

School of Public and Environmental Affairs

2011-2012 Highlights Report

www.spea.iupui.edu

Teaching and Learning

- A new undergraduate major in Sustainable Management and Policy was approved and the first courses will be offered in the fall semester of 2012. In addition to SPEA courses in sustainability, students will be encouraged to take related courses in Liberal Arts, Science, and Engineering/Technology.
<http://www.spea.iupui.edu/future/undergrad/programs/sustainable-management.php>
- A new graduate concentration in Urban Sustainability was approved for the existing Masters of Public Affairs (MPA). Students can now obtain the management oriented MPA with substantive expertise in sustainability.
<http://spea.iupui.edu/documents/MPA%20Urban%20Sustainability.pdf>
- The School of Public and Environmental Affairs has updated articulation agreements with Ivy Tech Community College, which will serve to streamline the transfer process for students from Ivy Tech to IUPUI. SPEA and Ivy Tech also collaborated on partnerships that served to introduce SPEA programs to Ivy Tech students through classroom presentations and individual advising sessions.
- An international partnership, 2+2 agreement between SPEA and the School of Government at Sun Yat-Sen University was signed in a ceremony at Sun Yat-Sen in August 2011. Students may arrive as early as Fall 2013.

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

- On February 17, 2012, the IU Public Policy Institute released the results of *Policy Choices for Indiana's Future* at a meeting attended by over 100 Hoosier leaders (www.policyinstitute.iu.edu/PolicyChoices). The project focuses on key issues and challenges, identified opportunities, and offered options in three broad areas: education and workforce development, energy and the environment, and state and local tax policy.
- Democrat John Gregg and Republican Mike Pence, 2012 candidates for governor, each met separately for briefings with PPI staff and Policy Choices commissioners, as did Governor Mitch Daniels.

- The Center for Criminal Justice Research (CCJR) continues work on the **Indiana Traffic Safety** project. This is funded by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute to support analysis of data regarding motor vehicle accidents in Indiana. This project generates a number of annual publications. <http://policyinstitute.iu.edu/criminal/issueDetail.aspx?IssueID=17>
- **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Research Partnership.** CCJR continues its research partnership with ICJI to assist in improving criminal justice programming and policy development in Indiana, The scope of work includes 1) a review of best practices for all Victims Services division programs and primary program areas under ICJI's Drug and Crime Control division and Youth Services funding streams, and 2) a statewide justice data records assessment that will serve as a first step in developing a statewide crime data collaboration that could emulate the nationally recognized traffic safety records collaboration facilitated by ICJI.

Diversity

- All undergraduate Criminal Justice and Public Safety Management majors are required to take a course on diversity issues.
- Two faculty members (Roger Jarjoura and Crystal Garcia) completed a study of the extent of disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system in Indiana.
- SPEA-IUPUI student participation in our overseas study program continued to increase.

Civic Engagement

- **Indianapolis Quality of Life Web Site.** The Indianapolis Quality of Life website is a collaboration between the Marion County Health Department and Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), led by three of its research centers; the Indiana Business Research Center, the IU Public Policy Institute, and the Center on Philanthropy. The project is designed to present engaged citizens and community leaders with the information they need to provide critical insights into the quality of public health in Indianapolis.
- In the Spring 2012 the MPA Capstone Course continued the tradition of conducting student directed studies for public and nonprofit agencies and organizations.
- **Conducting the Homeless Count.** Since 2007, PPI faculty and staff have undertaken a citywide count of the homeless in the Indianapolis community for the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP).

- **U.S. Attorney’s Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Task Force for the Southern District of Indiana.** CCJR researchers provided information regarding existing research on best practices in anti-gang and anti-gun strategies and programs nationally, for strategies proposed and adopted by the Indianapolis PSN, including assessment of the likely effectiveness of programs considered for funding under this project.
- **Indy Parks Inventory Use Counts.** In an effort to match facility and program use to potential users, and proactively assess the effects of management decision on potential users, CUPE will provide Indy Parks with inventory use counts, service and use linkages, estimates of park service value, and decision-making tools. Throughout the year, IUPUI students were in the Indianapolis parks counting the number of people using various amenities in the parks (basketball hoops, swings, etc.). The students also survey park visitors asking them how often they use the parks and which amenities they use.
- **Indiana Department of Homeland Security Disaster Housing Project.** As part of a subcontract with Crowe Horwath LLP, CCJR provided research and best practices analyses services as part of a project related to disaster housing and emergency services.
- The Public Policy Institute and its constituents, the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment and the Center for Criminal Justice Research, engaged in a number of applied research projects for clients including: the Indiana Gaming Commission, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, Metropolitan Indianapolis Board of Realtors, Indianapolis Department of Public Safety, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office.
- The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment served as staff for the **Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.** Projects include a biannual survey of government agencies, and specialized projects such as, water infrastructure.
- The Indiana General Assembly created the **Regulated Occupations Evaluation Committee** as a standing entity within the Professional Licensing Agency. The statute named the Dean of the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs as the Chair of the Committee. The committee reviews the regulation of approximately thirty-eight occupations over a seven year cycle.

Best Practices

- In order to better prepare them for their professional careers, undergraduate SPEA students are required to take a two-credit course in “Career Development and Planning.” This course assists them in the identification of their work values and includes career research and networking assignments designed to prepare them for contact with employers.

- The School of Public and Environmental Affairs developed the Online Success Seminar designed to provide academic assistance for students who are not in good academic standing. This program afforded students the opportunity to reflect on their academic strengths/weaknesses, and through hands-on programming, learn about developing strategies for success. As a result, dismissal rates have decreased.
- As part of our professional development program for students the School of Public and Environmental Affairs offered experiential programs that provided students with behind the scenes tours of numerous agencies, organizations and events. Guest speakers were also invited to campus to speak with students about working in the nonprofit, public, and private fields.
- A new series titled, SPEA Pathways to Law School was hosted to provide an opportunity for students to learn about the ins and outs of law school admission and what types of preparation they should consider. A representative from IU-Indy Law School was present to share facts on the admission process, LSAT, and other factors as it relates to the process, specifically for this program.
- SPEA has actively partnered with Ivy Tech Coordinated Programs to ensure a seamless transition for our future students.
- To ensure that SPEA programs are understood across campus, SPEA student services has met with a variety of campus constituents to inform and educate them on what SPEA can offer to their students including Undergraduate Admissions, University College Academic and Career Development, and Continuing Studies. SPEA also collaborates with University College to have a liaison serve between the two units.
- SPEA Student Services staff members are engaged in their professions and continue their professional development by attending and presenting at a variety of conferences such as JACADA, NACADA, NACE, and others. The new campus organization, JACADA, has three SPEA staff members on the leadership board in a variety of capacities from vice president to committee chairs. SPEA pays for staff to be a part of this organization as well.
- SPEA Student Services increased staffing and reorganized some positions to be more reflective of students' needs. As a result, a current undergraduate academic advisor moved to the role of Assistant Director of Graduate and Undergraduate Student Services, focusing on high ability students and the transition from undergraduate to graduate school. The former Manager of Recruitment, Retention, and Placement was renamed

Assistant Director of Career Services to focus more on employer relationship development, internship development, student placement, and overall career services.

- SPEA implemented the use of the Assigning Advisors function within SIS, allowing for students to more easily identify their academic advisor and build a strategic relationship with them.
- SPEA served as the lead school for the second annual Nonprofit Expo, hosted by the Career Services Council. www.spea.iupui.edu/npexpo.
- SPEA has implemented a post-graduation survey beginning in 2012 to track recent graduates on their journey toward full time employment.
- SPEA agreed to be the academic home for the new Sustainability House, launching in fall 2012. A current student services staff member will be co-directing the house with a colleague from the Honors College.

External Awards and Appointments

- The Public Policy Institute received a \$6.6 million gift from the Lilly Endowment to ensure continued operation.
- John Krauss, Director of the Public Policy Institute, was appointed to the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board.
- Thomas Stucky served as chair of the Midtown Mental Health Center Community Advisory Board.