IUPUI SOLUTION CENTER

The IUPUI Solution Center, a division of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, was created to reflect IUPUI’s commitment to its community. As the campus’s office for Outreach & Community Engagement, the Solution Center provides a “front door” through which nonprofit, for-profit, and government leaders can ask questions, identify resources, connect to talent and expertise, and address capacity and business development needs.

- To serve as a key partner in efforts to increase the number of highly trained and degreed professionals in Indiana.
- To facilitate meaningful collaboration and talent-driven partnerships with Indiana’s business, industry, nonprofit, and government sectors.
- To discover, develop, and transfer information, technologies, and methods that enhance practice in key clusters.

PROCESS FOR WORKING WITH THE SOLUTION CENTER

As a first-point-of-contact for the IUPUI campus, Solution Center staff members identify and assist Indiana business, government, and nonprofit organizations to access IUPUI resources to meet their challenges and reach organizational goals. Community members may contact the Solution Center to:

- develop business and research partnerships
- create professional internships
- seek expert advice, consulting, or assistance
- link community and faculty
- customize programs and research for community clients
- post a job or internship campus-wide
In the past fiscal year, the Solution Center facilitated 512 formal engagements between IUPUI and community partners, resulting in:

- 297 students, 103 faculty, and 111 community organizations and businesses involved in internships, class projects, and community-based research efforts.
- $572,621 in funding for IUPUI engaged activities in the community.
- $246,886 in Venture Fund awards to 49 community partners, securing $325,735 in match funding in support of engagements.

Since its launch in 2004, the Solution Center has facilitated a total of 3,120 engagements and has generated over $6.3 million in support of engaged activities.

WHAT WE DO:

The Solution Center is often the first-point-of-contact for a community leader from a nonprofit, for-profit, or government agency who is seeking assistance to access university talent, knowledge, and/or resources. Solution Center staff members facilitate planning discussions to determine critical needs, connect community members to potential university partners, and manage community-based projects and internships as appropriate. The Solution Center meets its mission through:

- Targeted outreach and community relations programming;
- Leadership of community projects, internships, and research initiatives;
- Membership on the Executive Leadership Team of the IUPUI Career Services Council;
- Management of the campus-wide job posting system: www.iupuitalent.net; and
- Administration of the IUPUI Community Venture Fund, which provides matching grants to seed and expand community-university partnerships.

WHAT OTHERS SHOULD KNOW:

The Solution Center also works with faculty, staff, and researchers to assist each in developing community-based or community-engaged research, courses, or projects. Solution Center staff members serve as a campus resource by:

- Providing assistance in the process of brainstorming and coordination of experiential learning ideas.
- Locating internal and external contacts and funding for community-based research.
- Assisting to identify community organizations for class projects, case studies and other initiatives.
- Administering grant program that provides matching funds in support of community-based research and projects.
- Working with faculty members to develop and provide assessment and evaluation measures for experiential initiatives.
- Linking faculty and staff to opportunities that advance IUPUI’s vision for RISE.
- Facilitating career and experiential learning mentoring opportunities.