

## University College Highlights Report 2011–2012

[University College](#) faculty, staff, and collaborative partners continue to develop innovative programs and initiatives geared toward student success and persistence. Several faculty and staff received national recognition for their excellent work and their contributions to serving students. Additional highlights from University College include the following:

### **Teaching and Learning**

- A faculty learning community was formed for instructors of first-year seminars at IUPUI. Participants, consisting of faculty from various disciplines and schools on campus, meet regularly to discuss current trends, develop scholarly projects, and share best practices for serving first-year students during their transition to IUPUI.
- Eight faculty from the [Gateway to Graduation Program](#) piloted 1,000 classroom response devices this year. A student intern provided faculty training and support.
- The [Gateway to Graduation Program](#) hosted a regional conference on critical thinking with Gerald Nosich, author of *Learning to Think Things Through: A Guide to Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum*, as keynote speaker. There were 115 faculty participants from IUPUI and other institutions in Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio.
- In collaboration with the School of Physical Education and Tourism Management (PETM), University College launched the first Summer Bridge Program section for PETM students.
- Career professionals in the [Office of Academic and Career Development](#) continue to receive a high volume of requests for classroom and student group presentations. In the last academic year, they reached over 1,600 students in non-learning community settings, over 200 students from the previous year. Academic advisors worked with 10,976 students in 2010–2011.
- The number of employer hosts participating in the externship programs over fall and spring breaks increased dramatically, with 116 hosts total. Marketing initiatives reached an increase in student applicants with about 400 students in total applying for an externship.
- The [Themed Learning Communities](#) (TLCs) program continued to expand to reach the most entering students in the program's history. Four additional program offerings debuted relating to understanding social inequality, critical thinking, physical education, and technology, bringing the total number of TLCs to 37 in 2011.
- The instructional team for Global Dialogues: Peace and Conflict in the Middle East, a themed learning community, developed the first virtual study abroad experience with Gaza University. A total of 35 students participated at Gaza University and at IUPUI.
- Clearly defined student learning outcomes were developed for all University College courses to guide curriculum development and instructional strategies. The PUL of critical thinking was added as a major emphasis in first-year seminar courses.

- Faculty members in all University College courses used course-embedded authentic assessment methods to measure student achievement of the Principles of Undergraduate Learning at beginning levels. Results suggested that 74% of the students were rated as “very effective” or “effective” for beginning levels of critical thinking, and 75% of the students were rated as “very effective” or “effective” for beginning levels of PUL 1A (written, oral, and visual communication skills) in 100-level UCOL courses or U110s, the first-year seminar.
- A comprehensive assessment of the Summer Success Academy indicated that a number of improvements were necessary to ensure student success and intended learning outcomes. Although overall results suggest that the program has significantly improved retention rates among participants since implementation in 2007, assessment results were used to make substantial improvements to the 2012 program to ensure that students are socially and academically integrated and perform better in their math and English courses.
- The [electronic Personal Development Plan](#) (ePDP) was implemented in approximately 50 sections of the first-year seminar with over 1,000 students completing a portfolio. Assessment results indicate that students who complete an ePDP have higher first-year grade point averages and are retained at a higher rate than students who do not complete an ePDP. In addition, students completing a PDP, either on paper or through the electronic portfolio, report greater outcomes on the first-year seminar end of course survey.

### **Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity**

- A new Entering Student Survey was developed and pilot tested, in partnership with IMIR and the Division of Student Life, to support predictive analytics related to retention and student success outcomes. The goal is to serve as an institutional leader in designing an instrument that is reliable and valid for first-time/full-time, transfer, part-time, and returning adult students. The pilot testing began during New Student Orientation sessions in summer 2012.
- Jennifer Weinmann, student employment consultant, was appointed editor of the *Journal of Student Employment*. The [Office of Student Employment](#) is hosting the journal for the 2012–2014 term.
- Indiana Members Credit Union renewed its scholarship and granted two awards of \$1,000 each to two undergraduates.

### **Civic Engagement**

- The School of Science and the University College Special Programs for Academic Nurturing ([SPAN](#)) collaborated with the national program Project Lead the Way to offer biomedical sciences certification to high school teachers and special credit opportunities to high school students. The program stresses STEM education, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills in order to prepare the next generation of leaders to work in a high-tech, high-skills global economy. This year, over 500 students were admitted to IUPUI through this new initiative.
- The [SPAN Division](#) has developed more early college articulations with central Indiana school districts, including: Arsenal Tech High School (IPS), Key Learning High School (IPS), Hope

Academy (part of the Fairbanks Recovery Program for at-risk teenagers), Providence Cristo Rey High School (Catholic charter school), and MTI Islamic School of Knowledge.

- The [SPAN Division](#) collaborated with other university departments to expand two programs. The Nanotechnology Early College Initiative (NECI), which was piloted two years ago with an initial enrollment of 33 students, has grown to 55 students in 2012. The Mechanical Engineering Early College Initiative (MEECI) has expanded to include three new high schools for 2012–2013.
- A faculty lecture series was created during 2011–2012 in a collaboration between IUPUI and Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School (CAMMHS). IUPUI faculty share their expertise for their specific fields, including physics, chemistry, biology, English, education, communications, mathematics, and health and life sciences.
- The Crispus Attucks Medical Magnet High School (CAMMHS) Transitions to College Support Series was launched to increase CAMMHS student college readiness and preparedness. The program helps students define their academic goals and plan appropriate strategies. The series features staff representatives from Academic and Career Development, Multicultural Success Center, Math Assistance Center, Bepko Learning Center, University Writing Center, Division of Student Life, Enrollment Services, and other offices on campus.
- [Twenty-first Century Scholars State Support Site](#) began the Jumpstart program this year. The program is a monthly series that assists eighth grade students in preparing for high school.
- [Twenty-first Century Scholars State Support Site](#) started Scholars Reaching for Tomorrow, which allows high school students to meet monthly to develop leadership skills and to participate in service learning.
- Dr. Regina Turner was invited to be a presenter and facilitator at the Indianapolis Repertory Theatre's production of *Radio Golf* by August Wilson in January 2012. She was also a panelist at the Indianapolis Museum of Art for the *Hard Truths* exhibit grand opening in April 2012.

### **Diversity**

- A special task force, later renamed Project MOSAIC (Maximizing Opportunities to Secure an Accepting and Inclusive Culture) was appointed by Dean Johnson. Project MOSAIC held its first meeting in January with Associate Dean Sarah Baker and Dr. Regina Turner serving as co-chairs. The goals of Project MOSAIC include infusing an explicit valuing of diversity in all that University College does and improving the cultural climate across the institution.
- The University College [Research, Planning, and Evaluation](#) unit, in collaboration with the Project MOSAIC committee members, developed and implemented the Project MOSAIC State of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Survey for University College faculty and staff. The purpose of this questionnaire was to assess faculty and staff members' perceptions of the environment and experiences in University College and to develop data-driven action plans based on the results.

- University College studied the factors associated with student success at IUPUI, including the effectiveness of specific University College programs (e.g., first-year seminars, themed learning communities, and the Summer Bridge Program). Several [reports](#) were produced examining how various high-impact interventions impact students from diverse backgrounds. Several questions were added to questionnaires to ascertain if University College is creating supportive environments for students, staff, and faculty.
- Dr. Regina Turner directed two campus theatre productions. The two productions were about the special challenges that international students face and how they interact with American students.

### **Best Practices**

- [Gateway to Graduation Program](#) faculty developed a new community of practice (CoP) for information literacy. Three CoPs are already in operation—two for critical thinking and one for technology.
- The Office for Transfer Services was established this year. It will provide holistic support to all transfer students, as defined by the Office of Admissions, through the first year after transitions from a prior institution. The office will also serve as a central hub for enrolled transfer students who are having difficulty obtaining the assistance that they seek and as a source of communications for students.
- The Office of Student Employment piloted the [Excellence in Professionalism Certification Series](#) in the fall 2011 semester. Students participated in workshops and learned various skills that employers seek in hourly student workers. There were 24 students who completed all requirements for the pilot program. All sessions were open to a general student audience.
- With the assistance of grants and donations, University College renovated UC 104, which serves as a large meeting room and space for student activities, and installed new furniture and technology in two classrooms, which will foster collaboration and active learning.
- Over 700 individuals used the new, free, online assessment tool, [FOCUS 2](#). This resource is available online for students to assess interests, values, personality, and skills; explore and compare majors and occupations; and plan educational and career pathways that will support their goals and personal needs.
- A strategic team consisting of staff, faculty, employers, and students was created in order to contribute to the vision and planning of the externship program. New marketing initiatives include a video, website information, and a [segment](#) on WTHR's "Cool in School" program.

### **External Awards and Appointments**

- The [Upward Bound](#) program, based in University College, recently received notification that it has been approved for five additional years of funding through the U. S. Department of Education. This \$1.3 million award will be directed toward continuing to provide low-income and first-generation potential college students quality instruction and academic support to ensure that students graduate from high school and are successful in college.

- [Twenty-first Century Scholars State Support Site](#) received a \$10,000 grant to increase enrollment in the program in Marion County. The program also received a \$4,000 grant from the Blue River Community Foundation in Shelby County to provide additional programming for families in that region.
- Units of and organizations administered by University College were the recipients of three federal grants, one state grant, and four foundation or organization grants totaling nearly \$1.3 million. (This does not include the Upward Bound grant mentioned above.)
- [Gwen Chastain](#), coordinator of academic services with Student Support Services, will be awarded a 2012 Outstanding Advising Certificate of Merit by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) in October.
- [Phyllis Washington](#), program coordinator for IUPUI's Twenty-first Century Scholars program, will be awarded a 2012 Outstanding Institutional Advising Program award by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) in October.
- Jill Vanderwall, experiential learning coordinator, was awarded the New Professionals Award from the Career Development Professionals of Indiana for her work with experiential learning on the IUPUI campus and for chairing a statewide conference.
- Jennifer Weinmann, student employment consultant, was awarded the 2011–2012 Dan Kriedler Newcomer Award by the Midwest Association of Student Employment Administrators (MASEA). This award is given for making unique contributions to MASEA within two years of membership.
- From over 6,000 entries from throughout the United States, Canada, and several other countries, University College received four MarCom Awards in the 2011 competition. The following pieces were recognized: the New Student Welcome 2011 campaign pieces received a platinum award, the Honors Recognition Ceremony invitation and program from 2011 received a gold award, *The Link* Spring 2011 electronic magazine received a gold award, and the Fall Career Week 2011 poster received an honorable mention.
- [The Link](#) (electronic magazine) received a 2012 Hermes Creative Gold Award, a prestigious marketing and communications award. *The Link* communicates to families and their students regarding topics related to going to college. A second gold award was presented to the *I to I* project, which featured deans from IUPUI schools talking about their experiences as undergraduate students.
- Several Nina Scholars have graduated and accepted positions with companies, including Kronos, Apparatus, Children's Bureau, United States Auto Club, and Envista.
- *U.S. News & World Report* continues to recognize IUPUI for "Best Learning Communities" and "First-Year Experience."