



Friends of IPCE,



We have a very exciting semester ahead of us. Our 2014 closed on a high note following with a semester of impactful dialogues and empowering youth engagement workshops.

IPCE hosted several important campus dialogues designed to engage UIC students and the community in conversations on civic issues most important to them. In November, we hosted an intimate conversation with students on community violence. Students were encouraged to share their experiences and

ideas about the impact of community violence. In October and December, IPCE and our campus partners—including the African-American Cultural Center, Department of African-American Studies, Great Cities Institute (GCI), Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy (IRPP), Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, and the Social Justice Initiative (SJI)—hosted several conversations regarding the death of Michael Brown and subsequent confrontations with law enforcement in Ferguson, MO. Creating the space and opportunity for dialogue on policy responses to current hot button events is an important part of our role on campus.

This fall we awarded our 2014-2015 discourse grants to five UIC faculty and staff. We also kicked off our annual Lunch talk series with presentations by 1) Isabel Cruz (Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering) on “Big Data Integration to Enable Citizen Participations in Smart Cities”; 2) Meghan Burke (Department of Special Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) and Linda Sandman (Developmental Disabilities Family Clinic, UIC) on “Training Parents of Students with Disabilities: Using Technology to Enhance Civic Engagement”; Elaine J. Yuan (Department of Communication, College of Liberal Arts and Science) and Miao Feng and Xiyuan Liu (graduate students) “From Revolution to Evolution: The Role of Social Media for Civic Engagement.”

Our semester wrapped up with several great and engaging events. Several hundred high schools students in the Global Citizenship Initiative (GCI) in CPS visited UIC for a workshop to learn more about policy and social movements, a process relevant to their curriculum. We re-developed our youth model to deliver a fun and interactive workshop for students to learn how they could make a difference through policy change and social movements. And lastly, we finished up with our annual community convening on dialogue and deliberation, opening with a report on the findings of a recent study on the Community of Practice, which is available on our website.

We’re keeping the momentum going with our planning for spring! We’ll continue hosting a series of lunch talks featuring recent civic engagement research and campus dialogues. We’ll also have research poster presentations from our Urban Public Policy Fellows in April. Please watch our website and social media platforms for further information.

IPCE is also excited to continue the collaboration with the Chicago Community Trust on their upcoming “On the Table” project in celebration of the Trust’s 100th anniversary. Last year, the Trust kicked off On the Table with more than 10,000 Chicagoland residents at 1,000 dinners across the metropolitan area. IPCE will assess the conversations and deliver another impact report on the findings. We’re excited to support the Trust again on this project and to play an important role in creating a dialogue on such a large scale.

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

Joseph K. Hoereth, PhD

IPCE Awards Civic Engagement Discourse Grants to UIC Faculty and Staff

IPCE is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2014-2015 Civic Engagement Discourse Fund Award. Five UIC faculty and staff have been selected by the Institute for their projects facilitating public conversations on policy issues and other topics important to Chicago communities.

Megan Carney, Gender and Sexuality Center

Event: “Women at War” – This series of town hall discussions will focus on issues related to women in the military and the ways in which recent policy shifts have affected their rarely considered experiences.

Teresa Cordova, Great Cities Institute/College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Event: “South Shore Neighborhoods Initiative” – This series of workshops will engage South Shore residents in a planning process focused on the future of an important commercial corridor. The process will be rooted in a participatory model aimed at empowering historically underrepresented communities.

P. Zitali Morales, Curriculum and Instruction/College of Education

Event: “Bridging the Gap Between Research and Practice in Multilingual Education” – This series will focus on ways in which educators and school administrators can better treat multilingualism among public school students as an asset rather than an obstacle to education.

Patricia O’Brien, Jane Addams College of Social Work

Event: “A Community Discussion: Building Community Justice” – Participants in this community forum will explore various negative interactions between minorities and the police while formulating ideas that may lead to transformative justice away from an exclusive reliance on criminalization.

Amalia Pallares, Latin American and Latino Studies

Event: “Challenges to Latino Political Engagement in the Suburbs” – Based on a study of Latino civic engagement in three Chicago suburbs, this series will cover a range of topics en route to a substantive reflection on various opportunities for improving political participation of suburban immigrant communities.

Information about dates, times and locations for specific events will be available soon at ipce.uic.edu.

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.

Creating Community Impact through Partnerships and Public Engagement



On December 3, 2014, the Greater Chicago Dialogue and Deliberation Community of Practice (CoP) convened for a day of learning and partnership-building at UIC. Approximately 40 people from across the Chicagoland area attended the third annual half-day conference “Collaborative Action and Impact: Creating Community Impact through Partnerships and Public Engagement” to explore methods for creating change in communities.

The convening opened with a report on the findings of a recent study conducted on the CoP. These findings included insights around purpose, activity, and leadership that are critical in thinking strategically about how best to grow the CoP and move forward. The full report is available for download on IPCE’s website.

Afternoon programming focused on learning new skills and building partnerships through a series of guest speakers and fun workshops. Simone Alexander, Community Development Director for Enlace Chicago, Adrian Esquivel, Economic Development Director for Enlace Chicago, and Cecile Carroll, Co-Director of Blocks Together formed a panel addressing how best to impact communities through partnerships and public engagement. Following the panel discussion, participants learned about creating and strengthening public relationships through individual relational meetings, or “one-on-ones,” led by Thomas Lenz, Senior Associate at the Great Cities Institute and Senior Consultant at Millennia Consulting, LLC. The convening wrapped up with structured networking opportunities, including an interactive Mapping Café and a speed networking activity.

This convening was part of IPCE’s commitment to exploring how the University can help broaden and deepen the engagement of Chicago-area residents in public policy and community issues through the use of dialogue and deliberation practices. Stay tuned for updates on upcoming dialogue and deliberation events.

CPS Students Learn More About Policy and Social Movements at Civic Engagement Days



As part of IPCE’s commitment to strengthen the civic engagement capacity and leadership skills of high school youth, the Institute offered a workshop this fall for Chicago Public School (CPS) students whose schools are participating in the Global Citizenship Initiative. Designed to align with their Fall semester civics class, the workshop “Understanding Policy and Social Movements” provided students with an opportunity to learn how they could make a difference through policy change and social movements.

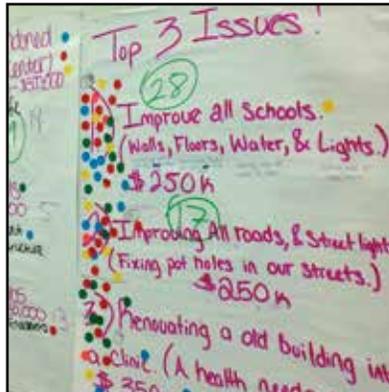
This year, we invited several representatives from the UIC Centers for Cultural

Understanding and Social Change as well as Participatory Budgeting Project Chicago to participate in Civic Engagement Days to enhance participants learning experiences. The African-American Cultural Center hosted a breakout session centered on their “community curated” exhibit, *Urbs in Horto (City in a Garden)*, students, along with their chaperons, participated by looking at links between cultural diversity and environmental sustainability. The Rafael Cintron Ortiz Latino Cultural Center hosted a session utilizing the *El Despertar de Las Americas (The Awakening of the Americas)* mural for discussion that included topics and concerns about identity, stereotypes, immigration, gender roles, human rights, poverty, and education. Participatory Budgeting (PB) Chicago hosted an overview of how PB works and a mock simulation with students. PB is a democratic process in which community members directly decided how to spend part of a public budget. Students were asked to share ideas and vote for how they would spend one million dollars to improve schools in Chicago.

Over 200 people representing Alcott College Prep, Washington, Richards, Chicago Virtual, Infinity, Bogan, Fenger, and Kelvyn Park high schools participated in our workshop. As a result, students were empowered to learn how to participate effectively in a democracy, how policymaking and social movements happen and the impact they have on shaping their futures and our communities.

Students from Infinity, Bogan, Fenger, and Kelvyn Park voted to:

- Improve all schools, walls, floors, water, and working lights.
- Remodel an old or abandoned school building and turn it into a recreation center to keep youth safe.
- Improve all roads and streetlights in their neighborhoods.



Students from Alcott, Washington, Richards and Chicago Virtual voted to:

- Refurbish an old CPS building for a new school.
- Create a super lounge.
- Construct a driving range.



Other great ideas included enhancing or building sports fields, gyms, additional bathrooms, library, technology labs, community murals, and purchasing desks that fit student needs and sizes.

Professor Gastil on the Efficacy of Generating High Quality Deliberation in Citizen Panels



IPCE hosted a talk with John Gastil, professor in the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences at Pennsylvania State University and director of the the McCourtney Institute for Democracy, entitled “Making Elections More Deliberative Through the Citizens’ Initiative Review.”

His talk provided insight into a new deliberative process designed to improve statewide initiative elections. The Oregon Citizens’ Initiative Review (CIR) was piloted in 2008, made a temporary feature of state government in 2009, and then reaffirmed by an evenly divided state legislature in 2011 as a permanent feature of the initiative process. Gastil presented research evidence on the efficacy of the process at generating high quality deliberation and influencing the knowledge and voting behavior of the larger public. CIRs were also piloted in 2014 at the county level in Oregon, in the city of Phoenix, and in the state of Colorado.

The CIR convenes a random sample of the public to deliberate for one week on a ballot measure and then present written findings to the entire electorate through an official state voters’ guide.

Campus Discusses why Michael Brown’s Death Matters to Everyone

On October 30, IPCE along with the African-American Cultural Center, Department of African-American Studies, Great Cities Institute (GCI), Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRPP), Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, and the Social Justice Initiative (SJI) held a campus dialogue entitled “Contextualizing Ferguson, MO: Why Michael Brown’s Death Matters to Everyone”.

Students, staff, faculty and community members came together to share personal experiences and discuss information and analysis from experts and advocates regarding the broader contextual factors that allow for events such as Ferguson to occur. They include persistent racism, political repression, the rise of the prison nation, and instances of highly militarized law enforcement responses, among others.

COMING UP

Watch your e-mail and the IPCE website for notice of these and other events.

Public Event: Campus Dialogue: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 12p.m. at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Student Center East, Cardinal Room, 750 S. Halsted Street.

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 or practice or provides tools that enhance the efforts of civic engagement in community change initiatives. A light lunch will be served.

UIC Campus Library Conference Room 1-470

801 South Morgan Street
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11, 2015: “Participatory Action Research in the Disability Community to Address Societal Disparities in Community Living and Participation” with Joy Hammel, Occupational Therapy, College of Applied Health Sciences

Wednesday, March 11, 2015: “Playground Renovations and Social Capital on Youth Park Use and Physical Activity” with Sandy Slater, Institute for Health Research and Policy, School of Public Health, Department of Health Policy and Administration.

Fall Highlights

On Tuesday, November 17 and Tuesday, November 18, 2014, Tim Merry, co-founder of the Art of Hosting held a two-day, two-city event on entitled “Creating Impact through Engagement.” Participants experienced meaningful engagement and learned a participatory approach to creating impact with results.



Engaged students, staff, faculty, and community members gathered together over lunch for programs including: “Big Data Integration to Enable Citizen Participation in Smart Cities,” “Navigating Copyright in a Digital World,” “Training Parents of Students with Disabilities: Using Technology to Enhance Civic Engagement,” and “From Revolution to Evolution: The Role of Social Media for Civic Engagement.” The events were held as part of our Civic Engagement Lunch Talk series.



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Save the Date

The Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) Program presents:

2014 – 2015 UPPF Research Poster Presentation and Exhibition

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015
2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**University of Illinois at Chicago - SCE Illinois Room
750 South Halsted Street
Chicago, IL 60607**

Please join us at the annual Diversity and Dialogue Research Forum hosted by the Illinois American and Latino Higher Education Alliance (IALHEA) on Wednesday, April 15, to support our UPPF Fellows and their public policy research findings. Their projects stem from hands-on program internship experiences on policy-related topics.

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, contact Catalina Nava at (312) 355-0154 or follow us on Facebook: UIC UPPF.



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