



Friends of IPCE,



I love the start of fall semester. In addition to the changing season, it means summer projects are wrapping up, and exciting, new initiatives are being planned for the academic year. I'm pleased to be able to share an update with you regarding what IPCE has been up to these past few months and what programs and events we have planned for this semester on campus.

Over the summer, IPCE produced a report for The Chicago Community Trust exploring its 2015 *On the Table* initiative. The report was released at the September 17 Urban Forum where I sat in conversation with Trust President and CEO Terry Mazany at the closing panel to discuss important findings. We're pleased to have worked with the Trust for the past two years on this project and are excited about sharing the report with the public.

As just mentioned, the Urban Forum took place on September 17. At the closing panel, I announced a call for proposals for an Urban Forum action project. IPCE together with the Trust will provide a partnership and funding opportunity for a project that utilizes dialogue and deliberation to help reestablish the urban social contract. In keeping with the theme of this year's event, IPCE seeks to partner with efforts to develop healthy, sustainable, and vibrant urban environments that engage residents directly as key players in the process. Stay tuned for the announcement of the award winner in November.

We kicked off our Civic Engagement Lunch Talk series in November, which is an event series that features research findings from the previous year's Civic Engagement Research Fund Award recipients.

We've welcomed 25 new undergraduates into our Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) program, and already they're hard at work at their public policy-related internship sites. Our cohort represents an array of UIC colleges and departments as well as varying policy interests. I'm looking forward to witnessing the growth of these students as they develop their skill sets and emerge as leaders on campus and in their communities.

We hope to make this semester as normal as possible, despite the current budget impasse. Much of our usual fall programming, such as UPPF and our Lunch Talk series, is still underway, and we're hoping to still implement new programming in our fall schedule. Stay tuned for updates on a potential policy talks series and a film series

Please keep us close on your radar as we continue to announce upcoming IPCE and IPCE-sponsored events as well as other Institute news.

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Hoereth, PhD

IPCE Prepares *On the Table* Impact Report for The Chicago Community Trust

On September 17, The Chicago Community Trust released an IPCE report studying this year's *On the Table* initiative.

On May 12, 2015, the Trust launched its Centennial celebration by convening its second iteration of *On the Table*. With a guiding Centennial goal of making the Chicagoland region the most philanthropic in the nation, *On the Table* 2015 was an opportunity for dialogue and collaboration on how to broaden and deepen philanthropy in the region. Originally devised as an initiative to bring people together in small mealtime conversations for the purpose of brainstorming innovative solutions to address their communities' most pressing needs, this year's *On the Table* grew into a campaign to celebrate philanthropy in all its forms—as the giving of time, treasure, and talent. The Trust called for action-oriented conversations around broadening what philanthropy means in Chicago and using it as a catalyst for engaging citizens in the work of addressing social problems and making commitments of action.

IPCE's report seeks to understand the *On the Table* conversations and serves as a study further exploring how and why Chicago-area residents are working independently and together to improve communities. The followings are key observations extracted from the report:

- The respondent group was very civically engaged, participating at higher rates than regional peers on all community, electoral, and political activities measured in the survey.
- Important differences in racial groups were observed in regards to community satisfaction, modes of expressing dissatisfaction, issues discussed, and impact of the conversations.
- Important differences in age groups were also observed in regards to issues discussed, motivation for participation, and engagement activity.
- *On the Table* is an initiative that draws on collaborative efforts and inspires new collaborations.
- A large number of respondents said they are likely to take action following their conversations.

Please visit www.onthetable2015.com to read the full report.



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.

Urban Forum Civic Engagement Action Project

As part of the 2015 Urban Forum hosted by the University of Illinois at Chicago, The Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) together with The Chicago Community Trust (CCT) was pleased to announce a partnership and funding opportunity for a project that engages residents through a substantive or collective decision-making role in helping to reestablish the urban social contract. IPCE and CCT seek to partner with a project that engages residents to develop healthy, sustainable, and vibrant urban environments.

One of the factors precipitating the demise of the social contract has been the retraction of citizens from participation in the core functions of our democracy, the functions that in fact built and reinforced the modern social contract during the 1960s and 1970s: involvement in the public policy-making process; the informed selection of elected officials; advocacy on issues of justice and equality (such as the civil rights movement); and community-based efforts to preserve and improve health, energy, and the environment. The period since then has witnessed a significant and increasing disconnect between residents, government, and civil society that has perpetuated the erosion of the social contract.

The 2015 Urban Forum featured speakers on efforts to remake the social contract through initiatives or pilot projects addressing health, energy, and the environment. IPCE and CCT will support an initiative that intentionally draws residents into the process in meaningful ways.

The selected applicants may be showcased at the 2016 Urban Forum. The winner will be announced in early November, please be sure to visit www.ipce.uic.edu for updates.

Join the Listserv

Are you on IPCE's Listserv? If not, join today and receive updates on IPCE, civic engagement activities, and more. Subscribe now by sending a message to neramos@uic.edu.



IPCE Inducts 25 Undergrads into UPPF Program

IPCE, in partnership with the African American Academic Network (AAAN) and the Latin American Recruitment and Education Services (LARES), is pleased to welcome the 2015-2016 cohort of undergraduate students to the Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) program.

From September to August, the 25 UPPF fellows will attend biweekly seminars and workshops offering a solid

introduction to the theory and practice of public policymaking, advocacy, community development, and service provision. Fellows' seminar experience will be further enhanced by their participation in a valuable internship experience and a comprehensive research project. Fellows are paired with partner organizations for an internship suited to their interests in which they gain insight into the inner-workings of government, community-based initiatives, nonprofits, and public policy. Additionally, Fellows identify, research, and develop a public policy research project to present at an annual research conference in the spring.

The following students were accepted as Fellows for the 2015-2016 academic year:

Gabriela Bedolla
Erendira Calderon
Anabelen Diaz
Chatelaine Dunord
Ogbeni Ekhomu
Saul Garcia
Yaritza Guillen
Jauwan Hall
Celina Hernandez

Usama Ibrahim
Christen Lee
Alejandra Merlos
Rosaly Murga
Winifred Obanor
Alejandra Paramo
Nasseef Quasim
Cesar Ramirez
Syeda Raza

Daniela Salawu
Destiny Strothers
Ruth Timothy
Gonzalo Trejo
Ashanti Turner
Mateo Uribe
Akua Yeboah-Sampong

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 www.ipce.uic.edu and follow us on **Facebook: UIC UPPF**.



IPCE Partner Highlight

Congratulations to the Black Star Project, who has committed five consecutive years to hosting an Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) fellow.

The Black Star Project is committed to improving the quality of life in Black and Latino communities of Chicago and nationwide by eliminating the racial academic achievement gap. Its mission is to provide educational services that help pre-school through college students succeed academically and become knowledgeable and productive citizens with the support of their parents, families, schools, and communities.

"UPPF Fellows placed at the Black Star Project have always said they felt they were making a difference in the lives of young people," said Program Coordinator Catalina Nava. "The mentorship they received was also greatly appreciated. Thank you Philip Jackson and Dorothy Davis for your commitment to the UPPF program!"



GCDD Launches Demo Night

The Greater Chicago Dialogue and Deliberation (GCDD) Community of Practice (CoP) is preparing to launch a new meet-up aimed at offering demonstrations on democracy and public participation. Referred to as DemoNight, the meet-up will allow space to share relevant methods and experiences while collaborating through co-learning and co-working breakout groups.

Demo Night meet-ups will begin with an interactive presentation on a public engagement process currently taking place in the Chicago area. The second part of the night will be dedicated to "open-space" breakout groups, which are co-learning and co-working groups created and led by attendees. These meet-ups are geared toward anyone interested in cultivating meaningful public input that informs and influences the decisions of government and elected officials.

The first meet-up is scheduled to take place January 21, 2016 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the McCormick Foundation. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.demonight.org.

Highlights from IPCE Sponsored Events

Constitution Day

On Wednesday, September 16, UIC joined national efforts and celebrated Constitution Day on campus. Guest speaker Craig Mousin, JD, MDiv, Depaul University Ombudsman, spoke to a crowd of primarily students and gave a lecture entitled, "The Gift of the Immigrant: A Living Constitution." Before and following the lecture, students had an opportunity to register to vote and to learn about volunteer and internship opportunities.

IPCE along with the Department of Political Science and other campus organizations were sponsors of the event.



Urban Forum: Remaking the Urban Social Contract: Health, Energy and the Environment

On September 17, policymakers, researchers, public intellectuals, and community members convened for the 2015 Urban Forum at UIC to examine and devise pathways to rebuild the social contracts on health, energy, and environment.

Over 500 people attended the event to hear panels on the substantive and philosophical shifts in the urban social contracts and an examination of remaking those contracts today.



2015 Forum white papers, videos, and photos are available at www.uicurbanforum.org.

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COMING UP

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

For All/Public Event: Civic Engagement Lunch Talk Series – Learn more about how civic engagement can transform democracy. UIC faculty and staff present IPCE-sponsored research that either furthers understanding on civic engagement theory/practice or provides tools that enhance the efforts of civic engagement in community change initiatives. A light lunch will be served.

UIC East Campus Library
Conference Room 1-470
801 S. Morgan Street
Noon to 1 p.m.
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

"The Gentrification and Neighborhood Change Project" with Lauren Nolan, Nathalie P. Voorhees Center/College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Since the 1970s, Chicago's neighborhoods have undergone drastic transformations as a result of macro-level socioeconomic shifts as well as local policy initiatives. Most striking are trends of rapid gentrification in particular neighborhoods, contrasted starkly with neighborhoods that have experienced prolonged population loss, disinvestment, and marginalization. The Voorhees Center's work on the Gentrification and Neighborhood Change Project provided community members, leaders, and activists an understanding of how Chicago's neighborhoods have changed over time in order to develop effective strategies and policies to offset displacement in some and disinvestment in many more.

Lunch Talks scheduled for next semester:

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

"Developing Knowledge Translation Collaboratives to Promote Healthcare Justice



for People with Disabilities" with Susan Magasi, Department of Occupational Therapy/College of Applied Health Sciences

Wednesday, March 2, 2016

"Supporting Evidence-Based Argumentation from Spatial Data in Schools" with Nathan Phillips, Simeko Washington and Shawndra Allen, Department of Curriculum and Instruction/College of Education

This presentation will report on efforts to collaboratively design and teach critical spatial argumentation practices in a Chicago middle school and high school with underserved youth.

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

"Know Your Rights, Illinois: Civic Engagement and Social Security for Older Gays and Lesbians after Windsor" with Brian Grossman, Department of Disability and Human Development/College of Applied Health Sciences

Date TBD

"Assessment of the Declining Civic Capacity of Muslim Immigrant Women and the Impact of a Religiously Responsive Civic Training Program" with Sultan Tepe, Department of Political Science/College of Liberal Arts and Sciences