

MONTHLY UPDATE



IDAHO POLICY INSTITUTE, MARCH 2020

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

March has been a month that has tested the skills and adaptability of our team at IPI, and we've had a great time adjusting to it. While COVID-19 has disrupted many parts of our lives, it hasn't slowed down the work we are engaged in, and we are keeping our projects on track and moving forward. We instituted a "work from home" policy as soon as the University asked us to and we have been getting our money's worth out of our Zoom contract. I have been impressed with the commitment of our staff to make sure our clients are getting what they need, when they need it. I'm confident that we can and will continue to operate at full capacity while we are working remotely.

While we are only closing out one project this month, we have six projects in the proposal stage, six ongoing funded projects, and six ongoing unfunded projects. I am also supervising six capstone projects, so we are busy. We are also organizing a strategic planning session for IPI. We want to really take a good look at what we are doing, what we should be doing, and what we can be doing differently. We are excited about this venture. Stay tuned for the results sometime post-coronavirus madness!

I am constantly encouraged by both the demand for the work of the Idaho Policy Institute and the high-quality researchers we have producing that work. They are committed to being the best researchers they can be and their work shows it. I'm looking forward to a great April!

- DR. GREG HILL

PROJECTS IN PROPOSAL STAGE

- Boise School District Pre-K Program Evaluation (sponsor, Boise School District)
- Statewide Eviction Study in Collaboration with Idaho Press (unsponsored)
- Masters of Environmental Management Needs Assessment (multiple sponsors)
- Charter School Diagnostic Site Visits (sponsor, Bluum)
- Idaho Public Television Attitudinal Awareness Survey (sponsor, Idaho Public Television)
- Housing Research Proposal (sponsor, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)

PROJECT UPDATE

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)
- Diagnostic Site Visit Protocol (sponsor, Bluum)
- Transportation Mode Shift (sponsor, City of Boise)

ONGOING UNSPONSORED PROJECTS

- Advancing Informal STEM Learning Pre-Pilot Survey
- Foster Care in Idaho
- Downtown Mobility Collaborative (City Go)
- U.S. Census Complete Count Committee
- MPA Employer Needs Assessment
- Statewide Eviction Study in Collaboration with Idaho Press

PROJECTS CLOSING

- Oregon Nonprofit Benefit and Compensation Study

TRANSPORTATION MODE SHIFT

Team: Vanessa Fry, Matthew May, Gabe Osterhout, and Emily Pape

IPI has begun a project with the City of Boise looking at mode shift from single-occupancy vehicles to other forms of transportation. The report will outline modes of transportation currently used by Treasure Valley residents, the profile of individuals most likely to shift modes, and how mode shift can be encouraged in cities such as Boise. While currently reviewing existing literature on the barriers, drivers, and best practices of mode shift, the team is also meeting with representatives from the City to provide updates on a weekly basis.

DIAGNOSTIC SITE VISIT RESEARCH PLAN

Team: Vanessa Fry, McAllister Hall, and Ben Larsen

The diagnostic site visit project is an extension of the Bluum Communities of Excellence CSP Grant evaluation. McAllister Hall travelled to Colorado at the beginning of the month to observe a site visit of a charter school also receiving CSP Grant funds. IPI is now preparing to conduct its own visits by creating evaluation standards and interview protocols that will capture the data needed to evaluate the schools receiving CSP funds from Bluum. These visits will observe everything about the school from curriculum and instruction to governance and finance to help schools identify their strengths and areas for growth. The eventual product will synthesize the common practices of schools with high stakeholder satisfaction, as well as, high test scores to provide improved resources for other schools.

IDAHO'S TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

Team: Vanessa Fry, Lantz McGinnis-Brown, Gabe Osterhout, and Emily Pape

IPI researchers presented a draft financial model for the transportation infrastructure to stakeholders. The team also shared a draft of an interactive map that indicates policy alternatives deployed across the U.S. The team continues to research the state of existing infrastructure, including public transportation and bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

MONTH IN REVIEW

WORKING REMOTELY

On March 13, Boise State University moved all of its courses online. At this time, many areas of campus, including the School of Public Service, encouraged faculty and staff to work remotely to fight the spread of COVID-19. The Idaho Policy Institute was well positioned to do so and implemented working remotely immediately. It hasn't slowed us down, though, and IPI is now conducting a weekly staff meeting via Zoom and has integrated five-minute lightning talks into these meetings.

For more information about the campus response:
boisestate.edu/publicsafety-emergencymanagement/information-on-the-2019-novel-coronavirus/



VANESSA FRY FEATURED ON TWO HOUSING PANELS

Vanessa Fry attended the Idaho Conference on Housing and Economic Development on March 3. Vanessa spoke on a housing and healthcare panel which featured experts who shared proven links between access to healthcare and positive housing outcomes. They discussed resources and highlighted opportunities for cooperation. Vanessa spoke specifically about the use of data to identify the impacts homelessness and substandard housing can have on individuals' health and the associated public costs. She also gave a brief report on New Path Community Housing. She was joined by Jennifer Palagi from St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, who spoke about the social determinants of health and why health systems are investing in housing, and Kendra Lutes from Terry Reilly Health Services, who spoke from the clinical perspective of housing as healthcare and the issues she and her colleagues most often see in unstably housed clients. Deanna Watson, from the Boise City/Ada County Housing Authorities, moderated the discussion.

Vanessa also spoke at the Urban Land Institute Idaho conference on March 4. There, she was on a panel that discussed opportunities to adjust policy to encourage more affordable housing in the area.

SURVEY ELEVATOR PITCH

In the third episode of the School of Public Service's exciting series "Academics in Elevators," Interim Dean Andrew Giacomazzi and Greg Hill discuss:

- Why does Boise State conduct surveys?
- Who benefits from the surveys?
- Are Boise State students involved in creating surveys and reports?
- What are some interesting things learned from the recent Statewide survey?
- Can anyone hire IPI to create a survey?

Watch the full episode online at youtu.be/sqjdwGIZNJO

CHANGES IN BOISE'S SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

New Path Community Housing, Idaho's first permanent supportive housing development, passed its first-year anniversary. IPI is currently working to complete an evaluation for New Path Community Housing. The New Path leaders have decided to make a few changes in order to improve their facility to best benefit their more than 40 residents. At the Idaho Conference on Housing and Economic Development, they were able to review both the success of the project and the adjustments that need to take place. Some of the recommended adjustments included an increase in night-shift staff in order to provide more assistance for the residents.

IDAHO PRESS ARTICLE ON LATINO VOTING BEHAVIOR

Gabe Osterhout was quoted in an Idaho Press article, "What does the Latino vote look like in Idaho?" about Latino voting behavior and turnout. According to Osterhout, Latino voter turnout jumped 13 percentage points during the 2018 midterm elections. In Idaho, voting trends for Latinos are difficult to track because there is no exit polling in the state that identifies voter ethnicity. Osterhout attempted to estimate Latino voting behaviors by analyzing eight Idaho counties where the overall population is at least 25 percent Latino. In an email, Osterhout is quoted "A quick look at numbers from prior elections suggests that 2018 was the first election in several years that most of those eight counties underperformed the rest of the state in terms of turnout, I'm still digging deeper into the data to understand why that is the case."

2020 CENSUS RESPONSE RATES IN IDAHO

New to IPI's website is an U.S. Census Bureau interactive map of Idaho 2010 and 2020 census response rates that is updated daily by the bureau. Check it out at boisestate.edu/sps-ipi/interactive-dashboards/2020-census-response-rates-in-idaho/

PUBLIC SERVICE

March is Red Cross Month and we encourage healthy individuals to give blood. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, donations have significantly dropped, but the need for blood is critical. In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, "I request that during that month (March) our people rededicate themselves to the splendid aims and activities of the Red Cross." If you are healthy and eligible, please consider donating.

Find out how you can help at redcross.org

COVID-19 RESOURCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: cdc.gov/coronavirus
- State of Idaho's website for information about COVID-19 and current orders: coronavirus.idaho.gov
- City of Nampa's resource for Spanish speakers: cityofnampa.us/coronavirus-Espanol
- Bluum's resources for Idaho schools, families, and local and national partners: bluum.org/coronavirus
- Boise State Hazard and Climate Resilience Institute's mapping of confirmed cases in Idaho: arcg.is/PjmPy

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

EMILY PAPE

Emily Pape is currently an undergraduate student at Boise State University majoring in Global Studies with minors in Economics and Spanish. Emily has been in the Honors College since her freshman year and has been able to study abroad in both England and Spain. She was on the Highest Honors Deans List for Fall 2019 and has been selected as a Top Ten Scholar, one of the highest academic honors granted to a Boise State University undergraduate student. After graduating this spring, she will attend University of Chicago for a masters in public policy.

Some fun facts about Emily are that she is an Oinkari Basque Dancer, the Vice President of the Boise State Women's Lacrosse Club, and an avid bicycle commuter. She started Basque dancing when she was five and during her senior year of high school she was on the Oinkari Basque Dancer Board of Directors. Her love for lacrosse started in high school and has carried over into her college experience. She has been active with the Women's Lacrosse club for four years, helping her gain great leadership skills.

Emily has been working at IPI as a Research Assistant since the beginning of last summer and has worked on Idaho's Transportation Infrastructure Funding, City of Boise Transportation Mode Shift project, and Downtown Mobility Collaborative (DMC and now called CityGo). She's been an invaluable member of the Downtown Mobility Collaborative project team. She did a thorough literature review of both the underlying mode shift and methodologies for conducting vehicle counts, participated in the actual vehicle counts, and helped create the DMC survey.

While at IPI, we were lucky enough to ask her 25 questions, learning that she loves Frosted Mini-Wheats and her middle name is Ruth. To read the full interview, visit: boisestate.edu/sps-ipi/2019/05/23/25-questions-with-emily-pape/



NEWS

Survey work mention: ["Questions with Jeffrey Lyons"](#) *The Blue Review*. March 3, 2020.

Project mention: ["New Path leaders talk first-year challenges, changes at Boise's supportive housing development"](#) *Idaho Press*. March 3, 2020.

Gabe Osterhout quoted: ["What does the Latino vote look like in Idaho?"](#) *Idaho Press*. March 7, 2020.

Matthew May co-authored: ["Biden's big night with moderates, African Americans and baby boomers"](#) *The Conversation*. March 11 2020.

Project mention: ["Employed and homeless because they can't get to a home they can afford: The sage of the missing bus lines"](#) *Idaho Press*. March 28, 2020.

GET IN TOUCH



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