

The 2015 Report to the Community assessed IUPUI's impact on the community

IUPUI enjoys a special relationship with the people, places and things that constitute our environment—whether locally, statewide, nationally or around the world. That's why each year it's always a special opportunity to present the **Report to the Community**.

While I usually rely heavily on data for these updates, last week's presentation offered a narrative that spoke to the enduring relationship between IUPUI and the community and focused on how we will fulfill our promise to Central Indiana, the state and beyond.

First, it is important to clarify the promise we are making to our community. Quite simply, it is to improve the human condition, which, for IUPUI, is four essential responsibilities:

- Student Success
- Economic Impact
- Healthy Lives
- Quality of Life



IUPUI Chancellor Charles R. Bantz delivers the 2015 Report to the Community.

Education can serve as an instrument for personal and community transformation and it's on us to live up to these responsibilities and to have a clear sense of purpose.

That sense of purpose is rooted in our founding in 1969 to become a great urban university and continues today in our research labs, classrooms and other centers of learning across campus, as well as in neighborhoods throughout the state.

Let's review how we're working toward meeting those responsibilities.

Student Success

Faculty and staff at IUPUI nurture that first responsibility through a number of proven data-driven strategies and intensive programs, including first-year seminars, themed-learning communities, collaborative learning, diversity, as well as the undergraduate RISE Experience that promotes undergraduate research, international experience, service-learning and experiential learning.

Student success on this campus is also facilitated through integration of academic programs and career planning. Continuous improvement for student success requires pilot testing of new success strategies—such as using creative initiatives to help students overcome financial challenges to achieve degrees—but also conducting follow-up research on student performance.

Furthermore, we need to invest in additional financial aid through donors and campus resources to create scholarships and grants for students, along with professional development for faculty and staff to support their continuous improvement.

We know these initiatives can be effective: **Over the past twelve years, the six-year IUPUI student graduation rate has doubled.**

Economic Impact

The campus contributes significantly to the Indianapolis and state economies as an anchor institution. Through hiring, payroll and purchasing, IUPUI has a direct impact on the economy. IUPUI is an important service provider—especially as our faculty provide health care services as well as pro bono professional service.

Our commitment to economic development includes focusing on individual success from cradle to career; built on a foundation of education, care, research and engagement across the lifespan.

We are committed to improving education at every level—not only in universities. For example, some Ivy Tech students can transfer credits earned during pursuit of certain associate degrees toward bachelor's degrees from IUPUI. In addition, our partnerships with Ivy Tech, Butler University, Marian University, Martin University and the University of Indianapolis facilitate joint educational programs.

Such expanded opportunities for transfer students increase degree attainment opportunities, which results in a better-educated community and workforce.

The Report to the Community provided an opportunity to emphasize the direct correlation between health care and education/income.

Healthy Lives

This campus is proud to produce more than 50% of the state's physicians and 85% of the dentists in Indiana, as well as significant numbers of nurses and social workers. Our medical, dental, nursing and health professions faculty and staff lead the way in research and care.

And thanks to the new IU Center for Interprofessional Health Education and Practice,

students from the health and life sciences will be working even closer together, collaborating in some of the same classrooms and clinical spaces, to receive a true interdisciplinary education that will result in higher-quality care to patients and communities across the state.

We are championing knowledge, taking care of important needs of all kinds, and benefitting humanity—in a city full of real-life laboratories; enabling students to place their research and findings into practical applications.

World-class faculty researchers focus on health concerns most prevalent in Central Indiana and beyond, such as diabetes and cancer.

IUPUI is nurturing the next generation of research leaders through such opportunities as:

- Student Idea Pitch Competition: Ideas Solving Social or Economic Challenges
- National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates
- Research Commercialization Projects
- Faculty-driven Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Institute

Quality of Life

Successful students, economic impact and healthy lives all contribute to quality of life—raising the level of the human condition. But **IUPUI takes that commitment even deeper with extensive engagement**—sharing our expertise as well as welcoming valuable feedback and input from community partners in areas such as infrastructure, transportation, life sciences, the environment and culture.

These partnerships are on the Eastside and Westside of Indy, as well as in Kenya and China. They involve our colleagues engaging in strategic plans for the city like Velocity and Indianapolis 2020, and partnering with the Indy Chamber and Global Cities Initiative—all in the past 18 months—as well as building the Social Assets and Vulnerabilities Indicators (SAVI) database and launching Indiana's Policy Choices. All of these plans and organizations have also provided valuable feedback to IUPUI and city leaders on how best to meet the community's needs in the coming years.

Medical and dental students promote healthier lives, ultimately improving quality of life, through volunteer work at clinics serving Indianapolis. McKinney law students impact quality of life donating nearly 23,000 hours in pro bono work to the community. Student engagement and service-learning encourage students to continue contributing to their community long after graduation.

Strategies to improve quality of life build on our existing sources of strength, honoring prior investments and reflecting widespread stakeholder input into the planning process. Among others, I acknowledged during the Report to the Community the stellar work of campus administrators, introducing the dedicated cadre of vice chancellors.

One of the most impressive traits of these professionals—and the incredible team of deans, faculty and staff committed to IUPUI's success—is that while it is acceptable to acknowledge milestones, we are never satisfied. We seek to fulfill our promise to improve the human condition—and our sense of purpose—knowing that

success requires more.