



REGULA CENTER 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to share the 2021 Regula Center Annual Report with all of you. While this year was full of changes and challenges, it was also a year that demonstrated how much our students, faculty, staff, supporters, and community partners can accomplish together.

Throughout this year, we continued to further our voter engagement efforts, expanded the ways in which we offer service projects, and created new learning opportunities for students. The following pages demonstrate this work, and the individuals and organizations who continue to move the Center forward.

Our students demonstrated more resiliency and dedication than we could have asked. In addition to focusing on their studies, working essential jobs, and handling health and family situations, they found ways to participate in co-curricular activities, give back to the community, and support one another. Their commitment to doing their best this year is commendable, and something of which we can all be proud.

Within the Center, I am encouraged by the work done across the Ohio Athletic Conference and Ohio Campus Compact on voter engagement and student resource center efforts, how we engaged with six national organizations to enhance voter education and outreach, and facilitated more than 21 service projects mobilizing 600 participants. Additionally, the Center launched new efforts including a book club and non-profit awareness week with the Office of Alumni Engagement, a community wide collection to support Easter baskets for Project KARE, and hosted conversations to foster positive change.

As I reflect on the past academic year I am grateful for all who supported the efforts of the Center and our students. Thank you to our donors, support staff, campus leadership, colleagues, community partners, and students for continuing to make the Regula Center a hub of activity on campus.

I am looking forward to seeing where we go from here.



Abby Honaker Schroeder

Abby Honaker Schroeder
'11, MPA | Director



Abby Kimball '21
Author, Contributor

FACULTY LIAISON | DR. LORI KUMLER

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

Despite an unusual year with the COVID-19 pandemic, we had an active year of civic engagement events for students through the Regula Center, both in person and virtual. We were pleased to earn the 2021-2022 Voter Friendly Campus designation this year! Mount Union students stepped up to the plate, as we partnered with student leaders in Pi Sigma Alpha, with our Democracy Fellows and CEEP fellows, with Regula Scholars, and with our College Credit Plus partner, Alliance High School.

Several students helped to orchestrate our Constitution Day film viewing to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. Students viewed segments of the PBS documentary, "The Vote", in person or virtually. Segments were followed by discussion and trivia prizes, coordinated by Jake Penko and Mara Cvelbar.

Presidential debate watch events also gave students in person opportunities to view debates in small groups on large classroom screens or virtually. Three post-election debriefing sessions gave students and faculty/staff an opportunity to ask questions about the election process and to reflect on the election in the weeks following election day.

We continued the election conversation this past April, when we welcomed a virtual panel of local election boards officials (representing Columbiana,

Mahoning, and Stark counties) and the Chief of Staff for Ohio's Secretary of State, Merle Madrid. Community members, Alliance High School government classes, and Mount Union students asked questions and listened to officials discuss the many changes and challenges of elections during a pandemic.

In addition to our many student focused election events, Director Abby Schroeder and I had the opportunity to undertake the first external review of a campus co-curricular office as we brought in three reviewers to help us evaluate the Center's goals and objectives and how to design a continuous improvement process. We were able to work with an excellent team of faculty, staff, and administrators to assist us in the process.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our students and partners who helped to make this an outstanding year for the Regula Center's civic engagement efforts!

Wishing you a wonderful summer —
Lori Kumler



Academic Degrees:

Ph.D., Natural Resource Policy and Behavior, University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment

M.S., Resource Policy and Planning, University of Michigan

M.A.T., Secondary Social Studies Teaching, Tufts University

A.B., Public Policy, Educational Studies, Brown University

RAIDERS COVE

Raiders Cove, a student resource center focused on assisting students with food, hygiene items, and clothing needs was implemented during the 2019-20 academic year with support from AmeriCorps members through Serve Ohio and Ohio Campus Compact.

The Center works closely with the Center for Student Success and the Chaplain's Office to oversee Raiders Cove. Logan Cooper and Destanee O'Neil served during that time and created Raiders Cove. This work was expanded upon throughout this academic year with AmeriCorps Members Alyssa Eyth, Destanee O'Neil, Justin Sturgill, and Robert Walker. The program has been renewed for the upcoming year.

During this academic year, Raiders Cove had 162 members who utilized the resources available 250 times.

RAIDERS COVE
Resource Center

Learn more about Raiders Cove at mountunion.edu/raiders-cove.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CHAPTER

In the summer of 2020 current students Abby Kimball and Logan Burns approached the Center about bringing a Habitat for Humanity Chapter to campus. Founded in 1976, Habitat helps families build and improve places to call home. The organization had not had a campus chapter at Mount Union since 2001 and the students found it to be a great way to brighten the Alliance Community while providing students the opportunity to participate in service.

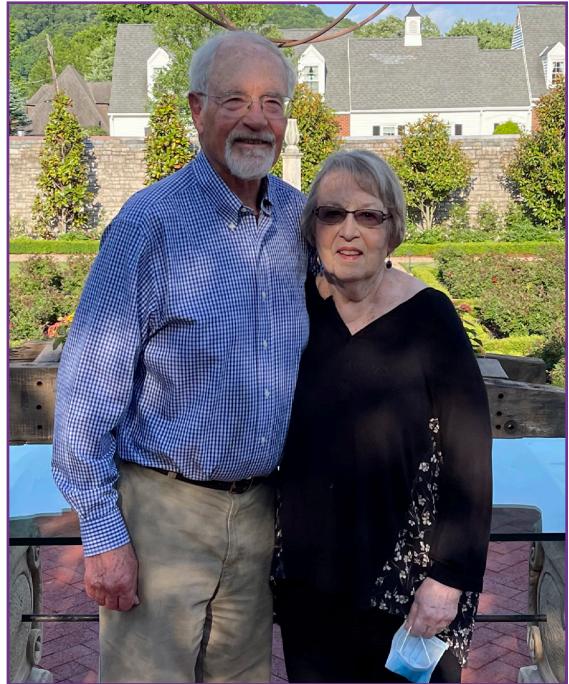
The Habitat for Humanity campus chapter launched in the fall and participated in two builds. In addition, students helped repaint the Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity Headquarters. There are five students who helped recreate the organization; Abby Kimball, Logan Burns, Bethany Eierdam, Emily Ina, and William Domain. The organization currently has 15 active members.



DABELKO ENDOWMENT

David '63 and Elaine (Venen '63) Dabelko have been dedicated to Mount Union and the work of the Regula Center through donations to the Regula Scholars program for years. This year 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 components of academic classes and ultimately award grants to area agencies. At Mount Union the program is currently funded by the annual Trash to Treasure sale. The combination of funds will allow for expansion of the program beginning in 2022.



THINK BIG DISCUSSIONS



Dates: April 14, 15, and 16

Time Commitment: one hour

Various times, in person and virtual options



Spring 2021 Topic: Race, Equity, and
Inclusion at Mount Union



What to expect: a conversation to discuss
strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and **BIG
IDEAS** that can change Mount Union

Open to students, faculty, staff, and alumni
Registration required

No tests, grades, or judgement.

The Regula Center has been partnering with the Stark Community Foundation since 2019 to assist with hosting conversations that produce big ideas that can transform our community. The Center participated in the community-wide discussion in October focused on race, equity, and inclusion throughout the County and used this as a template to host various conversations on MLK Day and again in April. The conversations provided faculty, staff, and students a space to talk through challenges, opportunities, and big ideas. The Center plans to continue facilitating conversations centered around a variety of topics in the future.

VOTER ENGAGEMENT

The Center continued the UMU Votes campaign to encourage student voter engagement. This consisted of debate watch parties, information tables, and promoting the use of Civic Corners. The debate watch parties were bipartisan, interactive events where students could join in person or virtually to learn more about each candidate. Students were also able to obtain absentee ballots and voter registration forms through the Regula Center and Civic Corners.

The Center worked with Mark McConnell, associate professor of marketing, to develop a marketing plan for UMU Votes. McConnell's Integrated Marketing Communications course was challenged with the task of increasing voter registration efforts and requests for absentee ballots among campus. Students in the class created a unified messaging strategy, media plan, and budget in their marketing plans.



 **DEBATE
WATCH
PARTIES**

**No quizzes, pressure, or grades...
just a good time with your peers!**

SNACKS FUN! PRIZES

Join in person or via Zoom

**Oct. 7 Vice Presidential Candidates 9p.m.
Oct. 15 Presidential Candidates 9 .m.
Oct. 22 Presidential Candidates 9 p.m.**



Partnerships

The Center worked with various groups to support voter engagement efforts on campus. These organizations included the Campus Election Engagement Project, Campus Vote Project, Because I Care, and the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge.

Through the Campus Vote Project and Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) the Center was able to coordinate and fund Democracy Fellows and CEEP members to assist in efforts on campus.

Through the Campus Vote Project, Jordan Edith '23, a political science and pre-law major of Cleveland, Ohio and Armon Cook '23, a political science major of Akron, Ohio made voter registration information readily available for students and assisted with events to increase interest in voting.

The Campus Election Engagement Project (CEEP) had two members on



Mount Union's campus: Jake Penko '21, an international affairs and diplomacy and national security and foreign intelligence analysis double major of Seven Hills, Ohio, and Mara Cvelbar '22, a political science and English double major of Alliance, Ohio.



ALL IN CHALLENGE

The Center worked with the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for the fifth year. The Challenge promotes educating students, motivating them to engage in American democracy, and understanding the importance of lifelong participation. The Center has created an action plan to increase student engagement on campus, measured by student voter registration, student voting, student contact with government officials, and student attendance at civic-focuses events both on and off campus. In addition, the University aims to enhance civic engagement in the larger Alliance community. The plan consists of three academic years, beginning in fall of 2020 and concluding in spring of 2022.

Through ALL IN, Mount Union also participated in the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation, a call to action for higher education presidents and chancellors to engage students in electoral participation. Mount Union is committed to ensuring that all eligible students had the opportunity to register to vote and cast ballots in the 2020 election. In addition, the University also pledged to support nonpartisan student learning, political engagement, and student voter participation.

MISSION

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge empowers colleges and universities to achieve excellence in student democratic engagement.



The Regula Center also led OAC Votes, an athletic conference competition within the ALL IN Challenge. This work has created stronger partnerships across the OAC and winning campuses will be recognized for their work in the fall of 2021.

The University has been named as one of more than 200 campuses as a “Voter Friendly Campus.” This initiative, which is led by national nonpartisan organizations Fair Elections Center’s Campus Vote Project and NAS-PA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, held institutions accountable for implementing practices that promote their students to register and vote.



**CAMPUS
DEMOCRACY
CHALLENGE**



POST-ELECTION ENGAGEMENT

Following the 2020 Election, the Center provided resources to the campus community and hosted a series of post-election discussions. Held every Thursday in November, the discussions featured different members of the campus community to answer questions and offer insight.

In March, the Center also hosted, "Voting Today: Changes and Challenges," and had a discussion with Kim Fusco, director of the Columbiana County Board of Elections, Regine Johnson, deputy director of the Stark County Board of Elections, Joyce Kale-Pesta, director of the Mahoning County Board of Elections, and Merle Madrid, the chief staff to Ohio Secretary of State Frank Larose. The panel was moderated by Mount Union student, Sky McCloskey, who is a political science major of Vienna, Ohio. Students submitted questions that were posed to election officials during the discussion on a variety of different topics. In addition, students who were enrolled in an Alliance High School College Credit Plus government class also participated.



Sky McCloskey



Voting Today: Changes and Challenges

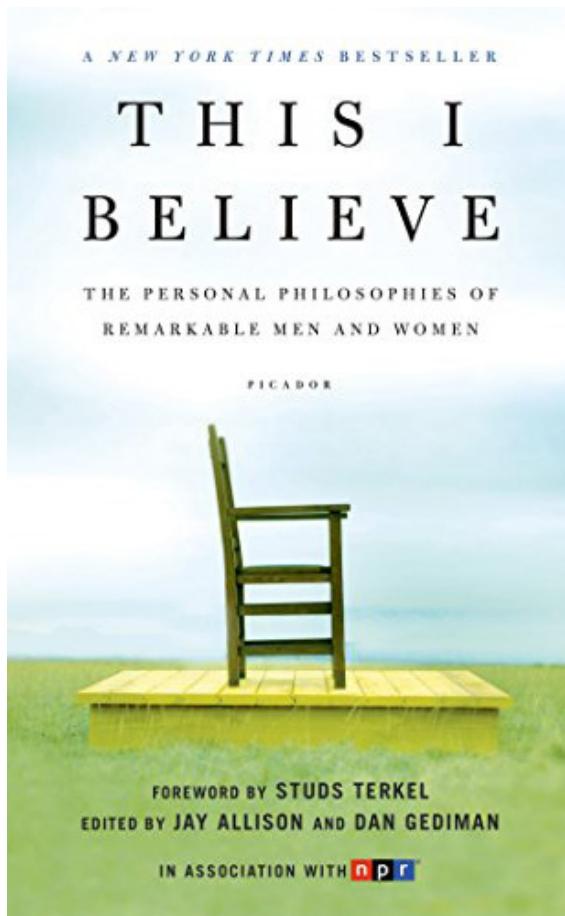
A conversation with state and local elections officials

Thursday, March 25 | 11:15 a.m. | Zoom*

MOUNT UNION BOOK CLUB

Following the success of an on campus book club, the Regula Center and the Office of Alumni Engagement partners offered a discussion of *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women* to the entire Mount Union community. These discussions consisted of virtual gatherings of small groups composed of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the University.

The group provide a space where participants from the community could come together for a free, fun, and uplifting experience.



MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECTS

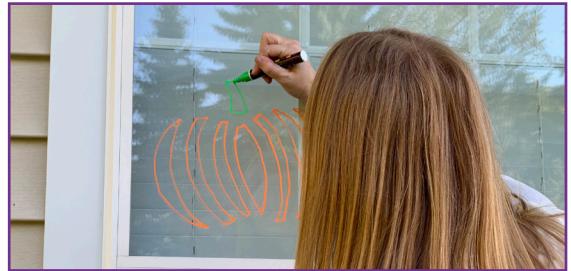
September

Students had the opportunity to make Take-and-make blanket kits for assisted living facilities and transitional housing. Students were also able to participate in trail clean-ups, fix fences at the Alliance Dog Park, and paint the Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity Headquarters.



October

Students and community members had the opportunity to engage in Trick-or-Treat for Canned Goods, which collected more than 4,630 pounds of food for the Alliance Community Pantry. Volunteers also used take and make card kits to make more than 300 cards for area nursing home residents.



November

Students and faculty members worked to wrap books and treat bags for Christmas in the Park. Take and make wreath kits were available and more than 70 were completed and donated.



December

Students and faculty were able to support over 90 children through the Adopt a Family Program.



February

Students had the opportunity to work on Take-Home Card Kits and make coasters to show their support for healthcare workers



March

Students made placemats and planted succulents to benefit Meals on Wheels recipients and nursing home residents. Others continued work on the healthcare worker appreciation bags and donations were sought for Easter baskets.



April

More than 1,000 healthcare worker appreciation bags were delivered, students organized and delivered 100 easter baskets to Project KARE, and more than 30 students participated in two trail clean-ups.





2021 MLK DAY OF SERVICE

More than 325 individuals participated in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Most of these participants worked with community partners and some worked on take-and-make projects to benefit nursing home residents. In addition, some of these individuals participated in THINK BIG discussions that stimulated conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR SERVICE

The Center expanded on and created many partnerships that allowed for new or improved service projects this year. The Center worked with the Alliance City Health Department and Aultman Alliance Hospital to provide each of their employees with a thank you gift for their work. In doing this Mount Union students put together more than 4,200 coasters and more than 1,000 handmade thank you cards. These items were put in gift bags alongside snacks and free sandwich vouchers donated by the local McDonald's store. Nest on State also provided gifts for a portion of the bags. Bags were delivered to more than 1,000 healthcare workers in Alliance.



For the First time the Center did a project focused on creating Easter baskets for children. Working with Stone Creek Assisted Living and Project KARE, the Center collected donations and then worked with volunteers to build 100 Easter baskets for children in the care of Stark County Job and Family Services. Area businesses including Nest on State and Brickhouse Bar and Grill supported the efforts.



The Green Raiders and Jamie Greiner, Sustainability and Campus Outreach Manager helped support spring projects including a trail clean up and the Trash to Treasure Sale. The Green Raiders took on leadership roles and led groups cleaning up Stark Parks properties in April. They also assisted with collecting for the Trash to Treasure Sale.

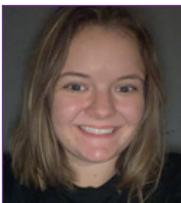
STUDENT ASSISTANTS

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 - Psychology

Kaylee enjoys working at the Regula Center because it has given her numerous connections within the campus community and the community of Alliance. It has also helped give her a great balance between school and work.



Abby Kimball '21

Major - Marketing and Human Resource Management

Abby enjoys working at the Regula Center because she enjoys participating in numerous service opportunities and giving back to others in the community.



Logan Burns '22

Major - Marketing and Sport Business

Logan enjoys working at the Regula Center because he loves the ability to give back to anyone in any way possible.



Riley Rowles '23

Major - Nursing

Riley loves being able to give back to Alliance and its surrounding areas. She also has been able to see first hand what an impact the Regula Center's work has made.



Gina Hoffman '22

Major - Primary Education

Gina is passionate about service which is what drew her to working at the Regula Center. She enjoys helping organize service projects for Mount Union and the Alliance community.



Olivia Whitacre '23

Major - Nursing

Olivia enjoys working for the Regula Center because she is able to be involved in service opportunities that affect people directly in the Alliance community.



STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

Charles J. Ping Award

The Charles J. Ping Award is designed to recognize and honor undergraduate students for their leadership and efforts towards community service or service-learning on their campus and within their community. These students represent future civic leaders and problem-solvers. The award is named after Charles J. Ping, who served as President of Ohio University from 1975-1994. This year, **Hayley Maher '21** was selected as the Charles J. Ping Award Winner. Hayley serves as the president of both Mount Union's chapter of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and its Catholic organization For Love of Christ the King (FLOCK), as well as a member of the Green Raider sustainability organization on campus.



Newman Civic Fellow

The Newman Civic Fellow recognizes and supports students who are dedicated to their communities and who are changemakers at Campus Compact member institutions. These fellows are nominated by their president or chancellor based on their potential for public leadership. **Allison Hrovat '22** was chosen as the University of Mount Union's Newman Civic Fellow. Allison is majoring in psychology and sociology. She feels that giving back whenever possible is crucial and she wants to educate others on current issues and make a difference. She is the president of the Peacebuilding Society, she leads a campus-wide effort to recognize indigenous peoples who originally inhabited the land where the university is located, she serves on the executive committee of a service fraternity, and volunteers around the community.



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



Cla Figaro

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



James Handwerk

Major: Political Science
Involvement: Wrestling, Phi Kappa Tau, Alpha Lambda Delta



Allison Hrovat

Major: Psychology and Sociology
Involvement: Peacebuilding Society, Alpha Phi Omega, Active Minds, and Academic Support



Sky McCloskey

Major: Political Science
Involvement: Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellow, Model UN Club, and Cheerleading



Joshua Palmer

Majors: National Security and Foreign Intelligence Analysis and German
Involvement: Men's Soccer, SAAC Representative



Olivia Powers

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



Gracyn Sage

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



Daniel Sanatore

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

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Hayley Buzulencia '15 - Regula Scholar

Hayley graduated from Mount Union in 2015. She currently works in the Public Works Department in the city of Avondale, Arizona as an environmental technician. She performed an essential



service during the COVID-19 pandemic and works directly with tasks related to drinking water and wastewater. Her favorite Mount Union Regula Center memory was when she went to Washington, DC to celebrate Ralph Regula's birthday. She enjoyed seeing the impact that a person devoted to public service could make on so many peoples' lives. Hayley feels that working for the Regula Center taught her the importance of being engaged in public affairs, and how crucial it is to be active and involved in a local community. In her current position, she volunteers at public education events and has the opportunity to witness the power of civic engagement at work as her city grows.

Abigail Matsushima '19 - Student Assistant

Abigail graduated from Mount Union in 2019 and is the admissions and marketing director for a skilled nursing facility in Oregon. Her favorite Regula Center memory was MLK Day of Service in January 2019.



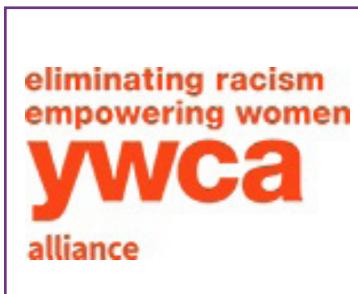
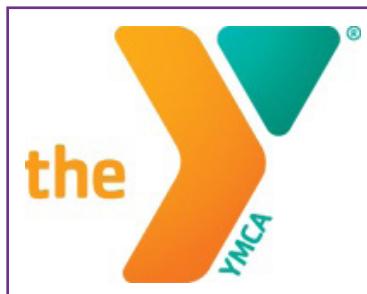
Although there was a major snow storm, students still showed up to volunteer their time and offered to help others who were stuck in the snow storm. The Regula Center encouraged Abigail's life path. She knew she had always wanted to work with people and help others, but she was unsure of how to do so until working for the Regula Center. She fell in love with the idea of connecting people together, helping facilitate community outreach, and being a resource. She feels that she is currently accomplishing this in her career as she is a resource for those who need rehabilitation and and is a resource when facilitating connections with local hospitals, assisted living, and adult care homes. Abigail also loves how the Regula Center is there to empower, embrace, and help students grow.

NON-PROFIT AWARENESS WEEK

The Regula Center partnered with the Offices of Alumni Engagement and Marketing to launch a new initiative that would recognize agencies in the community and those at Mount Union who serve them. Non-profit Awareness Week took place this spring and included social media features for the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter, Alliance Area Habitat for Humanity, Alliance Community Pantry, Alliance Family YMCA, and the YWCA of Alliance.

Faculty and staff who serve on the boards of these organizations include Michelle Collins-Sibley, Kelly Stout, Carolyn Reid, Stephen Kramer, Stephen Dages, Beth Canfield-Simbro, Abby Schroeder, Renee Young, Callie Flonnoy, Anne Christo-Baker, and Michelle Sams.

Details about these organizations and a full list of other community partners is available at mountunion.edu/community-service.



ASSESSMENT

The Regula Center underwent the first co-curricular assessment at Mount Union. The assessment which included internal and external reviews was a year-long process that resulted in a findings and suggestions summary.

External reviewers included Dick Kinsley, Executive Director, Ohio Campus Compact; Jen Domogal-Goodman, Executive Director, ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge; and Rebecca Verhoff-Kiss, Outreach and Education Officer, ServeOhio. The findings indicated strengths of the Center and the successes around student involvement, coordination of events, and community engagement. Reviewers found the Center to be a vibrant campus office maximizing current resources.

The final report also provided recommendations in the areas of assessment, faculty and pedagogy, community engagement, and access, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Center will use these findings to create goals and objectives moving forward.



MISSION AND VISION

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.



The vision of the Ralph and Mary Regula Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement is four-fold:

1. Mount Union will become a significant conduit of prepared and motivated individuals seeking careers in local, state, and federal government in a wide variety of capacities.
2. Access to a comprehensive service-learning community service program will allow students opportunities to become involved in activities which lead to enhancement of their long-term commitment to civic engagement, social responsibility, and public service.
3. The academic and intellectual climate of Mount Union will be enhanced by expanding beyond the boundaries of the traditional classroom.
4. Mount Union will have a lasting, positive effect on the broader community by developing partnerships and conducting research designed to address key community needs and important social problems.



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