

IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE



MONTHLY UPDATE, AUGUST 2020

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Idaho Policy Institute launches the Fall 2020 academic semester strong with eight research staff, two graduate assistants, and one undergraduate Work U student. With many active projects and several in the proposal stage (outlined on the next page) IPI's fall promises to be active and impactful.

In August we said goodbye to our amazing administrative assistant and overall operations guru, Tasha Smagula, who left IPI to pursue opportunities at a local law firm. In her time at IPI Tasha worked to professionalize our operations processes, launch our strategic planning efforts, and strengthen our team culture. Rather than rehire the position, IPI will work closely with Team Support in the School of Public Service to ensure a seamless transition of administrative support for IPI's sponsored project work, financial management, and operations.

With the students back for the fall semester, the IPI team will continue our strategic planning efforts. One of our first action items is to move IPI to campus. This will help us strengthen the relationships we have with our Boise State colleagues and also enable us to develop new strategic relationships with students, faculty, and staff. IPI's new offices will be located on the second floor of the Environmental Research Building. We look forward to welcoming you to our new space when the time is right for social gathering!

BEST,

Handwritten signature of Vanessa Crossgrove Fry.

DR. VANESSA CROSSGROVE FRY

PROJECT LISTS

PROPOSAL STAGE

- A Foundation for Research into Webcams as Tools in Informal STEM Learning (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Prevalence and Probability of Youth Homelessness (sponsor, U.S. Housing and Urban Development)
- Modeling Resilience Through a Community Lens: Discovering Data, Creating Tools, and Connecting People Who Make Resilience Possible (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Accessing Independence by Leveraging Partnerships to Catalyze a Smart and Connected Region – Caldwell, Idaho (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Juvenile Detention Program Evaluation (sponsor, Ada County)
- West Central Mountains Regional Creative District (sponsor, Idaho Commission on the Arts)
- Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey (sponsor, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation)

ENDING

- Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure: Moving Idaho Forward (multiple sponsors)
- MPA Employer Needs Assessment

ONGOING SPONSORED

- Literacy Intervention Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho State Board of Education)
- Idaho Public Education Policy Review (sponsor, yes. every kid.)
- Communities of Excellence 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)
- Streamflow Data and Climate Vulnerability Survey (Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center)
- Master's of Environmental Management Needs Assessment (multiple sponsors)
- Idaho Public Television Attitudinal Awareness Survey (sponsor, Idaho Public Television)

ONGOING UNSPONSORED

- Statewide Eviction Study
- State of Local Governments Survey
- Census Response Rate Reporting
- Boise State's COVID-19 Dashboard
- Annual Treasure Valley Survey
- Annual Statewide Survey



PROJECT UPDATES

LITERACY INTERVENTION PROGRAM EVALUATION

Team: Matthew May, McAllister Hall, and Vanessa Fry

IPI has started work on its third evaluation of the State Literacy Intervention Program for the Idaho State Board of Education. The evaluation will consider: (a) program design; (b) use of funds, including what funding amounts are utilized for all-day kindergarten; (c) program effectiveness; and (d) shall include an analysis of key performance indicators of student achievement. This year the evaluation will include a new survey and interview element to achieve these considerations. IPI intends to survey and interview K-3 teachers throughout the state to better understand the implementation of the Intervention Program in classrooms. Survey questions and interview protocol are currently being drafted. The goal is to distribute surveys and complete interviews in October with the final report completed by early January 2021.

IDAHO EVICTION STUDY

Team: Benjamin Larsen, McAllister Hall, Lantz McGinnis-Brown, and Vanessa Fry

Idaho renters increasingly face the threat of eviction. IPI conducted a statewide eviction study to learn about the extent of formal evictions across Idaho. Data for all eviction filings in 2019 were obtained through the Idaho Supreme Court and the study's findings will be released in September. IPI plans to make this an annual evaluation.

STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SURVEY

Team: Cheong Kim, Matthew May, and Vanessa Fry

In order to gain more information about various aspects of municipal government, including responses to the COVID-19 outbreak, form of government, local politics, approach to financial management, and decisions related to contracting, IPI has developed a survey questionnaire to be distributed to municipalities in eleven western US states. The survey's target population is the chief executive of each city (e.g., the mayor or city manager). The survey's findings will help provide insight into how municipal governments, particularly their chief executives, make decisions. The research team plans to field the survey in September.

NEWS

["Fry, Hall and Osterhout release charter school report". *Boise State News*. August 3, 2020.](#)

["Five Questions with Vanessa Fry". *Boise State News*. August 4, 2020.](#)

["Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure: Moving Idaho Forward infographic is now available online". *Boise State News*. August 5, 2020.](#)

["Vanessa Fry participates in PNRC economic forecast webinar". *Boise State News*. August 10, 2020.](#)

["Vanessa Fry participates in AUBER roundtable". *Boise State News*. August 18, 2020.](#)

["Vanessa Fry participates in two economic talks". *Boise State News*. August 19, 2020.](#)

["Finding a transportation solution we all can support". *Idaho Business Review*. August 21, 2020.](#)

MONTH IN REVIEW

VANESSA FRY PARTICIPATES IN PNRC ECONOMIC FORECAST WEBINAR

On July 30, 2020, Interim Director Vanessa Fry participated in a regional forecast webinar hosted by the Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference. The session featured a national forecast and discussion among forecasters from around the Pacific Northwest states and provinces about how our region is economically situated. Among the topics discussed were housing, the criminal justice system, tourism, and more.

The full webinar, titled [*Economic Outlook: Pacific Northwest States and Provinces*](#), can be viewed on YouTube.

TRANSPORTATION TEAM PRESENTATIONS

Vanessa Fry also presented with Local Highway District Deputy Administrator Laila Kral on July 30 regarding Idaho's transportation future for the [*Idaho Business Review's Business Now webinar series*](#). On August 3, Vanessa Fry, Lantz McGinnis-Brown, and Gabe Osterhout participated in a forum for the [*Idaho Business Review's Breakfast Series*](#) titled *Idaho on the Move: Transportation Trends*.

FIVE QUESTIONS WITH VANESSA FRY

The Blue Review interviewed Vanessa Fry asking five short questions about her work (and other things). Among the questions, Vanessa was asked about her new role as Interim Director of the Idaho Policy Institute, about her work in affordable housing and homelessness, her family's new routine, and more. Read her answers on [*The Blue Review's website*](#).

VANESSA FRY PARTICIPATES IN AUBER ROUNDTABLE

On August 13, 2020, Interim Director Vanessa Fry participated in a roundtable discussion hosted by the [*Association for University Business and Economic Research \(AUBER\)*](#). The session featured AUBER units from the states of Massachusetts, Nebraska, Arkansas, and Idaho. The panelists discussed their state's economic progress during the COVID-19 pandemic. Regional patterns of economic recovery were the focus, including the relationship between economic structure and job loss.

The full roundtable, titled [*COVID-19 - What Does Your State's Rebound Look Like?*](#), can be viewed on AUBER's [*website*](#).

MPA CAPSTONE PRESENTATIONS

This summer's MPA Capstone students worked on two projects with clients. One, a survey conducted for the Idaho State Bar, examined the propensity of bullying, harassment, and discrimination in the practice of law in Idaho. The other, a project for ADU Simplified, examined how the City of Boise could expand use of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) as a way to provide more affordable housing in the city. On August 4th the students gave presentations to clients and IPI staff.

GET IN TOUCH



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