

Stay Informed

CSL Newsletter

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From Our Executive Director: Living and Learning in a Civil Society

As we enter the New Year, it's a good time to take stock in how fortunate we are to live, teach, learn, and work in a civil society. In a well-functioning civil society, citizens are able to learn about community issues, question systems of injustice, dialogue across difference, express creative ideas, and work with others towards the common good.

Regardless of your disciplinary lens, each of these attributes of civil society has important implications for the way teaching and learning takes place in higher education. And, regardless of your disciplinary lens, philanthropy likely plays an important role in knowledge generation and community problem solving, for the charitable sector serves as an anchor of public life in all aspects of American culture.

Although we may likely agree that introductory courses in economics, history, math, or political science are fundamental to a well-rounded college education, it is not typically the case for an introductory course in philanthropy. We are fortunate to have such courses at IUPUI.

One of the explicit goals of preparing civic-minded graduates is to increase their knowledge of volunteer opportunities and the nonprofit sector and deepen their commitment to be involved in the community, and this can be achieved through service-learning (Steinberg, Hatcher & Bringle, 2011). Meta-analysis of research on service-learning over the past decade indicates that this teaching strategy contributes to academic, personal, social, and civic outcomes (Finley, 2011). In comparing service-learning to other forms of civic engagement, it is recognized as "the most reliable type of service" for reaching civic and philanthropic outcomes (Perry & Katula, 2001, p 359).

Teaching a service-learning course is a complex undertaking as instructors balance the responsibilities and tensions of designing course content to reach both academic and civic outcomes. Yet, sometimes it is small changes within a course that yield positive gains in terms of outcomes for both the student and the community organization. Below are five recommendations to keep in mind when designing a service-learning course:

- Develop partnerships with nonprofit leaders rather than merely seeking sites for "placement."
- Involve nonprofit leaders as co-educators and civic mentors for students.
- Identify projects that generate new knowledge rather than a charity approach to service.
- Assign readings about nonprofits and voluntary action in addition to disciplinary texts.
- Use reflection activities to deepen academic learning and cultivate civic outcomes.

Civic participation and philanthropic activity improves the quality of life in communities, and preparing college graduates to be active citizens and civic-minded professionals is a fundamental aspect of higher education in the 21st Century (Sullivan & Rosin, 2008).

Providing educational opportunities for students to gain knowledge about the nonprofit sector and volunteer opportunities is important. Let us know how we can assist you in accomplishing this goal.

Citations:

Finley, A. (2011). Civic learning and democratic engagement: A review of the literature on civic engagement in post-secondary education. Paper prepared for the U.S. Department of Education as part of Contract: ED-OPE-10_C-0078. Retrieved from

 www.civiclearning.org/SupportDocs/LiteratureReview_CivicEngagement_Finley_Jul2011.pdf.

Perry, J. L. & Katula, M. C. (2001). Does service effect citizenship. *Administration & Society*, 33(3), 330-365.

Steinberg, K., Hatcher, J. A., & Bringle, R. G. (2011). The civic-minded graduate: A north-star. *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 18, 19-33.

Sullivan, W. M., & Rosin, M. S. (2008). *A new agenda for higher education: Shaping a life of the mind for practice*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Service Scholarship Program Celebrates 20 Years of Student Engagement

To the center's associate director, Lorrie Brown, the Jones Scholarship program -- celebrating its 20th year in 2014 -- is designed "to recognize community service as a meritorious activity."

It's common for colleges and universities to honor athletic skills or academic achievement, but IUPUI has "made a strategic decision to allocate campus funds to reward students who have excelled in community service and civic engagement," Brown said.

That decision has taken root. "It has allowed civic engagement to flourish on campus, through student leadership in co-curricular community service as well as in the classroom as a support for service-learning faculty," Brown said. As a result, "IUPUI is now recognized nationally and internationally for civic engagement and having one of the largest service-based scholarship programs in the country."

The seeds planted through the **Jones program** are helping nearby Indianapolis neighborhoods reach their potential.

"The program has developed organically to meet a variety of constituent needs," Brown said, mentioning such programs as America Reads America Counts, Community Partner Scholars, Service Learning Assistants and Community Service Leaders. All make a significant difference in the community, as well as on campus.

The benefits affect students, too. "Our student scholars gain skills, knowledge and experience that help them navigate our complex, diverse world," Brown said. "They learn leadership skills, learn how to build consensus and how to apply their education through their own careers to make positive social change."

They also learn how to turn personal relationships into mentorships, often changing their own career plans based on their community experiences.

Brown has seen the explosion of growth in IUPUI student involvement during her time on campus.

"When I came to IUPUI in 2001, students were not heavily involved in planning community-service events," she said. "Now, our student scholars coordinate events such as **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service**, and have created new events such as Jags in the Streets and Cesar Chavez Day of Service. And because of their leadership, the number of students who participate has skyrocketed; that's important because students who engage in activities on campus often have higher retention rates than other students."

The associate director sees long-term academic benefits, too.

"Our ultimate goal for the Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholarship Program is to develop civic-minded graduates," Brown said. "They recognize the responsibility to use their education to make a difference in their communities, understand the importance of working together to impact social issues, and make decisions in their personal and professional lives that positively affect the community."

For Brown, the success of the scholarship program is a tribute to Jones' own approach to life.

"As the head of the Indianapolis Urban League and a respected community leader, Sam H. Jones worked tirelessly to bring together those of different races and ethnicities to positively impact social problems," she said. "He was also an incredible advocate for social justice in our community. Our Sam Jones Scholars interact with the community in many different ways, but they are all committed to making a positive difference in our world and working across difference to achieve it."

The [Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholarship applications](#) are now available.

Source:

Burrous, Ric. "Inside IUPUI." *Sam H. Jones Scholarships Are Making a Difference on the IUPUI Campus and Surrounding Community: Featured Spotlights: Spotlights & Profiles*: : Indiana University. IUPUI Newsroom, 9 Jan. 2014. Web. 22 Jan. 2014.

Plater Medallion Recipient Still Finds Benefit From Her IUPUI Civic Engagement Experiences

Natalie Clayton, a 2009 recipient of the [William M. Plater Civic Engagement medallion](#), found the application process to be a reflective experience. "By the end of the application," she says, "I felt inspired and qualified to go after my personal and career goals." She recognizes her IUPUI community engagement experiences both in and out of the classroom as "invaluable".

Natalie is a 2009 graduate of the IUPUI School of Public and Environmental Affairs, with a major in Public Affairs. Besides her formal studies in SPEA, she feels that her co-curricular experiences prepared her well for her career in public life, by strengthening such "soft skills" as decision making and managing peers. "Being a Sam H. Jones [Community Service] Scholar solidified my love for civic engagement and encouraged a change in studies from psychology to public affairs. Studying nonprofits and government in downtown Indianapolis was perfect for my career path, and I have been working in the public sector ever since."

Most recently, Natalie accepted a position as the Director of Membership and Corporate Relations with the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, which includes oversight of membership, annual giving and corporate sponsorships. Of her current position, Natalie finds "it rewarding and challenging securing the dollars necessary to ensure the museum remains a world-class history, cultural and arts institution for all Hoosiers and visitors to the great state of Indiana." Prior to this position, Natalie worked at the National FFA Foundation and for the Greater Indianapolis Program Committee.

Natalie also maintains an active life in the community beyond her job, as a volunteer for the Irvington Development Organization and the Indiana Historical Society. She is also a contributor to Visit Indy's blog, [DoingIndy.com](#), where she shares with residents and visitors on how to best enjoy all Indy has to offer.

As she reflects on her time at IUPUI, Natalie expresses gratitude for IUPUI's strong focus on civic engagement, which she believes makes IUPUI unique. As for the Plater Medallion, Natalie feels honored to have been selected and urges other civically engaged students to apply: "Be proud that you are a committed, community-minded individual. "

Plater Civic Engagement Medallion applications are due March 15, 2013. Find more information about the Plater Civic Engagement medallion, including a nomination form and the application at: <http://go.iu.edu/platermedallion>.

2012-2013 Dean's Report Highlights Trends of Growth and Impact

The [Dean's Report](#) focuses on how CSL executes its mission through its many programs, including a demonstration of data by school and highlights of trends of growth, faculty and student achievements, and research and scholarship. Read more on the [Campus Reports](#) webpage.

Community Partner Contributes to Student Success at the Ronald McDonald House

Mary Friend, Volunteer Resources Manager at the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana (RHMI) and an IUPUI alum, is a long-time CSL and IUPUI community partner. Years of collaboration have informed her belief that many of the IUPUI students' she has met will be a catalyst for change.

Read a first-hand reflection in the words of Mary Friend:

As an [IUPUI Kelley School of Business](#) alum, I was excited about returning to the IUPUI campus when I joined the staff of the [Ronald](#)

McDonald House of Indiana (RMHI) in 2007 as the Volunteer Resources Manager. As the “Human Resources” for our volunteers, I am typically the first person potential volunteers’ talk to about volunteering. Since IUPUI is where I started my involvement in community service, I looked forward to working with student volunteers.

Soon after coming to the RMHI, I became a site supervisor for the **Sam H. Jones Scholarship program** and created programs for ongoing service at RMHI by Sam H. Jones scholars. The next year, I had the opportunity to serve on the program’s selection committee. What a treat that was, to meet such an impressive group of service minded students!

At the RMHI, I primarily work with our on-going volunteers who include interns, scholars, and our Guest Services Volunteers. I have also enjoyed working with graduate students on a project basis and I continually gain new knowledge and insight from our relationship. Frequently, I find students to be a great resource in helping me problem solve or in developing a new program. They are eager to help and delighted to make an impact.

In my position, I have many projects that are important but not necessarily a priority. When working with a scholar or intern, I first try to determine their strengths and interests as well as what skills they would like to further develop in order for the relationship to be mutually beneficial. It is not too difficult to find projects that are valuable to everyone involved.

To quote a student I once interviewed, “Service is in my DNA”, so I am always looking for opportunities to give back to my community. Collaborating with IUPUI allows me to represent the RMHI as well as give back to an organization that has provided me with so many gifts. It also gives me the opportunity to work with service minded students.

I have no doubt that many of the students I have met over the years through my partnership with IUPUI will be the catalyst for change. A great example of this are the students who made Paws Pantry a reality. They saw the need for a campus food pantry and took the steps to make it happen. Now that is impact!

Events and Information

- Connect with **CSL** on Social Media
- **Jaguars in the Streets** – January-May, 2014
- **Participatory Action Research: An Epistemology to Examine Purposes of Education** – January 29, 2014 – 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
- **Work or Philanthropy? Examining How Faculty Spend Their Time on the Job** – January 30, 2014 – 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM
- Apply to present at **Bringle Civic Engagement Showcase and Symposium** by - January 31, 2014 (**ADD to your calendar**)
- **Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholarship Applications** and Open and Due March 1, 2014
- **Connecting Campuses with Communities Applications** Are Now Open and Due March 3, 2014
- **Plater Civic Engagement Medallion Award Applications** Are Now Open and Due March 15, 2014
- CSL wants to reconnect with alumni. Please take a few moments to complete this **Alumni Information Form** and let us know how we can most meaningfully connect with you.