

IUPUI has a long history of community engagement through project-based courses, internships and practica, community-based research and consulting, and applied, practical, and translational work in Central Indiana. With the launch of the Solution Center in 2004, IUPUI created a community resource and outreach office specifically charged to:

- Serve the state as a key partner in its efforts to increase the number of highly trained and degreed professionals in Indiana.
- Facilitate meaningful collaboration and talent-driven partnerships with Indiana’s businesses, nonprofit, and government sectors.

In this capacity, the Solution Center serves both the campus and external community by matching community needs and interests to the vast IUPUI network of highly trained and talented faculty, students, and researchers. Ideal engagements are those that increase mutually beneficial partnerships between the University’s community of scholars and researchers, and business, industry, and government, and nonprofit organizations.

The Solution Center also serves the campus community by providing assistance to faculty to brainstorm and coordinate experiential learning ideas; link to internal and external partners and funding for community-based research; and identify community organizations for class projects, case studies, or other initiatives.

Area of Work	Outcome/Goal	Service/Program	Source(s) of Evidence	Responsive Improvements
Internship Development; Community-Based Research; Nonprofit Capacity-Building	Make university resources more accessible to the external community	Serve as the first point of contact for community partners in need of assistance	Conduct community partner surveys for each engagement; collect the number of community partners	Refined process for referrals and matching funds grant program (Community Venture Fund)
Internship Development	Increase number of students in academically-relevant internships in the Central Indiana region	Connect community partners with faculty and students for internship opportunities	Conduct interviews with community partners determine mutual needs and partnerships	Used feedback throughout the year to improve programs and process. Intervene, guide community partners, and provide project management services where necessary
		Maintain campus-wide online job postings database	Collect data on the number of positions posted to the IUPUI Talent network	Refined job postings process for employers; market service to more Central Indiana employers
		Conduct campus-wide career fairs to connect employers with qualified students	Pre- and post-surveys collected from student attendees; evaluations collected from employers	Formative and summative data used to improve student programming surrounding event and quality of event for employers
Internship Development	Student learning outcomes in Solution Center-supported internships and class projects	Work with community partners to develop academically-relevant, RISE-worthy internships and class projects	Mid and end point reflective surveys of students engaged in internships and projects	Used feedback throughout the year to improve programs. Documented outcomes increased learning in key PUL areas

Area of Work	Outcome/Goal	Service/Program	Source(s) of Evidence	Responsive Improvements
Community-Based Research	Increase number of faculty involved in community-based research	Connect community partners with faculty and students for	Collect the number of faculty members working on Solution Center-supported projects	Market Solution Center services in dean's meetings and at new faculty orientation
Internship Development; Community-based Research	Increase funding for internships and community-based research	Community Venture Fund grant program	Amount of match funding received; surveys of community partners	Refined process for matching-funds grant program; encouraged community partners to provide true 50/50 match funding for engagements
Internship Development; Community-based Research	Increase the number of community-based, RISE-worthy internships and course projects	Support faculty and community partners in creating RISE-worthy internships and projects by communicating program's goals and processes	Surveys of community partners; Mid and end point reflective surveys of students engaged in internships and projects; number of 'E' courses offered	Refined process for matching-funds grant program; encouraged community partners to provide true 50/50 match funding for engagements
Nonprofit Capacity-Building	Develop partnerships between nonprofit organizations, qualified nonprofit consultants, and students	Conducted workshops to bring groups together; gathered evaluation data from participants	Conducted workshops to bring groups together; gathered evaluation data from participants	Used feedback to improve quality of topics and structure of events