

## Lilly School to Evaluate Youth Philanthropy



The Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy has developed an original survey research instrument that will provide data on the effectiveness of youth philanthropy education programs which use curriculum developed by the Three Pillars Initiative (TPI). Designed by Dr. Patricia Snell Herzog, Melvin Simon Chair and Associate Professor of Philanthropy at IUPUI, the research will use a before-and-after methodology in which student participants, parents and community foundation staff will complete an online survey about their experience in the program.

The Future Philanthropists Program, the maiden program launched in 2010 and sponsored by the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation in Illinois, is expected to begin using this instrument in October just prior to the start of the junior cohort program year. Three other community foundations who are using the TPI curriculum will participate in the research project as well: Greater Grand Island Community Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo and the Beckley Area Foundation in West Virginia.

“We believe the Three Pillars program is making an impact on teens”, said Rick King, President of TPI and founder of the Future Philanthropists Program. “But, other than anecdotal data, we can’t say with certainty that the knowledge and experience they gained in philanthropy has changed them or has helped prepare them as future leaders in social change. That’s why we partnered with the Lilly Family School. They know how to do this.”

Retaining an independent, objective third-party to collect and analyze the survey data assures that the research will be consistent with the highest standards and practices. Under Dr. Herzog’s direction, the instrument will be administered by Qualtrics, one of the leading web-based survey research companies, who will provide program participants with online access to the survey. The resulting data will be analyzed by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

“Partnering in this study is an integral part of our mission as a school: improving philanthropy to improve the world”, said Dr. Herzog. “It is also important to me personally to engage in research that has the potential to benefit the lives of youth, their families, and their communities. In 2020, it is crucial to understand diversity in philanthropy, and we designed the study to collect data on intersections with race, ethnicity, age, gender, religiosity, technology, education, relational experiences, and more.”

The program curriculum developed by TPI in 2018 was designed around the paradigm

known as the Three Pillars of Philanthropy: Raising Money, Granting Money and Volunteering. High school juniors and seniors are provided with hands-on, community-based philanthropy experiences on all three Pillars. Taught by adult program volunteer mentors who deliver the curriculum, this unique approach also provides an intergenerational experience for both the teens and community foundation stakeholders alike.

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