

MONTHLY UPDATE



IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE, OCTOBER 2019

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

October was a great month at the Idaho Policy Institute. As the Director, I could not be happier with the hard work that our research teams are doing. The past month has seen the following highlights:

- 3 new projects
- 11 ongoing projects
- 7 projects in the proposal or contracting phase

The specifics of each project are outlined in the report and I'm just happy to say that there is a lot of work moving through the Institute right now.

Of particular note, this month the Idaho Policy Institute finalized a data partnership agreement with HP, Inc. In 2019 HP, Inc. engaged in a large-scale data collection process on the educational environment in Idaho. They surveyed 1743 Idaho residents and conducted 80+ interviews. HP will now transfer the data to IPI for further exploration and analysis. We are looking forward to this project!

- DR. GREG HILL

NEW PROJECTS

- College and Career Advising and Mentoring Program Evaluation (sponsor, State Board of Education)
- Early Literacy Program Evaluation (sponsor, State Board of Education)
- Advanced Opportunities Program Evaluation (sponsor, State Board of Education)

ONGOING SPONSORED PROJECTS

- Charter School Program Evaluation (sponsor, Bluum)
- SAMHSA Treatment and Transitions Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Health and Welfare)
- New Path Community Housing Evaluation (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure Funding (multiple supporters)

ONGOING UNSPONSORED PROJECTS

- Advancing Informal STEM Learning Pre-Pilot Survey
- Foster Care in Idaho
- Downtown Mobility Collaborative
- US Census Complete Count Committee
- Treasure Valley Survey
- Statewide Survey
- MPA Employer Needs Assessment
- Idaho Policy Institute Client Feedback Survey

PROJECTS CLOSING

- Wisconsin Nonprofit Compensation Survey (sponsor, InterSector)
- Property Tax Burden in Boise (sponsor, City of Boise)

PROJECT UPDATE

CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM EVALUATION

The first cohort of schools receiving funding from Idaho's Communities of Excellence federal CSP grant have started classes and the second cohort is currently being chosen in a review process. IPI was hired by Bluum as an external evaluator of these schools and their performance in relation to the grant goals. IPI has started to collect baseline data for the five-year evaluation. IPI also met with the other external evaluator hired for this project, The Farkus Duffet Research (FDR) Group, to discuss research goals and determine how the two evaluations will work together.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The State Board of Education evaluations have officially begun. IPI will be analyzing data provided by the State, conducting interviews, and administering a survey to understand the Early Literacy, Advanced Opportunities and College and Career Advising and Mentoring programs. The evaluations will be presented to the State Legislature in early February 2020.

DOWNTOWN MOBILITY COLLABORATIVE

Work continues on the Downtown Mobility Collaborative project. In conjunction with the City of Boise, Boise State University and other partner entities, IPI has fielded a survey to assess commuting habits and citizen awareness of transportation options in the Treasure Valley. The survey will remain open through mid-November. Additionally, IPI and DMC volunteers will be performing physical counts of the number of single-occupant vehicles coming into the downtown area. Both the survey responses and counts will serve as baseline data to help assess DMC performance at a later date.

IDAHO'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

IPI staff are continuing to meet with transportation stakeholders during the data mapping phase of the project. Thus far the team has met with Idaho Transportation Department, Ada County Highway District, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, COMPASS, Valley Regional Transit, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance, Idaho Associated General Contractors, Association of Idaho Cities, Idaho Association of Counties, Idaho Trucking Association, and Simplot Transportation. Dr. Vanessa Fry presented on the project at the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance Summit on October 29th.

MONTH IN REVIEW

ENERGY POLICY RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Dr. Ben Larsen presented at the Energy Policy Research Conference hosted by the Energy Policy Institute. Dr. Vanessa Fry, Gabe Osterhout, and Dr. Kathy Araujo (Director of Energy Policy Institute) were coauthors on the conference paper. The presentation reported the results of the City of Boise Public Works survey conducted in January 2019. The Energy Policy Research Conference is an interdisciplinary event and is attended by scholars and industry leaders in the energy policy field. This research team is continuing work on this project in order to develop a publication that closely analyzes the role that scientists and researchers play in local policymaking.

AEI LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Dr. Vanessa Fry kicked off her participation in the American Enterprise Institute's Leadership Network at a three-day summit in Washington, D.C. The Leadership Network is an "exclusive policy education and professional development program for state-based, mid-career executives in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. This program represents a unique opportunity for leaders around the country to participate in our work and help us to increase opportunity for our fellow citizens."

PROJECTS PENDING CONTRACTING

- Oregon Nonprofit Compensation Survey (sponsor, The Nonprofit Association of Oregon)
- Affordable Housing Policy Analysis (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Annual City of Boise Resident Survey (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Peer Cities Selection Analysis (sponsor, City of Boise)

PROJECTS IN PROPOSAL STAGE

- Boise School District Pre-K Program Evaluation (sponsor, City of Boise or Boise School District)
- BCA of Southwestern Idaho Membership Survey (sponsor, Building Contractors Association of Southwestern Idaho)
- Systems for Action (sponsor, RWJF)
- AISL partnership with the Peregrine Fund (sponsor, NSF)
- Statewide Eviction Study in Collaboration with Idaho Press (un-sponsored)



PARTNERSHIP WITH HP, INC.

Dr. Greg Hill and Gus Schmedlen of HP, Inc. announced a partnership between the Idaho Policy Institute and HP, Inc. at the 'Governor's Summit on the Future of Work: Age of Agility' on Oct 8. HP is donating Idaho-specific education data to the Idaho Policy Institute, who will be able to analyze and evaluate it, while working with HP, Inc. on future education-related projects.

AUBER 2019 FALL CONFERENCE

Dr. Vanessa Fry presented at the Association for University Business and Economic Research's 72nd annual fall conference 'Regional Analysis in the Age of Populism' in Savannah, GA. Vanessa spoke about the economic impacts of investment in Idaho's transportation infrastructure on a panel about trade and logistics. She was joined by Herb Holloway from Southeastern Louisiana University, who spoke about vessel transport in Louisiana's deep water ports, and Jeff Michael from University of the Pacific, who spoke about warehousing, e-commerce and evolving trade patterns in San Joaquin County, CA.



TRANSPORTATION POLICY CONFERENCE

Dr. Vanessa Fry presented at the Idaho Walk Bike Alliance Transportation Policy Conference. She gave the opening presentation and her talk was titled, 'Moving Idaho Forward: The State of Idaho Transportation Infrastructure & Revenue Sources.'

TEAM ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

During October, IPI committed to trying out alternative commutes to work. Collectively, we tried bus, bicycle and car pooling as alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle commuting. We also took advantage of free employee bowling in the Student Union, where it got pretty competitive but Greg remained the leader with the highest score in both games. Lastly, the team also attended the inauguration of Dr. Tromp, went to several Boise Startup Week events and attended the University of Idaho McClure Center's annual Policy Pub event.



SUPREME COURT ANTI-CAMPING ORDINANCE

Dr. Vanessa Fry was cited in an Idaho Matters episode regarding her research on homelessness that found it is cheaper to house the chronically homeless compared to paying for services frequently used by the homeless, such as emergency room visits and jail-time.

FINANCING INTERVENTIONS

Dr. Vanessa Fry spoke at the 2019 Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers, and Finance Officers Association (ICCTFOA) Institute hosted by the Association of Idaho Cities. She gave the luncheon keynote titled, “Financing Interventions in Your Community: Pay for Success and Public-Private Partnerships.” In the session attendees learned how private-public partnerships can help Idaho communities finance interventions to address their communities’ infrastructure, social and environmental needs. One tool yet to be deployed in Idaho, Pay for Success financing, served as a model for such a partnership.



CUPSO DATABASE

Dr. Greg Hill is working with University of Massachusetts on the creation of a database of policy and professional expertise with the Consortium of Public Service Organizations (CUPSO). He presented the concept at CUPSO’s annual Directors meeting in Washington, DC. CUPSO is the nation’s premier consortium for public service organizations housed within universities.

SHARED LEADERSHIP

Tasha Smagula attended her second month of Shared Leadership and has been enjoying her experience and the opportunity to network with the campus community. In October, she brought back a team activity that she facilitated at our October staff meeting.



IDAHO CENSUS RESPONSE RATES

Lantz McGinnis-Brown and Gabe Osterhout launched a new interactive dashboard on our website. This map visualizes Census response rates by Census tract and county across Idaho. The dashboard is intended to inform outreach efforts to ensure a complete and representative Census count next year. Gabe and Dr. Greg Hill presented this dashboard at the Governor’s Census Complete Count Committee the second week of October.

boisestate.edu/sps-ipi/interactive-dashboards

