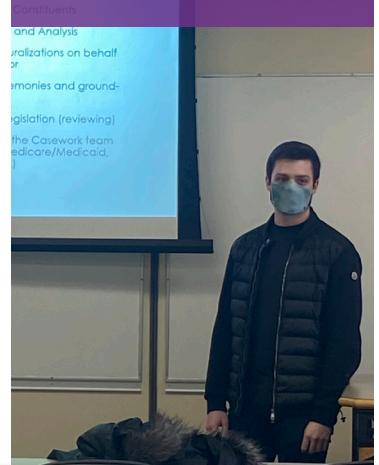
## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

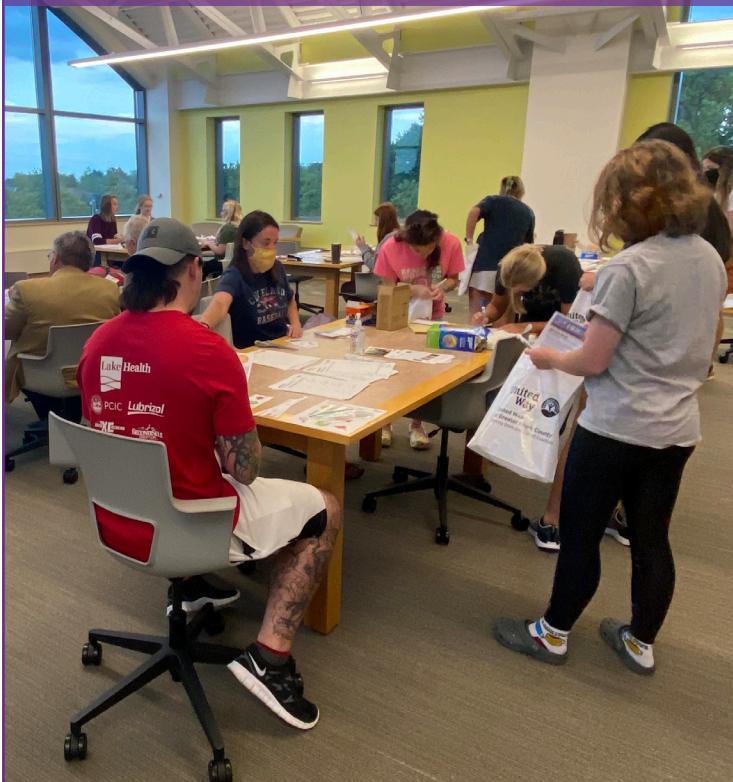


# CIVIC CORNER

I VOTE BECAUSE  
It is important  
to make my  
voice heard!



Register



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