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IUPUI researcher receives grant to examine transformational potential of community-campus partnerships

Mary F. Price will lead a team of researchers to co-create a toolkit to assess and improve community-campus partnership quality



Mary F. Price

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Mary F. Price, director of faculty development at the IUPUI Center for Service and Learning, was awarded a \$5,000 grant from [Indiana Campus Compact](#), a partnership of higher education institutions that prepares college students to advance the public good. Through the grant program, titled Research With and About Community Engagement, Price and a team of researchers will build on a decade’s worth of practitioner-scholarship to conceptualize, evaluate, and document the transformational potential of community-campus partnerships.

Price’s research team seeks to ensure that community-campus relationships are more than just transactional, but truly transformational in nature. With the creation and implementation of a toolkit, they will attempt to answer the essential question, how do we know the extent to which our partnerships are generating new and otherwise unobtainable possibilities, with impacts ranging from individual identities to organizational cultures to system change?

“Research is needed to determine the best ways to advance work that aspires to democratic and transformational relationships, processes, and outcomes among individuals, organizations, institutions, and communities that come together to generate change,” Price said.

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Dr. Jerry Daday, executive director of the IUPUI Institute for Engaged Learning, speaks to the collaborative nature and importance of this project: “Significant experience, professional networks, and scholarship among civic engagement colleagues across the country will be leveraged to continue advancing the practice of and research on partnerships between higher education institutions and broader communities, ultimately enhancing the learning, growth, and change that are the goals of high-impact practices.”

Price, the principal investigator, will be joined in her research by Lori Kniffin, Ph.D., Fort Hayes State University, Jasmina Camo-Biogradlija, Ph.D., University of Michigan, Patti H. Clayton, Ph.D., IUPUI, and Bob Bringle, Ph.D., IUPUI.

IUPUI is adding \$1,500 in matching funds to the \$5,000 research grant from Indiana Campus Compact. The university’s contribution highlights its commitment to leveraging its resources to benefit the community.

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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.