

# Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Academic Annual Report

Department of Social Work

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. The Department has actively fostered local, regional, national, and international connections which have provided the social work students with community engagement and international opportunities (for student exchange, international distance education opportunities in the classroom), exposure to nationally known social workers at departmentally sponsored conferences, and specialized training in child welfare that provides guaranteed employment upon graduation and supports faculty public service. 2. Local social service agencies: Over 9,000 student internship (SOWK 480, 498, and 499) and volunteer hours (SOWK 130) are provided to over 30 agencies annually. 3. Increases to Departmental Endowments: Hamilton Center, Inc. has endowed the department with an additional \$40,000 for the purpose of providing professional educational opportunities biannually. Hamilton Center contribution will add to the two current social work conference endowments and establishing a third by the end of this academic year. It should be noted that as of January 31, 2006, the department had \$83,012.60 in the established endowed accounts (Note: in 2002 the department had only \$1,000 in the Departmental Foundation Fund. The two Hamilton Center endowments have allowed us to bring nationally known speakers to campus and to host programming that had not been previously financially possible for the department. Proceeds from the conferences have been used to sponsor the next year conferences. 4. Two current faculty involved research/evaluation initiatives: 1) Child Abuse Prevention Council, 2) Family Drug Court 5. State: Partnership with 4 state universities to develop curriculum, offer scholarships, and provide education and training to students through the Title IV-E Grant which will include guaranteed employment upon graduation, thus generating over \$100,000 to the department annually. Faculty are also actively involved in the following: National Association of Social Workers, Indiana Chapter; National Prevent Child Abuse, Indiana Chapter; Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. 6. International #1: University level agreement with Tambov State University, which has produced 3 student summer exchanges, joint international conferences, the establishment of an international freshman learning community, joint publications and research and subsequent Sister City agreement between Tambov, Russia and Terre Haute. 7. International #2). Hassan II University, Mhammedia, Morocco (helping to develop the first social work program in Morocco, training program for professionals, and distance education opportunities). 8. Increased enrollment efforts and increases in new students to major: The department has been very active in developing and maintaining transfer agreements between Lakeland Community College, Vincennes University (VU), and Ivy Tech (Terre Haute). We made regular visits to the community colleges for recruitment and to meet with faculty. We worked with the Ivy Tech (Terre Haute) Human Service Program and have developed a seamless curriculum sequence that can be complete in 4 years (2 at Ivy Tech and 2 at ISU). This has also occurred with the Social Work Program at VU. We are expecting a 10% increase in new transfer students in our program that will be moving into the junior level courses this next fall. The department also attends local high school career days and the numerous recruiting events on campus

to showcase our program and the social work profession.

### 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?**

This has been the Department's most successful year to date on receiving external and internal grant funding. The department is very satisfied Extramural grant and contract proposals submitted (including project director(s), project title, receiving agency, and date of submission for each item) Title IV - E Child Welfare Grant: This project provides tuition stipends and living allowances for up to three semesters to selected students who are admitted into the program. The proposal also includes funding for the project administration in the Department of Social Work and continued involvement with curriculum development and specialized training sessions for all students and project coordinators. Upon successful completion of the program, the students will be hired by the Indiana Department of Child Services to work for a minimum of two years in return for their financial support. (Funding Approved: \$25,000; Funding to be Approved - \$74,000, with expected annual renewals). Intramural grants awarded (including project director(s), project title, amount of award, and sponsor for each item) Impink, R. V. (2005). (Co-Director). Graduate Fellow Program Co-Director with Liz O'Laughlin for the 2006 - 2007 academic year in order to assist with the Community Mapping Project in conjunction with the Child Welfare Faculty Learning community and other community partners such as Friends of Families, Vigo County Lifeline and others. An Undergraduate Fellow Program proposal will be submitted in late November 2005 to also support this collaborative effort. Impink, R. V. (2005). (Director). Experiential Learning and Community Engagement Grant Program. Requested \$1,472.00 for the social work seniors macro project including at least one provision of the "Poverty Game" simulation program for participants to understand what it means to have a low income and need to request financial assistance. Impink, R. V. (2005). (Director). Liberal Learning Grant Proposal submitted October 21, 2005 - Funding Requested -\$2,751.00 to support projects relating to the Child Welfare Faculty Learning Community, the creation of a community child welfare planning effort and connect these efforts and community engagement activities for students in classes taught by members of the Child Welfare Faculty Learning Community. Robyn Lugar received two International Travel Grants to support work in Morocco to develop social work program at Hassan II University.

### 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.**

The department has internationalized its freshman learning community the past 3 years using distance education technology to allow students from the Institute of Social Work in Tambov, Russia to interact through Chatroom and Discussion Board with each other. The department has ongoingly built in community engagement projects in the curriculum (Example Poverty Game for Human Rights Day is the macropractice project) as well as 3 semesters of internship. This past year the department partnered with the local Red Cross to offer a one-hour course that certifies ISU students in CPR, First Aid and Disaster Training. The department is committed to offering this course each semester to build a student base of volunteers. Red Cross this is the first university partnership of its kind. (It should be noted that one of the students from last semester has been chosen to sit on the Board Of Directors this year for the local Red Cross in Terre Haute!). Senior students continue to complete agency-based research projects. Agencies continue to use them to improve their programming. Field Coordinator works individually with each senior to provide the highest quality research product for our community agencies.

## 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 department suspended the summer courses which increased fall and spring enrollments. This has been a challenge for honoring our transfer agreements with our community colleges, as we no longer have the accelerated program through the summer. This resulted in eliminating any possibility of students transferring from V.U. and Ivy Tech to be able to complete their BSW degree in two years (which had been the case up to this time). Intense discussions and brainstorming of ideas occurred last summer which resulted in Ivy Tech now offering two additional social work courses that meet the equivalency of the sophomore level requirements. Beginning this fall we now have again a real 2+2 agreement with them. V.U. is currently working on modifying one course so that they meet the sophomore level prerequisites and will again have a real 2+2 agreement between the departments. All but 2 courses are now offered only once a year which has increased enrollment in course sections. This is problematic for students who are not successful in a course, as not passing an upper level course requires a delay of one year in their graduation date. We do have loss to other majors for students who are low performers. They prefer to go to a major where they can complete it and still graduate on time. The faculty work diligently with students to help them be as successful in classes as possible. We identify early those low performing students, make referrals to the writing center, and tutors. We do intensive advisement with these students.

## Outreach

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

The Department provides outreach by creating partnerships with external publics at the local, state and international levels (i.e. Hamilton Center Inc., over 30 local community social service agencies, state child welfare training: Title IV-E, and international partnerships in Morocco and Russia), as well as experiential learning and community engagement opportunities. The Department has actively fostered local, regional, national, and international connections which have provided the social work students with community engagement and international opportunities (for student exchange, international distance education opportunities in the classroom), exposure to nationally known social workers at departmentally sponsored conferences, and specialized training in child welfare that provides guaranteed employment upon graduation and supports faculty public service. Local Social Service Agencies Outreach Opportunities: Over 9,000 student internship (SOWK 480, 498, and 499) and volunteer hours (SOWK 130) are provided to over 30 agencies annually. Hamilton Center, Inc. has endowed the department for the purpose of providing professional educational opportunities biannually. Community agencies contacted the department for assistance in research and evaluation. Two current faculty involved research/evaluation initiatives: 1) Child Abuse Prevention Council, 2) Family Drug Court. Statewide Outreach Opportunities: Partnership with 4 state universities to develop curriculum, offer scholarships, and provide education and training to students through the Title IV-E Grant which will include guaranteed employment upon graduation, thus generating over \$100,000 to the department annually. Faculty are also actively involved in the following: National Association of Social Workers, Indiana Chapter; National Prevent Child Abuse, Indiana Chapter; Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence. International Outreach Opportunities: 1) University level agreement with Tambov State University, which has produced 3 student summer exchanges, joint international conferences, the establishment of an international freshman learning community, joint publications and research and subsequent Sister City agreement between Tambov, Russia and Terre Haute. 2). Hassan II University, Mhammedia, Morocco (helping to develop the first social work program in Morocco, training program for professionals, and

distance education opportunities). The department is using distance and web-based technology to bring the two international partners' students into the classroom with our students.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

#### Development Activities

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

As of 2002, the department had \$1000 in the Departmental Foundation Fund and no Endowed Student Scholarship fund. Since then we have hosted professional conferences, produced and sold over 200 copies of a psychotropic training video, held annual alumni fund drives, and held numerous fundraising endeavors to generate monies for the department account and the student scholarship account. In comparison, as of January 31, 2006, the department has \$83,012.60 in the established endowed accounts. The two Hamilton Center endowments have allowed us to bring nationally known speakers to campus and to host programming that has not been previously financially possible for the department. Proceeds from the conferences have been used to sponsor the next year conferences. Hamilton Center plans to contribute again significantly to the department by adding to the two current endowments and establishing a third by the end of this academic year. We continue to work with our alumni to encourage them to support financially our work in the department. This year's focus has been to raise an additional \$9,000 into the Social Work Student Endowment Fund. It should be noted that all new monies generated by fundraising are put into one of the department's endowed accounts (for departmental, conferences, or student scholarship). The department NEVER spends any donated monies. Only money generated from the endowments are used. Surplus unspent money that have been generated from the endowments are put back into the endowed accounts to help increase the base of these endowments. The department takes great pride in being "good stewards" of our donors contributions to the department.

#### Community Engagement I

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

Departmental faculty continue to be involved in community engagement through the following: 1) Supervise individual agency based student research for all senior social work students. 2) Coordinate and sponsor (with Hamilton Center) two annual mental health conferences that are attended by 200+ community practitioners and ISU students/faculty. 3) Supervise junior level students to conduct the exit interviews for the Underground Railroad community event. 4) Provide leadership for the Social Work Association and Social Work Honor Society to be involved in community engagement which has included : collecting phones for CODA, helped with Habitat for Humanity in building a home, provided volunteer hours at a local soup kitchen, successfully organized a Toy Drive for local community agency, raised money for orphanage in Tambov, Russia through various fundraisers (including bake sale at the two social work sponsored conferences). 5) Provide coordination and supervision of student field experiences/internships resulting in over 8,500 hours of student service in over 35 local community agencies. 6) Provided leadership for the Poverty Game at Human Rights Day. 7) Involved with local agencies through involvement on boards, providing consultation, and joint research projects. 8) All faculty are involved with the statewide Title IV-E initiative of training students for child welfare positions. 9) Faculty developed a one-hour elective for ISU students with the local Red Cross this past year. Over 30 students are now nationally certified to respond to disasters, and are First Aid, and CPR certified. One student from this course was chosen to sit on the local Red Cross Board. The local Red Cross reports that this is an innovative program for a local university to provide training for its college students. They hope to share this program with other local red cross agencies and see it as an avenue to develop a new pool of trained volunteers.

## Experiential Learning

**We are interested in hearing about any innovative approaches you might have taken to incorporate experiential learning into your course or departmental work this year.**

1) Research course: New assignment designed whereby students design an exit interview instrument, interview participants as they exit the Undergroup Railroad experience, and provide descriptive data of the results for the Underground Railroad. We have coordinated this assignment with the local community organizers. Previously they did not have the expertise or the available volunteers to develop an evaluative component of the experience. 2) Contributing the Poverty Game Project to the Human Rights Day has been highly successful and provides the senior macropractice class with a community based experiential learning project. 3) Social Work students are involved in 3 semesters of community-based internships totalling 550 hours of experiential learning per student. 4) Students are involved in the coordination and delivery of the two annual community based conferences. 5) The Red Cross Course (SOWK 400) provides students with a nationwide certification for disaster training. While taking the course, they are involved with responding to local disasters as part of their training.

### **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?**

1. The department plans to continue its international collaboration and provide consultation with Hassan II. We are committed to helping them begin a social work program and to provide training to current professionals in Morocco. 2. The department plans to continue providing experiential learning and community engagement opportunities within the classroom as well as offer department-sponsored co-curricular activities (i.e. professional conferences, community service projects, etc.) 3. The department plans to continue to be active in continuous program review to provide the highest quality social work education and to produce only the most prepared social workers in the State Of Indiana. 4. The department plans to continue its partnership with Hamilton Center to provide conferences and nationally known presenters to our students and local community practitioners. 5. The department plans to continue its recruitment efforts at the community college, high school, and middle school level as well as develop Summer Camp opportunities to bring talented high school students to ISU. 6. The department plans to continue to participate in the Title-IV-E Statewide initiative of training BSW students in the area of child welfare for preparation to work in child protective agencies for the State of Indiana. 7. The department will use the upcoming year to prepare for reaccreditation, which includes writing the self-study to be submitted in July 2007, with a site visit from CSWE Commission on Accreditation due in the Fall 2007.

#### Feedback

**This section is to allow you to share your ideas for enhancing enrollment or dealing with budget and other challenges facing the administration.**

Ideas for Enhancing Enrollment: The Department is very hopeful about the potential of increased numbers of transfer students due to our new transfer agreements. The department regularly physically is present at the local community colleges (in the classroom, advising, meeting with their faculty/advisors, and recruiting for ISU). The Department attends all Admissions-sponsored events when prospective students are on campus (21st Scholars, new student, prospective high school

student days, middle school visits, Discover ISU). The Department attends career days at local high schools and middle schools as an opportunity to recruit. We plan to offer beginning next year a Summer Camp to encourage high school students who are interested in helping people to come to campus for two weeks (we are working with admissions on this project). Bottom-line: the departments MUST take a more active role in recruitment at the high school level and not rely on the Admissions office to tell "our story". They can tell the "ISU story", but are not capable of recruiting for each individual department. Also, departments MUST increase their contact with community colleges and work to establish transfer agreements with all local colleges. Again we cannot rely on admissions to do this work. To accomplish this however, departments need to have funds for recruitment. This would include monies for travel to other campuses (high schools and community colleges), developing activities to bring interested students to campus, and mailings. Currently we have nothing in our departmental budget for these efforts. There is not enough in departmental travel for faculty to be reimbursed for any recruitment-oriented travel. If there could be some designated amounts (even if it were billed to, or had to be approved by admissions) we could increase faculty interest in recruitment. Ideas for dealing with the budget: The Department has been very successful in generating money to establish endowments to help do it's everyday work and to a more limited extent to increase student scholarship money. This took hard work, creative fundraising efforts (hosting conferences, selling used hospital scrubs, producing and selling training tapes, selling candles, annual alumni drives, and partnering with a local community organization to provide them needed services, donated departmental faculty earnings from grant). It took the department three years (and not spending any donated money) to get to the point where it had endowed accounts. In the history of the department there has never been a time where we have been able to offer our students and the professional community the number of nationally known speakers and high quality conferences. We have generated in 3 years the ability to offer a \$500 scholarship to a social work student. The department has almost \$1000 in usable monies from the departmental account to provide co-curricular activities to its students (ex. senior trip, end of year reception for seniors and field instructors, etc) Bottom-line: Departments need to make whatever efforts and provide creative services to community sponsors/partners to generate endowments. Departments can no longer rely only on the state to meet our budgetary needs. Departments and their faculty MUST be proactive in raising money for the department. To accomplish this however, individual faculty need to have incentive to make these efforts. Again there is currently no travel money for faculty to make such contacts. There needs to be some mechanism in place that departments and individual faculty take ownership for fundraising. Departments cannot rely only on the college's development officer or ISU Foundation office staff to make contacts and raise money.