

Indiana State University

2004 - 2005 Academic Annual Report

Department of Economics

Year in Review

Accomplishments

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's 5-10 top accomplishments for the 2004-2005 year that will help contribute to this effort?

1. Faculty Awards - Donald Richards, Dreiser Research and Creativity Award and Fulbright Sr. Research Award to Paraguay. Aimin Chen, CAS Distinguished Professor Award. 2. The Department coordinated the 3rd year of the joint ISU/LNU State Department grant and hosted a first-class China Symposium in April. 3. The Center for Economic Education led a very successful Fulbright-Hays Group Study Tour in China for 15 IN K-12 teachers. This was a tremendous experiential learning opportunity for them and a significant community engagement activity for ISU. 4. The Department's scholarly output is second to none for a department our size, both in terms of quality and quantity. 5. The Center for Economic Education continues to perform significant community engagement activities in terms of teacher development within the community. Workshops and seminars are well attended and appreciated by in-service as well as pre-service teachers. 6. The Department now has a Middle East and North Africa specialist on board to allow us to contribute to ISU's partnership activity in Morocco. 7. The Center for Economic Education has been instrumental in the establishment of the China Exchange Initiative with the IDOE and is a full partner in this significant "experiential learning" and "community engagement" activity.

Research and Scholarship

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

The Department of Economics had a banner year in terms of scholarly activity, including 5 books/monographs, 12 scholarly reviewed journal articles, 18 national and international presentations, 8 proposals for intramural support and 5 extramural awards. We have made significant strides in the submission of grant proposals while maintaining a high level of scholarly publication. It was a great year.

Grants, Contracts & Off Campus Professional Service

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of grants, contracts, and off campus professional service? Are you satisfied overall? In which areas do you feel your department does particularly well? In which areas do you feel your department needs to improve?

Department faculty submitted 8 extramural proposals. The Center for Economic Education was awarded 4 grants with \$99,527 in external funding. The department faculty are starting to write more proposals and there should be some success in this area in the future. The off-campus professional service is mostly in terms of journal review and editorships. A couple of departmental faculty are doing significant community outreach in a professional role and this activity should be expanding over the next few years.

Best Practices

Describe the progress your unit has made thus far. Were you able to take these steps? What steps or goals have been particularly difficult to achieve and why? What practices, actions, initiatives are you doing that could be considered eminent?

We have made significant progress in expanding and updating our web-based communication (#1). We have had a great deal of success in Best Practice #2. The Center for Economic Education continues to expand its work with the IDOE and area school corporations. A Fulbright-Hays group study tour to China was completed with 15 IN teachers in summer 2004. The Center is working with the IDOE on another State Department grant that would include an exchange with vocational high schools in Tibet and is working closely with the IDOE's new International Exchange Initiative, working with a local school corporation to link with a school in Dalian, China. We have also enjoyed success in Practice #3. We now have a "pizza party" with our students each semester and include news about students and alumni in our spring and fall department newsletter. We have also completely redone the department promotional brochure. The activity of the Center for Economic Education can be considered "pre-eminent" if not already "eminent". It works more closely with the IDOE than any other similar Center (of any discipline) in the state. It regularly provides in-service training to teachers in a 7 county region and sponsors a variety of international opportunities for K-12 teachers. It is leading the state in its pre-service instruction as well.

Student Credit Hours

What did you learn? What steps will you take during 2004-05 to meet your department's student credit hour target by fall 2005?

We will continue our strategy of the past few years. We were successful in meeting our targets this year and had the highest sch per t/tt faculty member in the College (second highest in the University).

Budget

Identify and describe any collaborative efforts that have been undertaken by your department with other academic or administrative units to maximize resources to meet departmental goals. Please also consider collaborative opportunities with external partners.

The Center for Economic Education has partnered with the IDOE on a number of projects including the Fulbright-Hays group study tour of China, the IDOE's International Exchange Initiative, designing the pilot test for the Core 40 Economics curriculum and the IDOE's International Education taskforce. The Center has also partnered with Networks on Financial Literacy projects, including the CRU session of their spring workshop in Indianapolis. The Center has partnered with Social Science Education (and GGA) on two projects this year, a new summer honors course on Globalization and a 3 day workshop for 6-12 economic and geography teachers funded through the Excellence in Economic Education Act. The Center is currently working with Political Science to make a similar proposal to fund a workshop for economics and government teachers next summer. The Department is working with Political Science and other Social Science Departments on the establishment and funding of a Public Policy Center. The Center is partnering with the IDOE, Washington Township School Corporation, Purdue's Hotel and Restaurant Management program, and Sichuan University on a grant proposal to the US Departments of State and Education for a project to develop curriculum for vocational high schools in Tibet centered on the creation of entrepreneurial, culturally and economically sustainable tourism. The Center has partnered with the IDOE and the China Exchange Initiative on a proposal to the Freeman Foundation to fund K-12 teacher and student exchanges with school in Dalian, China.

Outreach

What are the outreach opportunities for your discipline? (non-traditional modes of delivery and timing, etc)

We currently teach two courses via web. Basic Economics and Labor Economics, both of which are general education courses and required for some of the College of Technology distance programs. The Center for Economic Education does a great deal of outreach through its provision of in-service teacher development (for which it won a state-wide award in October 2004) and its work with Networks on financial literacy. We have also been participants in the American Democracy Project; our election "pizza and politics" was showcased on the national SDP website.

Assessment

For each program in the department, provide one or two examples of how the program is using assessment and evaluation (student outcomes, program review, and/or accreditation) to enhance student learning and program strength this year.

The Department continues to monitor the progress of its majors in our senior capstone course. Student knowledge and skills in each of the major sub-fields of economics is measured and the department uses this information in considering possible programmatic modifications.