University of Northern Iowa UNI ScholarWorks

Community Engagement Celebration Day

2019 Community Engagement Celebration Day

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RodCon: Bringing the Community Together with Comics

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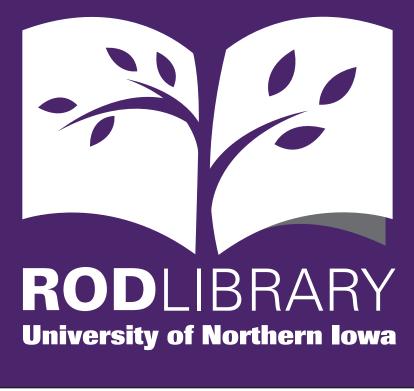
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want to thank vou enjoyable event. It is great nowing the community ar campus support RodCon. I attend yearly and look forward to it every year like a - RodCon attendee feedback

PARTNERSHIPS



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RODCON: BRINGING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER WITH COMICS

RODCON, annual free comic-con, aims to provide an engaging, dynamic event that celebrates comic books, pop culture, and their contributions to academia and literacy. Attendees have access to comics in a way they haven't before where they get to interact with and purchase work from comic book authors and artists, show off their wearable art in our costume contests, channel their inner artist and create kid-friendly art or stop motion videos, and engage in conversations at panel discussions on a wide variety of topics that investigate the intersectionality of comics and race, gender, sexuality, and equality. Since RodCon's beginning in 2014, this free and family-friendly event has brought over 3,000 people to the UNI campus and Rod Library each year.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM RODCON HISTORY

Working with high school art teachers to host an art contest Local elementary school comic book contest **Chick tracts lecture for Darwin Week Pre-Con panels open to public (EX. Women in comics) Comic book drive for local school donation**

Thank you for doing this! I think it helps to draw peopl to campus who might not otherwise be there. I also think it's an incredible family event and a great opportunit for local artist and vendors." RodCon attendee feedback

"This was my second year of attending and I thought it was another great event!! I think it is great when our local state university includes the general public to enjoy family friendly free events. Keep up the great work." -RodCon attendee feedback

"As a faculty member/teacher educator, I am seek examples of how K-12 students show their talents, strengths and creativity. Then I do the work to explain to undergraduates how they might tap into that positive energy in the classroom. Rod con is a perfect outlet to explore multi-modal literacy in our community. Working with the norm of difference as a foundation is essential to meeting student

- Sarah Vander Zanden, associate professor, curriculum & instruction



- Wall of comic art where community submissions are encouraged

hink it's amazing that you guys take the time t do something for the community at large, when you're really under no oblig<mark>atio</mark>n to do so as a college facility. The vendor floor is great and I love that you featured women in comics this year, but to me (and my 5 year old) the crafts are where it's

-RodCon attendee feedback

"Educator Preparation students (Literacy Education Minors) expressed a deeper understanding about "family relationships--I saw how hard it was for a mom to explain how to make the stress ball and how easy it was for the kids!" and another expressed shock at "how broad diversity can be...who knew spider man, Darth Vader and a Death Eater would come to make art??"

"I think that the most important take aways for my students who were involved in the preparation and volunteering learned to create art projects which connect to literacy and engage families to create together. The students gained great experience interacting with families and learning about pop culture interests in our community young and old." - Wendy Miller, associate professor, art









-RodCon tweetwall