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## The "new face" of Kelley: What it means for students, employers

**More full-time students**  
**More traditional-aged students**  
**More involved students**

The face of Kelley is changing. As IUPUI celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, many across campus are reflecting on the differences and distinctions a few decades can make. For Kelley Indianapolis' undergraduate program, one of the most profound changes is noted by the very students sitting in business classrooms on campus today.

"Unlike in years past, IUPUI – and by extension, Kelley – is predominantly a full-time student campus," says Ken Carow, faculty chair of Kelley's undergraduate program. "Although we still do a good job of making sure part-time students can complete their degrees, Kelley's current student body is comprised primarily of full-time students interested in finishing their undergraduate studies in four to five years."

By and large, Kelley students today are also younger. Jane Lambert, executive director of academic programs at Kelley, estimates that the percentage of traditional-aged business students has increased about 20 percent since she joined the school more than 10 years ago. She says nearly 70 percent of today's Kelley students fall between the ages of 18 and 25. There are likely many reasons for the shift, but Lambert suggests the fact that more high school students are now considering IUPUI as a college of first choice is a predominant factor.

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Kelley's current offerings also attract younger students. "Kelley has many features today's traditional-aged students look for in a college experience," says Lambert. "We have our own placement office, and our emphasis on experiential, real-world learning and smaller class sizes are all appealing aspects of our program."

### Combining college and work

Although Kelley is now courting younger students, Lambert says many are also in the workforce, and a surprisingly large number are supporting family members. Others are working to pay for college or living expenses.

“Our students have more on their plates than people typically think,” Lambert explains. “As a result, they tend to be expert multitaskers, which can be a real benefit in the workplace. Those with employment experience have learned to work well with people and in diverse groups – also qualities that help our students stand out in the eyes of employers.”

## **Making involvement a priority**

Just as today’s Kelley Indianapolis students juggle classes, work and personal demands, they are also making time like never before for student involvement. In recent years, Lambert explains, there has been an increase in the number of students active in student organizations and clubs. While these extracurricular activities help buoy student résumés, they also create a sense of ownership and personal responsibility to the school – an aspect of Kelley student life that wasn’t outwardly apparent years ago.

“Students have realized they have a voice here, and they are embracing it,” says Lambert. “They seem to understand that Kelley’s reputation impacts the value of their education and the value of their degree, and they’re doing what they can to contribute in a positive way to help sustain it.”

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