



Campus Compact
Indiana

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IUPUI Faculty Member Becomes Part of Community Engagement Cohort Developing an Online Repository of Family-Centered Lesson Plans



INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Dr. Cristina Santamaría Graff, Assistant Professor of Special Education, Urban Teacher Education at IUPUI, was awarded a Faculty Fellowship from Indiana Campus Compact, a partnership of higher education institutions that prepares college students to advance the public good. The Fellowship includes funding to support high-impact teaching, research, and engagement practices. As part of the cohort, she will work on a collaborative research project with other Faculty Fellows from across the state, as

well as her individual project *Developing an Online Repository of Family-Centered Lesson Plans Through a “Family as Faculty” Approach*, which entails creating an online repository (e.g., website or other digital library) of family-centered lesson plans co-created by pre-service teachers in the IUPUI School of Education Elementary Education Program and families of children with disabilities in the Family as Faculty program.

Through the project, families are paired with students from Dr. Santamaría Graff’s special education methods’ course to create content and inform instructional choices for generating lessons and compiling important information useful to families. The families will drive the content as it is developed by the students, which will then be uploaded to an accessible, free, and publicly available online platform.

IUPUI is adding \$1,500 to the \$3,800 Faculty Fellows grant from Indiana Campus Compact, which highlights their commitment to community engagement and to prepare students to advance the common good.

In her application, Dr. Santamaría Graff said, “With the advent of COVID-19 – its presence and ramifications – we, as a collective, are being challenged to address existing disparities that are now magnified. [Online instruction] platforms, though constructed with good intent, have significant limitations that, unfortunately, have been disproportionately impacting families who are economically disadvantaged, those who have children with disabilities, and those who have children who are emergent bi/multilingual learners.”

“We are excited to have Dr. Santamaría Graff return as a member of the Indiana Campus Compact family of Faculty Fellows,” commented Laura Weaver, Indiana Campus Compact’s Director of Professional Development and Engaged Learning. “I have personally witnessed how transformative Cristina’s work through Families as Faculty is for the community organizations she partners with, her students, and most importantly the children and families she works alongside with - respecting, listening, and partnering with them to bring these projects to life.”

Dr. Santamaría Graff is one of five Faculty Fellows being supported by Indiana Campus Compact during the 2020-2021 academic year.

“Indiana Campus Compact is proud to be supporting innovators like Dr. Santamaría Graff in creating programs to prepare college students as the next generation of civic leaders and community-minded workforce while making a positive impact on tens of thousands of Hoosiers”, says J.R. Jamison, Indiana Campus Compact Executive Director.

About Indiana Campus Compact

Indiana Campus Compact is a partnership of Indiana’s public, private, and community college higher education institutions focused on advocating, implementing, and improving service engagement, so that students graduate as well-informed, engaged and productive members of society, who are fully enabled to provide leadership and service that advances the public good in their communities. For more information, please visit www.indianacampuscompact.org.

Note to editor: For a copy of the grant narrative, photos, or to track progress on this project, please reach out to Liza Blomquist at 317-274-6505 or liza@incampuscompact.org.

