Welcome back! Campus has grown lively once again, which means the academic year is officially underway. As always, I’m excited to share what we’ve been working on over the summer and am looking forward to initiatives being planned for the fall semester.

It was a busy summer filled with data collection, data analysis, and writing, as IPCE produced its third consecutive report exploring the region-wide On the Table initiative. We’re excited about sharing the report with the public, which is now available for viewing and download at onthetableresport.com. As On the Table is adopted by other cities, we will be partnering with the Knight Foundation to support the process of data collection and analysis across ten cities nationally.

We’re also partnering with the Trust on a funding opportunity for a research project that emerges from the 2016 UIC Urban Forum. The Urban Forum took place on September 15 and focused on Jobs and the Labor Force of Tomorrow: Migration, Training, and Education. With the closing keynote’s attention on the inclusive economy, research projects are asked to relate to this theme.

We’ve resumed our Civic Engagement Research Fund Award this year and have awarded grants to four UIC faculty scholars: Carli Friedman from Applied Health Sciences; Dalal Katsiaficas from Education; Cassandra McKay-Jackson from the Jane Addams College of Social Work; and Therese Quinn from Architecture, Design, and the Arts. Over the course of the next year, they will be delving into their research projects and preparing a final report for us. As you can see, the research we support comes from a wide array of disciplines, which allows us to help broaden the notion of civic engagement. We look forward to sharing the products of these research products with you next year.

We welcomed 23 undergraduates into our Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) program in August, and already they are hard at work at their internship sites. Our cohort represents an array of policy interests, and it’s always inspiring to see them refine their interests throughout the year as they navigate their internship sites and their related research projects. I’m looking forward to seeing another group of student leaders emerge from our program.

In terms of events, IPCE has a busy fall calendar. We’ve partnered with other UIC units and voter registration organizations to host civic engagement events on campus, including Constitution Day, National Voter Registration Day, Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidate Debate Watch Parties, a Voter Information Soup and Substance lunch, and an Election Day Results Watch Party, among others.

I’m also excited to announce that a number of IPCE staff traveled to Boston in October for the National Conference on Dialogue and Deliberation. This was a welcomed opportunity for us to reconnect with friends and colleagues in the field, learn about the latest innovations, and exchange ideas that will help move the field forward.

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

I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Hoereth, PhD

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

In September, The Chicago Community Trust released an IPCE-produced report studying the third iteration of the On the Table initiative.

The report, available for download at onthetableresport.com, seeks to understand the On the Table conversations through results gathered from a survey of On the Table 2016 participants. It explores how and why Chicago-area residents are working independently and together to improve communities.

On the Table is an annual event designed to elevate civic conversation, foster new relationships, and create a unifying experience across the region. For the past three years, the Trust has convened thousands of Chicago-area residents in conversation around how to make their communities “stronger, safer, and more dynamic.” It is an opportunity for residents of the region to discuss local opportunities and challenges and explore how they might serve as change agents in their communities.

Having now studied the event for three consecutive years, IPCE has uncovered trends in the overall data that demonstrate the value of these conversations. IPCE Director Joseph Hoereth wrote a brief blog post to accompany the report that provides some observations from across the three years:

- On the Table conversations help people become better informed.
- On the Table touches on the most pressing issues facing the region.
- On the Table becomes more reflective of the diverse population of the Chicago region every year.
- On the Table conversations generate new ideas.
- On the Table attracts very highly engaged people.
- On the Table conversations bring new people together and inspire action.

Read the remainder of the blog post and find a visual summary of the report at onthetableresport.com.
National Constitution Day at UIC

In an effort to support UIC’s ongoing commitment to civic engagement, IPCE supported a campus-wide celebration of Constitution Day on September 19. In conjunction with the Department of Political Science; the Political Science Student Union; the Office of Public and Government Affairs; the Honors College; the Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice; Undergraduate Student Government; the Office of Student Leadership Development; and Volunteer Services at UIC, IPCE helped facilitate a non-partisan day of celebration for American democracy. The day’s keynote speaker was G. Flint Taylor, a founding partner of the Chicago-based People’s Law Office.

Bring it to the Table

If true democracy is rooted in robust dialogue between citizens, why have politics become such a taboo topic in polite conversation? After all, self-segregation into ideological tribes presents a clear and present danger to life in a diverse society.

In an effort to address these issues, UIC recently hosted a screening of the film “Bring it to the Table.” The piece encourages Americans to listen, examine their assumptions, and engage in civil discourse to help move the American democracy forward. It is a call to action against hyper-partisanship in all its forms. Following a screening of “Bring it to the Table” on September 22, viewers engaged in a discussion session on how to make politics an acceptable topic of conversation again.

The screening was sponsored by UIC student Allyson Nolde with support from the IPCE, the Political Science Student Union, Undergraduate Student Government, University Ambassadors and the Graduate Student Council.

2016 UIC Urban Forum

As policymakers, business leaders, professionals, and laborers struggle to come to terms with the ever-evolving 21st Century economy, the issue of workforce development continues to present unexpected challenges. In order to develop meaningful strategies to address these problems, the 2016 UIC Urban Forum brought together leading minds from around the world to discuss issues such as evolving pathways to work, the potential for a jobless economy, and national immigration policy. Hundreds from Chicago, Illinois, and beyond were in attendance.

Entitled “Jobs and the Labor Force of Tomorrow: Migration, Training, and Education,” the event was held September 15 at the UIC Forum. In addition to keynote Clarence Page of the Chicago Tribune editorial board, speakers included Nobel Prize-winning economists, community organizers, business representatives, futurists and human rights activists, among others. Through their own unique lenses, speakers touched on the need for the workforce to be adaptable, the importance of workforce training, and the quickening pace of economic restructuring.

Co-chairs of the 2016 UIC Urban Forum included Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board president; Juan Salgado, president and CEO of Instituto del Progreso Latino; and Michael D. Amiridis, UIC chancellor. Michael A. Pagano, dean of the UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, served as program director.

This year’s event was sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation, WBEZ 91.5, and The Chicago Community Trust.

IPCE Awards Funding to UIC Faculty for Civic Engagement Research

IPCE is pleased to announce the recipients of the Civic Engagement Research Fund Award for 2016–2017. Four UIC faculty members have been selected to receive funding for their work that either furthers our understanding of civic engagement theory and the practice of facilitating engagement or that provides tools that enhance the efforts of civic engagement in community change initiatives. Each recipient must submit a report of their work to IPCE for online publication.

Civic Engagement Research Awardees:

Carli Friedman, Department of Disability and Human Development/College of Applied Health Sciences: “Citizenship Rights: Increasing Voting Access and Engagement Among People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities”

Dalal Katsiaficas, Department of Educational Psychology/College of Education: “Supporting the Needs of Immigrant-Origin Students to Foster Civic Engagement: A Participatory Action Research Project”

Cassandra McKay-Jackson, Jane Addams College of Social Work: “Engaging Parents and Supporting Students”

Therese Quinn, Department of Art History/College of Architecture, Design and the Arts: “Illinois Deaths in Custody Project: An Analysis of Online Reporting and Eulogizing”
Demo Night Explores Public Participation in Chicago

Every month, a group of dedicated Chicagoans join together at Demo Night to explore what’s happening with public participation and democracy in Chicago. The initiative is organized by the Greater Chicago Dialogue and Deliberation (GCDD) Community of Practice (CoP).

Demo Night meet-ups begin with an interactive presentation on a public engagement process currently taking place in the Chicago area. The second part of the night is 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.

July’s meet up was focused on how to best design government websites so that they are more user-friendly. Having just recently launched a new version of its website, Cook County served as the model for this session. The Cook County website was restructured to help residents quickly find the services they came for and complete the tasks they need to get done. The old school way of designing government websites was to build an online copy of what existed in the physical world—a page for each office, agency, and elected official. The new County website still has these pages, but its focus is on the services the County provides. With sections focused on residents, businesses, and all sorts of subcategories, Cook County aims to get the bureaucracy out of the way and connect residents with what they came for as quickly and easily as possible. Presenters walked participants through the website, answering questions and fielding comments for consideration.

August’s meet up showcased eight recommendations for public engagement that large government agencies can use to improve their practices. At the request of the Illinois Department of Transportation, IPCE undertook a months-long effort to research ways in which the agency can more effectively engage with the public in planning and executing its projects. The result was a comprehensive report containing eight recommendations on how the agency can enhance its engagement practices and maintain a robust dialogue with the public at large. While designed for a transportation agency, these recommendations have relevance to public agencies and organizations of all kinds. The presenter, Jordan Jones from IPCE, presented the report’s findings, highlighted noteworthy examples of excellent public engagement, and discussed the recommendations’ wide applicability. Participants then split into groups to brainstorm engagement strategies to a real-life scenario.

The October meet up brought in Alderman James Cappleman of the 46th Ward to talk about the current stakeholders involved in the process of improving police-community relations and how these stakeholders affect the climate of public engagement.

IPCE Inducts 23 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 2016-2017 cohort of undergraduate students to the Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) program.

From September to August, the 23 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 and present their projects at an annual conference in the spring.

The following students were accepted as fellows for the 2016-2017 academic year:

Ouwaseyi Adeleke
Fatima Ali
Jessica Arellano
Selomie Berhane
Benjamin Brown
Demetria Dawkins
Viridiana Godinez
Rodney Johnson
Christopher Kooy
Angie Luna
Diana Martinez
Jocelyn Munguia Chavez
Patrick Nwanah
Crystal Nwaokocha
Josephine Oggunnaie
Damilola Oyedokun
Oluseyi Oyeyemi
Patrick Paniagua
Keven Peralta
Mariel Rancel
Bernardo Rivera
Ethalle Thompson

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 Presents at NCDD Boston - On the Table, A Large Scale Participatory Dialogue

Hundreds of the most active and influential people in public engagement convened in the Boston metro area for the National Conference on Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD) on October 14–16. The conference highlighted the best of what’s happening in public engagement, community problem-solving, and civic tech across the U.S. and Canada.

IPCE presented “On the Table, A Large Scale Participatory Dialogue”. The presentation provided participants with a brief overview of how a region-wide dialogue can bring thousands to engage with one another and the impact of these conversations.

UIC Civic Engagement Calendar: Fall 2016

November
2–4 — Early voting, Student Center East
8 — Election Day, Election Day results watch party, 8–11 p.m., Student Center East Inner Circle