

2014 IUPUI Performance Report from The School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI
<http://www.spea.iupui.edu/>

Highlights:

The Success of Our Students

- More than 600 students, up from 400 the previous year, attended the fourth annual IUPUI Nonprofit Expo, an IUPUI Career Services Council event coordinated by SPEA. Sixty-three employers participated, serving as resources for students looking for internships, jobs or volunteer opportunities with nonprofits or public service agencies. The employers this year were as diverse as Cummins Behavioral Health, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indiana State Police and more. <http://www.spea.iupui.edu/about/npexpo/>
- Ryan Sims and Cameron McDougal, two School of Public and Environmental Affairs IUPUI graduate students, were chosen for the prestigious Presidential Management Fellows program. This highly competitive leadership development program places students in two-year appointments with federal agencies, which include salaries, benefits, classroom training—and invaluable contacts.
- SPEA IUPUI sponsored the 2013 Campus Sustainability Day Idea competition. Competing teams were charged with answering the question, “What can IUPUI do to promote cooperation between sustainability and local food initiatives?” The winners proposed creating rooftop gardens on IUPUI buildings, and won a \$500 Greening Grant from the IUPUI Office of Sustainability to begin implementation of the idea, plus prizes from community supporters, including Green Bean Delivery, the Indy Winter Farmer’s Market and Twenty Tap. <http://news.iupui.edu/releases/2013/10/rooftop-garden.shtml>
- In fall 2012, SPEA IUPUI launched its BSPA in Sustainable Management and Policy, and this year, the first two students in that program graduated: Dan Remington and Josh Aguilar. Sustainability at SPEA IUPUI focuses on the development and implementation of policies that help communities meet the needs of the present without compromising the future. The degree prepares people to lead and manage sustainability efforts in government, nonprofits and businesses. <http://www.spea.iupui.edu/future/undergrad/programs/sustainable-management.php>
- SPEA’s Justice and Pre-Law living learning community opened in the brand-new freshmen residence hall, the Tower. <http://www.spea.iupui.edu/future/undergrad/housing/residential-learning-communities.php>

Contributions to the Well-being of the Citizens of Indianapolis, Indiana and beyond

- Indianapolis Downtown Inc. (IDI), the private nonprofit that works to improve downtown Indianapolis, commissioned SPEA’s Public Policy Institute (PPI) to study the value of downtown as an economic driver and residential magnet. The effort produced two studies: a housing study entitled *Outlook for New Rentals in Downtown Indianapolis* and *Why Downtown Indianapolis*

Matters, which considers economic impact. IDI began a five-year strategic planning process for downtown earlier this year, and the PPI studies serve as a situational analysis for identifying and implementing future priorities for the city core.

<http://policyinstitute.iu.edu/publication/details/649>

- SPEA IUPUI created a “Women in Policy Series” to answer the question of what it means for our communities and our country that so few women make policy. The series brings nationally known, female policy-makers to Indianapolis to share their stories with women making policy in Indiana. Three speakers shared their ideas this year: Dr. Pippa Malmgren, who focuses on understanding global markets and the risks that can’t be quantified: politics, policy and geographics; Marsha Levick, Deputy Director and Chief Counsel and co-founder of the Juvenile Law Center in Philadelphia; and Marie John, a managing member of L&L Consulting and strategist for the Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Black Chambers.
http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/about_spea/deans_newsletter/march2014/women_policy-makers.shtml
- The Indiana University Public Policy Institute launched a project in June that aimed to produce timely and accessible information about the fiscal health of local governments for state and local officials and Hoosier voters, titled “Fiscal Benchmarking for Indiana’s Local Governments.” The project provides new, detailed information for state and local policymakers, and uses data for Indiana’s 92 counties, more than 1,000 townships and more than 500 cities and towns.
<http://news.iupui.edu/releases/iu/2014/06/local-gov-fiscal-benchmarking.shtml>
- Jeremy Carter and Eric Grommon, both SPEA assistant professors, were awarded a \$180,481 research subcontract from Engility Corporation to work with a team conducting a series of evaluations for the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center’s Communications Technology Center of Excellence. The contract grew out of the professors’ published article, “Wireless broadband for municipal police: Evaluating clearance times of calls for services,” which examines the effect of wireless broadband implementation on clearance time of services calls, using seven years of computer-aided dispatch data.
- In August 2013, the Center for Civic Literacy, housed by the IU Public Policy Institute, hosted its first annual conference “What We Know, What We Don’t Know, and Why It Matters: Surveying the Civic Literacy Research Landscape.” More than 50 experts and practitioners in areas of civic education, research and practice attended the conference, which occurred in conjunction with the center’s first National Advisory Committee meeting.
<http://civilliteracy.iupui.edu/conferences/2013-conference-know-dont-know-matters/>

Collaboration and Best Practices

- SPEA IUPUI’s Public Safety Career Day, held during Fall Career Week, included about 150 public safety professionals representing 40 city, county, state and federal agencies. They showed mobile units, hazmat suits, drug-sniffing dogs, bomb-defusing robots, the Department of Natural Resources’ airboat, fire trucks, armored vehicles and an array of weapons and bullet-resistant clothing. They spoke to students and the public about their career paths and everyday responsibilities.

- Three SPEA IUPUI advisors were invited to present at the National Academic Advising annual conference, where they discussed the intervention required for all first-time probation students. Since 2008, SPEA IUPUI has required first-time probation students to attend a half-day session that focuses on time management, study skills, learning styles and goal setting. Recently, SPEA IUPUI has expanded the requirement to allow students to select resources and campus sessions that will help them return to good academic standing.
- SPEA IUPUI has added a Diversity Enrichment Manager to the staff to help boost diversity in the school. The new position has two broad responsibilities: recruit undergraduate and graduate students from under-represented populations and assist them toward graduation. Under-represented populations include racial and ethnic minorities—African-American, Latino, Native American and Asian—as well as students who are first-generation college students, single parents, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender), international, military veterans or disabled.
http://www.indiana.edu/~spea/about_spea/deans_newsletter/june2014/iupui_diversity_issues.shtml
- SPEA IUPUI and the SPEA Student Council hosted a standing-room-only information session about the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. The program forgives student loans for people who work for a nonprofit or public service organization after college and complete 120 payments on their student loans. IUPUI Student Financial Services staff shared details and answered questions about this little-known federal program that forgives loans for qualified people working in nonprofit, government, policing, education and other careers. The event attracted students from many disciplines, as well as IUPUI faculty and staff who qualify for the program.