



# foundations

COVID Response | Civil Rights Heritage Center | STEM Diversity

Fall 2020



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

WELCOME TO THE FALL 2020 ISSUE OF FOUNDATIONS MAGAZINE.

Storytelling is one of the most important ways we connect as human beings. This practice is even more vital during the COVID-19 pandemic, as we keep physically distant from one another to stop the spread of this deadly virus. We have so many stories to tell in any year and this time is no different. This issue of Foundations is full of stories illustrating human connections we are making with each other and our community.

Our COVID feature intertwines how IU South Bend responded to the pandemic with two stirring personal tales from an alumna of our nursing program and a creative, service-minded staff member. Included is the Schurz Library's COVID oral history project, quite literally a collection of people's stories from the pandemic. When we look back on this time, these narratives will illustrate only a small slice of how our community reacted and rallied in the face of a crisis. While this pandemic has certainly resulted in tragedies that I hope have not touched you and your family, it has also provided us with opportunities to step up, innovate, and excel despite the challenges. That is what is so gratifying to me, to see the Titan pride everywhere I look!

You will also read about a summer program where faculty members are working with minority students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The program helps nurture and guide promising students into the STEM fields where careers are waiting and diversity is needed. Perhaps some of these students will work on virus treatments or vaccines in the future!

Our new chair of Palliative Care in the Vera Z. Dwyer College of Health Sciences has a professional and personal story that is riveting and inspiring. Dr. Bunmi Okanlani is building a program in palliative care that is unique in higher education and worthy of any health sciences program in the country.

Lastly, we recognize a great humanitarian and alumnus, Isaac Torres. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Service Award, a well-deserved honor. He is an outstanding example of what can happen when tenacity, creativity, and passion meet the power of an IU degree. We are proud to count Isaac and his family as part of the Titan community.

Please enjoy this issue of Foundations magazine as we continue to tell the stories of how IU South Bend alumni, faculty, and students advance their lives and livelihoods so they can make positive contributions to our community. While we may not be entirely sure what the future holds, we are sure of who we serve and of our mission to provide access to high quality, affordable degree programs. This is more important now than it ever has been.

With Hoosier Spirit and Titan Pride,

Susan Elrod | Chancellor



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*COVER: An array of face masks illustrates how textiles can be an expression of care and protection. Read more about their creator and campus COVID response on page 10. Photography by Nathan Albert.*



## foundations

*Foundations* magazine is published bi-annually through a joint effort between the Office of Alumni Relations and the Office of Communications and Marketing at Indiana University South Bend. The magazine covers a wide range of campus news and activities, faculty and student research, and community engagement, among other topics.

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### STAY IN TOUCH!

We are always looking for fresh ideas to cover in the magazine. Visit our website if you would like to give any general feedback, send comments about a specific feature, suggest a story idea, contribute an article, or to update your mailing address.

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## stories

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# Dean Curtis leaves Ernestine M. Raclin School of Arts in good place as he steps down



Marvin V. Curtis

Reflecting on his 12 years as dean of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of the Arts, Dean Marvin V. Curtis said, “It’s always been about the students. I wanted to create a place where students can learn and go on and do well in their fields.”

During his tenure as dean, Curtis has been a visionary leader, raising the stature of the school and its facilities to new heights. He’s also been a tireless volunteer and leader in the Michiana community.

Today the school is a much different place than when he arrived in 2008. “We needed change,” said Curtis. “We needed a good leader.”

Sally Coveleskie of the Steinway organization is pictured with Marvin V. Curtis, dean of the Raclin School and Susan Elrod, chancellor of IU South Bend.

Under his leadership, IU South Bend earned the All-Steinway School distinction

last fall when the Raclin School of the Arts purchased the final two pianos needed to make at least 90 percent of the institution’s piano collection Steinway & Sons. IU South Bend is now one of two Steinway Schools in Indiana (the other is Ball State University), making the institution one of only 212 colleges, universities, and conservatories throughout the world with this achievement.

In addition to the Steinway School designation, one of Curtis’s most visible accomplishments is the Louise E. Addicott & Yatish J. Joshi Performance Hall completed in 2014. Curtis secured funding for the \$1.8



L-R: Sally Coveleskie, Marvin V. Curtis, Susan Elrod

“Our students have done well,” Curtis commented. “When I first got here people didn’t know we were here. Now, I frequently hear, ‘Wow, what are you guys doing over there!’”

His investment in creating an outstanding student experience at the Ernestine M. Raclin School of Arts has led to a 25 percent increase in enrollment and tripled the graduation rate. “This year, we will graduate 80–90 students,” Curtis said. “When I arrived we only graduated 30–40.”

He has also forged lasting relationships between IU South Bend and the community. Curtis serves on numerous boards, including the South Bend Youth Symphony, the Stickley Piano Foundation and the Morris Performing Arts Center. He sits on



million performance hall through donations, including a significant gift from the Georgina Joshi Foundation.

“We needed a place where students could cultivate their talent,” he explained, “and perform in a state-of-the art acoustical space.”

A dedicated champion and spokesperson for the school, Curtis has raised more than \$5.1 million in grants, external and internal funding and gifts throughout his tenure as dean.

To increase community awareness and highlight events and accomplishments of the Ernestine M. Raclin School of Arts,

Curtis launched *Aspire* magazine in 2009, an annual publication of the School of the Arts that received the Bronze Circle of Excellence Award from the Council of Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). “Before the magazine, people didn’t know we were here,” explained Curtis. “I wanted the public to know about the great things our students are doing and our outstanding performances and events.”

In addition to leading the School of Arts, Curtis also conducts the South Bend Symphonic Choir, which has performed two concerts at Carnegie Hall. “These were extraordinary experiences for me and the students who performed,” he said.

the South Bend Symphony board, which led to partnership to establish the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Concerts.

The school also created the annual Teddy Bear Concert during the Christmas holiday, collecting 300 teddy bears in 2019 for donations to various community organizations. In addition, the first IU Jazz Fest was created in 2019.

“I’m leaving on a high note,” Curtis said with a smile. “The school is a good place.”

# Increasing diversity in STEM fields

**D**uring the summer of 2019, eight IU South Bend students spent their summer working with faculty as research scholars in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program. The LSAMP program, funded by the National Science Foundation, provides opportunities for underrepresented students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). LSAMP pays a stipend to students in the program, making it possible for them to spend their summer in the research lab.

“It fills my heart to watch students in the LSAMP program grow more confident and change from being students to research scholars,” said Associate Professor Grace W. Muna, the coordinator of the LSAMP at IU South Bend. “It opens their eyes to future career paths in STEM fields and instills the confidence they need to succeed in these fields,” said Muna.

Muna explained that undergraduate research fosters deep learning as students engage collaboratively under the guidance of a faculty mentor to create and solve a research problem. Students’ eight-week research projects build their knowledge of research and develop presentation skills. In the fall, students attend conferences and present their research at poster sessions. “LSAMP is an example of the efforts in the scientific community to address the imbalance of minorities in STEM fields,” said Jerry D. Hinnefeld, professor of physics and a faculty mentor to LSAMP scholar Angel Garcia-Simental.

After LSAMP students experience what academic research really can be, Muna encourages them to continue to advance research experience by applying



*Andrew Vila, biology*

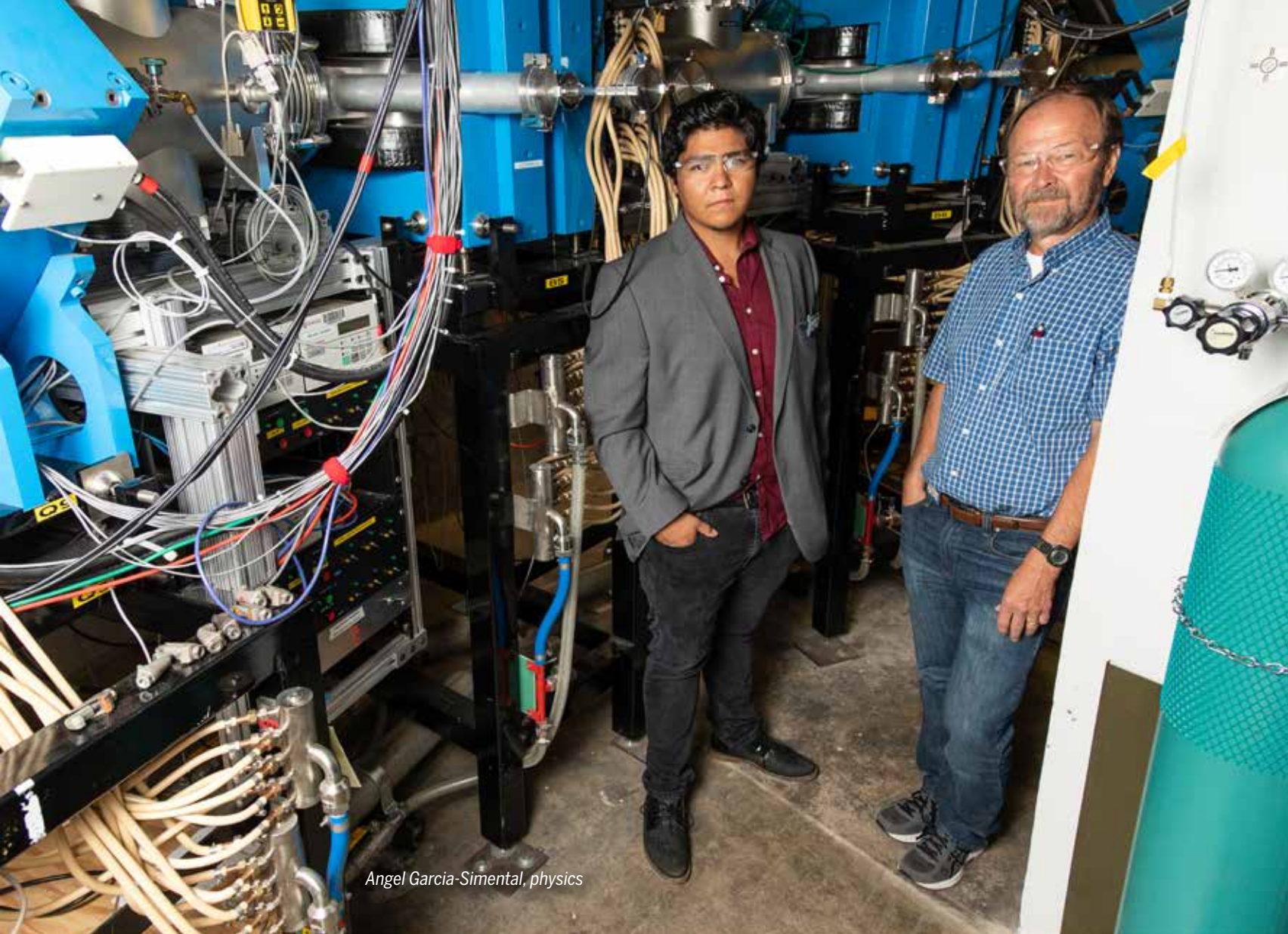
to participate in Research Experiences for Undergraduates, a National Science Foundation summer undergraduate research program available in larger research schools. “The LSAMP program is the initial step,” she said. “It opens the door to doing research in bigger schools, where they will work with graduate students and gain an even richer experience.”

After his summer experience as a LSAMP scholar working in the lab with Muna, junior biology major Andrew Vila reimagined his career possibilities. “I found out I really like research and discovering new things,” Vila said. “I’ve decided in addition to being a medical doctor, I also want to be a full professor. I plan to pursue an M.D. and a Ph.D.”

## ANDREW VILA

Senior biology student Andrew Vila is working with Associate Professor Grace W. Muna in developing an analytical method to detect lead in soils and water using bismuth nanoparticles deposited on a glassy carbon electrode. “It’s an awesome project because it’s so practical,” he explained. “Lead is especially harmful to children. We are working on developing a lead detection method that is sensitive, affordable, and field deployable.”

Vila enjoyed working closely with Associate Professor Muna. “It seemed more like a partnership,” he explained. Muna helped him understand and embrace research, explaining that unlike lab experiments in his science classes, these methods are not established. The researchers put it together themselves. “She encouraged me



Angel Garcia-Simental, physics

to understand that not getting results is part of the process," the Penn High School graduate said. "It's not a bad thing."

Muna's encouragement and his experience in the lab has made Vila feel more confident as a scientist. "I've always loved science," he said with a smile. "Maybe I've always been a scientist at heart."

#### ANGEL GARCIA-SIMENTAL

Angel Garcia-Simental, a senior physics major worked with Professor of Physics Jerry Hinnefeld. The main focus of Garcia-Simental's research is using a simulation program to determine the source of carbon-12, picked up by a detection system built by Hinnefeld that detects products of nuclear reactions like those that take place in stars. "We expected to find nitrogen-14

and florene-18, but not carbon-12," explained Hinnefeld.

Garcia-Simental has gained lots of new skills working in Notre Dame's Nuclear Science Laboratory, where Hinnefeld carries out his research. "Learning how to do the simulations and determine the results is a steep learning curve," said Garcia-Simental. "I had no knowledge of these programs before I began my research."

Despite the steep learning curve, the Riley High School graduate, has enjoyed his experience in the Nuclear Science Laboratory and plans to continue his work beyond the summer program. "I gained a better understanding about how labs work," he explained. "I was also able to work alongside a Notre Dame graduate

student, who shared insights with me about graduate research in physics and programming languages."

Both Garcia-Simental and Hinnefeld appreciate the opportunity to collaborate in the lab as well as run the first real experiment using the St. George recoil mass separator and the detection system Hinnefeld built for it.

#### BRIANNA JONES

Brianna Jones, a senior chemistry major and graduate of Elkhart Central, enjoyed working one-on-one with Associate Professor Muna and getting a more in-depth experience in the lab. In her summer of research, she compared the nutritional value of conventional and organic blueberries for a local organic farm.



L-R: Brianna Jones, chemistry; Grace Berney, biochemistry; Andrew Vila, biology

"In my lab classes, everything is set up and the outcome is predetermined," she explained. "In the LSAMP program, we are designing our own research protocols and we don't know the outcomes."

The stipend she earned from LSAMP made it feasible for her to participate in the program and she's grateful for the opportunity. "It really changed what I think about research," Jones said. "It requires lots of thinking, not just replicating experiments." She was also surprised how many times she repeated the same experiment to insure the results were accurate.

From her research, organic blueberries appear to have more calcium and potassium than conventional blueberries, making them healthier. "We are repeating the experiment again to make sure our results are accurate," she commented with a smile.

### GRACE BERNEY

"My experience in the LSAMP program opened my eyes to other options in research and gave me a head start in biostatistics," said Grace Berney, a senior biochemistry major.

Associate Professor of Bioinformatics Murli Nair taught Berney's genomics class. So when Muna approached Berney about participating in the LSAMP program, she asked Muna to contact Nair to be her mentor. "I never say no to students," said Nair. "Grace is a self-starter and a motivated student."

Berney worked with Nair on stem cells, to identify the differences in and between Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells (IPS) from cord blood and skin. Using data from another lab, Berney used a lot of statistical methods to understand the differences between IPSs derived from embryonic cord blood and mature cord blood.

"It was intimidating at first," said Berney, "because I hadn't taken a course in biostats yet. Associate Professor Nair was very patient with me and recommended YouTube videos that would help me," she explained. "As I became more comfortable, I found I really like research, and I'm interested in theoretical research."

Nair also widened Berney's view of career options. Planning to go to medical school, Nair suggested she could still do research while she is a medical doctor.

In addition to learning biostatistics, Berney will also be able to publish her research. "We are going to continue the project beyond the summer," said Nair. "Grace will be able to write a manuscript from it."





L-R: Alexia Glasper, biochemistry; Patricia Medrano, biology; Amber Owens, biology

### ALEXIA GLASPER, PATRICIA MEDRANO, AND AMBER OWENS

Senior biochemistry student Alexia Glasper, senior biology major Patricia Medrano, BA'19, and junior biology student Amber Owens spent their summer wading in the campus wetlands to collect samples for their research initiatives. Working in the same biology lab on three separate research projects, they all helped each other. "We have become good friends, and it's been really fun," said Owens.

Working with Associate Professor Deborah Marr, Owens tested the effects of SSRI drugs on the survival and reproduction of the freshwater invertebrate crustaceans also known as gammarus. Medrano, who also worked with Marr, worked on pollinator diversity in the campus wetlands, and doing experiments to determine if plant reproductive success is limited by pollinator activity. Glasper, under the guidance of

Professor of Biological Sciences Andrew Schnabel, compared the results of hand pollination with natural pollination.

To gather background information and discover helpful research techniques Professors Marr and Schnabel directed the three LSAMP scholars to relevant papers and research. From their studies, Medrano, a Riley High School graduate, learned how to extract nectar; Owens, a graduate of Clay High School, discovered how to sex gammarus and look at their DNA; and, Glasper, who graduated from Penn High School, learned how to use the autoclave machine to reduce contamination of cultures and equipment used.

"It required us to do a lot of independent research," said Glasper. "Both professors were very patient and very helpful," said Glasper. "It was nice to get to know them and build a good relationship with our professors," added Owens.

They all agreed that they gained skills and learned information that will help them in their classes. "It made me feel more comfortable in the field," said Medrano. Owens added, "It showed me what it's like to do research and made me feel more confident."

This is Schnabel's second year mentoring LSAMP scholars and he's a big fan of LSAMP. "You can't get students involved in summer research if they aren't funded," he explained. "It's a great way to help them find out what they like and open their eyes to new possibilities."



# Campus responds to CO I

**T**hough IU South Bend held its first day of classes of the fall semester on Aug. 24, it was not business as usual with crowds in hallways, full classrooms, and welcome week festivities.

Like others around the country and world, IU South Bend's community has felt the impact of COVID-19. Alumni, students, faculty, and staff have risen to the challenge, met adversity, and are doing their best during a tough 2020.

In mid-March the COVID-19 was in the early stages of grabbing headlines and causing concern. IU South Bend alumna Jennifer Viehe Swain (BSN '15) is a critical care nurse at Elkhart General Hospital and was part of the team that did the first COVID intubation in Elkhart on one of the area's first patients.

"It (COVID-19 virus) was never something we thought we would be dealing with. But it is part of the job to take care of people," she said. "I feel that my IUSB education helped me to excel."

Jennifer said in those early days in March, hospitals were listening to what was happening in New York and learning from those cases. "Everyday there was a new update. Treatments were changing. We hadn't figured out what to do."

In addition to work, Jennifer was concerned about taking the virus home where she has a young child. "That was scary at first. Was the PPE fitted properly? What do you do with the shoes? Now we change shoes before going home and I take a shower as soon as I get home."

"It (COVID-19 virus) was never something we thought we would be dealing with. But it is part of the job to take care of people. I feel that my IUSB education helped me to excel."

–Jennifer Viehe Swain



As for what is around the corner, Jennifer said the hospital and staff are prepared. "I expect this will continue for a while." The nursing students who she oversees from IU South Bend are prepared and educated to head into the storm in the future.

Not taking time to rest, this fall Jennifer is continuing her nursing studies for a master degree in the family nurse practitioner program at IU South Bend.

As Jennifer and other students returned to campus this fall, they encountered a very different environment. IU altered the academic calendar so that the fall semester ends Nov. 20 and the spring semester will begin Jan. 19 with the first three weeks only online. Nearly half of classes are entirely online or virtual, with more offered in a hybrid mode and only a third offered in-person.

At IU South Bend, seven Restart Working Groups made up of more than 80 faculty, staff, and students worked over the summer to develop recommendations and guide the campus to a safe opening.

Arrangements were made for classrooms and offices to de-densify and meet physical distancing requirements, and everyone is required to wear masks on campus. Staff, faculty, and students signed an agreement to commit to individual health and safety practices before returning to campus. The nearly 300 students living in campus housing were required to complete a pre-arrival COVID-19 test within 10 days of moving in and on arrival testing the day they moved in.

On-campus safety is at the forefront with disposable masks, hand sanitizer stations, deep cleaning, signs, and plexiglass dividers. And a public dashboard provides information to the community about testing results at all IU campuses.

As the country and the campus enter the third season of the virus, what will be remembered about this time? How were lives changed?

The IU South Bend Schurz Library will be asking such questions of the campus and the River Park neighborhood for an oral history project. Archivist Scott Shoger is leading the project, working with honors students this fall to conduct interviews.

Julie Feighery, associate librarian and head of public relations and outreach, developed the oral history idea over the summer. Shoger said the campus was

Jennifer Viehe Swain

part of similar oral history projects for IU's Bicentennial and the Civil Rights Heritage Center. This version will focus on faculty, staff, students, and alumni. River Park will be included because the campus is an integral part of the neighborhood. Shoger hopes to collect 150 stories.

"It is fascinating for research. This will be the history in 50 years," Shoger said.

Connie Peterson-Miller, director of the Office of Admissions and International Student Services at IU South Bend, has such a story. She took the fatigue of the pandemic as an opportunity to embrace her love of sewing, needlework, and doing good to create face masks.

"I looked for restoration in the memories associated with different fabrics and items I had collected over the years and from around the world."

She researched fabric and traditions and explored face masks, cultural identity, protection, and security. She uses the pattern from a Taiwanese motorcycle mask, which has a bigger surface area to protect the face from street fumes, sews a mask, and then adds embellishments of beads for a mixture of art and culture.

As she finished a few, she posted the photos on Facebook describing the cultural significance of each mask. "People began to ask if I would be willing to send them one, so I mail them off and when they ask if they can pay me, I suggest they donate to the Civil Rights Heritage Center."

She said she has made about 50 masks, sending them to Norway, Germany, England, France, and several states, and sees them as a way to care for others. "They now bind us together."

"I looked for restoration in the memories associated with different fabrics and items I had collected over the years and from around the world."

–Connie Peterson-Miller

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#### **INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE COVID-19 STORIES PROJECT?**

Visit: [go.iu.edu/3jwB](https://go.iu.edu/3jwB). Interviews will last between 30 to 60 minutes. View a few of the interviews that have been completed at: [go.iu.edu/3jmb](https://go.iu.edu/3jmb)





# Chancellor Elrod's Priorities for 2020-21

## **THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF OUR TITAN COMMUNITY**

This continues to be our top priority, as it has been since the beginning of the pandemic. While making sure students have access to our high-quality degree programs, whether in person, virtually or online, we have put many measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible.

## **ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION**

Our enrollment is strong despite the pandemic, but we will need continue to take bold new steps to reach out, engage and serve even more members of our region.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING AND BUDGETING**

We will complete the development of a new strategic plan for the campus this year. This plan will be a guide for actions that will lead us into an even brighter future.

## **REGIONAL IMPACT AND RELATIONS**

Our regional mission is essential to Michiana, to businesses, community organizations, to economic and social development. I am developing a plan to build enhanced relationships across Northcentral Indiana and Southwestern Michigan. This includes a continued focus on Elkhart and expanding program offerings at our center there.

## **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS**

We are developing a comprehensive marketing and communications plan to continue to promote IU South Bend. We have many great stories to tell and much good news to spread.

## **CLIMATE AND BELONGING**

Recent tragic events, brought to the breaking point with the death of George Floyd, prompted protests and elevated engagement around racial inequity. A new campus-wide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee will help the campus plan and execute new programs to improve our campus climate. Belonging is a continuing priority, which speaks to the general sense of how students, as well as employees, feel about whether they are welcome and valued as members of our community.

# Torres honored with Distinguished Alumni Service Award

**IU SOUTH BEND ALUMNUS ISAAC TORRES** was among five recipients of the 2019 Indiana University Distinguished Alumni Service Award, the highest award IU gives to its alumni. Recipients are leaders who make significant contributions benefiting their community, state, nation, or university. Of the 345 IU alumni honored since the award's inception in 1953, Torres is the second IU South Bend Titan to receive the Distinguished Alumni Service Award. Alma Powell, BS'70, MS'72, Hon. DHL'12, received the award in 2010.

IU President Michael McRobbie presented the award to Isaac P. Torres, along with IU South Bend Chancellor Susan Elrod and IU Alumni Association Chief Executive Officer JT. Forbes at a fall ceremony in Bloomington. Torres received this award both for his work professionally and for his commitment to giving back to the community in which he lives.

In his acceptance speech, Torres described his belief that our measure is seen in service to others. "I not only accept this award for myself but also for those deserving individuals that think it impossible to be in my shoes, but work tirelessly and selflessly to get there," he said.

Isaac's journey reveals a compelling portrait of a Latino immigrant who came to the United States with the desire to learn and achieve excellence in his life. His service and achievements in his field of international finance have provided Isaac and his family with the chance to truly achieve and live the "American Dream."

Isaac is a CPA with a bachelor in accounting

from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He came to the United States in 1995 to study at IU South Bend, where he earned his MBA at the Judd Leighton School of Business and Economics in 2000.

While working on his MBA, Isaac presented a visionary idea in a class project. Isaac saw a gap in the international money transfer industry, ignited by his experience trying to send money to his mother in Mexico. He realized a need to make the money transfer process more efficient and affordable, recognizing there were thousands of immigrants like himself who needed to send money to support their families abroad. Through the support of his professors, Isaac ultimately founded InterCambio Express, Inc. in 1999.

Isaac remarked about his company's philosophy that forms the foundation of its success. "Our philosophy is to be the best value in the industry of money transfers. The idea of InterCambio Express grew out of a desire to provide cheap and efficient rates for the low-income population who not only have to pay their bills and provide for their families here in the U.S., but also send money to Latin America to cover the basic needs of their relatives and friends as well."

Today, InterCambio Express, Inc. is ranked consistently among the top five companies in the industry. It currently has 1,700 agents in 36 states (and the District of Columbia). Giving back to the community is one of the company's core values, as Torres demonstrates continually.

Isaac Torres and his wife Conchita Villa are extremely generous and active in their

community. The Torres' established the Isaac P. Torres Family School of Business and Economics Scholarship at IU South Bend that supports low-income business students with big dreams, and funded the renovation of the Isaac P. Torres Family Data Analytics Lab. Conchita is on the IUSB Advisory Board. The Torres' were leaders in the capital campaign to rebuild the Children's Hospital at Beacon Health System making not only a major personal gift, but rallying the support of other individuals and companies in their personal and professional circle. Isaac and his family are also deeply involved with La Casa de Amistad, volunteering and sponsoring activities personally and through the business.

InterCambio Express supports charitable efforts annually, through giving, sponsorship, and services.

"I know that my job serving the community, and the new generations, has just begun," says Torres. "The plan is to improve the Isaac P. Torres Family Scholarship at IUSB so that one day, I am in the audience listening to an acceptance speech from a recipient of our scholarship."

Congratulations to Isaac P. Torres for receiving the IU Distinguished Alumni Services Award in recognition of all he's achieved.

“I know that my job serving the community, and the new generations, has just begun. The plan is to improve the Isaac P. Torres Family Scholarship at IUSB so that one day, I am in the audience listening to an acceptance speech from a recipient of our scholarship.”

–Isaac P. Torres





L-R: President Michael McRobbie, Melanie Smith-Guillaume, Alfred Guillaume, Chancellor Susan Elrod

## IU South Bend's Civil Rights Heritage Center marks milestones

**IN 2000**, a group of IU South Bend students joined history professor Dr. Les Lamson (now emeritus) on a journey through the American South to study the civil rights movement. That journey, called Freedom Summer, ultimately inspired them to discover the events that shaped South Bend during the same time period.

Dr. Lamson spoke about this journey in a recent video reflecting on the last two decades of the CRHC's existence at IU South Bend. "I look at the CRHC as a 20-year symbol of history. Freedom Summer made the students think about what their involvement could be back here."

IU South Bend alumna Candace Leuthold, one of those first students, says the group came back curious and focused, asking themselves "What happened here? Where do we fit into the civil rights movement?" Through historical research and first-hand oral

histories of local African American residents, they learned how South Bend's civil rights history was as painful as other parts of the nation. They worked with Dr. Lamson to establish a permanent center focused on the history of race relations and social justice in the South Bend regional community.

The Civil Rights Heritage Center has become one of IU South Bend's four Centers of Excellence. This year's 20th anniversary of the CRHC coincides with the 10th anniversary of the 2010 grand reopening of the renovated Engman Natatorium, the community's most visible symbol of struggle for racial justice, now CRHC's home in South Bend. On February 25, the campus hosted a special event to celebrate IU South Bend's official acquisition of the Natatorium and permanently dedicate it as the home of the Civil Rights Heritage Center.





Darryl Heller speaking at the February event.

“As a bridge between the campus and the community, the Center broadens student and faculty engagement beyond the classroom while providing the community with resources that further civil rights and social justice objectives.”

—Darryl Heller

“We join with our community in celebrating the original founders who had the vision to launch a community-centered space,” said Chancellor Susan Elrod. “The CRHC

is the nation’s only such center physically located in the community that is linked to an academic institution and educational mission. This purchase will allow us to expand the programs we offer in support of advancing our educational mission in this region and it also solidifies our commitment to the community and to making progress on civil rights and social justice issues.”

At the event, IU President McRobbie said, “During our Bicentennial Year, it is particularly fitting to underscore the fact that the enduring success of a great university is predicated in large part on its commitment to embracing diversity in the broadest sense and its commitment to building a community where respect for the fundamental rights and dignity of all others is one of our cardinal values. In order to ensure that Indiana University is and remains such a community, it is vitally important that we have programs and institutions that encourage us to reflect upon our past, embolden us to act when these ideals are under threat, and inspire us to work to ensure that our communities continue to embrace these values.”

At that celebration, President McRobbie presented an honorary IU Bicentennial

Medal to Dr. Alfred Guillaume, IU South Bend’s retired executive vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, and his wife, Melanie Smith-Guillaume. Dr. Guillaume passionately shepherded the acquisition of the Natatorium and the growth of the CRHC during his tenure. In his anniversary video interview, Guillaume said, “The civil rights movement was very central to my growing up, central as to who I am. I fight injustice everywhere I see it. The Nat is a symbol of that injustice.”

The CRHC has inspired the campus and greater South Bend community in numerous ways through its presence at the Natatorium and its thriving programs. Retired teacher and IU alumna, Alma Powell, one of the leaders of the fundraising committee to save the Engman Natatorium as the CRHC’s community home, and served as an interim director, says, “I have thought from the beginning that it would be great if every child in St. Joseph County could be educated for a day, or even an hour, to learn about the foundation of our community and the expansive role that African Americans have played in the development of the city, and even more broadly.”



One of the CRHC's recent events helped people process the tragic murder of George Floyd and the resulting protests around the world. "Perspectives on the Current Uprising" was a facilitated conversation with a panel of multi-generational African American leaders. The virtual session attracted nearly 300 participants of all ages.

The Center has attracted strong support recently, evidenced by new grants from Indiana Humanities and the Arts Everywhere Fund at the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. A \$50,000 federal grant award from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences will fund a transformation of the Center's existing South Bend African American Landmark Tour, adding a modern interactive technology component.

"As a bridge between the campus and the community, the Center broadens student and faculty engagement beyond the classroom while providing the community with resources that further civil rights and social justice objectives," said Darryl Heller, director of CRHC and assistant professor of Women's and Gender Studies. "Over the past several years the CRHC has expanded its reach with an eye to developing a network of like-minded, university-based Centers from around the country to have a greater national impact."



While the COVID-19 pandemic presents challenges to planning a grand anniversary season, the CRHC's leadership and its community continue to host events aligned with its mission to educate the public about race relations and struggles for social justice, locally and nationally. That commitment will advance its mission well beyond this "20 | 10" anniversary season.



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*To view the series of CRHC 20|10 Anniversary videos and "Perspectives on the Current Uprising", visit the CRHC's YouTube page at: [go.iu.edu/3jEm/](https://go.iu.edu/3jEm/).*

# Leaving a legacy

*Patricia O'Hanlon-Handshaw of Benton Harbor, Michigan wanted to honor her mother by establishing a scholarship fund at IU South Bend for students who dreamed of becoming teachers. Patricia's Revocable Living Trust will provide \$800,000 for students pursuing their dreams of helping others in the classroom someday.*

## **YOUR LEGACY AT IU SOUTH BEND**

Planned giving is one way to give back and establish your legacy at IU South Bend. If you are considering a planned gift to IU South Bend, here are several ways to make that gift.

## **BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS**

You can make a meaningful yet flexible gift simply by designating IU South Bend (via the Indiana University Foundation, Inc.) as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, revocable trust, or retirement fund, allowing the asset to pass directly to the program you wish to support. Documenting your designation with a planned gift agreement will insure that your gift is used for purposes meaningful to you, like student scholarships, faculty support, or funding for a favorite university program.

## **BEQUESTS IN YOUR WILL**

A gift in your will is an easy way to make a planned gift to IU South Bend. When you make a gift in your will, you retain full use of your property, so there is no disruption of your lifestyle and no immediate out-of-pocket cost. You may simply direct a

portion of your estate (a specific asset, amount, or percentage) to one or more of your favorite charities. You may also document your intent in a will regarding the use of your gift, or you may leave it unrestricted; but you must designate it for the benefit of IU South Bend via the IU Foundation.

## **GIFT OF RETIREMENT PLAN ASSETS**

Many individuals are now using retirement account assets in their charitable gift planning. Why? Retirement account assets are highly taxed—once in the estate, and then as income to the beneficiaries. However, a gift made directly to IU South Bend helps you avoid many of these taxes. Also, for donors 70 1/2 years old and above who have IRAs, up to \$100,000 may be gifted right now from your IRA to IU South Bend using a Qualified Charitable Distribution.

## **CONTACT YOUR ADVISOR AND OUR STAFF**

Your estate planning advisor can help you make decisions about beneficiary designations, bequests in wills and using your retirement assets to make a gift such as a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Contact our staff to help make sure your gift is directed as you intend.

Contact: Dina Harris, Director of Development, at (574)520-4131 or email [diharris@iusb.edu](mailto:diharris@iusb.edu), or Molly Sullivan, Major Gifts Officer, at (574) 520-4801 or email [mollsull@iusb.edu](mailto:mollsull@iusb.edu).

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*The information in this publication is not intended as legal or tax advice. For such advice, please consult an attorney or tax advisor.*

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***We'd love to hear any feedback or story ideas, too.***