

Contact: Rachel Boon

PRESENTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA:
“BIG IMPACTS IN TINY HOUSES”

Action Requested: Receive the presentation.

Executive Summary: The UNI Tiny House project began with discussions among pre-service technology and engineering teachers who wanted to create a new and impactful curriculum projects that would incorporate science, math, community engagement, and the social impacts of technologies. Their innovative thinking lead to the interdisciplinary, applied learning project. In the past two years, UNI students have built three tiny houses working with an Iowa-based non-profit homeless advocacy group. The project has included nine faculty members across four academic departments, and over 200 students in twelve different courses.

Scott Greenhalgh is an Associate Professor and the Program Coordinator for Technology and Engineering Education at UNI. He is interested in the effective teaching and learning of spatial reasoning, and the pedagogical strategies of innovation including classroom culture, and the pedagogy of occasioning.

Ryan Andersen is a second year Industrial Technology and Engineering Teacher at Southeast Polk High School. He led students in the construction of the first tiny home, and has now brought the project to his classroom.

Sara Parris is a senior Technology and Engineering Education Major at UNI, and has participated in the tiny house project in two courses. She is preparing to student teach this Spring.