

Stay Informed

CSL Newsletter

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From Our Executive Director: Deep Roots — Deeper Commitments

"Deep roots are not reached by the frost." This statement of hope declared in the poem by **J.R.R. Tolkien** is a truth most visible this spring. Once again, flowers and trees have come forth from one of the harshest winters we can remember. Deep roots are vital to sustaining life. Deep roots are vital to sustaining commitments.

How deep are the roots in civic engagement on our campus? This was the focus of a narrative report just completed for the  **Carnegie Reclassification in Community Engagement**. I had the pleasure of working with a dedicated team of faculty and staff to explore this question. We are proud to report that our roots are deep and wide.

Based on evidenced that we gathered, as well as reports completed by many of Schools, we know that since 2006:

- The **Deans Report** contains evidence of stronger strategic partnerships to address quality of life issues in Central Indiana, greater use of MOU's to reach mutually identified goals, and new outreach programs particularly in K-12 schools.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of positions and new roles dedicated to support community engagement within the Schools, for a cumulative total of 18.4 FTE positions.
- Schools report a higher commitment to developing civic-minded graduates as indicated by responses to the questions in the chart below.

There are a number of ways to support the development of civic-minded graduates and professionals. Please indicate to what extent your School supports the following types of programs/activities

(i.e., 1=not evident at this time, 2=somewhat evident, 3=clearly evident, 4=yes, very prominent).

Item	2006	2013	Diff.
Developing civic-minded graduates and professionals is a priority for our School.	2.62	3.38	0.76
Faculty articulate to students the public purposes of their profession or disciplines.	1.88	3.31	1.43
Classes include explicit discussions of the role of civic-minded professionals and citizens.	1.88	3.19	1.31
An ethic of service is well-integrated into the curriculum.	1.75	3.50	1.74
Community involvement of faculty/staff is well-communicated to students.	1.63	2.88	1.25

Student leadership in community problem solving is supported by programs and faculty.	1.50	2.81	1.31
Prof. accrediting standards expect attention to developing civic-minded graduates.	1.75	2.93	1.18
Advisory board emphasizes the importance of developing civic-minded graduates.	1.88	2.63	0.75

In spite of this strong evidence of campus commitment, our report identified a number of ways that our roots must go deeper. If we truly want to be a campus that values community engagement there are at least three important steps to take in the coming years. Each of these recommendations align with the **Strategic Plan**:

- Collective work should be done to more clearly articulate and align P&T guidelines, at the departmental, school, and campus level with our campus mission of civic engagement.
- Similar indicators should be identified and used across programs so the campus has the capacity to document collective impact of community engagement. These indicators could be derived from the **Quality of Life Plans** used in neighborhood redevelopment and promoted by the **United Way**.
- Restructuring of community engagement internally should better position us to respond in timely ways to community requests. But equally important, the restructuring should better position us to secure significant grant funding for new programs and initiatives.

CSL is dedicated to working with you to deepen our roots and commitment to community engagement. Enjoy the warmth of the summer sun!

IUPUI Partners with the IndyFood Council to Support the Local Food System

Beginning in 2012, representatives from a dozen organizations, including IUPUI, began meeting as the Food System Action Group. Their goal was to connect and grow Indy's local food system. In February 2014, the group successfully launched the **Indy Food Council** (IFC). The vision of the IFC is for Indy to have a food system that provides everyone access to healthy and nutritious food, enhances ecology, and creates meaningful economic and civic opportunities. The mission of the IFC is to connect food system stakeholders, catalyze ideas, and advance initiatives to grow a sustainable food system that improves the health and quality of life for all.

On February 24th, a special resolution sponsored by City Council member Zach Adamson was introduced and passed. The main pillars of the resolution focus on supporting a local food system, supporting the efforts of the IFC, and improving access to healthful food. IFC members are excited about the local governmental support of this work.

In addition to launching the council, the IFC also developed two signature programs: The **Indy Food Fellows** and the **Indy Food Fund**. IUPUI members of the council were thrilled that two IUPUI students were a part of the first cohort of Food Fellows. Catie Jackson and Sarah Robb, both SPEA graduate students, were engaged in year-long fellowships

with local organizations. Sarah, who was placed at the Indiana Cooperative Development Center, says that the fellowship *“[was] a great chance for young people to participate in experiential learning by participating in community events. I’ve learned so much about the food system. There are so many positive things happening.”*

Catie met the owner of **Distelrath Farms** on Indy’s Southeast side during her fellowship programming. For her project, she worked on mapping the built retail food environments of Central Indiana for the Marion County Health Department. Because of the connections she was able to make within the public health community, she has decided to apply to the Fairbanks School of Public Health MPH program.

Faculty and staff engagement in the council has primarily been represented by the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) and the Center for Service and Learning. Dr. Julia Carboni, SPEA faculty, was involved with completion of the organizations’ 501c3 filing and recruiting of the food fellows. Dr. Saba Siddiki, Assistant Professor in SPEA and IFC member, states, *“Food system governance is a core aspect of my research, so it is professionally and personally important for me to engage with a group that is directly involved in shaping the food system at the local level.”*

For more information on how to engage in this work, please contact Starla Officer, Program Director for Neighborhood Partnerships, at officers@iupui.edu. To join the Indy Food Council as an individual or organization, please visit: www.indyfoodcouncil.org.

Sam H. Jones Scholar Sarah Flores Will Continue to Play Her Part as a Global Citizen

“I think it would be a failure of me as a global citizen to neglect helping my neighbors in need,” reflects Sarah Flores when asked about how her civic and service experiences have influenced her time at IUPUI. Flores, a Biology major, graduates this May with her Bachelors from the **School of Science** at IUPUI, and will continue her journey as a civic-minded leader while pursuing an M.D. with the School of Medicine.

Flores’ passion to address the social issues surrounding access to healthcare has driven her professional path towards medical school. This passion roots back to her experiences as a student volunteer through the **Indiana University Student Outreach Clinic** and by strengthening her understanding of community needs in her role as a **Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholar and Leader**.

Through her four years at IUPUI, Flores has worn many hats as a student and a professional in training. Flores managed to find an extraordinary balance between her academic goals and her calling for service. Currently working on a research project under **Dr. Hua-chen Chang** in Cancer Immunology, Flores has also had a real-world experience in making a change in the community while participating on a service learning trip to Kenya through the **Honors College Study Abroad Program**. All the while, she continued to be highly involved in campus extra-curricular activities by taking up Executive Board and Member roles in the Women in Science House, Undergraduate Student Council, Student Organization for Alumni Relations, and College Mentors for

Kids.

Although Flores has led many community service projects, she recounts her most influential moment at IUPUI as “being a part of the largest service day that IUPUI has ever had, the 2013 [IUPUI Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service](#). Seeing all of the volunteers come together in honor of a great man who stood for justice was inspiring and humbling.” She feels “grateful to have been part of the leadership team who contributed to its success by not only bringing people together, but bringing people together with a purpose in mind: to serve the community and to “be relentless.””

Flores plans to stay involved in the community as a medical student at IUPUI and will find ways to give back through the Student Outreach Clinic. She also plans to return to Kenya to work with its rural populations. As she looks back upon her undergraduate career, the advice she gives to her fellow peers is to **“be adventurous. Make the most of every moment and try new things always.”**

CSL wishes Sarah Flores and all the [2013-14 Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholars](#) the very best in your journey to finding your passion.

Participants from 35 Institutions to Attend 6th Annual Connecting Campuses with Communities at IUPUI

We are pleased to welcome 49 scholars, practitioners, and graduate students from 35 different institutions to campus for our annual [Connecting Campuses with Communities](#) event. The event is designed to develop and enhance the capacity of those teaching a service learning course or conducting community-engaged research. Attendees may apply for one or both events that take place during the week: [The Service Learning Institute](#) (Monday, May 12th – Wednesday May 14th) and [The Research Academy](#) (Wednesday, May 14th – Friday, May 6th). In addition to the 10 IUPUI faculty and staff presenting throughout the week, there are 4 additional experts joining the facilitation team:

- [Lina Dostilio](#), Director of Academic Community Engagement, Duquesne University
- [Dan Richard](#), Director of Faculty Enhancement & Associate Professor of Psychology, University of North Florida
- [Donald Braid](#), Director of the Center for Citizenship and Community, Butler University
- [Lisa McGuire](#), Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Social Work, James Madison University

The  [Service Learning Institute](#), hosted by [Indiana Campus Compact](#), is ideal for community engaged scholars or practitioners and implement or support service learning curriculum design and are interested in strategies used to improve the quality of service learning courses. Institute topics include:

- Community partners as co-educators
- Digital storytelling as a reflection strategy
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Assessing civic learning outcomes

- Preparing students for service learning
- Online service learning

The  **Research Academy**, hosted by the IUPUI Center for Service & Learning, is designed to enhance the capacity of others to conduct research related to service learning and community engagement in higher education. The topics introduced foster greater awareness of the various lenses through which one can begin to look at community engagement (i.e., student outcomes, faculty outcomes, community impact, partnerships). Sessions cover topics such as:

- Theoretical frameworks
- Using institutional data
- Rigor in research methods
- Collaborative research methods
- Digital scholarship and open source publishing

Please contact **Tom Hahn** (for Research Academy) and **J.R. Jamison** (for Service Learning) to learn more or if you are interested in next year's event.

Tenth Annual Robert G. Bringle Civic Engagement Showcase and Symposium Celebrates Healthy Communities

The **Tenth Annual Robert G. Bringle Civic Engagement Showcase and Symposium** once again brought together IUPUI faculty, staff, students, and community partners to celebrate campus and community around the theme, "Healthy and Engaged Communities: Campus and Community Partnerships as a Strategy to Support the Well-Being of Indianapolis and Beyond."

The afternoon Symposium began with a new event this year, the Networking Luncheon, created in response to community partners indicating a desire to network with IUPUI faculty and staff to learn more about strengthening current partnerships as well as developing new ones. Paula Means, community leader and first female deputy mayor of Indianapolis, kicked off the day's events with an inspiring keynote address, reminding everyone that IUPUI is as much a part of the community as those representing various community organizations around the city. She challenged attendees to be community builders, to really listen to one another, and to learn our community's local history as we forge ahead in our pursuit of community engagement.

Symposium workshops and  **poster presentations** followed the luncheon, allowing attendees to delve deeper into the afternoon's theme. Presentations illuminated a variety of civic engagement work including the building of crisis housing in Swaziland, the creation of the Center for Innovation in Minority Business to address barriers to small business growth, the Campus Kitchens Project at IUPUI, community-based education at the IU School of Dentistry, and partnerships addressing public and physical health, social and mental health, and inter-generational learning.

A special part of this event each year is the awarding of the **William M. Plater Civic Engagement Medallion** to graduating seniors who have excelled in their commitment to

the community through activities such as service learning, volunteering, and advocacy. Thirty-four students received the medallion this year, a record number of recipients to date.

We want to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the success of this event, including those who served as table leaders at the networking lunch, those who shared their inspiring partnership stories, and those who played significant roles behind the scenes. This annual event, named in honor of the Center's founding director, Dr. Robert G. Bringle, truly celebrates IUPUI's commitment to civic engagement. We look forward to celebrating again next year on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

Events and Information

- CSL wants to connect with you on Social Media: Like us on [Facebook](#) and Follow us on [Twitter](#)
- Are you a former Sam H. Jones Community Service Scholar? Please take a few moments to complete this [Alumni Information Form](#) and let us know how we can most meaningfully connect with you
- [Retiring Office Director Reflects on IU School of Medicine Service Learning Projects](#)
- Want to connect with the CSL Staff? Submit your interest through our [Partnership Intake Form](#)