

Highlights Report 2010-2011

Office of Academic Affairs
<http://academicaffairs.iupui.edu/>

The Office of Academic Affairs continues to be the main driving force for implementing a number of innovative wide-ranging campus initiatives underlying IUPUI's strategic academic plan. The successful outcomes resulting from these initiatives have produced substantial new revenue streams and a robust educational infrastructure. National recognition has come in many forms, for instance by IUPUI's placing at rank 5 on the 2010 U.S. News and World Report's list of "up and coming" universities who "recently made striking improvements and innovations – schools everyone should be watching."

Teaching and Learning

- The **Summer Success Academy** is a free summer program for entering at-risk students. It provides quick reviews of basic mathematics and composition in order to remove academic deficiencies. It also gives entering students an introduction to university life, and an understanding of the "principles of undergraduate learning" which are the learning outcomes which IUPUI wants all graduates to have. The Summer Success Academy, along with an enormous expansion of themed learning communities, summer bridge programs, and graduate teaching assistantships have led to sharply improved retention and graduation rates. The one-year retention rate has gone up remarkably from 62% to 75% in the past four years!
- The **Enrollment Shaping Initiative** has given a sharp focus to campus aspirations, and has begun to yield both economic and educational benefits to IUPUI. This initiative has increased the number of out-of-state and international students – the additional generated revenue stream is now \$10 million a year and still growing! This new source of income and the great improvement in student retention have helped to cushion IUPUI from the economic downturn and decrease in state support for higher education.
- The **RISE Initiative** has improved the quality of undergraduate education and rapidly become a part of the IUPUI culture. The campus has actively embraced the "RISE to the IUPUI Challenge", where R = Research, I = International, S = Service learning, E = Experiential learning. These experiences, which are recorded on student transcripts, are the hallmark of IUPUI graduates and are exactly what future employers are looking for. The RISE initiative has further strengthened IUPUI's impressive reputation for collaboration with the community and service learning, which has led to national recognition including the prestigious U.S. Presidential Award for Community Service.

- The **IUPUI Road Scholar Program** is now in its fourth year. This program recognizes full-time undergraduate students who achieve a cumulative GPA above 3.75 for a previous academic year by paying for their campus parking permit for the following fall semester.
- The **IUPUI Honors College** was developed as part of the Academic Plan. Honors students make heavy use of the renovated, state-of-the-art Honors College space and facilities in the University Library. The Honors College is proving to be very helpful in attracting top-quality students to IUPUI, particularly those who have interest in the health and life sciences.
- IUPUI has developed **24 new academic degree programs** over the past three years. These programs were built on existing campus strengths that match the priorities of the city of Indianapolis. Additional faculty lines and graduate assistantships have been added to doctoral programs to ensure academic quality. This has helped support graduate education and research.

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

- Raising IUPUI's research efforts to a higher level is essential to bringing more recognition to the campus. The faculty talent and desire are there to a large extent, but this effort needs to be supported with incentives, recognition, and flexible seed funding. It has been a good year for **faculty recruitment and hiring**. Our Office for Faculty Appointments and Advancement, in partnership with our faculty fellows, has continued providing high quality programming geared to enhance faculty success.
- The **Signature Centers Initiative** was designed to enhance interdisciplinary research collaborations and to stimulate the creation and nurturing of centers which would become over time the signatures of IUPUI. The initiative provides a good outlet for faculty to come up with creative interdisciplinary proposals based on their expertise. This year was the fourth opportunity for proposals to receive signature center funds. There is good buy-in from all quarters, since the school deans match the funding provided by the central administration. The selection process involving faculty committees works very efficiently. So far, 35 centers have been funded with \$300,000 each in flexible seed money. The Signature Centers Initiative has certainly played a role and contributed towards the increase in total research funding at IUPUI from about \$260 million to about \$400 million over the past 4 years.

Civic Engagement

- **Educational Outreach:** The IUPUI Poetry Contest is an event run by the Office of Academic Affairs to improve outreach and future recruitment from Indianapolis based high schools. The Solutions Center and the Center for Service and Learning have continued their excellent work in getting about 6000 students involved in civic engagement projects every year.

Diversity

- The **SRUF (Support for the Recruitment of Underrepresented Faculty)** program was formulated and implemented in consultation with the Deans Council and the Faculty Council. It provides \$50K for the first year and \$25K thereafter as long as an underrepresented faculty member remains on the faculty at IUPUI. This highly successful program has substantially improved faculty diversity – 47 new, additional under-represented faculty hires in the past three years. The percentage of minority tenured/tenure track faculty has increased sharply from 19% to 24% in 4 years.

External Awards and Appointments

- Largely due to the excellent work of the Office of International Affairs, IUPUI was one of the recipients of the prestigious 2011 Senator **Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization** awarded by NAFSA, the Association of International Educators. Many of our schools have finalized or are in the process of developing 2+2 programs of study with Sun-Yat Sen University, our strategic partner institution in China.
- **STEM Education:** The Executive Vice Chancellor serves as the principal campus representative for two prestigious initiatives at IUPUI to enhance the number of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) teachers: The Woodrow Wilson Foundation pilot project for training 20 STEM teachers per year at IUPUI, and the APLU Science and Mathematics Teaching Imperative, where IUPUI is one of 26 institutions in the Leadership Collaborative. In addition, there are a large number of other prestigious STEM grants and awards which our faculty members get every year, making IUPUI one of the leading campuses in the STEM education area.