



Friends of IPCE,



A new academic year is underway at UIC and, we at IPCE are excited about what this year has to offer. Speaking of new, this newsletter itself is new for us this year. We will be sharing updates and features about IPCE programs, events, staff, and partners here in this newsletter space on a quarterly basis so watch for the latest IPCE news here. We also are excited about our revamped website and its fresh new look that also offers other ways to follow IPCE news through social media.

IPCE begins its fourth full year of operation this year and I find it appropriate to say that we have hit our stride. Here is a quick swing around the horn of IPCE programs. The Civic Engagement Research Awards and the Urban Public Policy Fellows (UPPF) program are both moving forward earlier in the year than ever as selections for both programs were made in the spring semester. There are five faculty research projects already underway, and a new cohort of 24 UPPF Fellows are already working for partner organizations. We have just announced the application for the FY13 Civic Engagement Discourse Award competition for UIC faculty and staff. Applications are due by October 12. Our CivicSource.org web portal includes weekly updates rich with civic engagement and policy information, opportunities for engagement, blog posts, and learning modules.

The scope of our 2013 research awards reflects our broad view of civic engagement and includes research on the role of nonprofits in voter registration, the role of informatics and 'big data' in enhancing engagement, a case study of engagement in an urban farming initiative, how new immigrants engage in both their new communities and their homelands, and a study of a participatory budgeting project in Chicago. The research we support continues to generate new knowledge and I invite you to check out more detailed descriptions of those projects on our website.

Finally, I'd like to mention a couple of IPCE events. In partnership with the McCormick Foundation, IPCE is hosting on October 3 a talk by Meira Levinson of Harvard University and author of *No Citizen Left Behind* which documents the need for reform of K-12 civic education in America. Also, I invite you to visit the events section of our website for more on our Brown Bags series of research talks and other IPCE or IPCE-sponsored events. I hope to see you soon in a real space at one of our events, or in virtual space through our web-based resources and connections.

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Hoereth, PhD

CivicSource Takes Big Steps to Engage Citizens and Transform Democracy

IPCE recognizes the importance of building an informed, engaged citizenry in order to create a more effective democracy. Citizens need information and opportunities for action in their communities, and CivicSource is IPCE's response to this need.

"There is currently a 'deficit of trust' between citizens and government in the US," explains IPCE Director Dr. Joseph Hoereth. "We believe that taking steps to keep citizens informed and create a more responsive government can help to improve trust in our democratic system and re-engage (or newly engage) citizens both as participants in the democratic system and as individual agents of change in their communities."

Launched over a year ago, CivicSource.org is a web portal run by IPCE that hosts a wide range of civic engagement and policy information, learning tools and opportunities to connect with civic engagement efforts. Building on the idea that citizens can and should leverage great power in democracy, IPCE created CivicSource as a tool that places responsibility back in the hands of all community members and equips them with the knowledge and information necessary for engaging with the policymaking process and current social trends. Whether a concerned citizen, student, community leader, elected official or a group from the public at large, CivicSource brings individuals, organizations and institutions together with information they need to understand, deliberate and take action on policy issues. IPCE believes that a healthy democracy is one characterized by a two-way flow of information—between government officials and citizens—and CivicSource helps to mediate that flow.

As a tool for learning, CivicSource features content that seeks to inform, answer, engage and improve. Visitors will find:

- Current research presented in reader-friendly articles that connect the relevance of IPCE's work to the lives of average citizens. Such stories are posted regularly to the portal and provide up-to-date information on current events, policy issues and social trends while also highlighting ways to get involved in community initiatives and outreach.
- Blog postings and contributions by IPCE staff, UIC faculty, leaders, and expert guest bloggers on important public policy and civic engagement topics.

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IPCE

The Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) focuses on transforming democracy by creating a more fully engaged citizenry with more effective leaders. As a catalyst for learning and action, the Institute creates opportunities for scholars, concerned citizens, students, and government officials to actively participate in social discourse, research, and educational programs on policy issues and social trends.

Find out more about the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement at www.ipce.uic.edu or call 312-355-0088.

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- Information about forums, town halls, community meetings and other public events related to civic engagement or policy. All IPCE and relevant UIC events are posted on the portal.
- A series of short, self-directed topical learning modules that serve as visual learning tools on basic policy, technology or government-related issues.
- Helpful “Find Answers” tools that connect individuals with online e-Government services. Visitors may find answers to questions such as: “Who are my elected officials?”, “Where can I find data relevant to my neighborhood?” or “How is policy made?”

Dr. Hoereth applauds CivicSource’s potential to transform civic engagement, noting that “it is a great tool for learning more about policy issues, an important tool for discovering policy research, a useful tool for engaging like-minded (or even not so like-minded) individuals in dialogue, and ultimately a tool for improving how government works for all citizens.”

CivicSource’s function as a multifaceted tool stems from the portal’s embrace of technology and its ability to connect people of different places, backgrounds and ideas to one another as well as to a wealth of information. Technology is transforming the way citizens and government interact with and participate in our democratic system, and CivicSource is leading that change.

“Online resources like CivicSource that capitalize on technology to better inform and connect citizens, leaders and government are giant steps toward creating a more engaged democracy,” says Dr. Hoereth.

You can also follow CivicSource on Facebook and Twitter.



New Website a Bold Start to New Year for IPCE



To coincide with the beginning of the school year, IPCE is unveiling an updated website that boasts a new layout, easy navigation, and content illustrating current work of the Institute.

The new website amps up its design and presents a stylistically modern vision that relies on visuals to organize content and engage users. In redesigning its website, IPCE seeks to create a space that displays easy-to-access information as well as opportunities for visitors to connect with the Institute.

Featured on the new website are programs, research and tools for engagement run by IPCE. In accordance with its mission of providing opportunities for community members to participate in dialogue and learning initiatives on current policy issues and social trends, the new website helps to realize IPCE’s goal by serving as host to projects and events currently underway at the Institute that focus on civic engagement efforts and research valuing civic engagement practice and theory.

With its array of projects, research and discourse events, IPCE plays a leading role in creating more informed and engaged communities, and the new website models such efforts. On the website, the IPCE Theory of Change illustrates the process by which the Institute effects change for both citizens and government in order to create a mutually beneficial relationship in which participants at all levels are active and empowered by knowledge. The theory itself, an intricate method characterized by a progressive flow of assumptions, inputs, activities, outcomes and impacts, helps put IPCE’s research in action and establishes what IPCE Director Dr. Joseph Hoereth describes as “an iterative process through which our programs are informed by research and the research is informed by our programs.”

IPCE’s Theory of Change can be seen in action across the website. In providing opportunities for learning and action for citizens, leaders, scholars, and

COMING UP

Watch your email and the IPCE website for notice of the following events and activities and more.

For All/Public Event: Author Visit: Meira Levinson’s No Citizen Left Behind.

Join the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, the Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement at the University of Illinois Chicago, the Spencer Foundation and the Mikva Challenge for an evening of conversation with Harvard Associate Professor of Education, Meira Levinson on **Wednesday, October 3, 2012 at 5 p.m.** (doors open at 4:00) at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Student Center East (750 S. Halsted). Books available for purchase, signing by the author.

Civic Engagement Brown Lunch Series: Join us for a new brown bag series and learn more about how civic engagement can transform democracy. CUPPA, Conference Room 418 Noon to 1 p.m. *Brown bag encouraged. Refreshments will be served.*

Thursday, October 18, 2012: Taking the Engagement in Civic Engagement Seriously: a Framework with Anthony Laden, Department of Philosophy College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Wednesday, November 14, 2012: Creating Pathways: Factors Influencing Successful Transition of Underrepresented Students in Higher Education into Public Service with Margaret LaPorte, Department of Public Administration, College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs

students, IPCE's new site clearly showcases programs, resources, research and events that are of interest to these community groups.

For citizens, IPCE provides information on how government works, how to better connect with government services and leaders and how and where to participate in discussion, deliberation and debate on current policies. Individuals can access the CivicSource web portal—a media-based resource with information on government leaders and services, community and local events and opportunities to connect with policy organizations and other citizens—as well as participate in public forums and workshops that provide policy primers on complex issues and the policymaking process. Leaders, too, can benefit from such tools, as the tools are useful for learning about key policy issues and creating spaces for dialogue so that leaders can make more informed decisions and better represent their constituents.

For scholars, IPCE conducts and supports research on civic engagement practice and theory, with a focus on how technology can enhance and inform participation in democracy. As such, IPCE supports research partnerships, the Civic Engagement Research Fund and the Civic Engagement Discourse Fund and has seen projects that range from long-term studies on e-government and social media to projects that explore diverse topics such as youth e-engagement, political participation of people with disabilities and finding a philosophical framework for civic engagement.

For students, IPCE supports activities focused on building civic engagement and developing leadership skills in youth. The Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) Program offers internship placements that expose UIC students to policy issues with civic and policy organizations, nonprofit groups, and government offices, while Civic Engagement Days are two-day workshops for high school youth that outlines how the legislative policymaking process works.

IPCE Awards Funding to UIC Faculty for Civic Engagement Projects

IPCE is proud to announce the recipients of the 2012-2013 Civic Engagement Research Fund Award. Five UIC faculty members have been chosen by the Institute to be funded for their work that either furthers our understanding of civic engagement theory and the practice of facilitating engagement or provides tools that enhance the efforts of civic engagement in community change initiatives. Each recipient is awarded up to \$20,000 and must submit a report of their work to the Institute for online publication.

The five faculty winners include:

Lynette Jackson, Department of Gender and Women's Studies/College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
"New African Diasporas"

Kelly LeRoux, Department of Public Administration/College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
"Nonprofits and Voter Registration"

Angela Odoms-Young, Kinesiology and Nutrition/College of Applied Health Sciences
"Civic Engagement and Food Justice"

Piyushimita Thakuria, Urban Planning and Policy/College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
"Urban Informatics Big Data and Community Engagement"

Rachel Weber, Urban Planning and Policy/College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
"Chicago Participatory Budgeting Research Project"

IPCE Selects 23 Undergrads for UPPF Program

The Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) in partnership with the African American Network (AAAN) and Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services (LARES) are pleased to welcome the 2012-2013 Urban Public Policy Fellows to the Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) program.

From August to April, the cohort of 23 will work at internship sites fielded in civic and policy organizations, nonprofit groups, and government offices that suit their individual interests and will also participate in weekly seminars and workshops that will expose them to the theory and practice of public policymaking, advocacy, community development and service provision. By the end of spring semester, the Fellows will give public presentations on public policy research conducted throughout the academic year.

The UPPF program is a leadership development program designed to expose historically underrepresented minority undergraduate students at UIC to key public policy issues. For more information visit <http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/ipce/interior/uppf.html> or follow us on Facebook: UIC UPPF.

The following students were accepted as Fellows for the 2012-2013 academic year:

Oluwabukola Ajasa, Biological Sciences
Noely Alicea, Criminology
Estrella Arauz, Sociology
Manuel Beltran, Political Science and Sociology
Sara Cruz, Psychology
Jacquelyn Delgado, Sociology and LALS
Addis Enyew, Biological Sciences
Rosio Galarza, Psychology
Samantha Gordon, Accounting
Obehi Ilenikhena, English
Gabriela Illa, School of Public Health
Alexander Kimbrough, Biological Sciences
Justina Lebron, College of Education
Jamesetta Mator, School of Public Health
Ryan Mitchell, Mechanical Engineering
Raquel Morales, Chemistry
Albert Murphy, Urban and Public Affairs
Maab Osman, Biochemistry
Andrea Razo, Teaching of English
Brittney Shurn, English
Elizabeth Torres, Psychology
Melissa Valdez, College of Education
Alma Zamudio, Urban and Public Affairs



Call for applications - Civic Engagement Discourse Fund Grants

IPCE announces the availability of funding to support events that facilitate public discourse on policy issues or the policy implications of university research.

Eligible events include public forums, dialogues, town hall meetings and small conferences or workshops that are either open to the public or that target a specific audience such as policy advocates, residents of specific neighborhoods or a subpopulation such as seniors or youth. All UIC faculty and staff of research institutes or centers are eligible to apply. **IPCE Discourse Fund Awards are a maximum of \$4,000 each. Events must be held by May 31, 2012.**

Applications must be submitted electronically by October 12, 2012.

More details including a full announcement, selection criteria, and application are available at www.ipce.uic.edu.

If you have any questions, please contact Norma Ramos at (312) 355-0095.

IPCE certified as “Center for Public Life” by the Kettering Foundation

In February 2012, IPCE staff were invited to join a national training cohort of similar institutes seeking official designation by the Kettering Foundation as part of its Centers for Public Life program, and on June 16 IPCE staff completed the certificate training “[Bringing New Centers into Public Life](#)” work. The training was focused on deliberation and its relationship to public life, including moderating, recording and framing public issues. IPCE staff also contributed to the creation of a new Kettering Issue Framing document on child well-being in partnership with the National Issues Forums.

The National Issues Forums is a nonpartisan, nationwide network of locally sponsored public forums for the consideration of public policy issues. The National Issues Forums network participants include an array of civic, educational and professional groups, organizations and individuals that promote nonpartisan public deliberation in communities across the country. Within this network are organizations and institutions that provide organized workshops to help people develop understanding and skills for the purpose of convening and moderating National Issues Forums.

The Kettering Foundation works primarily through joint learning exchanges with citizens, organizations, communities, and institutions that are experimenting with ways to strengthen democracy.

Stay tuned for more information on the publication of the Issues Framing Document on child well-being and its use in community dialogues.

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