



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## WHY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS TO MAVED

At the University of Nebraska at Omaha, community engagement is central to the university's **urban metropolitan mission** and its identity as an **engaged institution**. Within MavEd, it is a **powerful method** for delivering on the promise of general education and deepening student learning across multiple outcomes.

### Why It Matters for Students

- **Builds Purpose:** Students see their learning as meaningful beyond the classroom.
- **Strengthens motivation**, retention, and sense of **belonging and responsibility**
- Connects academic learning to **career preparation and civic life**
- **Develops Transferable Skills:** Communication, collaboration, adaptability, and ethical reasoning.
- **Supports Equity:** Engagement helps students connect with diverse perspectives and social contexts.

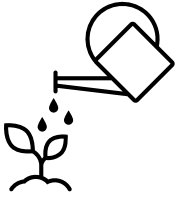
### What Faculty Can Do

Faculty are encouraged to incorporate community engagement by:

- Designing assignments in partnership with community organizations
- Framing enduring questions around social or civic issues
- Involving students in applied research, service learning, or advocacy projects

Support is available from the **Office of Engagement** and the **Center for Faculty Excellence** for course redesign, partnership development, and reflection-based assessment.

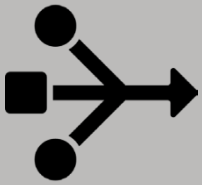
## HOW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUPPORTS MAVEd GOALS



### **Cultivates Transferable Skills**

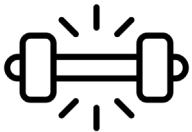
Through real-world, applied projects with community partners, students develop essential skills that transfer directly to the workforce readiness.

- **Critical thinking and information literacy**
- **Oral and written communication**
- **Collaboration and problem-solving**



### **Advances Integrative Learning**

Engaging with community partners challenges students to synthesize course content with lived experience, interdisciplinary knowledge, social contexts, and authentic problems. It supports reflection, relevance, and real-world application—key aims of MavEd.



### **Reinforces Civic Knowledge and Engagement**

Community-based learning helps students connect course content to societal needs and democratic participation. Students explore their roles as citizens through direct interaction with community systems, organizations, and real-world issues.



### **Deepens Intercultural Awareness**

Working with diverse populations, organizations, and social systems helps students navigate complexity, recognize systemic inequities, and practice empathy — central goals of MavEd’s intercultural learning outcome.



### **Creates Powerful Signature Assignments**

Community-engaged projects—such as working with a nonprofit, conducting applied research, or presenting to a public audience—can serve as ideal vehicles for these high-impact experiences. Projects involving community partners are sustained, real-world, reflective, and deeply relevant to students’ lives and futures.

Additional Resources at [MavEd.unomaha.edu](https://maved.unomaha.edu)