



IUPUI

iDEW Connect

INFORMATICS DIVERSITY-ENHANCED WORKFORCE ■ IU SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS AND COMPUTING

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iDEW STUDENTS COLLEGE BOUND

Several Providence Cristo Rey High School seniors proudly show their college acceptance letters.

The Class of 2018 iDEW students are applying to and being accepted into colleges and universities at an astonishing rate. The iDEW program as a whole is flourishing, almost tripling the number of iDEW seniors from last year with 65 students set to graduate this year.

The iDEW program is not only exposing students to opportunities in the IT pipeline but, it is also helping the students to join the pipeline. The iDEW staff have taken the initiative to assist students with applying to

and being competitive in the college admissions process.

“I am thoroughly impressed with the way the iDEW staff is working with our students through the college

application process,” said Susan Reagin, Arsenal Technical High School computer science teacher. “I have seen these guys go over and beyond with assisting our students with

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“I was afraid of, and didn’t know how to start my college application process. After getting information and speaking to people at the IUPUI College Application Night, my confidence increased and I began applying to schools.”

—Kayla Massy-Charles, Providence Cristo Rey High School

College Bound

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filling out their applications, reviewing their essays, getting SAT, ACT, and application waivers, and more. Our students are lucky to have IUPUI and the iDEW staff here to help them with this process.”

The iDEW staff hosted its First Annual IUPUI College Application Night at Providence Cristo Rey High School. Students and parents were provided with admissions information and a student panel shared their experiences as students at IUPUI. iDEW students who attended the event were given an application waiver code, allowing them to apply to IUPUI at no cost. Waiver codes were also given to iDEW seniors at Arsenal Technical and Pike high schools.

“I was afraid of, and didn’t know how to start my college application process, said Providence Cristo Rey High School senior Kayla Massy-Charles. “I didn’t even know where to begin. And, I was afraid that I wouldn’t get accepted into the college that I really wanted to attend...I was just scared.

“After hearing the information and speaking to people at the IUPUI College Application Night, my confidence increased and I began applying to schools. I was so excited when I began getting acceptance letters!”

This year, iDEW students have applied to Ivy League schools, in-state, out-of-state, two-year, four-year, private, and public insitutions. While students are chosing a wide range of majors, many of the students plan to pursue STEM-related degrees and are in fact bolstering the IT pipeline.

iDEW Grads Share Perspective

With one full semester of college under their belts, a few students from iDEW’s class of 2017 share their first-semester college experiences.



Patience Korrie
Taylor University
Computer Science



Tyvon Smith
Purdue University
Health Science



JaShay Hoyle
Univ. of Indianapolis
Physical Therapy

What would have you done differently in high school to prepare for college?

Korrie: I would have taken harder math classes to better prepare me for college.

Smith: I would have developed better study habits. I hardly studied in high school. I’ve learned it’s not the same in college.

Hoyle: I would have learned how to prioritize and made sure I turned in my assignments on time.

Is there anything you learned in your iDEW classes that assisted you in your first semester college classes?

Korrie: My iDEW class prepared me for my first semester computer science class. I recognized some of the languages being taught because of iDEW.

Smith: My iDEW classes helped a lot in computer engineering class. Knowing a little about Java, CSS, and HTML gave me a jump start.

Hoyle: My iDEW class taught me that technology is everywhere and that is so true with college. If you don’t have technology or access to it, you will struggle.

What has been your biggest struggle?

Korrie: I struggled the most with adapting to my new environment and not being sure if I was prepared for college. I have adapted and I feel prepared.

Smith: My biology class and being able to relate to my professor was my biggest struggle. I am learning how to adopt to different teaching styles.

Hoyle: My biggest struggle has been prioritizing and being organized.

What could the iDEW program do to better prepare you for your freshman college experience?

Korrie: The iDEW program did a good job at helping me to prepare for college. The classes and the internship put me in a good position when I began college.

Smith: I really benefitted from hands-on with the IUPUI professors. If you could incorporate them more, students would get a feel for what professors expect.

Hoyle: I really think the iDEW professors treated us the way our college professors do. I think they did a really good job of not treating us like high school students and preparing us for what to expect in college.

iDEW Students Attend ACM Richard Tapia Conference In Atlanta, Georgia



Twenty-two iDEW students, representing Pike, Providence Cristo Rey, and Arsenal Technical high schools in Indianapolis, attended the ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference brings together undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, researchers, and professionals in computing. Attendees celebrate the diversity in computing and connect with others from similar backgrounds, ethnicities, disabilities, and gender.

The iDEW students were the youngest in attendance at the conference. Attendees complimented the students for being tech savvy and for displaying abilities on par with those of older students. The iDEW students were also able to see themselves represented in the underserved students, faculty and professionals attending the conference. "I am glad I was given the opportunity to attend the conference because now I know what to expect in college in regards to preparing for a job in computing and I have an idea of what to expect in the workplace," said one Arsenal Technical student.

The conference exposed the students to the many unique ways in which computing and technology shape the way people live, work, play, and communicate. While in Atlanta, the students also met with representatives from several companies, including Google, CNN, and Facebook, and visited local colleges and historic landmarks.

The iDEW students showed tenacity and the desire to expand their IT intellect as they sat through plenary and breakout sessions that were sometimes more advanced than what they had previously experienced. They drew from those instances and shared their thoughts during the group's recap sessions. "I am genuinely glad and grateful for the iDEW program and the opportunities it has offered me. This has literally been a life-changing experience for me," said a Pike student. A Providence Cristo Rey student said, "Being able to experience the Tapia Conference has made me even more determined to get a degree in the STEM field."

The iDEW program creates a direct pipeline of students pursuing post-secondary IT education or IT employment after high school graduation. Attendance at conferences like Tapia widens and deepens the students' IT experiences, which is key to the iDEW program's success and goal of serving as a model for future programs of its kind.

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iDEW Program Wins National Award

The IU School of Informatics and Computing (SoIC) at IUPUI won the 2017 STEM Mentoring Award in the category of Excellence in Public-Private Partnerships for their Informatics Diversity-Enhanced Workforce (iDEW) program. iDEW Program Director and School of Informatics and Computing Executive Associate Dean Mathew J. Palakal, Program Manager and Diversity Coordinator Vicki Daugherty, and faculty member James Lyst accepted the award from US2020 on behalf of the school.

The iDEW program was honored for exceptional work in STEM mentoring during a ceremony at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. Over 150 organizations participated in the third annual award series. US2020 and co-founding sponsors Chevron and Tata Consultancy Services recognized the winners for their achievements and innovations



in STEM and their focus on serving underrepresented youth.

Representatives from TechPoint Foundation for Youth (TPF4Y) were also in attendance. TPF4Y leads a coalition of corporate, community, and program partners, including SoIC, for the City of Indianapolis initiative, which engages STEM professionals who mentor students throughout Indianapolis.

“The iDEW team is extremely pleased to receive this recognition. With the involvement of over 30 different partners, the iDEW program clearly demonstrates how public-private partnership can contribute significantly to addressing STEM education and career pathways in our city and beyond,” said Palakal.

iDEW STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: A'SHAUNTEE POWELL, ARSENAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



How do your iDEW classes differ from your other classes?

My iDEW classes are challenging but in a good way. I think science, math, history, and other core classes are classes that you expect to take in high school. On the other hand, I feel like my iDEW classes are preparing me for the type of classes that I will be taking

in college. There is just a higher level of commitment for my iDEW class than it is for my other classes. And I feel up to the challenge!

What was your favorite iDEW experience?

I have a couple of favorite iDEW experiences. Of course, I enjoyed working on my project and actually being recognized for doing well. But, what I really enjoyed the most was working with my IUPUI student mentor, the professor, and being pushed to do my best by the program assistant. Without them I don't know if I would be doing as well as I am in my iDEW class and I definitely don't know how well I would have done going through the college admissions process.

What advice do you have for new iDEW students?

I would tell new iDEW students to enjoy the experience, have fun with it, and to take full advantage of the resources like the workshops, certifications, internship opportunities, and the help and support the IUPUI staff is able to give you when you're ready to fill out your college applications.

What are your future plans?

I am so happy to say that I am planning to attend IUPUI. I want to combine my interest in the medical field with informatics. I plan to earn a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Informatics with a specialization in Health Informatics.