

# MONTHLY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2021



## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Throughout 2021, Idaho Policy Institute (IPI) staff continue to be committed to providing objective research to Idaho's decision makers. However, that has not been without challenges. Working remotely with a reduced leadership structure, both results of the COVID-19 pandemic, have required the IPI team to learn to be creative (and somewhat tenacious) when it comes to serving students, the university, and our clients. The same effort was made to maintain our culture. However, whether it be attending (another) Zoom meeting, transitioning to in-person meetings (a little awkward at first), or braving the outdoors for Thoughtful Thursday (we've met some assertive squirrels), the team has stayed together, supported one another, and produced a tremendous amount of excellent research. I am grateful for each one of them and for the unique talents each brings to IPI.

Over the next several months we'll be introducing a Staff Spotlight section so you can get to know more about the IPI team. This month we highlight Valerie Hayes.

**BEST,**

**DR. VANESSA CROSSGROVE FRY**

# PROJECT LIST

## PROPOSAL STAGE

- Housing Industry Trends (sponsor, Franklin Building Supply)
- Housing Innovations Pilot Analysis (sponsor, City of Boise)
- Idaho Tribal Courts Survey (sponsor, Idaho Legal Aid Services)
- Teton River Management Policy Analysis (sponsor, Warm Springs Consulting)
- West Central Mountains Creative District Network Analysis and Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Commission on the Arts)

## PENDING

- Family Caregiver Navigator Cost Benefit Analysis (sponsor, Idaho Blue Cross Foundation)
- Good Samaritan Home Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Blue Cross Foundation)
- HUD Eviction Protection Program Grant (sponsor, Idaho Legal Aid Services)
- Recovery, Renewal and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World (sponsor, Trans-Atlantic Platform for Social Sciences and Humanities)

## ONGOING SPONSORED

- A Foundation for Research into Webcams as Tools in Informal STEM Learning (sponsor, National Science Foundation)
- Communities of Excellence Charter School Program Evaluation (sponsor, Bluum)

## ONGOING SPONSORED

- Connected Canyon County (sponsor, Valley Regional Transit)
- COVID-19 Travel Behavior Study (sponsor, Valley Regional Transit)
- Division of Motor Vehicles Service Delivery Analysis (sponsor, Idaho Transportation Department)
- Educational Programming Attitudinal Awareness Survey (sponsor, Idaho Public Television)
- Guardian Ad Litem Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Supreme Court)
- Idaho Literacy Intervention Program Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho State Board of Education)
- Idaho Outdoor Recreation Survey (sponsor, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Idahoans (sponsor, United Way of the Treasure Valley)
- SAMHSA Treatment and Transitions Evaluation (sponsor, Idaho Health and Welfare)
- Statewide Affordable Housing Assessment (sponsor, Office of the Governor)
- Wastewater and Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey (sponsor, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality)

## ONGOING UNSPONSORED

- Boise State's COVID-19 Dashboard
- City Go Annual Awareness Survey

## ONGOING UNSPONSORED

- Data Collection for a Full-Length Paper: Municipal COVID-19 Responses by Government Form
- Rural Industry Cluster Needs Assessment
- SPS Statewide and Treasure Valley Surveys
- Technical Support for Frank Church Institute's Democracy in the 21st Century project

## MPA CAPSTONE

- Boise State Employee Housing Needs Assessment (client, Boise State University)
- Critical Crash Data Analysis and Policy Alternatives (client, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance)
- Demographic Shifts in Idaho (client, International Rescue Committee)
- Impact of HB392 (client, Boise Elevated)
- Impact of Idaho's Community Schools (client, United Way of the Treasure Valley)
- Program Evaluation (client, Good Samaritan Home)
- Water Pollutant Discharge Quantification (client, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality)

## HOUSING VIP

- Affordable Housing in the Treasure Valley (client, Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho)

# PROJECT UPDATES

## CITY OF BOISE VISION ZERO

Team: Aisha Kayed, Vanessa Fry, Lantz McGinnis-Brown

The research team is analyzing bicycle and pedestrian crash data for the City of Boise to help identify key factors that the City can use to identify and develop informed interventions to reduce crash occurrences and injuries.

## CONNECTED CANYON COUNTY

Team: McAllister Hall, Vanessa Fry, Emily Pape, Aisha Kayed

This month, the Connected Canyon County partners met and discussed moving forward with the project based on community engagement levels. The IPI team discussed the ongoing review of literature and how to best incorporate lessons from the literature into the project as we move through its phases. IPI also started making a survey to measure roles, relationships, and network strength among Canyon County partners. This survey is anticipated to be fielded early in November.

## COVID-19 TRAVEL BEHAVIOR STUDY

Team: Matthew May, Emily Pape

IPI's analysis of COVID-19's impact on travel behavior in the Treasure Valley continued this month. The research team has been working with a survey contractor and the sponsor, Valley Regional Transit, to finalize a survey questionnaire that will identify current transportation behavior and how it differs from pre-pandemic habits. Once finalized, the survey will undergo Institutional Review Board review.

## DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES SERVICE DELIVERY ANALYSIS

Team: Gabe Osterhout, Matthew May, Vanessa Fry, Cheong Kim, Emily Pape

The IPI team recently closed a survey distributed to state Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) administrators, receiving responses from officials in a majority of US states. Members of the team will conduct follow-up interviews with administrators in select states. In Idaho, a county agent survey was distributed to hundreds of front line DMV personnel across the state to gain an understanding of their perceptions of the current system and potential barriers to efficiency. Finally, researchers are scheduling interviews with a dozen county assessors and sheriffs across the state to gain insight into their experience administering vehicle and driver services.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING ATTITUDINAL AWARENESS SURVEY

Team: Matthew May, Cheong Kim, Aisha Kayed

Idaho Public Television (IPTV) has once again partnered with IPI to field an attitudinal awareness survey in order to better understand public perception of PBS and PBS KIDS programming, as well as the level of public awareness of the resources it offers to families, communities, and educators. The IPI research team has been meeting with IPTV representatives to ensure the developed survey answers these questions. The survey is currently undergoing Institutional Review Board review. Once approved, it will be fielded to an online statewide sample of at least 525 Idaho adults.

## **IDAHO LITERACY INTERVENTION PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Team: McAllister Hall, Matthew May

For the fourth year in a row, IPI was selected by the State Board of Education to evaluate the Literacy Intervention Program. This year's evaluation will use performance data from the Idaho Reading Indicator assessment, budget and expense data, and all-day Kindergarten enrollment data to understand program effectiveness, program design, and use of funds. The final report will be submitted to the Idaho State Legislature in their upcoming session.

## **IDAHO OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY**

Team: McAllister Hall, Vanessa Fry, Emily Pape

This month, the IPI team selected and contracted with GS Strategy Group (GSS). GSS will be helping IPI write and distribute a statewide survey on outdoor recreation for Idaho Parks and Recreation (IDPR). Initial meetings in October with GSS and IDPR resulted in a first draft of questions for the survey. The survey is anticipated to be fielded in January.

## **WASTEWATER AND DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS SURVEY**

Team: Matthew May, Gabe Osterhout

IPI is working with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to facilitate a coordinated effort between DEQ, Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA), and the Association of Idaho Cities (AIC) to collect statewide information on drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects forecasted over the next five years. Results will help inform policy makers on infrastructure needs statewide. The IPI research team has been working with DEQ, IRWA, and AIC representatives to craft and test a survey instrument that will be fielded to water system operators statewide. The survey is currently undergoing Institutional Review Board review and is anticipated to be fielded in November.

# **STUDENT INVOLVEMENT**

## **MPA CAPSTONE STUDENTS WORKING WITH OREGON DEQ**

[Oregon Department of Environmental Quality](#) (DEQ) is working with two MPA Capstone students this semester, Eric Duncan and Michelle Pancoast, to quantify water pollutant discharge in the state. The students are working to quantify the allowable amount of pollutant load that is permitted through the US Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System wastewater permit, with respect to surface water discharge.

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT

## ADOBE MAX CONFERENCE

Melanie Hernandez and McAllister Hall attended the Adobe MAX Conference in the last week of October. Presentations from creative professionals across disciplines provided useful insights into upcoming technologies, as well as unique perspectives on artistic industries and techniques. Sessions from the conference will help improve collaboration using Adobe software, increase accessibility using Adobe Acrobat, and rethink data visualization. Implementing new techniques will help improve the efficiency and the overall quality of deliverables produced at IPI.

## IPI STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

In October's writing club meeting, Elizabeth Ramsey and Pamela Kindelberger from Boise State's Albertsons Library joined IPI to talk about opportunities offered by the library. Topics discussed included copyright guidelines, interlibrary loan, and taking advantage of Elizabeth's skills as the librarian appointed to assisting the School of Public Service.

# MONTH IN REVIEW

## APA IDAHO'S 2021 CONFERENCE

At this year's Idaho Chapter of the American Planning Association's Annual Conference, School of Public Service (SPS) faculty and staff participated in a panel discussion, *The Times They Are A-Changin': Growth and Demographics in Idaho*. Idaho Policy Institute Interim Director and SPS Associate Research Faculty Vanessa Fry moderated the discussion with SPS colleagues Saleh Ahmed, Assistant Professor, and Matthew May, IPI Senior Research Associate and SPS Survey Director. They were joined by Elizabeth Eklund, Visiting Scholar in the School of Anthropology at The University of Arizona. The discussion covered population shifts in Idaho as well as associated demographic changes in the state.

## COFFEE WITH CUPSO FACILITATION

Vanessa Fry facilitated a meeting with the directors of the Consortium of University Public Service Organizations, "To Partner or Not to Partner?" The group discussed questions including How can we help our states and communities not only do more with less, but also increase their effectiveness by promoting and facilitating collaboration? and How can we take collaboration to the next level through the use of data to better understand networks and improve collaboration?

## CUPSO ANNUAL DIRECTORS MEETING PANEL

Vanessa Fry served on a panel, The Future of Work for Public Service Organizations. Discussion topics included employee recruitment and retention, employee expectations, flexible schedules, and the benefits and challenges of both remote and in-person work. The panel also discussed what equity and accountability look like when employees have a flexible work environment.

## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION PRESENTATION

Vanessa Fry presented a poster at this year's National Science Foundation (NSF) Advancing Informal STEM Learning Awardee Meeting. Vanessa, Boise State's PI on the NSF-funded project, A Foundation for Research into Webcams as Tools in Informal STEM Learning, spoke about the project's progress and initial findings.

## YOUTH CAREER PLANNERS CONFERENCE

In the spring of this year, IPI completed the project, Engaging Idaho's Out-of-School Youth, for the Workforce Development Council. This month, IPI Intern Aisha Kayed, pictured below, attended the Youth Career Planners Conference to speak with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) career planners from across Idaho. Aisha presented the research findings, including how career planners could better recruit and engage participants into the WIOA program.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## VALERIE HAYES

IPI Role: Management Assistant  
Secret Skill: Insect Whisperer

Valerie joined the IPI team in October of 2020. She works with the team to manage day-to-day needs and supports policy compliance. Valerie also supports the Andrus Center for Public Policy and the Frank Church Institute. She earned her B.A. in Anthropology from Boise State University, and has been teaching University Foundations courses in Urban and Environmental Studies since 2017.



# STAFF LIST

## INTERIM DIRECTOR; ASSOCIATE RESEARCH FACULTY

Vanessa Fry, PhD

## SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Cheong Kim, PhD

Matthew May, PhD

## RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Benjamin Larsen, PhD

Lantz McGinnis-Brown, MPA

Gabe Osterhout, MA

McAllister Hall, MA

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Emily Pape

## GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

D'Andre Mathews, MPA

Elijah Kuisachor

## MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

Valerie Hayes

## GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR

Cathe Scott

## WORK-STUDY

Melanie Hernandez

## INTERNS

Aisha Kayed

## GET IN TOUCH



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