



Dr. Plater's Legacy Resonates with Student Civic Engagement Medallion Recipients

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In alignment with the campus civic engagement mission, IUPUI has established the [William M. Plater Civic Engagement Medallion](#) as a way to recognize students who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to their communities during their years as undergraduate students. The medallion is named in honor of IUPUI's former Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Faculties from 1988-2006, **Dr. William Plater**, a strong advocate of [civic engagement](#) during his career at IUPUI and beyond.

Dr. Plater believes that civic engagement "has helped define the character of IUPUI." He is an advocate for civic engagement because "It is our duty as a university to ensure that our graduates understand their responsibilities as globally-aware, civically engaged citizens by offering them the knowledge, experiences and skills to empower them to act for the well-being of our shared community."

Students who are awarded the William M. Plater Civic Engagement Medallion exhibit personal development, intellectual growth, and positive community impact as a result of their civic engagement experiences. Recipients are expected to have engaged in a variety of activities demonstrating depth and diversity of commitment in serving their communities, while making a significant investment to at least one community experience over time.

Recipients will be given their medallions as part of a special ceremony during the annual [Civic Engagement Showcase](#) on April 24th and will proudly wear their medallions as part of their graduation regalia on graduation day.

Stacy Quasebarth, a former Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholar and recipient of the medallion in its inaugural year, credits her civic involvement at IUPUI in helping shape her "character and thinking." Opportunities within the Sam H. Jones program created an awareness of social issues and her role in addressing those issues. "I definitely wouldn't be who I am today without having that experience in college," says Quasebarth. "I think of things more proactively now. I am surprised at the issues I find that I have a real stance against that I wouldn't have cared about, thought about, or even known at all about before."

But Quasebarth is not only an inaugural recipient of the medallion; she is also the medallion's designer. As a 2006 graduate of the IUPUI Herron School of Art and Design, Quasebarth was called upon to use her talents in creating the medallion. When asked about her vision for this piece, she recalls that she wanted to see a "melding of the campus and the city in one skyline" because an "integral" part of IUPUI as a campus is its "location within the city."

When asked what being a Plater Medallion recipient means to her now, Quasebarth notes that her medallion is "proudly displayed on her wall" making her smile each time she sees it. "Being one of the first Plater Medallion recipients is a very big honor," she says, "and reminds me that even if it feels like our acts are small, together with others they become mighty."

Quasebarth is living Dr. Plater's vision for all IUPUI graduates. When asked for his advice to this year's Plater Medallion recipients, Plater wants them to "think of themselves as leaders who will transform the world one community at a time." Plater Medallion recipients like Quasebarth should see themselves as individuals with the power to contribute to change at any level—beginning, as Plater suggests, with where they live, work and engage: "One person armed with knowledge and commitment can change the world for the better beginning with the way she or he lives life." For more information on how you can nominate a graduating senior for the Plater Medallion honor or to apply for the medallion, visit: <http://csl.iupui.edu/About/platermedallion.asp>