The Institute of Public Policy seeks to enhance knowledge and understanding of public policy issues relevant to Missouri citizens and policymakers by conducting objective research and facilitating public dialogue.
The 2014 Annual Review of the Institute of Public Policy summarizes the Institute’s activities for fiscal year July 2013–June 2014. The Institute continues to fulfill its mission by providing relevant and timely research, conducting evaluation and contract work, and producing quality policy information and products.

**Outreach**

*Reaching out to state and local agencies and non-profit leaders* Some strong connections were made with state and local agencies and non-profit leaders. These included working with the Missouri Housing Development Commission, resulting in a contract to conduct a statewide housing needs assessment. The Institute connected with Epworth Children & Family Services of St. Louis, leading to a funded joint proposal from the St. Louis Children’s Services Fund. The Institute has developed a three-year research partnership with the Women’s Foundation of Greater Kansas City to conduct a statewide women’s needs assessment. The Mid-America Regional Council contracted with IPP to develop an investment plan to address the needs of at-risk youth in the Kansas City area.

The Institute began a relationship with the Boone County Children’s Services Board by providing consultation services to the board and staff. Brian Dabson also met with the director of the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency, the director of the Missouri Ethics Commission and the head of the Missouri Senate Research Office. Dialogue with the Missouri Energy Initiative has continued, laying the groundwork for a possible MU collaboration on a statewide energy plan, as well as placing Truman School interns at MEI.

IPP has continued to reinforce connections with existing partners, leading to repeat business with the Missouri Department of Corrections. Emily Johnson and Christian Arment were each presented with the Director’s Coin of Excellence by Director, George Lombardi. Projects continued with the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, Missouri Department of Social Services, Preferred Family Healthcare, and Phoenix Programs.

Brian Dabson appeared on KBIA’s Intersection program in September 2013 with Rep. Chris Kelly and Chamber of Commerce CEO, Daniel Mehan to discuss Missouri’s bid for the Boeing aircraft plant.

**MU Partnerships**

*Efforts to engage other units on campus in public policy continue* An exciting development has been a formal agreement between the Truman School and MU Extension to provide an academic home for the Fire & Rescue Training Institute (FRTI), the Law Enforcement Training Institute (LETI), and the Labor Education Program (LEP). Brian Dabson has joint oversight with Extension of these programs and has been actively engaged in discussions on a creating a senior leadership program, a graduate certificate in emergency planning, and recruiting staff for LEP.
Another important and growing partnership has been with the Center for Applied Research & Environmental Systems (CARES) on the expanding use of Community Commons, a web-based platform for data collection, analysis, and visualization. Community Commons is being used as an integral part of contract work with the Missouri Housing Development Commission and the Women’s Foundation of Greater Kansas City, as well as in a National Science Foundation-funded work on community resilience in Missouri. Other partnerships include working with the Hook Center for Educational Leadership to organize a Mid-Session Colloquium on Education Policy (cancelled because of snow), and the School of Social Work on a variety of proposals to foundations. In May 2014, IPP convened a meeting of faculty from Engineering and CAFNR to discuss the potential role of MU in state energy policy.

People

In May 2013, David Valentine, former director of IPP and long-time research director for the Missouri Senate passed away after a long illness. Elizabeth Pafford, policy analyst, left in May 2013 after five years with IPP to move to Ohio, and Julie Rhoads, administrative assistant retired. IPP welcomed new administrative assistant, Tracey Potts in May and policy analyst, Sonja Erickson in July, 2014.

Brian Dabson was elected as president of the Southern Consortium of Public Service Organizations, an organization of university-based public service institutes and centers in 21 states that provide research and training services to state and local governments and not-for-profits. The Consortium is housed at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s School of Government. The Truman School has been an active member for ten years.

IPP’s work is enhanced by the contributions of Graduate Research Assistants Fifteen graduate research assistants worked with IPP in the last year including Adam Schmidt, Andrew Weseman, Ariunzul Ganbaatar, Ashley Price, Casey Parnell, Erin Meyers, Kellie Carroll, Lindsey Lehman, Megan Schoor, Ransford Pinto, Ranya Ahmend, Sarah Smith, Turner Schuster, Ryan Betz, and Venus Reyes.

Events

Supporting and convening policy conferences, seminars and ongoing training programs The Truman School and IPP co-sponsored the UMSL Center for Ethics in Public Life conference on The Ethics of Politics and the Press in St. Louis in October 2013, and the Center for Health Policy’s annual summit in August 2013. IPP also co-sponsored a bi-weekly lunch seminar series on Population, Education and Health.

Publications

Producing IPP publications IPP has produced relevant work in the form of policy briefs and project reports for web and hard copy distribution to elected officials and state leadership. One policy brief, six project reports, and one data brief were published in the period. IPP’s website has been comprehensively upgraded and was launched on August 19, 2014.
