



Friends of IPCE,



Wow. What a busy fall semester we had here at IPCE! We awarded our 2012-2013 Discourse Awards to five UIC faculty and staff who are hosting events that engage the public in dialogue on policy issues or topics important to Chicago communities. With the help of the McCormick Foundation, the author of *No Citizen Left Behind*, Harvard's Meira Levinson, was our guest on campus as featured speaker in October. Inspired

by the release of our report on dialogue and deliberation in Chicago, we brought together Chicago-area dialogue and deliberation practitioners in December to discuss the ways to help broaden and deepen the engagement of Chicago-area residents in community building and local policy-making processes. The convening helped us explore our potential role in that work and has resulted in an initiative among practitioners to create a community of practice network around dialogue and deliberation. Our goal is to launch a new program of dialogue and deliberation in partnership with this community of practice next fall.

We do not expect things to slow down very much this spring. As usual, we are planning a series of brown bag discussions on civic engagement research, a campus lecture in the Civic Engagement and Democracy series, and research poster presentations by our Urban Public Policy Fellows. This spring we also anticipate running our Civic Engagement Days workshop in partnership with Chicago Public Schools high schools. Please watch our website for announcements about spring events and activities.

I am excited to share that I have been appointed to the position of Interim Director of Urban and Public Affairs (UPA) major here in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. Adding this role to my responsibilities is an opportunity to explore connections among IPCE programs, undergraduate students, and course offerings in new and exciting ways. With this new role for me, new programming in dialogue and deliberation, and our regular set of spring events there is certainly plenty of opportunity for students, concerned citizens, and faculty to connect and stay engaged with us. We hope to see you at one of our events this spring.

Sincerely,

Joseph K. Hoereth, PhD

IPCE Awards Civic Engagement Discourse Grants to UIC Faculty and Staff

The Institute for Policy and Civic Engagement (IPCE) is proud to announce the recipients of the 2012-2013 Civic Engagement Discourse Fund Grants. Five UIC faculty and staff have been selected by the Institute to be funded for their projects central to IPCE's mission to support events that facilitate public discourse on policy issues or the policy implications of university research. Each recipient is awarded up to \$5,000 toward his/her project and must submit a report of his/her work and outcomes to the Institute for online publication.

Evelina Ayrapetyan, Jane Addams College of Social Work

Event: "Post Election Wrap up Discussion" – The event provides an opportunity for members of the social work community to engage in a critical dialogue about the economic and social implications of domestic federal policy on social services following the 2012 presidential election.

George Crabtree, Department of Physics/College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Event: "Energy: The Next Fifty Years" – The event will bring together scientists and industry leaders with members of the UIC community and interested community groups from the Chicago area. Attendees will participate in an open discourse, share opinions about a broad range of policy and energy-related topics, and discuss how the city of Chicago, the United States, and the countries of the world should respond to the pressures for collaboration to address issues related to energy.

Jennifer Hebert-Beirne, Division of Community Health Sciences/School of Public Health

Event: "Neighborhood and Health: Identifying Community Health Priorities" – The event will facilitate information and knowledge sharing on community health findings toward health and social policy recommendations across interdisciplinary UIC faculty, community members and community-based organizations in South Lawndale, local politicians, and government officials.

Martin Lipsky, College of Medicine at Rockford

Event: "Second Wind: Engaging Seniors in Advancing a Healthy Community" – The event provides opportunities for individuals and groups to engage each other in dialogue regarding the role of seniors in a healthy community.

Heather Prendergast, Department of Emergency Medicine/College of Medicine

Event: "Connecting the Pieces: Nutrition, Health, Food Justice and Obesity" – The event is a community forum to promote a dialogue targeting African American youth. The forum will engage African American youth in consumer advocacy workshops to increase their awareness of the i) prevalence of obesity in the African-American community; ii) health consequences of obesity; iii) role of individual, community, and policy-level contributors to obesity and obesity-related disparities; and iv) advocacy strategies that can be used to empower youth to improve their communities.

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.

'No Citizen Left Behind': Closing the Civic Empowerment Gap

While a great deal of national attention is paid to the achievement gap plaguing our country's public schools, equally important—although too often ignored—is the civic empowerment gap that continues to marginalize minority students. Public schools are failing students in this regard, and Harvard Associate Professor of Education Meira Levinson makes the case for reviving the civic mission of schools in order to close the empowerment gap in her most recent book, *No Citizen Left Behind*. “We have both the obligation and the capacity to help overcome the civic empowerment gap by what we do in schools and specifically what we do in schools that serve defective, segregated, nonwhite, often poor, urban student populations,” Levinson says.

Drawing from her own ethnographic research and teaching experience in the classroom, her book is an argument for the role of education in our democracy with implications for K-12 students, educators, and school administrators. While teaching at an all-Black middle school in Atlanta, Levinson realized that her students' individual self-improvement would not necessarily enable them to overcome their historical marginalization. In order to overcome their civic empowerment gap, students must learn how to reshape power relationships through public, political, and civic action. “One crucial piece of an empowering education has to...be a civic education,” Levinson argues. “It has to be an education that explicitly teaches kids how to work with others—that they have to work with others, that it is in their best interest to work with others—to transform opportunities not only for themselves, but for their neighborhoods, for their communities, for the world as a whole.”

On October 3, 2012, Levinson visited the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to discuss *No Citizen Left Behind* with the Chicago community. You can watch the full interview on IPCE's YouTube page.



Dialogue & Deliberation for Civic Engagement in Chicago



IPCE is exploring the ways the University can help broaden and deepen the engagement of Chicago-area residents in public policy and community issues—particularly at the neighborhood, city, and county levels—through the use of dialogue and deliberative processes. A national and international dialogue and deliberation movement has been transforming democracy in cities around the world. IPCE is seeking to understand what that movement might offer to Chicago.

Our exploration began with conversations with practitioners in this field, including individuals and organizations who lead or facilitate dialogue and deliberative processes in Chicago. We learned that practitioners are engaged in a wide range of activities, including community-building dialogues and explorations, deliberative decision-making processes with citizen participation, collaborative organizing and action, and conflict transformation. However, we also learned that these efforts in Chicago tend to be isolated, lack a common language, and have tremendous potential for collective, long-term impact.

This unique moment in Chicago history—with new political leadership and complex policy challenges—has created both the opportunity and need for new forms of civic engagement that draw on the wisdom of residents as well as the expertise of practitioners. Convening Chicago-area dialogue and deliberation practitioners in an informal community of practice could lay the groundwork for embedding a culture of dialogue and deliberation in Chicago communities and local government.

On December 5, 2012, over 75 local practitioners came together to hear and discuss our project findings and explore what it would take to develop Chicago's “civic infrastructure” via a local community of practice. Sandy Heierbacher, Director of the National Coalition for Dialogue & Deliberation (NCDD), also joined us as our guest speaker to share a national perspective and the latest thinking on creating a “civic infrastructure.”

The full report, executive summary, and convening highlights can be found at www.ipce.uic.edu.

COMING UP

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

Civic Engagement Brown Bag Lunch Series presents:
Wednesday, March 13, 2013: Civic Engagement and the Arts with Rosa Cabrera, Director of Latino Cultural Center, noon to 1 p.m. Visit IPCE's website for more information.

For Students: UIC Public Service Day, Friday, April 12, 2013. University of Illinois at Chicago, Student Center East (750 S. Halsted), Illinois Room.
 For more information contact Catalina Nava at (312) 355-0154.

In honor of Black History Month, IPCE reflects on the words of W.E.B. Du Bois

“The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression.”

The 2012 UIC Urban Forum “Metropolitan Resilience in a Time of Economic Turmoil”



On December 6, 2012, top federal, state, and municipal officials alongside private-sector and community leaders gathered for the 2012 UIC Urban Forum to discuss the issues metropolitan areas have been experiencing during these tough economic times, their responses, and strategies to address those challenges and improve quality of life. Over 800 registered for the event and at least 500 were there at any one time, many choosing to remain the entire day. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood ended the day with an encouraging vision of the future of urban transportation and was most responsive to the audience engagement.

The entire event is archived by UIC CUPPA partner, Chicago Public Radio (WBEZ), and is also posted on the UIC Urban Forum website: <http://www.uicurbanforum.org/history/index.php>.

Civic Engagement Days

In the fall, IPCE offered a 2-day workshop, “From Social Problem to Policy Action,” to CPS schools participating in the Global Citizenship Initiative. Designed and timed to align with the CPS fall semester Civics curriculum, the workshop introduced students to the concept of ‘issue framing’ at the heart of many civic engagement and social change efforts. The workshop also featured an ‘Issues Forum’ for schools to present the issue briefs the students had researched and prepared as part of the Civics class curriculum.

“It was great to see a room full of future young leaders present solutions they generated together on issues they feel strongly about. The dialogue session after the presentations reinforced the importance of informing, engaging and empowering our youth so they can become involved in the process of creating a better tomorrow for themselves and their communities.” – Catalina Nava, IPCE Program Coordinator

Over 150 juniors and seniors from Phillips, Chicago Virtual, Alcott, Amundsen, and Gage Park high schools attended these workshops.



Save the Date

The Urban Public Policy Fellowship (UPPF) Program presents:

2012-2013 UPPF Research Poster Presentation and Exhibition

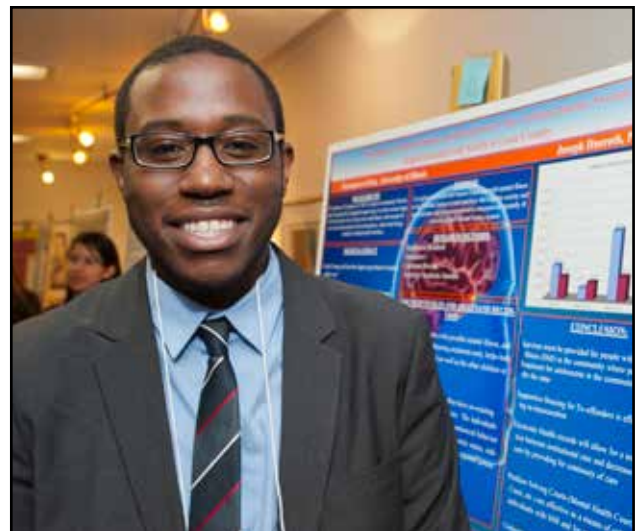


Please join us at the IALHEA Conference Diversity Research Forum hosted by the Illinois American and Latino Higher Education Alliance (IALHEA) on Friday, April 5, 2013 to support our UPPF Fellows and the findings of their public policy research. Their projects stem from hands-on program internship experiences and policy-related topics. Examples include: education reform, HIV/AIDS, and food access.

**Friday, April 5, 2013
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

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

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](#).



Assessing the Participatory Budgeting Chicago Initiative



With the support of IPCE, the Great Cities Institute (GCI) has been leading an evaluation of the Participatory Budgeting Chicago process in order to determine who is and is not participating and which outreach techniques are most effective in encouraging diverse participation. PB is a new Chicago project that gives ward residents the power to make decisions about the allocation of \$1 million in menu money in their communities.

The neighborhood assemblies are the first phase of the participatory budgeting process. Over twenty-five assemblies were held in Fall 2012 in four Aldermanic wards (5th, 45th, 46th and 49th). With the help of 12 student researchers, GCI

collected 317 surveys from neighborhood assembly participants with an overall response rate of 67%. The preliminary results are summarized below.

Over 90% of survey respondents considered the overall experience, introductory presentations, and small group discussions as either “good” or “great.” Survey responses also show that participants were highly engaged in assembly activities, with 90% of respondents indicating that they spoke during small group discussions; 85% indicating that they made specific project proposals; and 58% indicating that they volunteered to become community representatives.

Overall, participants felt that the assemblies served an important role in informing them about their community and providing education about how public spending works. 41% of respondents indicated that they did not know what menu money was prior to attending the assembly, while 82% said that they understood how menu money could be used after the assembly. In addition, 86% of respondents indicated that they felt that they had a better understanding of capital needs in their ward after attending an assembly.

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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.