

January 4, 2022

Every day, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Illinois) strives to create impact in the world. Illinois's innovation and leadership is world-renowned and has had a positive impact on the community we call home. As Illinois continues to innovate and develop future leaders, we cannot forget the surrounding community and the nonprofit sector that is a vital part of our everyday lives. While many of us give our time to organizations that align with our passions, there may be some aspects of community needs that we are not aware exist. How can we help? How can we make an impact in our community for our neighbors and friends?

To that end, we are pleased to share with you a fantastic partnership between Illinois and United Way of Champaign County to launch the Emerging Community Leader (ECL) at Illinois program. United Way's ECL program has been a strong part of the United Way's mission in the community for over 15 years. Through this program, participants learn about our community and the needs we face through the eyes of nonprofit partners and volunteers. With the expansion of in-person activities, we are excited to bring back this program exclusively to our faculty and employees who may be new to the area and have a desire to enhance their understanding of the surrounding community. Illinois maintains a strong commitment to giving back to the community and, working with United Way, will continue to make resources available to foster change.

To learn more about the program and its offerings, visit www.unitedwaychampaign.org/ECL-Illinois. It is our hope that you will review this information and consider applying or sharing it with colleagues and peers that might be interested in being nominated for this program. The program is open to all faculty and employee groups on campus and has been designated an "approved event." With prior approval and operations permitting, non-exempt (overtime eligible) civil service employees may participate without loss of pay. This program will be limited to 30 individuals who will be selected based on their submitted applications.

At this time, employees working in an extra help or academic hourly capacity are not eligible to participate in the on-campus program. We do, however, encourage them to explore the traditional community-based ECL program that is supported exclusively by the United Way. Please visit www.unitedwaychampaign.org/ECL.

We understand that this program does potentially infringe on daily routines and schedules; however, we are confident that this will be beneficial for all who participate. Again, we are excited about this partnership between Illinois and the United Way and know that it will provide a wonderful opportunity for the faculty and employees at Illinois and the broader Champaign County community.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Jones
Chancellor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Sue Grey
President
United Way of Champaign County