

Indiana State University

2005 - 2006 Administrative Annual Report

Center for Public Service and Community Engagement

Year in Review

Achievements

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 2006-07 year that will contribute to this effort? (Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.)

1. Sycamore Service Corps - CPSCE has launched a local AmeriCorps program through a grant from the Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. Through this project, 40 AmeriCorps members have been placed to complete intensive terms of service with 14 nonprofit organizations. This project is funded through a \$125,000 grant through the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. In addition, 10 more AmeriCorps members (all ISU students) are supported through the Midwest Campus Compact Citizen-Scholar Fellowship Program. These students utilize their Federal Work Study awards to complete their service terms. 2. Habitat for Humanity - CPSCE coordinated construction and fundraising for the 51st Habitat House in the Wabash Valley. Almost \$17,000 was raised. During the spring semester, 227 faculty, staff, community supporters, and students volunteered or contributed to the project. The College of Technology, Facilities Management, Department of Sociology, Student Life Programs, and Support Staff Council collaborated in the coordination of the project. The house was dedicated on June 20. 3. Downtown Terre Haute - Downtown Terre Haute held its first "Downtown Street Fair" in conjunction with ISU Family Weekend. This event will become an annual event. DTH also has started the Downtown Farmer's Market, a weekly event throughout the summer. 4. Alliance for Excellence through Engagement and Experiential Learning - A total of six Faculty Fellowships, four Graduate Community Research fellowships, fifteen undergraduate research fellowship and Twelve Curriculum and Research Support Experiential Learning/ Community Engagement grants were awarded in 2005-2006. 5. Liberal Learning in Action - This program provided funding for 15 projects that engaged 394 ISU students and 302 K-12 students. The project is administered jointly by CPSCE and General Education. One of the most interesting Liberal Learning in Action projects was organized by Dr. Anne Foster in the Department of History during the Fall 2005 semester. Students completed oral histories with Holocaust survivors and WWII veterans impacted by the Holocaust. In December, the students held an exhibition with displays and videotapes of their interviews. These items have been donated to the CANDLES Museum for their displays. Another project coordinated by Dr. Rhonda Impink, Social Work, and Dr. Liz O'Laughlin, Psychology, supported a Child Welfare summit for ISU students and faculty and local educators and human service providers. As a result of this summit, several ISU representatives and community partners are continuing to meet to consider the formation of a child abuse prevention council. 6. Alternative Spring Break - During the spring semester, 38 participants traveled to the Gulf Coast to provide relief to residents during ISU's spring break week. The students worked on several family homes and a rehabilitation facility. 7. Community Engagement Recognition - We held our first recognition banquet. Two new awards were given to community partners at the banquet. The honorees included Ryves Hall, Hamilton Center, and the Professional Development School Partnership. Students, John Nay and Tyler Horn, received the President's Award for Civic Leadership. 8. The American Humanics program has added a graduate option in Nonprofit Management Certification through the MPA program. Dr. Kimberly

Fredericks is coordinating this program. In addition, Dr. Nathan Schaumleffel, a first-year Assistant Professor in the Department of Recreation and Sport Management, is serving as the new Undergraduate Coordinator. 9. Four departments in the College of Arts and Sciences received support through Focus Indiana for Community Engagement activities. These departments are: Political Science, Theater, Art, and Music. Highlights of their projects include the creation of a large mural on the south wall of the Boys and Girls Club, the creation of a theatre/dance program at Ryves Hall, student participation in Conn-Selmer University, and student participation in the Model House of Representatives program.

Enrollment

What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?

We actively participate in Sycamore Advantage by recruiting students for American Humanics and AmeriCorps at the resource fair. We also exhibited at the Governor's Conference on Community Service and Volunteerism. Our Focus Indiana and AEEE grants supported contact by ISU faculty and students with over 300 K-12 students during the 2005-06 academic year. The Director of CPSCE participated in a diversity assembly with Chauncey Rose, Otter Creek, and Woodrow Wilson Middle Schools. We work with the MAPS program to recruit AmeriCorps members. The MAPS program has referred several students to AmeriCorps. We continuously work with Public Affairs to promote to the public the community engagement activities of current ISU students. The students involved in our programs, including AmeriCorps, serve as informal ambassadors for the University.

Action Steps

Do you have any further progress you would like to report?

The AEEE fellowships, and the work they support, are a significant attempt to better define ISU's image across the region. Community partner reaction to these programs has been positive. Additionally, the EL/CE Research and Curriculum Awards as well as the Fellowships have increased ISU's "ability to recruit better prepared students, faculty, and staff..." (FIProm p.4) Four of last year's undergraduate fellowships were awarded to transfer students having a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0. These four have been recommended for a second year renewal. It is anticipated that an additional transfer award will be made this year. The fellowships create mentoring relationships in which our students "are supported by personal attention from our dedicated faculty and staff who inspire students to create and apply knowledge through dynamic partnerships with the community." (FIProm p.5) We have continued to give presentations about community engagement at state and national conferences. We also have published 2 articles this year about our work. The AmeriCorps program is an incentive for students who are interested in public service during their college experience.

Assessment

What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year? What changes did you make based on those assessments?

Our AmeriCorps program was audited by the Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. This audit resulted in several small changes to the program. We also complete exit interviews with AmeriCorps members and have made some changes related to how we place and train AmeriCorps members. In early June, our AmeriCorps staff held a focus group with current members to get feedback for next year. The focus group confirmed the need to give a more in-depth orientation. During the summer, we meet with several of our community partners to review the past year. As a result of a recent meeting with the United Way, we are going to take some steps in the fall

to streamline the University's involvement with the United Way, including a meeting to coordinate the activities of Sycamore Technology Solutions, Sycamore Business Advisors, the Public Relations Program, and CPSCE. We conducted a self study, presented at the 4th International Conference on Civic Engagement, of the Liberal Learning in Action program and its contribution to liberal learning, community engagement, and civic engagement. Metrics were selected for each of these 3 areas to quantify: fundamental student skills and knowledge, degree of community participation, and level of civic awareness generated by the LLA program.

Budget

As you know, ISU is facing significant budget challenges. Finding ways to overcome these while increasing efficiency requires innovation. How are you overcoming your budget challenges this year?

We have a significant amount of external funding. The various fellows, staff members, and students with the Center, Alliance, and funded projects share duties and collaborate across project and administrative divisions.

Strategic Initiatives

Development Activities

What role might your unit play during the silent phase of the comprehensive fundraising campaign?

Depending on the campaign priorities, CPSCE, AEEE, and their respective fellows could provide information, presentations, etc. about the engagement activities of the campus to the University Advancement, Marketing and Communications, Foundation Board, etc. For example, if scholarships are a campaign priority, we can identify AEEE fellows or Focus Indiana Intern Scholars to profile.

Future Goals

Future Goals

Have you considered any action steps your department could make to enhance Indiana State University's reputation as a University of choice? If so, please indicate what you are planning to do and tell us which area of planning your steps fall under.

EL From the Director of AEEE: The following institutional impediments to EL/CE becoming fully ingrained into ISU's culture need to be successfully addressed at various levels of authority and/or responsibility:

- o It is unclear as to how (and where) EL/CE "counts" in terms of promotion and tenure. Stated and explicit guidelines regarding EL/CE's place and value in the promotion/tenure process must exist if we expect faculty to incorporate EL/CE into their courses and research/creative activities.
- o The unfortunate fact that it is not possible to address experiential learning and/or community engagement on the Individual Faculty Annual Report (IFAR) must be rectified.
- o Given that the mentoring relationships required by EL/CE involve additional faculty time, and there is no way to account for that on the IFAR, there exists a perceived "dis-incentive" to engage in such activities.
- o Faculty feel that internal grant awards carry less "weight" than external grants in P/T decisions. Further development is needed in the following areas:
- o Identification of existing community engagement and public service activities among the academic units of Indiana State University. (Non CPSCE or AE3 related outreach)
- o Recommending and facilitating faculty development opportunities promoting a scholarly approach to experiential learning and community engagement.
- o Identifying and utilizing local faculty resources to share their knowledge and expertise in community engagement and experiential learning. In addition, we would like to fully implement a service-learning course designation proposal. CE CPSCE is coordinating with the

Departments of Recreation and Sport Management, Social Work, Psychology, Sociology, and Family and Consumer Sciences the development of a certificate program in Youth Development. During the fall semester, we will launch an on-line searchable database of volunteer opportunities. IT is creating this for us. Increasing student awareness of CPSCE is a priority for 2006-07. In the fall of 2006, we will publish a monograph featuring articles about AEEE and Liberal Learning in Action projects.