



Continued Focus on Student Centeredness

This semester, IUP began a new way for students to check in during move-in weekend with a one-stop event at the Kovalchick Complex. Representatives from offices including financial aid, health and wellness, I-card, parking, orientation, and student billing answered questions from students and families and helped to finalize needed forms and information.

IUP received \$40,000 from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's Reducing Underage Drinking and Dangerous Drinking Grant program for two years of programming aimed at reducing underage and dangerous drinking and increasing retention of Black and Brown students. Ann Sesti, director of the Office of Student Wellness and Engagement, authored the grant application and will be directing the initiatives through the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug program within that office.

Fifty-six faculty and two graduate students completed an intensive Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Summer Academy, designed to build inclusive teaching practices. This work, part of efforts to operationalize the IUP Strategic Plan, is continuing through the Center for Teaching Excellence.

IUP Libraries opened the Learning Commons this fall, a newly redesigned space designed to provide a more seamless integration of services for students. The Commons includes an information center and new study spaces for groups or individuals, with

the Career and Professional Development Center, University College, ALEKS Math Lab, Center for Teaching Excellence, and Kathleen Jones White Writing Center together under one roof.

Designed to offer students a competitive edge, IUP has received \$225,000 from the Teagle Foundation—The National Endowment for the Humanities to develop an implement a “Big Ideas: Transformative Culture and the Professions” certificate program. Distinguished University Professor Lynn Botelho (history), authored the grant proposal, and along with co-directors Bryna Siegel Finer and Melanie Holm (English), will lead a team of faculty across the university to offer the program.

IUP is in the second year of its Crimson Scholars Circle program, welcoming 40 students for an early immersion experience the week before Welcome Week, offering programming designed to positively influence the retention and persistence of Black and Brown students. The program, which offers scholarships to both participants and student mentors, is funded by an anonymous donor.

Making An Impact ... with cutting-edge research

IUP has been approved for a \$1 million project as part of the Southwestern Pennsylvania New Economy Collaborative \$62.7 million Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant awarded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. IUP will use the funding for data analytics/computer science AI platforms and resources, safety science artificial intelligence and robotic research, geological geospatial intelligence, and STEAMSHOP makerspace.

For the second year, the Department of Anthropology has been selected by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine Inc. through the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to conduct a field study in Germany at the site of a crash of a World War II airplane.

A total of 17 students in majors ranging from biology to theater participated in IUP's Undergraduate Summer Opportunities for Applying Research (U-SOAR) program. In its eighth year at IUP, U-SOAR offers IUP students an opportunity to do research in a field of their choice with a faculty mentor.

In July, Pennsylvania Acting Secretary of Education Eric Hagarty and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Eli Downie visited IUP and heard from student leaders, student-athletes, and students in the U-SOAR program.

David Fyock and Tommy Letso, biology pre-medicine majors at IUP from Indiana County, are IUP's first students to complete Indiana Regional Medical Center's (IRMC) Pre-Med Undergraduate Summer Internship, shadowing physicians from eight different medical specialties, one each week of the eight-week internship.

Making An Impact ... in the Commonwealth

IUP is one of seven colleges and universities in the state selected for the PA Hunger-Free Campus Initiative. IUP has offered support to students through a food pantry (now the Food Pantry and Help Center) since 2019.



Abigail Hancox, of Albion (political science and homeland security, Cook Honors College), has been confirmed to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania State System Board of Governors. Hancox is president of IUP's Student Government Association.

The Cambria County School District has invited the IUP Department of Counseling to provide master's level interns to offer services to struggling students

in public and private schools in the district. The program, Reaching Educational Achievements with Clinical Mental Health Inc. (REACH), will provide stipends to the IUP interns.

President Michael Driscoll was a featured guest on WPXI's "Our Region's Business" business affairs show on September 4. The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and WPXI-TV co-produce the show. During the segment, Driscoll focused on IUP's future, including a university-wide commitment to IUP's Strategic Plan. The segment, which also featured video from campus, is posted on the "Our Region's Business" website.

Making An Impact ... in the nation

The United States Department of Agriculture has selected IUP to develop a specialized biosafety/biorisk management certificate program, and provided more than \$460,000 to fund the initiative, which combines the expertise of IUP's Department of Biology and the Department of Safety Sciences.

Following a national championship season in spring 2022, the ItUP Men's Rugby Club is No. 1 in preseason Division II college rankings.



Making An Impact ... in the world

IUP had two student Fulbright Scholars, one faculty Fulbright Scholar, and a Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship winner during the 2021-22 academic year. To date, 19 students and 75 faculty and staff are Fulbright recipients, and 21 students have been selected for the Gilman award. This year's recipients are:



Teresa Kuo, of Cabot (early childhood and special education), Fulbright English Teaching Assistant award to Taiwan.

Grace Skarzynski, of North Huntingdon (Student Affairs in Higher Education), Fulbright English Teaching Assistant award to Greece.



Yu-ju Kuo, (Department of Mathematical and Computer Science) Fulbright U.S. Scholar fellowship to Bhutan.

Sfen Kadirifu, of Philadelphia (international studies and fashion), Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for study in South Korea.



IUP has received more than \$1.5 million during the past seven years to continue to host the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program for international teachers. For fall 2022, IUP is one of only two universities in the nation chosen as a host institution for the program, which brings 21 educators, a mixture of primary and secondary teachers from 14 countries, to IUP



Recognition By External Experts Praised for “delivering on its promises” of affordability and quality programs, IUP has been selected for The Princeton Review’s “Best Colleges” guidebook for the 22nd consecutive year and IUP’s Health Service was included in the “Best Health Services” ranking, one of only 25 college and university health services selected for the list.

IUP has been recognized as second in Pennsylvania for affordability, third as a “best public college,” and in the top 20 as a “Pennsylvania’s Best Overall” university by AcademicInfluence.com.

Just One More...



Josephine Vance, a senior Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism, and Event Management major from Natrona Heights, is IUP’s second Statler Foundation Scholarship of Excellence recipient.

This \$25,000 scholarship is awarded based on academic excellence, character, and commitment to the industry.