UniverCity Alliance (UCA) is a network of interdisciplinary leaders making the University of Wisconsin–Madison more accessible to Wisconsin local governments. It’s been a record-setting year for UCA. Through its hallmark program, UniverCity Year (UCY), nine local governments connected with UW–Madison. On campus, a new UCA Scholars Program will connect more students with community projects. UCA thanks the community and campus partners that continue to create better places together!

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### By the Numbers: UniverCity Year 2022–23

- **441** total people involved
- **54** faculty, instructional staff, and researchers
- **28** community project leads
- **359** students
- **61** projects
- **35** courses
- **5** independent research projects
- **8** UW–Madison schools and colleges
- **1** partner university: UW–Milwaukee

Nine communities joined the 2022–25 UCY cohort, Villages of Cottage Grove and Shorewood; Cities of Marinette, Milton, River Falls, and Wausau; Eau Claire and St. Croix Counties; and the Wood County Health Department.

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### UniverCity Alliance

- **145 students enrolled** in the UCA course, Urban and Regional Planning 215: Welcome to Your Urban Future
- **Eight new members** joined the UCA Advisory Board

Three Urban Futures talks including one Crossroads of Ideas panel and two Weston Roundtable Lectures:

- How Wisconsin Cities Use Science and Why Their Future Depends on It
- Improving Heat Preparedness in Wisconsin through a Health-Based Warning System
Financing

- **$2,317** raised during Day of the Badger 2023
- **$40,000** raised for the inaugural UCA Scholars Program
- **$8,000** received from the Kemper K. Knapp Bequest to support student interns working on City of Madison priority projects
- **$9,300** included in the City of Madison’s 2023 budget to support a student housing market research study

Partnerships

UCA partners with the City of Madison on projects such as analyses of the employee handbook, sick leave by gender, and Madison’s State Street pop-up shop program, Culture Collectives, as well as connecting housing, transportation, and climate plans with Sustainable Development Goals, led by Professor Yongheng Deng and Wisconsin School of Business students.

Each semester, UCA pairs two students with Dane County to work and present on policy analysis projects, including a retrospective analysis of the county’s redistricting processes; economic development opportunities for organizations in Dane County and its sister county Kassel, Germany; policy innovations for teen mental health; and services for rural elderly residents.

Awards and Honors

- **2022 W. K. Kellogg Foundation Community Engagement Scholarship Award**, presented by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities
- **Salute to Local Government award recognizing Waunakee**, presented by the Wisconsin Policy Forum
- **Featured example, Chronicle of Higher Education’s 2023 Trends Snapshot, “Cities and the Urban University”**
- **2022-2023 UW System Regents Award for Excellence (Program)**

Sustainable Development Goals

Led by UCA Advisory Board cochair Lori DiPrete Brown, UCA is launching a digital badge that will train participants on how to connect local government projects with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UW–Madison’s American Family Insurance Data Science Institute is also developing an app that will help users create visualizations using the SDG 360 tool.

Wisconsin Heat Health Network

Collaborators in the Wisconsin Heat Health Network coordinated with the National Weather Service’s Milwaukee/Sullivan office to evaluate a pilot program that collected data from extreme heat events in six cities, including Madison and Milwaukee. The program received state and national media attention, including *Milwaukee Magazine* and *USA Today*. 