Goal: To Make Large Universities Seem Smaller

By Paul F. Diehl

Photo: Larry Voight

For a few days last week at the University of Iowa, it seemed as if the world had come to Maynard. The town, home to the University of Iowa’s art college and a center of historically black arts organizations in the midwest, was a magnet for arts and cultural events. The town was bustling with creative energy, attracting artists and art lovers from all over the country.

As the University of Iowa’s College of Fine Arts’ Annual Girls State Program nears the end of its four-year run, the program has become a focal point for discussions about the role of universities in society and the importance of fostering a culture of creativity and innovation. The program’s goal is to make large universities seem smaller, encouraging students to think critically about the role of higher education in shaping their lives and the world around them.

The program has been criticized by some for being too idealistic and not addressing the practical concerns that students face, such as financial aid and academic support. However, program participants have echoed the view that the program has been a valuable experience for them, providing an opportunity to connect with other like-minded students and to explore new ideas and perspectives.

The University of Iowa’s College of Fine Arts is committed to fostering a community of creativity and innovation, and the Annual Girls State Program is a reflection of this commitment. The program has been a source of inspiration for many students and has helped to create a community of students who are passionate about the arts and committed to making a positive impact in the world.

The University of Iowa’s College of Fine Arts is proud to be a leader in the field of arts education and innovation, and we look forward to continuing to support the Annual Girls State Program and other initiatives that help to make large universities seem smaller and to foster a culture of creativity and innovation.