

Record Numbers at Urban Ed Conference

More than 300 education administrators, teachers, parents, and others interested in urban education attended the 12th annual IUPUI/Indiana Urban Schools Association (IUSA) Conference on June 17 and 18 at the Indiana State Museum.

“More than we’ve ever had before,” said Chuck Little, Executive Director of the IUSA and clinical associate professor in the IU School of Education at IUPUI. “I think it reflects the fact that the conference is seen as a place for good information about urban education in Indiana, a place to network about education and where research is connected to practice.”

Little said around 40 parents attended this year’s conference, which focused the sessions particularly on parental and community involvement.

“We’ll probably keep that as part of the conference well into the future,” Little said, “because it’s so powerful in the learning of youngsters.”

Opening keynote speaker Anne Henderson, senior consultant for the Community Involvement Program at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform delivered a

speech called “Beyond the Bake Sale.” Closing speaker James Johnson, a professor at the University of North Carolina and the director of the Urban Investment Strategies Center, focused on the “browning” and “graying” of American society and its impact on K-12 education.



SoE Professor Chuck Little Introduces a Speaker at the Urban Education Conference

Big Numbers for First PBL Workshop

More than 270 educators attended the first of what is likely to be an annual project-based learning (PBL) workshop sponsored by IUPUI and other organizations. The three-day workshop at Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis called “Learning by Doing: Project-based Learning Institute for Middle and High School Educators” ran multiple tracks for different levels of learning PBL methods. Sessions included basic introductions to PBL, more advanced sessions for those already using it, and sessions for faculty learning to teach the method.

“The goal here is to get them in dialogue,” said Beth Berghoff, graduate chair and associate professor of language education.

“Pitch a lot of new information and start their questioning process so we can then feed back into that process.”

Berghoff and Joy Seybold, director of the Transition to Teaching program and chair of secondary teacher education, conceived the seminar and served on the workshop planning team. Citing the growth of PBL-based New Tech High programs in the state, they said the need for a workshop was clear.

“Teachers want to build something that is meaningful, but very rigorous,” Seybold said. “So students still learn the content that they need to learn and prepare to be independent learners themselves.”

Berghoff said the response has already spurred plans for a yearly event. She said the participants will be able to connect with each other through the open-source education software program called “Moodle” to exchange ideas. “And then if they want to come next summer, I think the response we’ve had this summer makes us know we should continue in this work,” Berghoff said.

A video on the conference is available at <http://www.youtube.com/iuschoolofeducation>.

Math Matters Collaboration bring PBL to Math Teachers

Fifty-six teachers from 11 counties are participating in the “Math Matters in Southeastern Indiana” workshops that wrap up this month. Teachers began with a five-day session at the Columbus Signature Academy-New Tech High School on June 22 through the 26th. A second session took place on July 22 and 23.

The workshops are based on the Math Matters program developed by Catherine Brown, professor of mathematics education. “We know that students constantly wonder ‘Why am I learning this math?’

Brown said. “Students who learn mathematics through projects grounded in workplaces in their community won’t have these questions.”

The IU School of Education collaborated with “Economic Opportunities through



Math Matters Workshop Participants

Education by 2015,” or EcO₁₅, an initiative of business, education, and community leaders to advance K-12 education in a 10-county area in southeastern Indiana. EcO₁₅ coordinators will help teachers partner with local businesses to develop projects grounded in actual operational activities within those businesses.

A teacher from Madison, IN, said the workshop attracted him because he’s hoped for some time to bring “real world” scenarios into his classroom. “I’ve kind of tried in small ways to do this on the math side, but never really had the framework or the construct to make the transition,” said Emeka Koren.

A Math Matters Web site is under construction and will contain all the projects produced by the teachers as well as resources for any teacher wanting to develop projects. The site is available at <http://iuedmoodle.educ.indiana.edu/moodle/course/view.php?id=6> (select “login as guest”).

Alumna Wins Presidential Award

Amy Knerr, MS’03 from the IU School of Education at IUPUI, is one of the winners of a Presidential Award for Excellence in teaching science, math, and engineering. Knerr teaches math at Clay Middle School in Carmel. Knerr has an undergraduate degree in elementary education and endorsements for language arts and French as well.

Woodrow Wilson Fellows Begin

A group of twenty forming the first class of Woodrow Wilson Fellows at IUPUI began work with an orientation session on May 28. Arthur Levine, the president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, made a surprise visit to greet the new group of students, who are working on master’s degrees to prepare for math and science teaching positions in the state’s high-need urban and rural schools.

While the fellows spent much of their time during orientation getting to know the IUPUI campus and one another, their work has begun in full. Among their activities, the Wilson Fellows participated in the project-based learning workshop at Ben Davis High School.



Wilson Fellows with Gov. Daniels

On July 17, Governor Mitch Daniels honored the IUPUI Fellows during a luncheon held for Woodrow Wilson Fellows statewide

Prestigious Honors, Grants for Faculty

Don Hossler, executive associate dean at the IU School of Education Bloomington, has been named the Sidney Suslow Award recipient by the Association for Institutional Research (AIR). The award honors his distinguished scholarly contributions to institutional research. The AIR award committee selects honorees “for their cumulative and ongoing scholarly efforts to keep institutional research on the cutting edge of research practice, policies and procedures in higher education.”

Dionne Cross, an assistant professor of education at IU Bloomington, has received a 2009 Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement Award from the Oak Ridge Associated Universities organization. The award is intended to foster research and professional growth and lead to new funding opportunities during the early stages recipients’ careers. Cross, who has been a secondary-level mathematics teacher in Jamaica and the United States, focuses her research on strategies to improve student learning and teachers’ professional development in the areas of mathematics.

Associate professor of education **Andrea Walton**’s co-edited book “Philanthropy, Volunteerism & Fundraising in Higher Education” is the selection for the 2009 Grenzsbach Award for outstanding published scholarship, awarded by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Walton picked up the award during the CASE Summit for Advancement Leaders earlier this month.

Walton’s co-author is SoE alumna Marybeth Gasman, MS’92, PhD’00, now an assistant professor of higher education at the University of Pennsylvania.

The U.S. Department of Education has approved funding for two programs involving IU School of Education Faculty under “Teaching American History” grants. The program is granting nearly half a million dollars to a project by **Lynne Boyle-Baise**, professor of curriculum and instruction, and nearly a million to another project involving **Tom Brush**, Associate Dean for Teacher Education and professor of instructional systems technology.

Boyle-Baise’s 3-year project for professional development involving the IU Department of History, Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC), and the Monroe County Historical Society will serve up to 30 MCCSC teachers.

Brush’s “Persistent Issues in History Network,” (PIH Network) a problem-based system of learning, understanding, and experiencing history using multimedia and web-based tools, will help teachers in Lee County, Alabama and neighboring school systems learn new inquiry strategies and tools to engage students in the study of history.