

RISE Talking Points Draft #5 2/16/09

RISE to the Challenge is a new initiative focused on increasing undergraduate student participation in research, international, service and other experiential learning options. It is an important piece of the IUPUI Academic Plan. Through intentional use of such pedagogy, IUPUI can make its undergraduate educational experience distinctive by taking advantage of its institutional strengths, its urban setting, and its mission as a civically-engaged urban research university.

- RISE packages a long tradition and commitment to experiential learning (EL) outside the classroom at IUPUI.
- RISE emphasizes four critical dimension of EL that are the hallmarks of an IUPUI degree:
 - R: credit-bearing undergraduate research experiences to augment their understanding of research, scholarship, and creative activities,
 - I: study abroad curricular experiences to enhance their learning and understanding of the world,
 - S: service learning courses to enhance their commitment to civic engagement, and
 - E: credit-bearing experiential learning experiences, such as internships, practica, clinical or fieldwork experiences.
- RISE will “Brand” an IUPUI degree as unique and in touch with “Employer Identified Skills” for new graduates (AAC &U, 2007) and will be an integral part of “My IUPUI Experience.”
- RISE is not a mandate, but a challenge to schools and departments to creatively address curricular questions related to student experiential learning in the disciplines as well as in general education.
- Packaging EL experiences into RISE presents an opportunity to leverage existing campus expertise and support services for the benefit of students, faculty and the campus.
- RISE is a student centered approach that will align the four areas of EL and unify the assessment of student learning for EL.
- RISE will allow EL to be represented on a student’s academic transcript.
- RISE presents an opportunity to deepen and expand community partnerships, both domestically and internationally, by expanding scholarly and professional networks.
- To implement RISE, the campus community will need to develop a common understanding about RISE experiences. However, implementation will be contextual and driven by the needs of individual schools and/or units.
- RISE experiences enrich an undergraduate program and assist in preparing students for careers, citizenship and graduate school.