

Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Academic Annual Report

Department of Sociology

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 accomplishments for the 2006-2007 year that will contribute to this effort? [Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.]

1. Human Rights Day. As in previous years, the Department of Sociology's major outreach event attracted hundreds of Wabash Valley community residents to the one-day event. The event is an example of community engagement and experiential learning. 2. Sociology Research Lab. In 2005-2006, the SRL director and students designed, delivered, and disseminated the results of various surveys performed on behalf community organizations, local firms, and in conjunction with faculty from other department. 3. Impact of Lap/Shoulder Seat Belt Student. Dr. Steiger completed a study commissioned by a national association to investigate the potential cost structure of new school bus regulations. 4. Public Sociology. Dr. Steiger writes a regular column in the Terre Haute Tribune Star that deals with a variety of social issues at the local, state, and national scales.

Research and Scholarship

What is your assessment of accomplishments in the area of research and scholarship that is focused primarily on contributions to practice and discipline-based 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 sociology program's primary research agenda is closely tied to the Sociology Research Lab (SRL). The SRL encourages community engagement and experiential learning through the involvement of students in various research initiatives.

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?

The following projects were funded with sociology faculty listed as PI or Co-PI. Sociology faculty assigned to these projects are noted. Steiger. School Bus Seat Availability Study. Steiger. Vigo County Household Jail Survey Steiger. Enhancing the Economic Competitiveness of Ohio's Greenhouse Industry Steiger. Methamphetamine Awareness Survey Steiger. School Bus Seat Availability Study.

Teaching

We would like to highlight innovative approaches to teaching. Has your department developed any pedagogies or practices you'd like to share with us? Please describe briefly.

no.

Course Scheduling/Enrollment Management

What have been your greatest challenges in scheduling courses to meet student needs this year? How were you able to overcome them?

The primary challenge is staffing courses with faculty who have the necessary skill sets. With the recent departure of 2 Tenure Track faculty and the inability to hire two replacements, the deliverability of the curriculum is problematic. To maximize the efficient and effective use of faculty resources, SOC will develop a revised 2-year course rotation to meet the GenEd and major program requirements.

Outreach

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

Public Sociology. Dr. Steiger has expanded our program's outreach to include a regular column in the Terre Haute Tribune Star. This is an excellent forum for him to highlight--albeit indirectly--the unique nature of sociology, our program, the university, and its faculty.

Strategic Initiatives

Development Activities

What steps have you taken to support development activities in your department? How can your efforts be supported?

I have been interim chair for approximately 1 week. I have no knowledge of any recent development efforts or activities on behalf of sociology over the past three year period since the retirement of the previous chair. Having said this, human rights day does regularly raise funds and works with the foundation to support this program.

Community Engagement I

Please summarize your faculty's efforts in community engagement this year.

1. Human Rights Day
2. SRL Community Interest Surveys

Future Goals

Future Goals

The University is highlighting experiential learning, community engagement, and eminent programs as aspects of our campus that will attract students and resources. How is your department planning to contribute to these strategic initiatives in ways that will help ISU be recognized as a Pre-eminent University?

In the short term, the primary objective is to stabilize staffing to meet the instructional needs of the GenEd, major, and minor programs. In 2006-2007, we anticipate future goals will be informed by the program prioritization process and administrative restructuring within the college. Beyond issues of delivery and structure, we will continue to expand Human Rights Day and the efforts of the SRL.