



120 Sam H. Jones Service Scholars Gather for Inagural Orientation

By Morgan Studer, Coordinator of the Office of Community Work-Study

On Friday, August 19th, nearly 120 Sam H. Jones Service Scholars gathered in Herron Auditorium to kick off the inaugural Sam H. Jones All Scholar Orientation. For the first time in the Sam H. Jones scholarship history, every scholar had the opportunity to participate in a common orientation, allowing them to meet scholars from each of the nine programs, attend workshops alongside scholars they may not otherwise work with throughout the academic year, and better understand their impact as a part of the legacy of [Sam H. Jones](#), longtime Director of the Indianapolis Urban League.

The Center for Service and Learning recognizes over 200 students each year as Sam H. Jones Service Scholars. The Sam H. Jones scholarship includes nine scholarship programs: America Reads*America Counts Team Leaders, Community Partner Scholars, Community Service Scholars, Community Service Leaders, Democracy Plaza Civic Engagement Leaders, Freshmen Service Scholars, Fugate Scholars, Service Corps, and Service Learning Assistants.

The All Scholar Orientation began with a welcome in Herron Auditorium where CSL Executive Director, Dr. Bob Bringle, shared information about IUPUI's commitment to civic engagement. CSL Associate Director Lorrie Brown followed Dr. Bringle with a history of the Sam H. Jones program, which began with just one scholar in 1993, and the impact the program has had in the community and on IUPUI students.

After enjoying lunch provided by a generous donation from [Marco's Pizza](#), the scholars spent the afternoon attending workshops designed to help them grow as leaders in the community. Workshop topics included: Incorporating service into resumes, social issues in our city, an introduction to service learning, an introduction to e-portfolio, advocacy, social justice, group facilitation, and best practices for working with community partners.

When asked about the most important or exciting thing learned from orientation, initial feedback indicates that the orientation helped scholars gain more knowledge of the Sam Jones program and its role in the community while also providing a good opportunity to meet other scholars. One scholar noted that he "loved getting to know different people" while another felt the afternoon provided "great interaction with Sam H. Jones scholars." One scholar even noted how much she appreciated Dr. Bringle's opening speech and that the facts he shared "made [her] a proud IUPUI student." We look forward to improving and expanding this opportunity for next year's cohort of Scholars.