



IPCE

Friends of IPCE,



Summer is just around the corner, and that means we're wrapping up another busy semester of exciting IPCE programs and events. From faculty research to student dialogues to noteworthy lectures, IPCE provided the community with plenty of opportunities to escape the brutal weather outside and head indoors for meaningful conversations and learning opportunities.

We kicked off the semester with a continuation of our Civic Engagement Lunch Talks series, which gives UIC faculty and staff who have been awarded our competitive Research Fund grant an opportunity to share their research findings with the community. Angela Odoms-Young (Kinesiology and Nutrition) presented on how neighborhood food systems reconceptualized are transforming communities in Chicago. Lisa Dirks (Urban Transportation Center) provided an analysis of emerging digital infomediaries within an era of big data and open data initiatives. And Kelly LeRoux (Public Administration) shared findings from the 2012 U.S. election on the relationship between nonprofit organizations and voter mobilization. We also originated a second event series to coincide with the airing of CNN's newest original docuseries, *Chicagoland*. Exploring across eight episodes how changemakers in Chicago are addressing economic, educational, and safety challenges, *Chicagoland* provided a unique opportunity for us to host conversations on these issues deeply affecting our communities and city. Every Monday, March through April, we screened the most recent episode and followed-up with an intimate dialogue examining the problems highlighted and analyzing the efficacy of the demonstrated solution, if any, that key Chicago players are promoting. Our *Chicagoland* post-screening and discussion series attracted both campus and community members alike, and we're particularly excited that Darius Smith, a Fenger graduate featured in Episode Three, and friends joined in several of our conversations.

In March, we were pleased to partner with the Chancellor's Lecture and Event Series and the Social Justice Initiative at UIC to bring Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. to campus for a public lecture. More than 300 people packed the room to hear Jackson address the unfinished business of the Civil Rights movement. His empowering talk, which aimed to mobilize the audience to vote, emphasized the collective authority of voting as a way to not only make choices, but to dismantle social injustices.

This spring saw a particular emphasis on youth programming at IPCE, from leadership development opportunities to organized campus dialogues. Undergraduate fellows wrapped up their participation in the Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) program in April by presenting their research posters at the 2014 IALHEA Diversity Dialogue and Research Forum. Students across campus gathered together twice this semester for facilitated conversations on health care and community violence. And high school students in the Global Citizenship Initiative (GCI) in CPS visited UIC for a two-day workshop to learn about "issue framing," a process relevant to many civic engagement efforts.

While campus turns quiet over the summer months, IPCE will be busy preparing for the 2014-2015 academic year. Right now we're accepting applications for our UPPF program and our Civic Engagement Research Fund Awards. Please see our website for more information on submission guidelines and deadlines. And stay tuned later this summer for announcements regarding upcoming fall programs and events.

Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Joseph K. Hoereth, PhD

IPCE Partners with The Chicago Community Trust to Assess the Impact of Upcoming Region-wide Dialogue

The 99th anniversary of The Chicago Community Trust is on May 12, 2014. To celebrate, the Trust is asking thousands of Chicago-area residents to participate in the most imaginative public square manifested on one night. In communities across the region, from Alsip to Zion, thousands of Chicago-area residents will come together in small groups on Monday, May 12, to discuss how to collaboratively build and maintain strong, safe, and dynamic communities. This imaginative public square, an initiative the Trust is calling *On the Table*, is designed to generate new ideas, inspire bold solutions, and cultivate relationships and collaborations to improve communities region-wide.



The goal of the *On the Table* event is to have more than 10,000 people of all ages, from all walks of life and socio-economic circumstances, participate in 1,000 substantive mealtime conversations on the future of the Chicago metropolitan region. Thousands more will be

Continued on Page 2

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.

Continued from Page 1

connected to the conversations through social media using the #OnTheTable2014 hashtag.

At the conclusion of the events on May 12, the Trust will send every participant a simple e-mail survey, compiled by IPCE, to learn more about their participation in this project, the interesting ideas they discussed, and how this experience may impact their civic engagement moving forward. The Trust will publicly share these outcomes, including trends, common themes, and new collaborations developed.

For more information or to sign up, please visit www.onthetable2014.com.

IPCE Hosts Screening and Discussion around CNN's *Chicagoland* Series

This spring, CNN debuted *Chicagoland*, an original eight-part, unscripted docuseries exploring the issues and challenges facing Chicago and the leaders who are trying to enact positive change. IPCE, as an epicenter of dialogue and deliberation efforts in Chicago, implemented a post-broadcast screening and discussion series on *Chicagoland* as a way for concerned community members to gather together and talk about the issues highlighted in each episode.



On Mondays from March 10 to April 28, IPCE, in partnership with the Great Cities Institute (GCI), screened episodes of *Chicagoland* in the GCI Conference Room at 3:00 p.m. After the episode, viewers would spend upwards of an hour discussing problems raised by the series, including the public education crisis, economic disparities, and safety concerns; whether or not the producers sufficiently portrayed the issues with which our communities grapple; and ideas and solutions to combat these issues. UIC students, staff, and faculty along with community members participated in the event series. IPCE also had the privilege of welcoming Darrius Smith, a Fenger Academy High School graduate profiled for his culinary ambitions in episodes three and eight, and friends to several of its screenings.

The series was executive produced by Robert Redford and aired on CNN's cable network Thursdays through April 24.

UPPF Program Says 'Thank You' to Partners



Every year IPCE's Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) Program places its fellows at internship sites throughout the Chicagoland area. The goal of the internship site placement is to pair fellows with partner organizations who can provide students with insight into the inner-workings of government, community-based initiatives, non-for profits, and public policy.

Some past and current projects UPPF Fellows have contributed to include: creating a social media visibility plan; assembling and distributing breast cancer

awareness and prevention education kits at community events; mentoring youth involved in violence prevention programs; and facilitating and creating activities for small group sessions with weekend education program participants.

On behalf of the UPPF program, administered through IPCE and in partnership with the Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES) and the African-American Academic Network (AAAN), we would like to thank you for your support and for providing our students with a rewarding experience this 2013-2014 academic school year.

Alderman Daniel Solis's Office, 25th Ward
Alivio Medical Center
American Heart Association
The Black Star Project
Center of Excellence in Eliminating Health Disparities
Chicago Commons
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
Clearbrook
City of Chicago Department of Public Health
Frida Kahlo Community Organization
Gamaliel of Metro Chicago
Gigi's Playhouse
IFF

Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention (ILAAP)
Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV)
Institute for Health Research & Policy (IHRP)
Latin American Recruitment and Educational Services Program (LARES)
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
The Network of Lawndale
Nutrition Support Services, Chicago Public Schools
Pilsen Neighbors Community Council (PNCC)
Safer Foundation
UIC Office of Sustainability

For additional information about the UPPF program or on how to become an internship site, please contact Catalina Nava, Program Coordinator, at 312-355-0154 or at cnava2@uic.edu.

Spring Highlights



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. visits UIC for a public lecture as part of the Chancellor's Lecture and Event Series and the Social Justice Initiative.



Engaged students, staff, faculty, and community members gathered together over lunch to discuss voter mobilization, big data, and reconceptualizing neighborhood food systems as part of our spring **Civic Engagement Lunch Talk Series**.

Request for Proposals: Civic Engagement Research Fund Awards for FY2015

IPCE announces the availability of funding to support research projects centered on civic engagement for up to \$20,000 each. UIC faculty and research staff of centers, institutes, and programs are eligible to apply.

IPCE seeks to support research that furthers understanding about effective strategies or tools that help:

1. citizens better understand the policymaking process;
2. citizens and communities to become more engaged in policy debate or deliberative processes;
3. government become more responsive to citizens;
4. government, non profits, and civic institutions use technology to engage and connect citizens (including those with disproportionately lower access to technology than the public at large) with government and/or improve service delivery;
5. community development efforts or local community change initiatives use civic engagement to enhance effectiveness or increase the overall impact of programs.

Applications must be submitted electronically by June 6, 2014. More details, including a full announcement and application, are available at www.ipce.uic.edu. If you have any questions, please contact Katie James at (312) 355-0098.

CPS Students Learn 'Issue Framing' at Civic Engagement Days

As part of IPCE's commitment to strengthen the civic engagement capacity and leadership skills of high school youth, IPCE offered a two-day workshop this spring for Chicago Public School (CPS) students whose schools are participating in the Global Citizenship Initiative. Designed and timed to align with the spring semester Civics class, the workshop "From Social Problem to Policy Action" introduced students to the concept of 'issue framing' at the heart of many civic engagement and social change efforts.



On the first day of this engaging and interactive workshop (March 31), the students learned how they can make a difference through policy change. Students worked in small groups and, using the World Café dialogue method, examined four public policy topics identified in the GCI curriculum: medical use of marijuana, student online free speech, defining marriage, and protecting against date rape. During four rounds of discussion, students addressed questions to help them frame the issue and

were encouraged at the end to think about action steps their groups might take to gain public support and push elected officials to sponsor a bill on their issue. On day two of the workshop (May 1), the students were given an opportunity to present their issue briefs and discuss their findings with the students in an issues forum.

As a result of this program, students were empowered to learn 1) how to define a social problem, 2) how a problem becomes an issue, and 3) how an issue can become the basis for action and eventually the basis for a law.

Over 100 people and four schools including John Hancock College Prep, Uplift Community High School, Hyde Park Academy, and Alcott College Prep participated in the two-day event.

UIC Students Deliberate on Health Care, Community Violence in Two Campus Dialogue Sessions

This spring, IPCE implemented the second round of campus dialogues designed to engage UIC students in conversations on civic issues most important to them. Health care and community violence were the student-selected topics of focus for these two facilitated conversations.

On April 9, an intimate group of students gathered to deliberate on the complex topic of health care policy. Students were divided into small groups and, under the guidance of a trained facilitator, considered questions such as, who gets health care, who pays for it, and how? and how do we control the rising costs of care while still insuring high quality care and increased access? Student participants were supplemented with an issue guide from Public Agenda to assist them in thinking through the topic and evaluating the pros, cons, and tradeoffs for a number of approaches and perspectives. Students also discussed how the Affordable Care Act impacts them and learned how they can sign-up.

Another group of students assembled one week later on April 15 to discuss community violence. Working within an interactive and participatory World Café-inspired format, students focused their conversations around general questions prompting how violence impacts our community and what our community might look like if there were peace. Students were encouraged to share their experiences and ideas about the impact of community violence while facilitators listened and helped participants identify common themes and patterns in their discussions.

At the conclusion of the conversations, students from both groups expressed that talking with fellow classmates and hearing their stories helped frame the issue from another perspective and challenged them to confront their own assumptions and beliefs.

Plans are in the works to hold more campus student dialogues in the fall and spring of next year. Stay tuned for more information on dates and conversation topics.

Making Democracy Fun: How Game Design Can Empower Citizens and Transform Politics

Book Talk with the Author: **Josh Lerner**, Executive Director, The Participatory Budgeting Project

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Great Cities Institute

412 S. Peoria Street Suite 400

Anyone who has been to a public hearing or community meeting would agree that participatory democracy can be boring. Hours of repetitive presentations, alternately alarmist or complacent, for or against, often with no clear outcome or decision. Is this the best democracy can offer? In *Making Democracy Fun*, Josh Lerner offers a novel solution for the sad state of our deliberative democracy: the power of good game design. What if public meetings featured competition and collaboration (such as team challenges), clear rules (presented and modeled in multiple ways), measurable progress (such as scores and levels), and engaging sounds and visuals?

Fellows Showcase Public Policy Research at Diversity Conference



On April 4, 2014, IPCE Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) Program Fellows presented their research posters during the research plenary at the IALHEA Annual Diversity Dialogue & Research Forum at UIC. The goals of the research forum are to increase faculty and student research collaborations; facilitate mentor relationships between faculty and students of color; and to increase the persistence of African American, Latino, and other underrepresented students in academia and enhance their research.

UPPF Fellows' research projects stem from hands-on internship experiences and focus on policy-related topics as part of the UPPF program, a leadership development program designed to expose historically underrepresented minority undergraduate students at UIC to key public policy issues.

Visit the UPPF page on our website to check out program highlights, samples of Fellows' research posters, and photos of their work over the last year at: <http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/ipce/interior/uppf.html>. If you have any questions or would like more information about the UPPF program, please contact Catalina Nava at (312) 355-0154. Also, follow UPPF on Facebook: UIC UPPF.

Connect with IPCE



UIC IPCE



UIC IPCE



UIC IPCE

Join the Listserve

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.